



Downtown Revitalization Initiative

APPLICATION

Applications for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative will be received by the Regional Councils. Applicant responses for each section should be as complete and succinct as possible. Applications should be submitted as Word documents and must be received by the appropriate Regional Council by 4:00 PM on June 1, 2018 at the email address provided at the end of this application. Application guidance is provided in the *Downtown Revitalization Initiative Guidebook* found on the DRI website at www.ny.gov/dri.

BASIC INFORMATION

Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Region: Western New York

Municipality Name: Village of Cattaraugus

Downtown Name: Cattaraugus Village Business District

County Name: Cattaraugus

Vision for Downtown. Provide a brief statement of the municipality's vision for downtown revitalization.

The Applicant, Historic Cattaraugus Corporation (HCC) was incorporated under section 402 of the State of New York Not-for-Profit Corporation law by the New York State Education Department on October 15, 2002. The HCC's primary purpose is to acquire, maintain, restore and preserve historic buildings and other properties that have historic, environmental, natural or educational significance in the Village of Cattaraugus. Our goal is to parlay our vibrant and rich history into job and residential opportunities in our unique environment.

HCC is working in concert with the Village of Cattaraugus to restore and re-create the Historic Village of Cattaraugus into the distinctive, and attractive business district that it once was. The mission of the Village of Cattaraugus is to celebrate, conserve, and promote a quality residential and rural agricultural lifestyle, while encouraging job formation and maintenance of current and future businesses with an emphasis on historic preservation, education and tourism. The Village and Town citizens embrace the rich local history and unique characteristics of the picturesque four season locale. The vision for the Village of Cattaraugus is to channel our commitment to historic preservation by creating an artist/tradesman-in-residence environment throughout the business district which consists of 19 buildings that have been designated as Historic by the National Park Service. We intend to preserve our significant local historic architecture by rehabilitating and restoring the store fronts in the Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District (CVCHD) for use by entrepreneurs, artists, and tradesman, and creating low income housing options in the mixed-use buildings, especially in the upper floors. The vision for this project is to restore and re-create the historic Village of Cattaraugus into a tourism destination. This "Living History Community" vision will include an Artist-In-Residence Program that will encourage artist and artisans who practice a craft that was preferably practiced in the Village during the period from 1849 to the beginning of World War I. This includes a brewery or distillery planned for the "Crawford Hotel". Each artisan will be expected to offer educational opportunities and possibly apprenticeships.

JUSTIFICATION

Provide an overview of the downtown area nominated for the DRI program, highlighting the area's defining characteristics and the reasons for its selection. Explain why the downtown is ready for Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) investment, and how that investment would serve as a catalyst to bring about revitalization.

The Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District (CVCHD), which is registered in both the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places, is located in the Southern Tier of Western New York. The Village of Cattaraugus is in the north-central part of the Town of New Albion. This DRI application will focus on the Historic Commercial District (CVCHD) which occupies approximately a three-block area along Main Street (SR353) and slightly extended into Waverly Street and Washington Street, all of which are defined by historic brick paving. The CVCHD contains nineteen contributing buildings, mostly made of brick and masonry, built between 1882 and 1915. These brick buildings replaced a wood-framed downtown that dated to the early 1850's that was destroyed by fire. All of these buildings have a unique appearance as they were originally constructed on sloping ground to be adjacent to our train depot. The buildings are two and three-story commercial buildings (ground level storefronts with offices/ rooms/ apartments). Many of the 19 buildings are undeveloped at this time. The streetscape of the commercial core resembles that of a typical late nineteenth-early twentieth century commercial center with buildings set back from the street enough for sidewalks between the storefronts and streets, which provide perfect walkability and conform Smart Growth principles. For these reasons, HCC has chosen this commercial district to focus revitalizing effort on the 19 buildings, the majority of which the HCC owns or controls and return them productive use as a commercial center while retaining the historic and architectural integrity.

Executing the development of the CVCHD will give the town the facilities and amenities that will lead directly to attracting new people, businesses, and ultimately accomplish HCC's current goal of adding 100 new jobs to the community.

The Village of Cattaraugus, Planning Board and officials work hand in hand with the nonprofit Historic Cattaraugus Corporation which owns many of the buildings, in their efforts to preserve the significant local historic architecture as well as their successfully achieving recognition of the buildings in the business section of the Village as National Trust Properties. This partnership is crucial in the Downtown Revitalization project as we continue to work together on our shared goals of providing commercial space opportunities for artists/ entrepreneurs/ tradesman, diverse housing options, and bringing development opportunities to the Village of Cattaraugus.

DOWNTOWN IDENTIFICATION

This section should be filled out with reference to the list of desired attributes for participation in the DRI as set forth in the *Downtown Revitalization Initiative Guidebook*.

- 1) Boundaries of the proposed DRI area.** Detail the boundaries of the targeted neighborhood, keeping in mind that there is no minimum or maximum size, but that the neighborhood should be concentrated and well-defined. Neighborhoods beyond a traditional downtown or central business district are eligible, if they can meet other criteria making them ripe for investment. Attach a map that clearly delineates the area to be included in the downtown revitalization area.

The Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District (CVCHD) is located in the Village of Cattaraugus, which is found within the Town of New Albion, Cattaraugus County, New York. The CVCHD is comprised of 19 commercial style buildings having a fair to high level of architectural integrity and each is significant within the district to the Village's growth. The district includes all buildings recognized as historic by the National Park Service and can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/13001113.pdf> The Historic District is primarily composed Main Street, south of its intersection with Jefferson Street and north intersection with Waverly Street and the westernmost portions of Washington and Waverly Streets, west and south. (Please See Attached map CATTARAUGUS VILLAGE COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT)

2) Description of catchment area. Outline why the proposed DRI area, or its catchment area, is of a size sufficient to support a vibrant, year-round downtown, with consideration of whether there is a sizeable existing or increasing population within easy reach for whom this would be the primary downtown destination.

CVCHD consists of 19 buildings, in a compact three block area. The population of the Village of Cattaraugus is 1002, with a population density of 959.6 people per square mile. The Village population has remained relatively stable.

The CVCHD is the primary downtown destination for an extended area that includes 186 square miles. This compact rural Village has several employers who can easily access the CVCHD comfortably by bike, or on foot. These employers include the Cattaraugus–Little Valley Central School, Chester Jensen Stainless Steel Fabricator, two auto body shops, the Head office of R.A. Mercer & Co.(CPA's), Bank of Cattaraugus, Setterstix sucker stick manufacturer and Composite Panel Solutions. Additional employers in the district include a hardware store, religious bookstore, antique shop and pharmacy. Approximately 400 employees of the local companies are all be within walking distance to the CVCHD.

The CVCHD was also showcased in the "2017 County Wide Arts, Cultural, and Heritage Plan-Siting an Arts Center Report". This report plan looked at potential communities with advantages that could sustain an Arts Center of some kind. The Advantages to the Village of Cattaraugus' location include proximity to the Amish Trail, as well as the myriad of recreational assets, such as Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area, the Pat McGee Trail linking Cattaraugus with Salamanca, and the Cattaraugus State Forest. The Village is also less than one mile from a 450-acre Nature Conservancy Wilderness Area (Skinner Hollow). The Village is centrally located- 15 miles from Ellicottville and Holiday Valley and is centrally located between both Allegany and Cattaraugus Indian Reservations and Casinos. Cattaraugus also offers linkages to other organizations and assets including the Gowanda's Hollywood Theatre and Allegany State Park. Cattaraugus was also seen favorably because of the downtown revitalization efforts that are underway; it has vacant buildings centrally located with very affordable rent, possibly subsidized. For all of these same reasons, CVCHD is the perfect candidate for the DRI Funding.

3) Past Investment, future investment potential. Describe how this DRI area will be able to capitalize on prior private and public investment, or catalyze future investments in the neighborhood and its surrounding areas.

Projects Completed:

For approximately the past 14 years, Historic Cattaraugus Corporation has acquired by donation, vacant buildings and land in the Village of Cattaraugus.

- Acquisition of 9 Main Street. in 1985, completed total rehabilitation of the building in 1991

- A Reconnaissance Level Survey of Historic Resources completed 1997
- Opened the American Museum of Cutlery in 2005 which hosts 1800 visitors annually (unique in the Western Hemisphere)
- Acquired and renovated a blighted former 1894 hotel into 7 low-income apartments and one storefront. With the assistance of a \$140,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York
- Stabilized and maintained all 19 buildings in the business district: Major recent improvements include: 1915 Ford Dealership Building, 1890 Crawford Hotel, 1890's Larkin storefront and office building, 1894 former hotel - mixed use building (Salon and affordable housing), 1909 Palace Theatre. Over \$1,000,000 has been invested in building and property conservation of these buildings in the targeted district since 1985.
- Total restoration of a local church bell tower and facade

Projects Underway:

Crawford House

(\$1.5m ESD Grant awarded of \$5m project.)

- Restoration of the ground level (full basement) to include utility support systems, laundry, etc.
- Restoration of the first floor to include a restaurant, tavern, kitchen and bathroom.
- Brewery or Distillery
 - 20 mini-suite housing for small hotel and artist-in residence program

Train Depot

(\$150,000 grant from Senator Cathy Young)

- Construction of an accessible Community and Senior Wellness and Nutrition Site at the 1851 Train Depot.

Future Projects:

- Restore 1915 Ford Dealership building into productive use.
- Restore 1909 Cattaraugus Palace Theatre
- Development of 4.5 acre One Main Street Roosevelt site multi use park, small industrial/ museum site and festival grounds.
- Enlarge the American Museum of Cutlery. This museum has space limitations as other museums and individuals have made massive donations.
- Possibly transform the architecturally significant church that has been abandoned into a Regional Arts and Cultural Center.

4) Recent or impending job growth. Describe how recent or impending job growth within or near the DRI area will attract professionals to an active life in the downtown, support redevelopment, and make growth sustainable in the long-term.

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 agriculture and manufacturing community as well as sustaining many commercial ventures. This small rural Village has several employers who can easily access the CVCHD by bike, or foot. The Village has also completed a new water and sewer system. Some employers who are in the village include the Cattaraugus–Little Valley Central School, Chester Jensen Stainless Steel Fabricator, two auto body shops, the Head office of R.A. Mercer & Co.(CPA)'s, Setterstix sucker stick manufacturer and Composite Panel Solutions.

The Village of Cattaraugus has a need for affordable housing within the school district. The School district campus encompasses 50 acres and is wholly within the Village. The K-12 school campus just completed a \$75 million upgrade and is considered the best facility in Cattaraugus County. There are very few quality apartments and quality homes for sale in the Village for employees of the school and large manufacturers to rent or buy. The revitalization of the CVCHD will create the facilities and amenities for business to thrive, grow, and add jobs. This will help further attract professionals to work at and patronize local businesses.

5) Attractiveness of physical environment. Identify the properties or characteristics that the DRI area possesses that contribute, or could contribute if enhanced, to the attractiveness and livability of the downtown for a diverse population of varying ages, income, gender identity, ability, mobility, and cultural background. Consider, for example, the presence of developable mixed-use spaces, varied housing types at different levels of affordability, walkability and bikeability, healthy and affordable food markets, and public parks and gathering spaces.

The Village of Cattaraugus is located in the picturesque Enchanted Mountains of Cattaraugus County, where beautiful scenery displays brick streets, historic lighting, and forested rolling hills. The entire village is walkable, picturesque, and healthy with downtown access to hiking trails, bike paths, snowmobiling trails, streams, and more. It's rich history reflects the community's local character and sets itself apart.

The Village of Cattaraugus wants to use this rich history as the backbone of the preservation and restoration of the CVCHD.

The CVCHD will house commercial and retail space, mixed income housing, and more access to green space for farmers markets and play areas.

Cattaraugus has a variety of functional attributes that contribute to residents' day to day living which include mixed land uses, a range of housing options, walkable neighborhoods, and an active Youth Recreation Council that has been in existence for 67 years. Residents and visitors can access all of the amenities using multiple modes of transportation including walking and biking. Other Village assets include restaurants, museum, pharmacy, churches, post office, an active public library, and two unique swim clubs that offer summer swimming lessons for area youth.

The Village of Cattaraugus is home to the northern end of the Pat McGee Rail trail that reaches 12.2 miles through 7 municipalities (from the Village of Cattaraugus to the city of Salamanca NY.) This trail is the regional connector between two large tourist attractions- the Allegany State Park and Zoar Valley. Because the trail runs down the spine of the county, numerous horse and snowmobile trails intersect and loop off the trail. The Northern Country National Scenic Trail, Bi-Centennial Bike Trail, and the Finger Lakes Trail all cross the Pat McGee trail. As the northern trail head, the Village of Cattaraugus has a crucial role in bringing in visitors and providing amenities to patrons of the Pat McGee Trail. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative will give the HCC and the Village the tools to be able to better attract these visitors, provide accommodations and entertainment while opening up a regional pathway to other municipalities along the trail.

The CVCHD will create not only commercial and retail space, but also community spaces that reflect the ethnic cultural and religious diversity of the population. One example is the 1909 Cattaraugus Palace

Theatre restoration. This theatre has been maintained by the HCC and would be restored into working order, where entertainment and community events can be held.

HCC has also been discussing the possibility of obtaining the United Methodist Church at Cattaraugus, which has been abandoned. This building could potentially make a magnificent arts and culture center like that of the Montante Cultural Center at Canisius College in Buffalo. As discussed earlier in this application, Cattaraugus was chosen for a case study in the Cattaraugus Countywide Arts, Cultural and Heritage Plan for Cattaraugus County "Siting an Arts Center" report because of its list of assets. In this report, Cattaraugus was one of the top two sites in Cattaraugus County who have 5 of the 6 assets needed to sustain an Arts Center. With the Artist in Residence Program that is being developed by HCC, this would be one more development in the CVCHD that would attract new residents, businesses and visitors to the CVCHD.

One other attribute to the Village of Cattaraugus is the location of the Cattaraugus- Little Valley School. The 50 acres campus is located wholly within the Village of Cattaraugus. This modern and centralized facility was built in 2012 that includes upgraded athletic fields, gymnasiums, library and play grounds that children use. The campus was valued at \$54 million by BOCES in 2011 and \$75 million was expended to upgrade it.

The Village of Cattaraugus is designed to encourage human contact and social activities; it promotes community involvement, has a memorable character, and maintains a secure environment. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative will give Cattaraugus the chance to use all of its assets including its local character, and history to create a sense of place and set itself apart from other villages.

- 6) Quality of Life policies.** Articulate the policies in place that increase the livability and quality of life of the downtown. Examples include the use of local land banks, modern zoning codes, comprehensive plans, complete streets plan, transit-oriented development, non-discrimination laws, age-friendly policies, and a downtown management structure. If policies achieving this goal are not currently in place, describe the ability of the municipality to create and implement such policies.

The Town of New Albion and the Village of Cattaraugus have adopted a newly updated combined comprehensive plan. There is a strong vision and mission that has been developed and the committee has gathered much community input.

Concepts that have been included in the update are: ensuring that the plan shows a commitment to smart growth principles, mixed land use policies, creating a range of housing opportunities, complete streets policies, and development decisions that will create a distinctive, attractive, and accessible community. Many of these concepts are already being followed.

The Village is a small vibrant community with a population density of 959.6 per square mile. The Village has safe, accessible and well maintained streets and sidewalks. The village has also completed a new water and sewer system that has improved their infrastructure greatly. To the Village, these are a fundamental community investment that enhance the public health and maximizes social capital.

- 7) Public Support.** Describe the public participation and engagement process conducted to develop the DRI application, and the support of local leaders and stakeholders for pursuing a vision of downtown revitalization. Describe the commitment among local leaders and stakeholders to preparing and

implementing a strategic investment plan. Identify an initial local lead for the program that will work with outside experts to convene a DRI Local Planning Committee to oversee the plan.

The Village of Cattaraugus and the HCC have been continually working together with a focus on downtown revitalization. This DRI application has the full support of the Town Board, Village Board and Combined Planning Board. With the updated Comprehensive Plan of 2017, local visions and support can also be shown using the Comprehensive Plan Community Survey. Of the 385 surveys distributed, 150 responses were received. The survey showed:

- A combined total of 85% of Town and Village residents believe that the charming, historic character of the community should be retained.
- 90% of Town and Village residents believe that the natural beauty of the surrounding hills should be protected.
- 88% of Town and Village residents believe strongly that their community is a good place to live and believe that a "small town atmosphere" is a major strength of New Albion and Cattaraugus Village.

In addition to the support within our Village we also have had major support from Empire State Development and Senator Cathy Young. HCC works continually with local business owners, town and village board members as well as the Village Mayor. Tom Cullen is HCC's full time Managing Director and will be the lead project manager. He will be the local lead for the program that will work with outside experts to convene a DRI Local Planning Committee to oversee the plan.

- 8) Project List to Demonstrate Readiness:** Describe opportunities to build on the strengths described above by providing a list of transformative projects that will be ready for implementation with an infusion of DRI funds within the first one to two years (depending on the scope and complexity of the project) and which may leverage DRI funding with private investment or other funds. Such projects could address economic development, transportation, housing, and community development needs. While such projects should have demonstrated public support, it is recognized that projects will ultimately be vetted by the Local Planning Committee and the State. Explain how most projects proposed for DRI funding demonstrate their readiness for implementation.

Everyone, no matter his or her age, ability, income or race deserves the option to live in a community that has affordable housing, is convenient, beautiful and safe. The Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District has the infrastructure to be a perfect example of this with some reinvestment into CVCHD. The HCC and the Village of Cattaraugus are taking a Smart Growth approach to its redevelopment of Main Street.

CVCHD's goal is to reimagine the commercial district using its history as the backbone, and rehabilitating the Historic Downtown into an economically prosperous, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable place to live, work and play.

- Crawford House Hotel (Architectural Design Development Phase) - Full restoration to include store fronts, restaurant, tavern, kitchen, Brewery or Distillery, and 20 mini-suite housing for small hotel and artist-in residence program

- Train Depot (Construction Phase) - Construction of an accessible Community and Senior Wellness and Nutrition Site at the 1851 Train Depot.
- 1915 Ford Dealership building (Architectural Schematic Design Phase) - Restore into productive use.
- 1909 Cattaraugus Palace Theatre (Architectural Schematic Design Phase) - Full restoration
- Enlarge the American Museum of Cutlery. (Planning phase) This museum has space limitations as other museums and individuals have made massive donations.
- Historic renovations and improvements of all visual building fronts (Architectural Design Development Phase)
- One Main Street Roosevelt site (Planning phase) Development of 4.5 acre multi use park, small industrial/ museum site and festival grounds.
- The CVCHD project has come to a point where it is prepared to implement the concepts described in this application. The HCC with support of the Village of Cattaraugus has the capacity to implement the CVCDH project. As described earlier in this application, HCC has completed numerous steps including, forming the Historic Cattaraugus Corporation, acquiring and maintaining properties, converting blighted buildings into low-income housing, and completing the “Reconnaissance Level Survey of the Historic Resources: Village of Cattaraugus”.
- The work that has been completed, the infrastructure available, and the investment of time and money (as stated in #3: Past Investments) shows that the HCC and the Village of Cattaraugus are determined to complete the CVCHD project and that they have the capability and expertise needed to manage the project.

9) Administrative Capacity. Describe the extent of the existing local administrative capacity to manage this initiative, including potential oversight of concurrent contracts once projects are selected for award.

If funded, the DRI will be administered through the Historic Cattaraugus Corporation. Tom Cullen will work alongside Colleen Young and Patrick Cullen. Tom is HCC’s full time Managing Director and will be the lead project manager. He has experience building and running multiple businesses in Finance, Development, Design, and Technology. Colleen is HCC’s President, as well as the Vice President of the Bank of Cattaraugus and a top community leader. Patrick is the founder of the HCC and is President of the Bank of Cattaraugus, Founding Collector of the American Cutlery Museum (Chartered by the New York State Board of Regents) and Village Historian. Mr. Cullen’s work has been featured in the New York Times as well as CBS evening news with Scott Pelly. Cullen has been President of the Bank of Cattaraugus for 35 years and has implemented a policy of having the bank improve properties as they get them back. Cullen has contracted over \$2 million in improvements to bank-owned properties in the area. This experience will be of great value in the CVCHD project. He also founded the Historic Southwestern New York Foundation that is authorized by the New York State Board of Regents to open museums. Two other unique museums of national import are planned for Cattaraugus Village.

10) Other. Provide any other information that informs the nomination of this downtown for a DRI award.

The HCC would like the Regional Council to take into consideration the following document:

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/13001113.pdf>

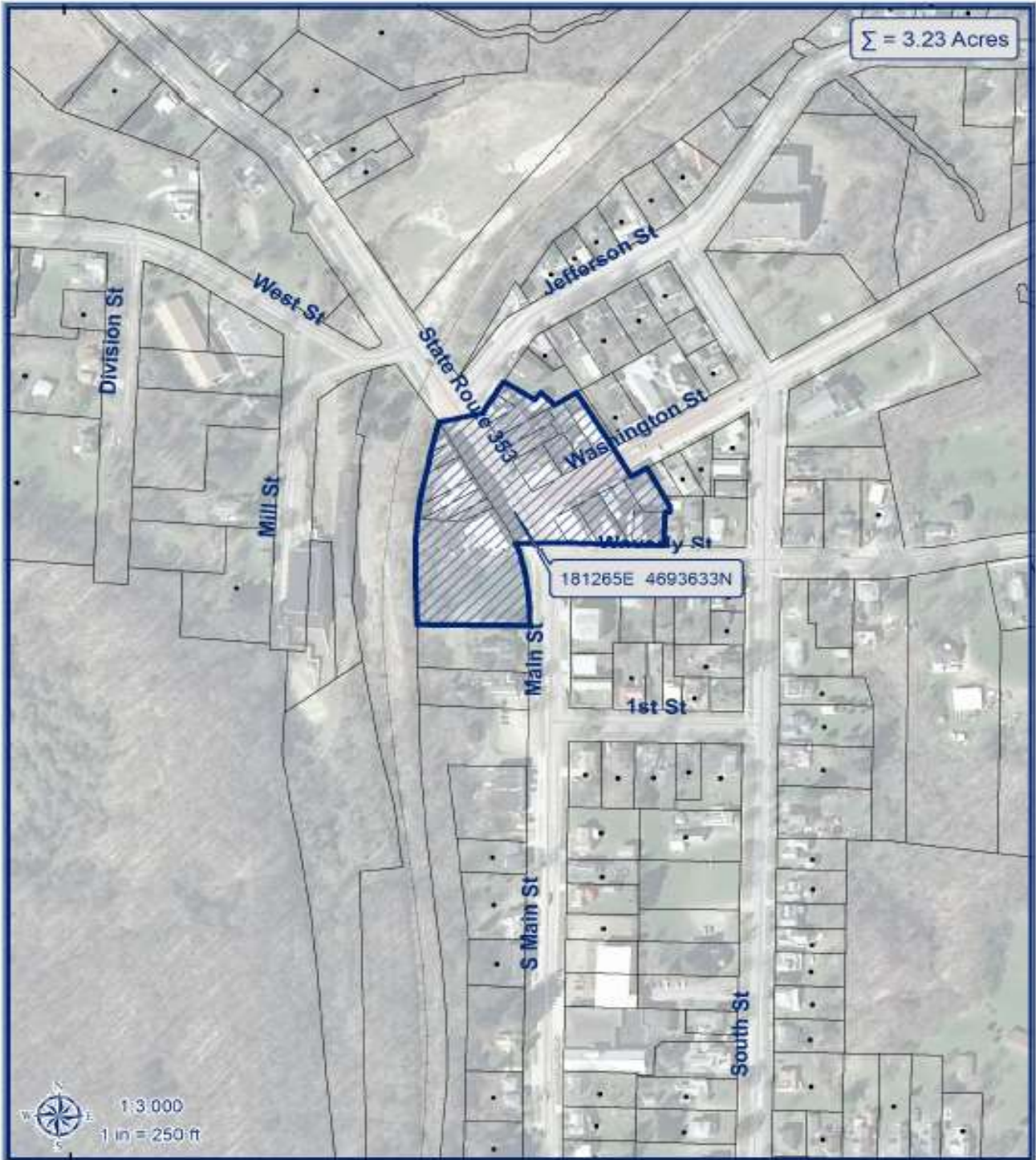
This National Register of Historic Places documentation for the CVCHD contains a building list with detailed descriptions of each building. This document also includes background information for the Village of Cattaraugus, pictures of the CVCHD buildings and their history.

The HCC would also like the Regional Council to review historiccattaraugus.org with special notation of the history of Cattaraugus Village. An additional site of interest is amcut.org which is the official site of the American Museum of Cutlery.

Cattaraugus Village from 1849 to World War One, was one of the most vibrant and exciting communities in America. Pioneer adventurers transformed a wilderness company town from its beginnings, well into the industrial age. The study of Cattaraugus Village is an object lesson as to what life experiences were involved in developing the character and common fabric of what it meant to be an American. Generous individuals, businesses and governments separately and collectively gave of their fortunes and their time to create an American Dream that remains today as a prime example of what is right with America.

Cattaraugus Village Commercial
Historic District

Cattaraugus, Cattaraugus Co., NY



$\Sigma = 3.23$ Acres

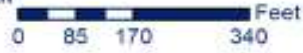


Tax Parcel Data:
Cattaraugus Co. RPS
<http://maps.catco.org>



181000

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

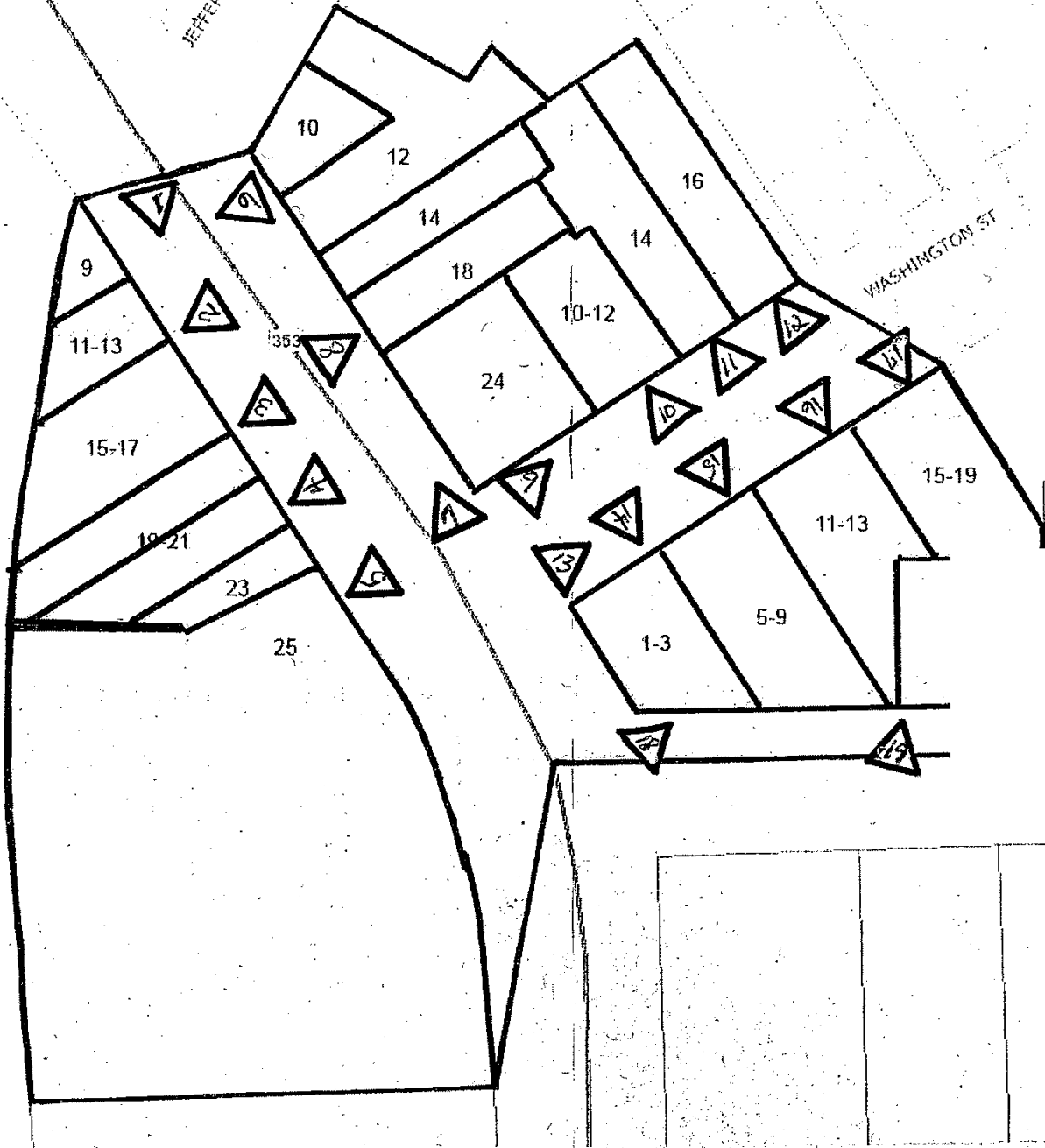


Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District

Boundary Map

Cattaraugus County, NY

PHOTO KEY

















Village of Cattaraugus

Wirt Smith, Mayor

Robert Botsford, Trustee
George Borrowdale, Trustee
Tamara Stallard-Mormile, Clerk
Frank Watson, Code Enforcement

Jason Crawford, Trustee
Dianne Wienk, Trustee
Jonathan Wulf, DPW Supt.

Western New Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry Street Suite 500
Buffalo, New York 14203

June 1, 2018

Dear Regional Council Members:

It is again a great honor to have the opportunity to apply for DRI funding for our Village of Cattaraugus. We all believe that our downtown is the perfect location for an initiative that would create economic opportunities for diverse housing development and myriad job opportunities. The appearance of our Village is unique and our planned redevelopment of this area is a unique plan that few other communities could replicate. Our local outright ownership of these National Trust buildings gives us the opportunity to contribute their use for little or no cost to artisans from around New York State. The concept of adaptive reuse of historic structures is a goal as every effort is made to provide shopping opportunities, dining options and cultural experiences. The rehabilitation of our 1909 Theatre, the 1890 Hotel and Brewery, and the 1915 Ford Dealership, we feel, are key components to a vibrant downtown environment. Historic preservation would foster many job options, educational initiatives and tourism.

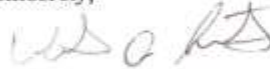
Cattaraugus Village is closer to downtown Buffalo than Niagara-on-the-Lake is. We are 1 hour from the Buffalo Airport, ½ hour from Lake Erie, 45 minutes from Chautauqua Institution, 15 miles from Allegany State Park and 12 miles from Ellicottville. Our location of not being on a major highway has protected us over the years. It has also created an environment ripe for revitalization with efficient and timely use of grant funds.

Recently the Village of Cattaraugus, in cooperation with the Cattaraugus County IDA and State Senator Cathy Young, has announced the reconstruction of our historic train depot that was originally constructed in 1849. We will be reconstructing this building on its original site. It will be adjacent to the National Trust properties and serve as a Senior Center to replace one that we are currently using in an old church which cannot be made to be handicap accessible. Green space and park options are part of our plans.

The history of this Village is a rich one that includes a Revolutionary War battle, Henry Ford's relatives and even a medical college. I invite you to rediscover where history lived and become a part of the future history of what once was the most vibrant Village in New York State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Wirt Smith, Mayor
Member, Cattaraugus County Democratic Committee

14 Main Street; Cattaraugus, New York 14719
PHONE: 716 257 3661 Fax: 716 257 3270

Village of Cattaraugus, Town of New Albion Combined Planning Board

14 Main Street
Cattaraugus, New York 14719

Regional Economic Development Council:

On behalf of the combined **Village of Cattaraugus and Town of New Albion Planning Board**, we offer this letter of support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to secure funds through a Downtown Revitalization Initiative. The Village of Cattaraugus and Historic Cattaraugus Corporation have been partnering together to restore and recreate the historic Village of Cattaraugus into the distinctive, attractive and vibrant business district that it once was. The goal is to parlay this Village's rich history into job formation in an exemplary manner creating a blueprint that can be used by other communities throughout New York State.

The following is an excerpt from our Combined Comprehensive Plan:

We applaud the Village of Cattaraugus and Town of New Albion Town Fathers as well as the Historic Cattaraugus Corporation and The Historic Southwestern New York Foundation in their efforts to preserve our significant local historic architecture as well as their successfully achieving recognition of all 19 of the buildings in our business section of the Village of Cattaraugus as National Trust Properties. The American Museum of Cutlery, which chose to locate here, has attracted visitors from 47 states and numerous foreign countries and has been a wonderful addition to this Village over the past 13 years. We encourage plans for museum expansion and are pleased with the New York State Board of Regents approval for future museum creation. The State Education Department's recent investment to modernize and improve our existing Cattaraugus Central School campus to include Little Valley into a new Cattaraugus-Little Valley Centralized School facility of \$75,000,000 is groundbreaking for this region. This investment by the State has created the very best educational facility in the County and has resulted in increased housing demand and nearly no rental vacancies.

The focus of our Comprehensive Plan is to promote quality economic development and job formation while protecting the positive features and resources of the Town of New Albion and Village of Cattaraugus. It strives to improve coordination and increase collaboration with regional partners and their planning efforts including: Cattaraugus County and the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council and its Economic Development Strategy; and the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board and its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

It is not lost on our Committee that Cattaraugus Village is within a 3 ½ hour drive of 30 million people. The revitalization of Cattaraugus Village would not only be historic and transformative but also have a multiplier effect on local job creation. The totality of our transformation and numerous new opportunities would be a posterchild for efficient use of DRI funding.

Please be assured of our Committee's unanimous support for this DRI application!

Sincerely,



Jan Bobseine, Chairman
June 1, 2018

End