

2.0 METHODOLOGY

This methodology statement is prepared as part of the project Phase I tasks. It outlines the research sources identified, anticipated field strategies, context development approach, and decision-making structure for the project. It includes the selection criteria used to identify surveyed properties, as well as a list of surveyed properties. All project tasks and products will meet the NYOPRHP criteria, methodology, and current standards for Historic Resources Survey.

The survey area encompasses the entire Grant-Ferry-Forest neighborhood (Appendix A), as defined by the City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning, and addresses all readily observed buildings, structures, sites and objects constructed prior to 1954. Greg Bernas (City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning) and Claire Ross (Field Services Bureau of the NYORPHP) conducted the comprehensive reconnaissance, or “windshield,” survey of the Grant-Ferry-Forest neighborhood. The reconnaissance survey identified potentially significant historic resources to be documented for the intensive level survey. The findings of the initial survey served as the basis for the intensive level survey conducted by CBCA.

The CBCA project team worked in full cooperation with the selected “Liaison Team” (as determined by the BURA project manager) and the NY SHPO staff member(s) to finalize the project objectives, formalize project schedules and additional meetings, clarify issues, and establish contacts.

2.1 Background Research

A search for documentary research materials for the Grant-Ferry-Forest neighborhood has been completed and will form the basis for the historical narrative. The project team consulted NYOPRHP files for existing building inventory and National Register forms. Project team members consulted staff of the Office of Strategic Planning and the Field Services Bureau of the NYOPRHP for additional assistance with individual properties.

Research was also conducted at the Local History Room of the Buffalo Public Library, Buffalo City Hall, and Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. Resources on the overall history and development of Grant-Ferry-Forest neighborhood (historic maps and atlases, city records, local histories, and unpublished materials) were identified and examined. A working bibliography appears at the end of the report (Section 6).

2.2 Intensive Field Survey

In general, buildings that are a minimum of 50 years of age are considered historic. The current survey was limited to above ground historic resources. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites were outside the scope of this study. The Grant-Ferry-Forest neighborhood study area base map was generated from the City of Buffalo Planning Neighborhood Maps (Appendix A). The CBCA survey team used the map in the field to locate and record inventoried properties.

Selection criteria and guidelines were developed to guide the selection of those properties that were inventoried. The criteria were based on the historic themes and property types established in the historic and existing conditions overviews, and on the National Register Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation. The National Register Criteria are stated as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or that represent a significant distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Information collected in the field for each inventoried property was recorded on an intensive level survey matrix form for use in the completion of revised NYOPRHP Building Structure Inventory (a.k.a. "blue form"), which is now known as the Historic Resource Inventory Form. The type of information gathered for the intensive survey included a street address, name or type of property, architectural style, architectural and stylistic details, approximate date of construction, past and present use, condition, and integrity. All inventoried properties were photographed with a 35-mm camera with black and white film. Each inventoried property was recorded on a project base map. All inventoried properties are presented in the report in an annotated list of properties (Section 5). Continuation sheets with updated photographs of previously inventoried properties (Appendix C) and completed Historic Resource Inventory Forms (Appendix D) are presented at the end of the report.

A team conducted the intensive level survey of the Grant-Ferry-Forest neighborhood in October-December, 2003. The CBCA team inventoried potentially significant properties as identified on the initial list compiled by Bernas and Ross. Additional field inspection revealed a few buildings on the list had been altered since the reconnaissance survey. Properties on the original list with vinyl siding were not surveyed.

The intensive level survey also called for the CBCA team to identify any additional potentially significant historic buildings. Exceptions were made for properties not identified on the reconnaissance list if background research revealed they possessed especially important historical associations. Municipally-owned buildings in the Grant-Ferry-Forest Neighborhood were not inventoried because they were previously surveyed as part of the 1984 City-wide Survey of Civic Architecture conducted by the City of Buffalo. A number of private residences and religious complexes had also been previously surveyed, with existing building forms dating from the late 1970s. In both cases, current photographs were taken of previously inventoried buildings to update the existing building forms that are over 20 years-old.

2.3 Historic Overview and Bibliography

Dr. Francis Kowsky composed the historic overview for the Grant-Ferry-Forest Neighborhood (Section 3). The context statement provides general information about important events that had an impact on the neighborhood's development. It will be used to aid in establishing a greater understanding of the Grant-Ferry-Forest neighborhood within the larger historic context of the City of Buffalo. The bibliography represents a working list of the sources used in

developing the historic overview and those that were useful in documenting historical facts about the resources that were subject of the intensive survey.