

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Genesee-Finger Lakes Historic Transportation Gateway Inventory and Assessment* is a reconnaissance-level survey based on the historic context of “transportation.” A reconnaissance survey generally involves concise background research and general inspection of an area. Usually, it is the basis for planning an intensive survey. As defined by the National Park Service, historic resources fall into five broad categories: building, site, structure, object, and district. To help guide development of the actual survey design, a broad historic context was developed. The *Genesee-Finger Lakes Historic Transportation Gateway Inventory and Assessment* concentrated on historic transportation buildings in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region largely related to surface transportation, such as highway, transit/train, and waterborne, from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. The publication, National Register Bulletin No. 24, *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*, has been used as the principal reference for this historic resources survey and should be consulted if questions arise.

The *Genesee-Finger Lakes Historic Transportation Gateway Inventory and Assessment* has been funded by the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) of the Genesee Transportation Council, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. As represented by the goals and objectives of the *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region: 2007-2027 Update (LRTP: 2007-2027 Update)*, the UPWP provides federal funds for concept-level transportation planning projects to be undertaken annually in the region. The *Genesee-Finger Lakes Historic Transportation Gateway Inventory and Assessment* meets several goals of the *LRTP: 2007-2027 Update*. Most specifically to, “protect and enhance the natural environment, cultural heritage and community appearance, and promote energy conservation.” This project also meets one of the priority areas of the *LRTP: 2007-2027 Update*: to enhance community character. By gathering information about historic transportation buildings in the region, the basis for making decisions on how to best use the historic resource can occur; one of which can be to serve as “gateways” to enhance the perception of the region to residents and visitors.

Another reason to undertake this survey is that outside the New York State Department of Transportation’s (NYSDOT) *Contextual Study of New York State's Pre-1961 Bridges* (November 1999), there is no comprehensive inventory of historic transportation buildings for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. The goal of the *Genesee-Finger Lakes Historic Transportation Gateway Inventory and Assessment* is to provide this initial inventory for increased awareness and understanding and to serve as the basis for integrating survey information with other planning data to meet both local and regional planning priorities.

1.1 Survey Team

The field survey and historical research was conducted in the summer of 2008 by Katelin Olson, a graduate student intern attending Cornell University’s Historic Preservation Planning Program. She was overseen by Jayme Breschard, Senior Planner at Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, who also reviewed the survey data and conducted the analysis. Planners Razy Kased and Timothy Sullivan at Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council created the GIS maps.

Genesee-Finger Lakes Historic Transportation Gateway Inventory and Assessment

August 2009

Historians representing all nine counties in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region were asked to participate in identifying and locating historic transportation-related resources in their communities. Appointments were scheduled at their offices when needed. Informational letters about the project were also mailed to municipal historians from all cities, towns, and villages in the region. Lastly, a description of the project is posted on the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council website and articles published in the summer 2008 and winter 2008 Council newsletters.