

## Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100002922

Date Listed:

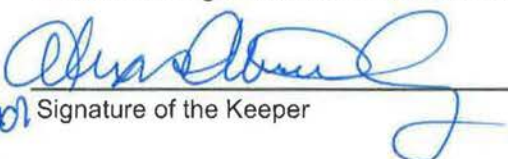
Property Name: Fiddlers Green Historic District

County: Erie

State: NY

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This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

  
for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

In Section 3 of the National Register nomination the information is incomplete.

The box certifying the document is a nomination is not checked. The cover letter states that the Fiddlers Green Historic District is a nomination and an email with National Register coordinator Kathleen LaFrank confirming the information is sufficient to process the nomination.

The box confirming that the National Register nomination meets the National Register Criteria is not checked. The cover letter and email are sufficient to confirm that the nomination meets the criteria and the processing of the nomination can continue.

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The NEW YORK SHPO was notified of this amendment.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

562922



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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name FIDDLERS GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

name of related multiple property listing N/A

#### 2. Location

street & number 65-85 Franklin Street, 23-37 North Buffalo Street [ ] not for publication

city or town Springville [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county Erie code 029 zip code 14141

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [ ] 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 as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*For David Muly*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/17/18  
Date

DSMPD  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register [ ] see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register [ ] see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register

[ ] removed from the National Register

[ ] other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

*for* Signature of the Keeper  
*Alvin [unclear]*

date of action  
9/14/2018

**Fiddlers Green Historic District**  
Name of Property

**Erie County, New York**  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<b><u>8</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

**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**  
4

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling, secondary structure  
RELIGION/religious facility, church-related residence  
LANDSCAPE/Park  
GOVERNMENT/post office, fire hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum, Auditorium  
RELIGION/religious facility, church-related residence  
LANDSCAPE/Park  
GOVERNMENT/post office, fire hall,  
government office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY/Gothic Revival  
LATE VICTORIAN/Shingle  
LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

foundation STONE  
walls BRICK, WOOD/Clapboard, Shingle  
roofing ASPHALT  
other N/A

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**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.)

- A** Property 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.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that 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 boxes that apply.)

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 Building Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance:**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Community Planning and Development

**Period of Significance:**

ca. 1818-1937

**Significant Dates:**

1818, 1834

**Significant Person:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect/Builder:**

Lewis Shuttleworth, Louis A. Simon  
Cyrus K. Porter, H. Osgood Holland, F. L. Buckley



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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 4.45 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>691725</u> Easting	<u>4709020</u> Northing	3	<u>    </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>    </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>    </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Juliana Glassco, Jill Nowicki, Clinton Brown, FAIA,  
organization Clinton Brown Company Architecture, pc date May 2018  
street & number 617 Main Street, Suite M303 telephone (716) 852-2020  
city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14203

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**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. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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**Fiddlers Green Historic District**  
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**FIDDLERS GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT – NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES**

The Fiddlers Green Historic District encompasses buildings that all developed around a public square which was the core of the plan of the early Village of Springville, Erie County, New York.<sup>1</sup> Contributing resources span the establishment of Fiddlers Green in the plan for Springville circa 1818 and Springville's incorporation as a village in 1834, through its booming growth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and finally to the Village's slow decline of wealth and slowdown of construction during the post-railroad boom days of the Great Depression Era. Today, it is the location of cultural regeneration with a historic former church complex becoming Springville Center for the Arts as one example.

The Fiddlers Green Historic District is located within the Village of Springville, Erie County, New York, in the southeast portion of the Town of Concord. The overall character is that of a village, more rural than urban. Springville is the largest, most concentrated community within the rural town of Concord. Spring Brook, the largest spring and after which the village is named, runs generally north to south through the center of the village. The "Public Square," so labeled on the 1818 map of Springville, later became known as the Park and then later as Fiddlers Green. In that map it is the center point of square- and rectangular-shaped lots arranged in an irregular ensemble, likely reflecting the crossing of early paths that became roads here, and the irregular and sloping land around Spring Creek that had been dammed for a mill pond.

The boundaries of the Fiddlers Green Historic District follow the outer periphery of Fiddlers Green park, expanding on the east, south, and southwest sides of the park to include key extant buildings. The park itself is a rectangle site bounded by Franklin Street to the south, North Buffalo Street to the west, and Chapel Street curving around its south and east sides. The district, an area of just over four acres, is directly north of the historic commercial core of the East Main-Mechanic Streets Historic District (NR-listed, 2002) and just west of Spring Brook and the site of the former Springville and Sardinia railroad. There is a distinct visual break between the commercial architecture of Main Street and this civic core, due to a clear distinction between commercial properties facing Main Street and the historic properties facing Buffalo Street, Franklin Street, Park Street and Chapel Street that border the park.

The south section of the district includes the Presbyterian church at the southwest corner of Franklin and North Buffalo Streets, the former Baptist church, now the Springville Center for the Arts (NR-listed, 1990), at the southeast corner of Franklin and North Buffalo streets, the Lucy Bensley Center Research Library to the south of the former Baptist church and former parsonage on the east side of Franklin, and the Goddard Memorial Hall to the east of the former Baptist church on the south side of Franklin. The east portion of the district includes a combined residence/doctor's office on the northeast corner of Franklin and Chapel streets, the post

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<sup>1</sup> The predominant reference historically is to Fiddlers Green, however there are spellings of Fiddler's and Fiddlers' also.

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office to its east, and the fire hall directly east of that. The easternmost boundary of the district lies at the site of the decommissioned Springville and Sardinia railroad tracks. The area north and west of the park has been significantly altered and contains residences built in the last several decades; therefore, it is not included in the boundaries for the historic district.

**SETTING**

The Fiddlers Green Historic District is distinctly oriented around the park as the nucleus, surrounded by prominent civic and religious buildings framing a central public square. While the Presbyterian and Baptist churches face each other across North Buffalo Street, and the buildings east of the park face Franklin Street, the residences on the north side of Chapel Street and the block of North Buffalo Street that all look onto the park. Concrete sidewalks are present throughout the district. Street lights are mounted to telephone poles, and there is no lighting in the park itself, except for a new decorative lamp at the southwest corner. Most of the buildings are regularly set back from the street by roughly thirty feet, and the roads are wide enough for two-way traffic and, in some places, street parking. Nevertheless, there is a distinct density in terms of how closely this collection of physically distinguished and socially significant buildings is clustered around a central point. Although the streets have been widened over time, the distribution of buildings surrounding the square has remained.

Fiddlers Green Park is a square-shaped park with concrete walkways along the south and west sides peripheries, and which forms an X through a central circle. The circle contains a ca. 1895 "Soldier's Monument" Civil War memorial stone statue, erected by David S. Ingalls, featuring a Civil War-era Union soldier atop a tall pedestal bearing military and patriotic symbols (5-pointed stars, crossed flags, laurel wreath, etc.) and the words "Our Honored Dead." Low bushes surround the memorial. In front of the statue is a cannon, which is a ca. 1902 replacement for the cannon originally placed there. The park grounds consist mainly of lawn interrupted only by a mix of mature and young deciduous trees and modern benches. Most of the trees appear to be located in a pattern of three in a row on each edge of the perimeter and then two in an inner row. The north quadrant of the park contains a simple wood-frame gazebo bandstand placed in the park in 1976 by the Town of Concord Bicentennial Committee to commemorate the United States bicentennial, a replacement for earlier iterations, dating back to ca. 1911. The Village of Springville has just completed a Franklin Street streetscape improvement project, which has contributed accent paving in the intersections on Franklin Street between the east side of N. Buffalo Street and Main Street, increased street parking (cutting into the east boundary of the park on Chapel Street), and a new streetlamp and brick-paving at the southwest corner of the park. A narrow concrete curb surrounds the block of the park, including a new curb along the north and south edges of Franklin Street, but on the edges of Chapel and Buffalo streets that are not adjacent to the park, lawns transition directly to the asphalt street pavement.

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The Fiddlers Green area is distinct from neighboring areas because of the variety of buildings and activities it hosts, and by the lush, open atmosphere lent by the park. Unlike the primarily commercial Main Street corridor to the south or the mainly residential neighborhoods to the north and west, the blend of distinguished and historic green space, churches, gathering spaces, and civic structures of the Fiddlers Green Historic District results in a vibrant district that holds community importance to the Village of Springville.

### **ARCHITECTURE**

The Fiddlers Green Historic District reflects locally the ecclesiastical and civic architectural styles that were trending nationally throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These styles range from the Gothic Revival style of the mid- to late-1800s, to the Queen Anne and Shingle styles in the late nineteenth century, to the Colonial Revival style typical of the early twentieth century and of Works Project Administration buildings nationwide. In the case of Goddard Hall, believed to have been built by local carpenter Lewis Shuttleworth, it was originally constructed in the Greek Revival style, and was later updated to Colonial Revival during a renovation. While many properties appear to have been built by local builders and carpenters, several of the larger properties including the churches were likely designed by architects.

The Gothic Revival style Free Baptist Church, built in 1869 directly to the south of the park is an impressive red building. It was designed by Cyrus K. Porter, a prominent and prolific Buffalo architect. It underwent a renovation in 2014 to become an arts center. The Free Baptist Church and its neighbor, the large Colonial Revival Presbyterian church across North Buffalo Street, together serve as a majestic gateway to Fiddlers Green for those arriving from Main Street.

Few examples of the early houses that once dotted the northern perimeter of Fiddlers Green remain, but the building now known as the Lucy Bensley Center Research Library, south of the park on Buffalo Street, is noteworthy for its distinctive Shingle styling. It was constructed in 1897 to be the second iteration of Springville's Universalist Church. Since 1928, it has been owned by the Town of Concord and is currently the home of the Springville Chamber of Commerce and the Concord Historical Society's genealogy library.

The twentieth century ushered in a wave of municipal buildings that reinforced Fiddlers Green as the civic center for the Village, beginning with the construction of Goddard Memorial Hall in 1902. Although Springville's economy suffered during the Great Depression and never fully recovered to its pre-Depression levels of success, the area surrounding Fiddlers Green saw civic development up through the end of the 1930s due to three federal New Deal era projects. The distinct Colonial Revival styling of all three of these buildings, in addition to the Presbyterian church, communicates a unity of purpose and dignity in the built environment of Fiddlers Green.

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In 1935, Goddard Hall received a facelift from the New Deal Works Progress Administration (WPA). Its original Greek Revival architecture was transformed into a Colonial Revival façade, in keeping with the prevailing style for many WPA projects. The building, which originally was one and a half stories high, was modified to allow for basement use. In 1979 it was modified again for disabled accessibility and to adapt the space for town offices, but it has retained its Colonial Revival styling.

Meanwhile, the Springville Post Office, constructed in 1936-7 and located on the north side of the intersection of Franklin and Mechanic Streets, was authorized under the 1931 amendment to the federal Public Buildings Act of 1926, and built as one of a string of thirteen federally-constructed post offices built across the state, reflecting “the interest in standardization that had been voiced by the Treasury Department as early as 1915 with the institution of a classification system for post office construction.”<sup>2</sup> Typical of facilities built at this time, the Springville Post Office is Colonial Revival in style, built of brick, and features many common architectural features such as a cupolas, an entrance with Doric columns and blind fanlights, and American eagle ornamentation. The architect was Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department from 1933-1939. Springville’s post office is noteworthy for its interior mural, “Fiddler’s Green”, a scene of local significance commissioned through a competition sponsored by the Treasury Department’s Section of Fine Arts and painted by Victoria H. Huntley in 1938. The scene depicted is a nineteenth century dance in Fiddler’s Green.

At the same time as the post office’s construction, a brick municipal and fire hall building was built next to it by the WPA, on the site of the former western terminus of the Springville and Sardinia narrow gauge railroad. Both the post office and the fire hall are built in the Colonial Revival style typical of public works projects in the 1930s, with red brick construction, punctuated by limestone accents, classically-inspired door surrounds, and federal motifs.

**INTEGRITY AND CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING CRITERIA**

When determining an individual building's status as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the district, the apparent date of construction, current integrity of the materials of its construction, and historic character are the primary factors considered. Some level of modifications and updates are common here, typically contemporary replacement siding, replacement windows, modern additions. These modifications reflect the continued use of these buildings for decades; changes in building materials alone do not necessarily render a building non-contributing to the district if it retains identifying historic character and form. Buildings that are

<sup>2</sup> Larry Gobrecht. “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: United States Post Offices in New York State – 1858-1943 – Thematic Resources: United States Post Office, Springville, Erie County” (1986), Section 8.



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non-contributing are generally those that have been significantly and irreversibly altered in form and material, have lost key character defining features, or are less than 50 years old.

The following criteria were used to evaluate contributing status of buildings in the district. All the buildings/sites have been built during the period of significance (1818-1937). All the buildings in the district are in their original locations and/or have been noted as being moved to the area during the period of significance. Contributing buildings must retain enough integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling to convey its historic appearance and significance in the context of the overall district.

**RESOURCE COUNT**

Total number of Resources:14

Total Contributing Primary Buildings: 4

Total Non-Contributing Primary Buildings: 1

Total Previously NR-listed Primary Buildings:3

Total Number of Primary Buildings: 8

Total Number of Contributing Secondary Buildings (barns, carriage houses, garages, etc.): 0

Total Previously NR-listed Secondary Buildings: 1

Total Number of Non-Contributing Secondary Buildings: 1

Total Number of Secondary Buildings: 2

Total Number of Contributing Objects: 2

Total Number of Objects: 2

Total Number of Non-Contributing Structures: 1

Total Number of Contributing Sites: 1

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RESOURCE LIST

The following list, organized by alphabetical street order, then property address in number order, split into even and odd numbers, provides a brief description of each individual property included in the district. Primary and secondary buildings are noted as contributing or non-contributing to the district.

**FRANKLIN STREET - NORTH SIDE (odd)**

**53-65 Franklin Street** **1937; addition 2016**

**Municipal & Fire Hall Building**

**Architect, Builder Unknown. Project attributed to John Wilkins, Works Progress Administration Superintendent**

Contributing primary building

2-story Colonial Revival brick masonry main mass with modern rear addition and 2016 fire truck bay side addition at the east. Despite the recent alterations to the building's footprint, the original 1930s Colonial Revival building remains largely intact. Low-pitched hipped roof with asphalt shingle roofing, ashlar stone foundation, 5 bays with offset central entryway and window above due to large garage on one side of the building. Paired double hung 6/1 wood windows with limestone keystones. Door has limestone surround with flat pilasters and broken pediment crown. Concrete ramp and metal railing lead to entrance. Boxed eave with wood cornice and subtle brick pilasters at corners.

**75 Franklin Street** **1937**

**United States Post Office - Springville**

**Architect: Louis E. Simon**

**Previously NR Listed (90NR01254)**

Contributing primary building

Single story symmetrically massed side-gable Colonial Revival brick masonry municipal (post office) building with flat-roofed rear wing brick foundation with prominent ashlar stone water table. 5-bay main massing with 12/12 double hung windows with stone lintels and sills. Concrete steps and ramp with metal railing lead to arched central entryway with capital, fanlight transom, and fluted Doric pilasters. Federal-style cast aluminum eagle decoration in blind fanlight above entablature. Denticulated wide frieze band under boxed eaves; closed side gable with denticulated rake fanlight. Small central square cupola with arched louvers and finial.

**85 Franklin Street** **ca.1860**

Non-Contributing primary building due to significant alterations; Non-Contributing Secondary Building due to significant alterations

A string of simple side-gabled vernacular frame residential buildings now connected and at least partially converted to a medical office. On the corner of Franklin Street and Chapel Street, buildings are all oriented to

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face Chapel Street. Replacement siding, concrete foundation, asphalt shingle roof, replacement vinyl windows. Southernmost massing is sideways-facing onto Franklin Street and is long and single-story with a low-pitched roof and offset covered entry with metal railing and support. Entry is flanked by large vinyl multi-light picture window on one side and regular bays with high-set casement windows on the other. This front massing is connected to the north by a hyphen to a larger 2-story house with 2 regular bays with shuttered sliding windows, with a small 1-story addition with projecting covered entry on its northern side.

**Franklin Street** **ca. 1818**

**Fiddlers Green Park**

**Contributing Site**

Square-shaped public park of .41 acres featuring a manicured lawn and mature deciduous trees in a naturalistic pattern. Concrete walkways form a perimeter and an "X" through the park intersecting at a central circle with a memorial statue at its focus. In front of the statue is a cannon, and a wood frame contemporary gazebo sits to the north. Contemporary park benches.

**Soldier's Monument** **ca. 1895**

**Contributing Object**

"Soldier's Monument" Civil War memorial stone statue, erected by David S. Ingalls, featuring a Civil War-era Union soldier atop a tall pedestal bearing military and patriotic symbols (5-pointed stars, crossed flags, laurel wreath, etc.) and the words "Our Honored Dead." Low bushes surround the memorial

**Cannon** **1902**

**Contributing Object**

Metal cannon on concrete base. Replacement for the cannon originally placed there.

**Gazebo** **1976**

**Non-Contributing Structure (built outside period of significance)**

The north quadrant of the park contains a simple wood-frame gazebo bandstand placed in the park in 1976 by the Town of Concord Bicentennial Committee to commemorate the United States bicentennial, a replacement for earlier iterations, dating back to ca. 1911.

*NORTH BUFFALO STREET INTERSECTS*

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FRANKLIN STREET - SOUTH SIDE (even)

**86 Franklin Street**

**ca. 1902; 1935 remodel**

**Goddard Memorial Hall**

**Builder: Charles Shuttleworth**

**Architect Unknown. Expansion project attributed to John Wilkins, Works Progress Administration Superintendent**

*Contributing primary building*

Prominent Colonial Revival municipal building (originally Greek Revival but remodeled in 1935). Building has a hipped roof and three symmetrical bays with the center bay slightly protruding. Brick façade with prominent ashlar stone foundation on front façade, extending decoratively upward into wide window and door surrounds for the tall first floor, as well as a low belt course and keystones. Rusticated stone foundation on building sides. Full-height pedimented central bay with wide entryway flanked by round fluted pilasters with a grouping of 3 2-story multi-light windows in decorative wood casing above. Two-story Palladian windows flank the central entry and a wide frieze band surrounds the building. The side façade of the building as visible from Mechanic Street has 7 bays featuring the same first story windows grouped in threes with stone surrounds, with 2-story Palladian windows above.

NORTH BUFFALO STREET – WEST SIDE (even)

*FRANKLIN STREET INTERSECTS*

**38 North Buffalo Street**

**1922**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Architect: H. Osgood Holland**

*Contributing primary building*

Front-gabled Colonial Revival brick church building with large side-gable and wing addition. Asphalt shingle roof, limestone foundation. Prominent central entry with glazed double doors and leaded colored glass window above set in a classical wood surround. Door is set in protruding bay with full height paired Doric columns supporting a large denticulated pediment set in front of the main mass which has a square tower with a balustrade and cupola set into the closed denticulated gable. Franklin Street-facing side façade of the building features 5 bays containing large rectangular windows with leaded opalescent colored glass and stone lintels and sills, divided by modest brick pilasters. More recent 2-story rear addition has matching styling with closed pediment gables, rear center gabled entryway onto parking lot, and “FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH” affixed to the façade. A small single-story wing with closed front gable and porthole window attaches to the addition, parallel with the original chapel, facing North Buffalo Street. Front-gabled frame shed with exposed

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rafters behind building in parking lot. This building was built in the same location to replace an 1847 building that burned down in 1921.

**NORTH BUFFALO STREET – EAST SIDE (odd)**

*FRANKLIN STREET INTERSECTS*

**23 North Buffalo Street** **ca. 1897**  
**Former Universalist Church / Lucy Bensley Center Research Library**  
*Contributing primary building*

1 ½-story cross-gabled building with Shingle and Queen Anne elements. Rusticated stone foundation, brick masonry construction with decorative dark-colored courses. Typical fenestration with segmental arch window frames, single hung windows, and stone lintels. A large round leaded window is set low in an over-sized closed front gable with asphalt-shingled rake and wood-shingled face. Side entry with concrete steps and metal balustrade.

**29 North Buffalo Street** **ca. 1870**  
**Former Baptist Church Parsonage / Springville Center for the Arts**  
**Previously NR Listed (2017)**

*Contributing primary building; Contributing Secondary Building*

Two-story cross-gabled frame building with Queen Anne styling. Wood clapboard siding, stone foundation, and asphalt shingle roof. Typical fenestration and 1/1 wood windows on upper story, replacement ribbon window on ground floor. Recessed entry in side wing under front and side porch supported by square pillars on a brick balustrade. Wide open eaves with modest corner brackets frame a front gable with fishscale shingles. Frame front gable secondary building.

**37 North Buffalo Street** **1869 (Alterations 1914, 2014)**  
**Former Springville Baptist Church / Springville Center for the Arts**  
**Architect: Cyrus K. Porter (1869), F.L. Buckley (1914 addition)**  
**Builder: S. R. Smith (1869), Lakeshore Construction (1914 Addition)**  
**Previously NR Listed (90NR01254)**

*Contributing primary building*

Gable-front Gothic Revival brick masonry church with limestone foundation and trim and asphalt shingled roof. Front gable is steep with a roundel with limestone tracery above a tripartite Gothic-arched window. Building features pointed-arched leaded windows with opalescent glass throughout. Side façade has 5 bays separated by brick buttresses with stone caps and brick styling imitating brackets below the cornice. Offset square bell tower at northwest corner maintains Gothic styling with engaged corner buttresses, stone courses,



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lancet windows, and paired arched louvers and brick corbelling at the top. Main entrance to building is a Tudor-arched double door set into the tower with quatrefoil motif and leaded transom. Building eaves are supported by modest bracketed wood cornice. 3-bay gabled wing projects from south side of sanctuary block with shed-roof addition to the rear and single story crenellated front addition (narthex) sits just east of the main entrance. In a 2014 renovation, a copper-clad shed roofed second story addition was constructed on top of the existing shed roof addition and the previous crenellation was restored.

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**FIDDLERS GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Fiddlers Green Historic District is significant as an intact civic and religious center that developed around a public green space within the Village of Springville, Erie County, New York. The Fiddlers Green Historic District demonstrates significance under criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its distinct development of a village center, an intentional design that endured through the area’s history. The district also merits consideration under criterion C in the area of Architecture as a collection of religious, civic, cultural, and residential buildings that demonstrate the evolving national architectural trends over the course of Springville’s development. The district reflects national trends in popular architectural styles, ranging from the Gothic Revival style of the mid- to late-1800s, to the Queen Anne and Shingle style in the late nineteenth century, to the Colonial Revival typical of the early twentieth century and of Works Project Administration buildings nationwide. The period of significance for the Fiddlers Green Historic District encompasses the years during which most of the significant architectural development occurred, beginning circa 1818 when the establishment of the “Public Square,” and closing in 1937 with the construction of the WPA-era post office and fire hall.

The land for Fiddlers Green park was set aside by 1818, within the first ten years of Springville’s settlement and development. Rufus Eaton moved his family west from Eatonville in Herkimer County, which his family founded. Eaton drew the community’s first map, mostly of the land that he owned, then donated land for the public square or park, a cemetery, an academy, and the First Presbyterian Church and built a saw mill at the mill pond nearby. While initially known as the Public Square, the park took on the name “Fiddler’s Green” for its anecdotal associations with early Irish fiddlers who met and played in the park. Eaton’s early plan gave rise to a small yet distinct part of Springville consisting largely of civic and religious buildings, standing apart from commercial and residential development in the community. In the tradition of public squares, Fiddler’s Green became a center for civic life in Springville. The square played a vital role in the community as the village was being established. In early times the “Green” was used as a parade ground by the military companies that trained in Springville, traveling shows, or games of baseball were played. During the memorable Van Buren-Harrison presidential campaign of 1840 a log cabin was erected on the south-west corner of the “Green,” and a large political meeting was held there on that Fourth of July.

Ringling the park, a variety of civic, municipal and religious buildings located. This included at one time five churches, of which three remain extant. The twentieth century ushered in a wave of municipal building construction that reinforced Fiddlers Green as the civic center for the Village. This began with the construction of Goddard Memorial Hall in 1902. The Springville Post Office, constructed in 1936-37 just east of the Green, highlights the continued importance of the Fiddlers Green area as a civic hub in the twentieth century. At the same time as the post office’s construction, a brick municipal and fire hall building was built next to it by the WPA.

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Village of Springville Historical Overview

The land Springville sits upon was made accessible for Euro-American settlement following the Revolutionary War in 1783, and new settlement in the Western New York region began in 1795 with the Holland Land Company purchase. Land was divided into ranges, townships, and lots, surveyed by Joseph Ellicott, and early roads were cut through the land to allow for settlement of villages and towns.<sup>3</sup> The town of Concord, founded March 20, 1812, was formed of parts of township 6, ranges 6 and 7, and township 7, ranges 6 and 7. In 1808, the Holland Land Company constructed Cattaraugus Road, which ran east to west from Wyoming County to Lawtons, through Concord.<sup>4</sup>

Settlement in Springville began in 1807, when Christopher Stone acquired 787 acres of land in the area, including lots 3, 9, and 14 of township 6, range 6.<sup>5</sup> This land proved to be rich in natural resources for harvest and for farming, and settlers migrated from New England and eastern New York to purchase land near Spring Creek, also known as Spring Brook. By 1815, there were nearly 40 pioneers who had brought their families to the area, primarily from New England and Eastern New York. Over the next few decades, development occurred within close proximity of Spring Creek and a public square known as "Fiddlers' Green."<sup>6</sup>

Per the 1886 Directory of the Village of Springville, the settlement, named for the numerous fresh water springs in the area, was incorporated on April 11, 1834. Springville would become the industrial, economic, and social center of the town of Concord, which was otherwise rural farm country.

Springville's early economy was sustained by strong local industrial and agricultural base, which continued to thrive into the early twentieth century. Water power provided by Spring Creek made it an ideal place to build mills. As a result, Springville developed a very diverse industrial base, which was divided into two subcategories; those industries that processed local agricultural products, such as dairy, wheat, and animal hides, and those that utilized raw materials, such as wood. Industries included a cheese factory, an agricultural equipment factory, a woolen factory, a carding mill, a cheese box factory, a pump factory, a tannery, a wagon manufacturer, a saw mill, grist mills, and foundries. Springville was also a prominent farming community with an abundance of fertile land. There were several early farms within the town of Concord that supplied food to the local population and sustained the growing community. Some of the most successful farmers in Springville

<sup>3</sup> Kathleen A. Howe, *Reconnaissance Level Survey of Historic Resources: Village of Springville, Erie County, New York*, Bero Associates Architects (Rochester, NY: April 1998), 4.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 6.

<sup>5</sup> Springville is located primarily on lots 3 and 9.

<sup>6</sup> Lyman Morris Smith, *Springville History 1939*, (Marilla, NY: History Recording Association, 1939).

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during this early era were George Holland, Sylvester Eaton, W. Watkins, Wells Brooks, William McMillen, E. Mack, William Ballou, J. Rushmore, and Edmonds F. White.<sup>7</sup>

Advancements in transportation were essential to the developing growth of Springville. Industrial growth and expanding commercial markets were cause for development of road improvements and more efficient modes of transportation. In 1852, the Springville and Boston Plank Road Company constructed a plank road from Springville to Boston. Another road was constructed that connected Boston to Buffalo, allowing for relatively easy travel between Springville and Buffalo, the region's largest market. It was at this time that the first public transportation by stage coach was established.<sup>8</sup> However, the introduction of the railroad in 1878 had the biggest impact on the growth of Springville. Railroads allowed for fast and inexpensive travel of passengers and goods over long distances. Not only was the railroad a more efficient mode of transportation for goods than horses or drawn wagons, it created reliable access to outside raw materials necessary to sustain Springville's booming industrial growth and expanded the network of markets to which Springville could provide goods. The first railroad in Springville, the Springville & Sardinia Railroad, was constructed in 1878 with its depot on the north side of Franklin Street just east of Mechanic Street. It was a 10.8-mile line that connected to the Buffalo, New York & Philadelphia Railroad at Sardinia, providing daily passenger and freight services. By 1883, the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railroad constructed a line from Ashford to Buffalo, which passed through Springville and led to the Springville & Sardinia tracks being removed in 1886. Additionally, the Buffalo & Susquehanna Railroad was constructed in 1906 between Buffalo and Galeton, stopping in Springville along the route.

In the decades around the turn of the twentieth century, Springville was at the pinnacle of its growth and prosperity caused by the wealth and new opportunities brought by the railroads. The population nearly doubled in size due to improvements in transportation, commerce, and industry. In 1880, the village's population was 1,227, but by 1896 it had grown to 2,280. A boom in housing stock resulted in residential neighborhoods cropping up beyond the core around Fiddlers Green. There was a shift of the place from being a very rural village to becoming the cultural and entertainment center of the town of Concord. It was during this era that Hall's Opera House and Goddard Memorial Hall were established.<sup>10</sup> The prevalence of leisure activities and establishments was a display of wealth in the village.<sup>11</sup>

Springville, like most communities with a historic center, saw the effects of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century. As residents moved further from the center of the village, some of the churches and cultural institutions surrounding the green were either razed or repurposed. However, the integrity of the Fiddlers Green has

<sup>7</sup> Erasmus Briggs, *History of the Original Town of Concord: Being the Present Towns of Concord, Collins, N. Collins and Sardinia, Erie County, New York* (Rochester: Union and Advertiser Company's Print, 1883), 204.

<sup>8</sup> Howe, 8.

<sup>10</sup> Hall's Opera House was originally built on Main Street but moved to Fiddlers Green after the first building suffered a fire.

<sup>11</sup> Howe, 15.

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remained particularly intact due to the ability of its buildings to adapt to changing community needs. Goddard Hall has been converted to a court house, while the Baptist Church has been converted to an arts center and the former Unitarian Church is now the home of the town's historical society, while the Presbyterian church, post office and fire hall maintain their original uses. A contemporary library, bank, and law practice demonstrate to the area's continued use as a hub for private and public services. Growth of the village slowed in the early to mid-1900s, but Springville remained the most prominent community in the town of Concord, and the Fiddlers Green area has remained integral to the village's civic activity.

**Development of the Fiddlers Green Historic District**

The land that now comprises the Fiddlers Green Historic District has been at the physical and social heart of the Springville settlement nearly since its establishment. Before the commercial concentration of businesses developed along Main Street, the civic and religious center of Springville was established by the buildings that were constructed around the "park" or "green" that was part of the original plan for Springville. Most of the area was part of lots 3 and 9 of the original parcel purchased from the Holland Land Company by Christopher Stone in 1807. A boom of settlement followed, and by January of 1815, about eighty-five settlers were living in the area that is today classified as the Town of Concord.<sup>12</sup> Stone sold the south part of lot 3 to Rufus Eaton in 1810 and moved away from town.

Rufus Eaton was a very committed and influential resident of Springville, as evidenced by his involvement in the early infrastructure, economy, and governance of Springville. As early as 1813, he opened a saw mill east of the future Fiddlers Green. In 1818 Eaton commissioned George W. Robinson to lay out a plan for his land, including a park, the area around it, and several properties on Main Street. The map divides Mr. Eaton's property into numbered parcels, which were gradually sold off. Over the years, Eaton established a variety of businesses on his remaining land and donated much of his other property to community use, including the area designated as a public square in his original 1818 map. From the earliest development of the village, the existence of Fiddlers Green (also known as the "Public Park," "The Park," "The Green," "Fiddler's Green," or "Fiddlers Green") as a public green space spurred the construction of churches and other civic facilities thanks to his generosity, and perhaps to encourage the growth of his community by people who had little money. The Holland Land Company sold lots affordably as long as their new owners cleared and built on them.

**The Green**

Fiddlers Green Park itself is in the heart of the Fiddlers Green Historic District, and at the center of the historical development of the village of Springville. David Stickney, early settler and proprietor of the log

<sup>12</sup> Erasmus Briggs, *History of the Original Town of Concord: Being the Present Towns of Concord, Collins, N. Collins and Sardinia, Erie County, New York*, (Rochester: Union and Advertiser Company's Print, 1883), 157.



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tavern that was Springville's first hotel, is sometimes given credit for coining the name "Fiddlers Green." The title anecdotally derived from the multiple fiddlers who lived or played near the park, so that one could hear the strains of their playing from the green. Erasmus Briggs quoted a longtime Springville resident reporting that a renowned fiddler named David Leroy came to Springville in 1812 and attracted local fiddlers to his home near the green with his playing. A 1938 article in the Springville Journal, unequivocally states that David Leroy was the only fiddler living in Springville in the settlement's early days – that if there were multiple fiddlers, it was because he attracted them there. The journalist wrote, "From this the little village took its name, and for many years it was known as "Fiddlers' Green" from New England to the Far West. Fifty and sixty years ago the name Springville was seldom applied to the village, and it was only on special occasions and when one wished to be very precise in his language that the full name "Fiddler's Green" was used, but among the surrounding farming community the name almost universally applied was the "Green."<sup>13</sup> Regardless of precisely how it came to be, Briggs claims the name "Fiddler's Green" was used for the park as early as 1815 or 1816, and that in common parlance the area was almost always referred to simply as "the Green."<sup>14</sup> Although Briggs and the *Springville Journal* reporter both suggest that the name Fiddlers Green was commonly applied to the entire settlement before "Springville" was adopted, Rufus Eaton's property survey (created by George W. Robinson) indicates that the village was at least being labelled Springville by 1818. The "Public Square" label on the same map confirms that, while the green was likely used as a public area before Eaton's survey, it was certainly established by that same date.

The history of public squares date to the time of the ancient Romans. They designed their fortified army encampments, or *castra*, in a pattern of an enclosure centered by the crossing of two paths where there was an open space, the *principia*, the open space was the site of the headquarters tent.<sup>15</sup> This pattern was adopted by the British army and early colonists as they prepared their places in the wilderness on the frontier of the American continent in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Examples of these plans by the British army, or later its former Revolutionary War soldiers include the Village of Bath in Steuben County, the Village of Clyde in Wayne County, and York, which became Toronto, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Hamilton in Upper Canada, now the Province of Ontario. A variation of this design was in Buffalo, which was platted by Joseph Ellicott in 1804, and with which Eaton would have been familiar. Ellicott's plan not only adopted the public square and grid, he overlaid it with radial roads, some of which reflected aboriginal trails and natural features. Eaton's idealized central square and irregular edge in Springville are similar to Ellicott's of a more than a decade before. Like the Roman camps, Fiddlers Green was the principal organizing place for everyone to be together, to see and be seen, and on which to place their highest achievements, such as in Springville, their churches.

<sup>13</sup> "Beautiful Mural to Grace Post Office; Portrayal of Famous "Fiddlers' Green" To Be Installed Soon". *Springville Journal*. June 30, 1938. [http://www.wnyhistory.org/portfolios/more/DEPRESSION\\_ERA\\_PUBLIC\\_ART/springville/springville\\_journal\\_mural.htm](http://www.wnyhistory.org/portfolios/more/DEPRESSION_ERA_PUBLIC_ART/springville/springville_journal_mural.htm)

<sup>14</sup> Briggs, 196-197.

<sup>15</sup> "Castra," Wikipedia, accessed May 22, 2018, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castra>.

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The square played a vital role in the community as the village was being established. Briggs writes “In early times the “Green” was used as a parade ground by the military companies that trained in Springville. Sometimes caravans and other traveling shows exhibited there or exciting games of baseball were played. During the memorable Van Buren-Harrison presidential campaign of 1840 a log cabin was erected on the south-west corner of the “Green,” and a large political meeting was held there on that Fourth of July. In 1880, at the Semi-Centennial celebration of the opening of the Springville Academy, the large company present on the occasion took dinner from tables erected on the “Green.”<sup>16</sup> A Civil War “Soldier’s Monument” was erected at the center of the park by David S. Ingalls around 1895 and a canon was placed in front of it shortly afterward. Since the placement of the statue, the arrangement of the park has not changed significantly. The statue was originally placed on a mound of earth which has since been replaced by a short circular retaining wall. At the turn of the twentieth century, the rest of the green undulated in similar mounds where it is now flat. Images from the early twentieth century show a blend of young saplings and mature deciduous trees, a diversity which remains today, although most of the trees have reached some level of maturity.

The original Fiddlers Green was larger than it is today, since there were originally only two streets bordering it (Franklin and Buffalo), and the roads were considerably narrower. In 1834, when the village was incorporated, its newly elected Board of Trustees surveyed its streets and named or re-named them. At this time, Franklin and Buffalo streets were already in existence, as well as Water Street, later re-named Mechanic Street. The street bordering the north and east sides of the park was donated by Rufus Eaton, but it was not laid until 1843. It was named “Chapel” street, for the United Methodist church that stood on the north side of the park. (That chapel was a frame building, which was replaced with a brick building in the 1860s.) The creation of Chapel Street established the park boundaries that are essentially still in place today. In the 1850s a picket fence with wooden turnstiles was erected around “the Green” by the Village trustees to keep out roving livestock.<sup>17</sup> The streets around the square were bricked over in 1912.<sup>18</sup>

Today, the park remains an important public green space, with shade-providing trees, a gazebo, and benches for relaxation. The Village of Springville has just completed a Franklin Street streetscape improvement project, which has contributed accent paving in the crosswalks at the Franklin Street corners of the park, increased street parking (cut out of the east boundary of the park on Chapel Street), and a new streetlamp and brick-paving at the southwest corner of the park.

<sup>16</sup> Briggs, 197.

<sup>17</sup> Otto, “A Look Back: Fiddler’s Green Park,” *Springville Times*, April 27, 2017, <http://www.springvilletimes.com/2017/04/27/a-look-back-fiddlers-green-park/>.

<sup>18</sup> Dave Batterson, “Personal interview (Town of Concord Historian)”, interview by CBCA, June 5, 2017.

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*Businesses on the Green*

Almost as soon as the area was settled, industries were established along Spring Creek, which flowed just to the east of the Green. A mill race and pond were built, and a few decades later the passenger station and depot for the Springville and Sardinia railroad were constructed nearby, making Fiddlers Green an ideal place to set up shop. The proximity first to water power and later to the railroad attracted entrepreneurs, travelers, and village residents alike.

In 1817-18, a hotel was built by David Stannard on Franklin street opposite the south side of the park, and over time it passed through a succession of owners. The southeast corner of Fiddlers Green has long been a magnet for social activity. In 1810, David Stickney opened a log house tavern and hotel. In 1847, the First Universalist Church of Springville was constructed on the same corner but was sold in 1879 to Mr. Morris L. Hall and Mr. L. B. Childs. In 1880, Mr. Hall, having built an opera house on Main Street in 1876 only for it to burn down three years later, remodeled the Universalist Church building in partnership with L. B. Childs. The church was transformed it into a new, grand Opera House, which enjoyed popularity until it, too, burned down in the 1890s.

As the village grew, particularly after the railroad boom beginning in 1878 with the construction of the Springville & Sardinia Railroad, most of the village's commerce shifted to Main Street, just a block to the south of the park. Historically Franklin Street was the principal east-west street in the Village of Springville, and therefore an economic hub, but in the late nineteenth century the village's commercial activity began shifting to West Main Street. The arrival of the railroad spurred growth on Springville's former western edge and re-oriented traffic patterns from Franklin Street to West Main Street.

*Churches on the Green*

Currently, two church buildings remain standing around Fiddlers Green, but at one time there were five churches oriented around the Green, evident on early maps and photographs by show of a mass of steeples towering over the green. The earliest religious gatherings in Springville took place in whatever existing buildings had available meeting space, but soon church buildings began to appear around Fiddlers Green. The donation of a plot land by Rufus Eaton for religious purpose set the course of development of this section of the village. That such prominent architects were involved in their design shows the prominence of Springville as a community.

Churches are built in civic centers for several reasons. Churches are built to house their congregants who then grow and need more church spaces or split into slightly different denominations. They built their churches to show the wealth and culture of their congregation. They built nearby each other, just as car dealerships and fast food restaurants do today – to be a cluster, a center for that public function. Finally, in a pioneer village, the

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church (and the fire department) are often the first places of safety, and of gathering, for protection and enjoyment as a community, long before governmental institutions and their facilities are envisioned. It is noteworthy that Springville's opera house for its residents was placed at Fiddlers Green, while its first hotel for visitors was built a block away, on Main Street. The fire department still resides at Fiddlers Green because it is the center of the village, roughly equidistant from all corners. This was important in an era when heating and lighting were by open flame, and many buildings were reported to have caught fire here over the early years.

The first church to be built in the village was the Methodist Church in 1825. The wood-framed building was located on the northwest corner of Franklin and Buffalo streets on the north side of the green. It was relocated to Franklin Street to accommodate a new brick church that was constructed in 1863. Following the construction of the Methodist church, a Congregationalist church was built on Franklin Street in 1832, and the First Baptist Church was erected just northwest of the green on the southwest corner of Buffalo and Church streets in 1835. Also in 1835, the Congregationalist group merged with the Presbyterians and in 1847 the First Presbyterian Church on the southwest corner of Franklin and Buffalo streets was completed. In 1921 the building burned down and was immediately replaced.<sup>20</sup> That iteration still stands and houses a Presbyterian congregation.

The Free Baptist Church, designed by prolific Buffalo architect Cyrus K. Porter, was built in 1869 directly to the south of the park. Eventually the two Baptist congregations merged into the brick Free Baptist building. The First Baptist Church building was purchased in 1915 by George Schuster, winner of the famous 1908 "Great Race" of pioneering automobiles from New York to Paris, who was a longtime resident of Springville. He converted the building into a garage for his Thomas Flyer automobile. The First Baptist Church building has since been demolished, and the Free Baptist church building underwent a renovation in 2014 to become an arts center.

In 1846, the First Universalist Church of Springville was constructed on the northeast corner of Franklin and Chapel streets, later to be converted into an opera house, no longer extant. In 1897 the building now known as the Lucy Bensley Center Research Library was constructed to be the second iteration of Springville's Universalist Church. It has been owned by the Town of Concord since 1928, and it is currently the home of the Springville Chamber of Commerce and the Concord Historical Society's genealogy library.

*Twentieth Century Projects*

Once established in the late nineteenth century, the Fiddlers Green section of Springville changed little as the West End of the community accommodated the growth fueled by the railroad. This quiescent corner of the

<sup>20</sup> While sources indicate that the building was entirely replaced in the 1920s, a visual comparison of the historic photo page 11-7 suggests the possibility that the brick shell, with its recessed window bays and large rectangular stone lintels, may have been reused, and the Wren-Gibbs style portico and tower added.

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village does appear to have declined, but it was the focus of re-investment during the Great Depression. This is logical because this was the long-standing, stable center of the village.

The twentieth century ushered in a wave of municipal building construction that reinforced Fiddlers Green as the civic center for the Village. This began with the construction of Goddard Memorial Hall in 1902, which at that time had impressive Greek Revival architectural design and is believed to have been built by Lewis Shuttleworth. Calista Goddard, a benefactress descended from early settlers of Springville, had the hall built, likely as a memorial to her forebearers, and it was used as an opera and lecture hall on the Lyceum circuit until demand dwindled in the 1930s and Ms. Goddard donated the building to the Town of Concord.<sup>21</sup> In 1934, under a WPA initiative the renovation of the building was approved to accommodate combined uses as the Village and Town Hall and Police department which included three detention cells.<sup>22</sup> The upper floor was to be converted into a “beautiful” auditorium with enlarged stage. During this project the floor was raised to provide ceiling height and additional natural lighting to the lower floor.<sup>23</sup>

Although the larger Springville area suffered during the Great Depression, the area surrounding Fiddlers Green saw civic development up through the end of the 1930s due to three federal New Deal era projects. In 1935, Goddard Hall received a facelift from the WPA. Its original Greek Revival architecture was transformed into a Colonial Revival façade, in keeping with the prevailing style for WPA projects. The building, which originally was one and a half stories high, was modified to allow for basement use. In 1979 it was modified again for accessibility and to adapt the space for town offices. Today, the hall’s event space and offices for the Town of Concord are still in use.

The Springville Post Office, constructed in 1936-37, is located on the north side of the intersection of Franklin and Mechanic Streets and highlights the continued importance of the Fiddlers Green area as a civic hub in the twentieth century. It was authorized under the 1931 amendment to the federal Public Buildings Act of 1926 and built as part of a string of thirteen federally-constructed post offices built across the state, reflecting “the interest in standardization that had been voiced by the Treasury Department as early as 1915 with the institution of a classification system for post office construction.”<sup>24</sup> The architect was Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department from 1933-1939. This post office is noteworthy for its interior mural, “Fiddler’s Green,” a scene of local significance commissioned through a competition sponsored by the Treasury Department’s Section of Fine Arts and painted by Victoria H. Huntley in 1938. The scene depicted is a square dance in nineteenth century “Fiddler’s Green,” or Springville. Huntley, a muralist and art teacher from New

<sup>21</sup> While the name of the benefactress who sponsored the building is “Goddard,” the name carved into the building’s façade is “Godard,” and therefore may appear spelled that way in some records.

<sup>22</sup> *Springville Journal*. December 13, 1934.

<sup>23</sup> *Springville Journal*. June 27, 1935.

<sup>24</sup> Gobrecht, Section 8.



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York City, also created a post office mural in Greenwich, Connecticut. In total, eighty murals and sculptures commissioned through the same program were created in post offices across New York between 1935 and 1943, many of which remain intact today.<sup>25</sup>

At the same time as the post office's construction, a brick municipal and fire hall building was built next to it by the WPA, on the site of the former western terminus of the Springville and Sardinia narrow gauge railroad. Both the post office and the fire hall are built in the Colonial Revival style typical of public works projects in the 1930s.

Community investment in the Fiddlers Green Historic District is still active today, as evidenced by a library built in 1994 and the conversion of the former Free Baptist church in the Springville Center for the Arts. Other examples include a recent fire truck bay addition to the fire hall, and the presence of the Concord Historical Society and Springville Chamber of Commerce in the Lucy Bensley Center.

## ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS OF THE FIDDLERS GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Fiddlers Green District reflects locally the ecclesiastical and civic architectural styles popular throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries nationally. Springville, as a village with industry and businesses that relied on the import and export of goods, undoubtedly relied on builders and architects that knew of popular architectural styles and had access to the popular builder's guides of the day. Most of its buildings were built by now unknown local builders, though there are few records of specific properties designed and constructed by individual architects and builders. While it is likely that some of the buildings were architect-designed due to their scale and unique features, much of this information could not be uncovered and may have been lost over Springville's history. One notable exception is the nationally registered Free Baptist Church which was built in 1869 to the design of Cyrus K. Porter, a prominent and prolific Buffalo architect. Porter's long and prestigious career spanned from his beginnings in Chicago to his many projects and partnerships in Buffalo right up to his death in 1910. Born in Cicero, New York in 1828 and originally trained as a joiner, Porter eventually studied with a travelling architect based out of Detroit and began his career as a draftsman with The Chicago Water Works in 1853. Two years later he moved to Brantford, Ontario, where he briefly successfully completed several projects before moving on to Buffalo, New York, in 1865, where he spent many of his more than 50 years as an architect. Cyrus Porter's most well-known Buffalo works include Trinity Episcopal Church (1886, NR listed in 2008), the Coal & Iron Exchange (c. 1882, demolished), and Eberhardt Mansion (1894, NR listed in 1983).<sup>26</sup> After Cyrus's death, his son Jesse continued the business of C.K. Porter & Sons until shortly before his death in 1929, including a redesign of National Register-listed Hayes Hall (NR 16000394), a Department of

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Daniel McEneny. "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: The Baptist Church of Springville", August 2008, Section 8.

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the Insane for the Erie County Almshouse built in 1879 that was converted for academic use by the University of Buffalo in the 1920s.<sup>27</sup>

Thomas Lincoln (b. November 17, 1801 – d. March 12, 1894) was a carpenter, joiner, and architect, who designed and built the 1878 Free Baptist Church of East Concord and the 1835 Springville Mill.<sup>28</sup> He is also reported to have designed the 1875 church tower and spire that replaced the original 1847 tower on the Presbyterian church. He was noted by Erasmus Briggs as "the oldest architect and builder and has followed his calling the longest."<sup>29</sup> Later, when the entire Presbyterian church was rebuilt in 1922 after a fire, Buffalo architect H. Osgood Holland led the project.<sup>30</sup> H. Osgood Holland was a member, and vice president, of the Buffalo chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Along with the Presbyterian Church here, he is credited with designing Buffalo Public School No. 304 Hutchinson Center Technical High School.<sup>31</sup> Lewis Shuttleworth, son of Charles Shuttleworth, is credited with building the 1902 Goddard Memorial Hall, among other prominent Springville buildings.<sup>32</sup>

The Springville Post Office was part of a state-wide construction initiative led by Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department from 1933-1939. Simon had previously been working with the Treasury since 1896, and had been largely responsible for directing the design work of the treasury between 1905 and 1933 in his role as Superintendent of Architects. When a project for a string of thirteen post offices across New York State was authorized in 1931, Simon was therefore involved in the design of the buildings as Superintendent before leading their construction as Supervising Architect. Although his post ended in 1939, his buildings continued to be built into the 1940s.

## SUMMARY

The Fiddlers Green Historic District is significant under criteria A and C as an example of an early twentieth century settlement that quickly developed around a designed public green space as the center of a pioneering settlement. Fueled by industrial, economic, and population growth, a district emerged as a religious and civic center for the community and remained so as the town expanded outward. The variety and importance of its

<sup>27</sup> David J. Hill, "Hayes Hall named to National Register of Historic Places," *UBNow*, August 1, 2016, <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/campus.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2016/08/hayes-national-register.detail.html>.

<sup>28</sup> "Thomas Lincoln (1802-1894)," Findagrave.com, last modified February 20, 2002, accessed September 19, 2016, <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=6198573>.

<sup>29</sup> Briggs, 195, 218, 968.

<sup>30</sup> Robert G. Whitehead, *First Presbyterian Church 1816-2016, Springville, N.Y.: Bicentennial History* (n.p, 2016), 7, 10.

<sup>31</sup> American Institute of Architects "Quarterly Bulletin", Volume 3, Issues 1-4, 1908, [https://archive.org/stream/quarterlybulleti10ameruoft/quarterlybulleti10ameruoft\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/quarterlybulleti10ameruoft/quarterlybulleti10ameruoft_djvu.txt)

<sup>32</sup> Charles. J. Shuttleworth is credited with building his own residence at 119 East Main Street and his son Lewis Shuttleworth is credited with building the Leland House, Union Block, Brown Shoe Store, and 1901 Goddard Hall.

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extant buildings illustrate the now 200-year span of its role at the heart of the village of Springville, the town of Concord, and the rural communities of Buffalo's southtowns. While the area is constantly undergoing change as it continues to stay relevant, relatively little has been altered in terms of the configuration of the streets and the buildings surrounding the park. Springville's location, natural landscape, and built environment made the village a place of importance and significant regional commerce in the nineteenth century.

The Fiddlers Green Historic District reflects the growing economic prosperity of its community through the evolution of popular architectural styles and trends constructed in the approximately 135 years during which it developed. This period spans from the evolution of wilderness transformed by pioneers who mapped a village and developed an early local agricultural economy in a horse-based transportation era, to a regional agricultural and manufacturing economy with goods carried by railroads, automobiles and trucks.

During the course of its history, Springville, New York became the industrial, economic, and social center of the town of Concord, which was otherwise rural farm country. This was due largely to its location as a crossroads within the region between Lake Erie and the Finger Lakes and Buffalo and the Southern Tier of New York. The area's population gradually rose as settlers from New England were lured by Springville's centrality and accessibility, abundant natural resources, and industrial success. As the settlement with the largest population in the town of Concord, Springville emerged as the center of trade and commerce for the town, which only aided in the financial success of the villagers.

The period of significance for the Fiddlers Green Historic District encompasses the years during which most of the significant architectural development occurred, beginning circa 1818 when the establishment of the "Public Square" was documented in a property survey commissioned by settler Rufus Eaton, and closing in 1937 with the construction of the post office and fire hall by the New Deal agency, the Works Progress Administration (WPA). While the Fiddlers Green area continues to serve the role of a civic hub in Springville, this period spans 120 years of growth and stability before the village entered a period of decline in the latter half of the twentieth century. The contributing buildings in the district were built between circa 1860 and 1937.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are indicated with a heavy line on the attached boundary maps with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Fiddlers Green Historic District were drawn to encompass the largest intact contiguous collection of historic resources orientated around the civic square known as Fiddlers Green park, reflecting the area's continued use as the Village of Springville's civic and religious center. The boundary excludes portions of the square's perimeter that have been redeveloped into residences within the last 50 years.



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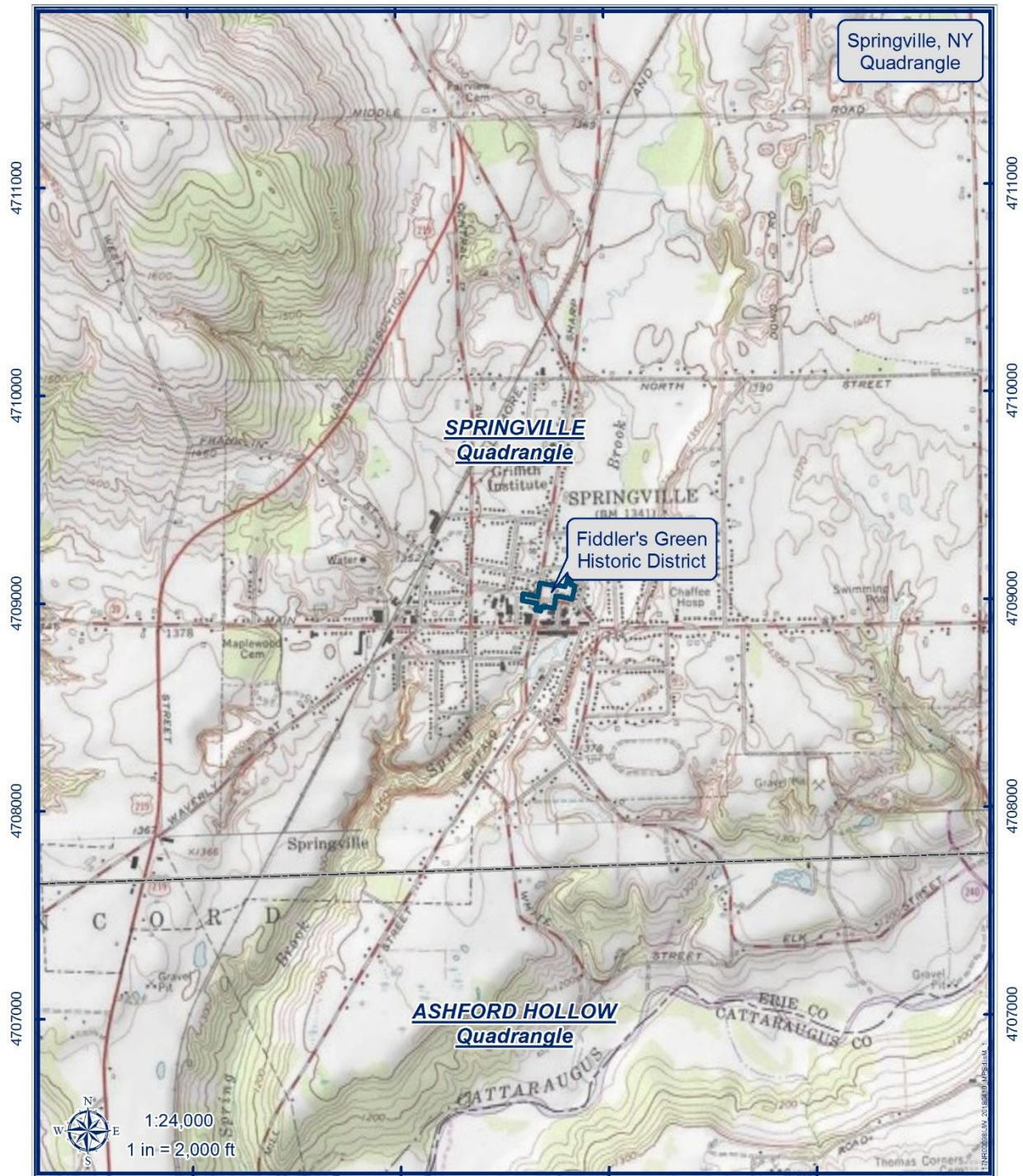
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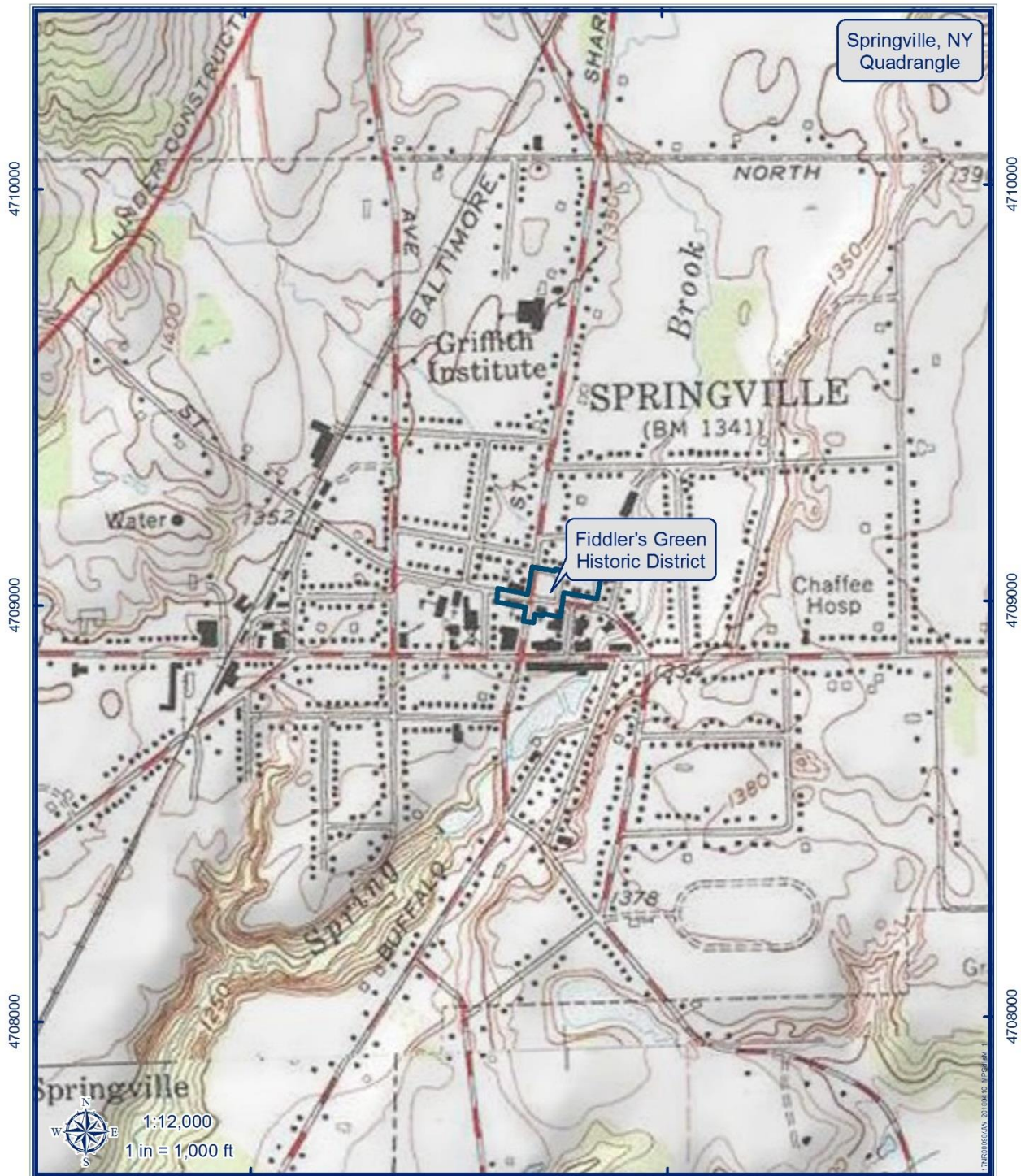
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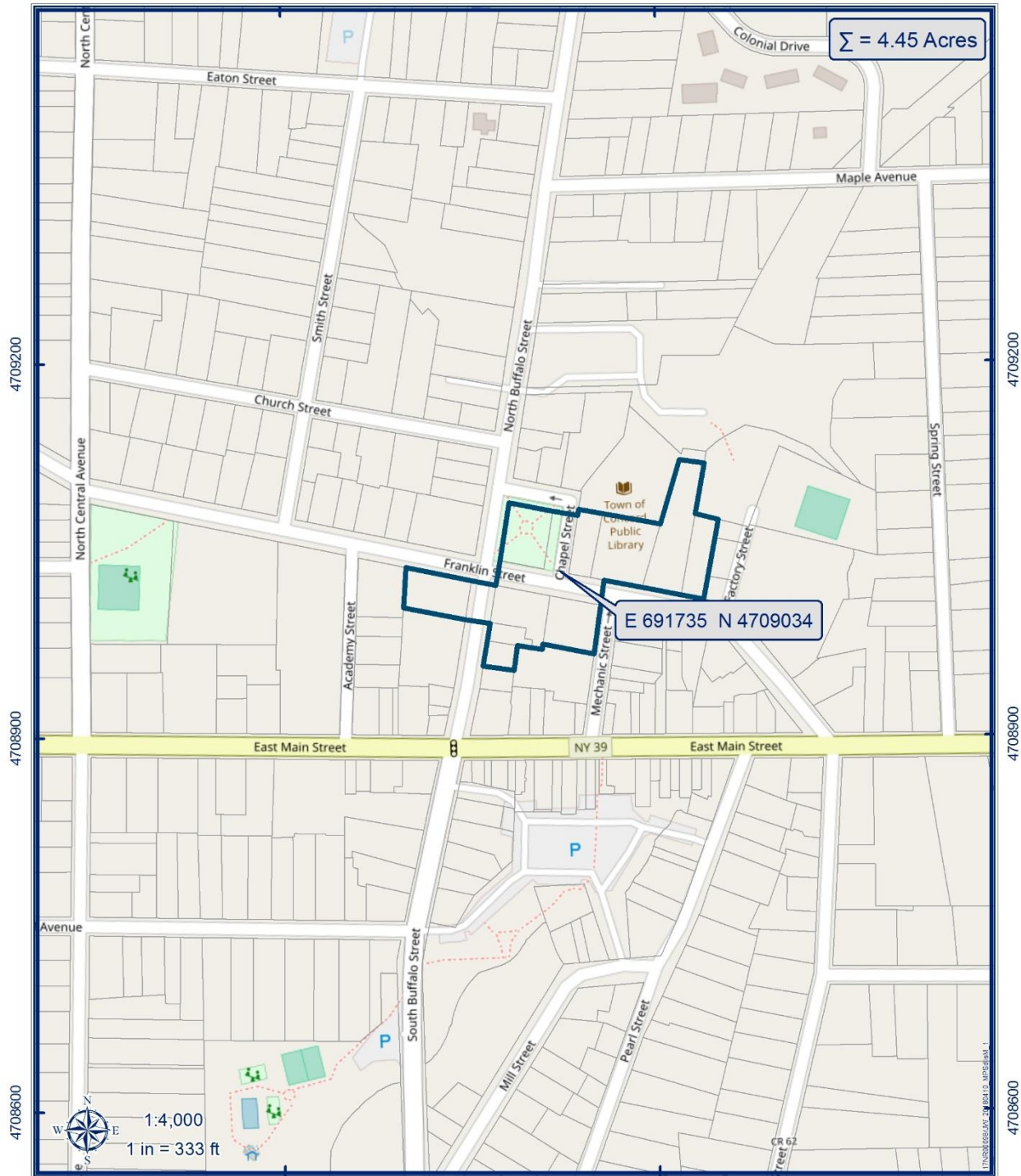
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Fiddler's Green Historic District

Springville, Erie  
County, New York



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter





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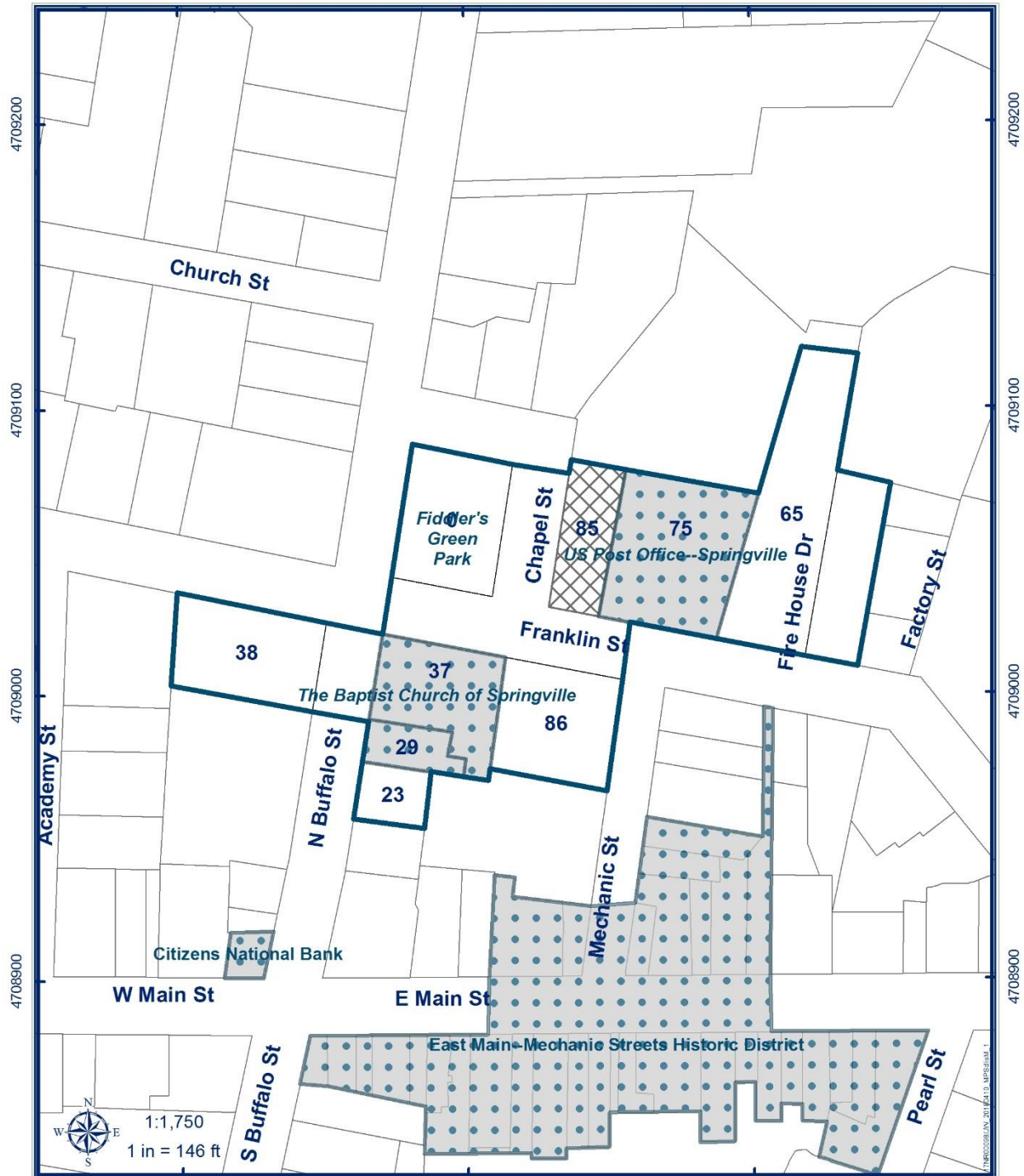
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Fiddler's Green Historic District

Springville, Erie  
County, New York



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



Fiddler's Green HD  
Previously NR Listed



Contributing  
Non-Contributing



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
DEPARTMENT OF  
Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation  
Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

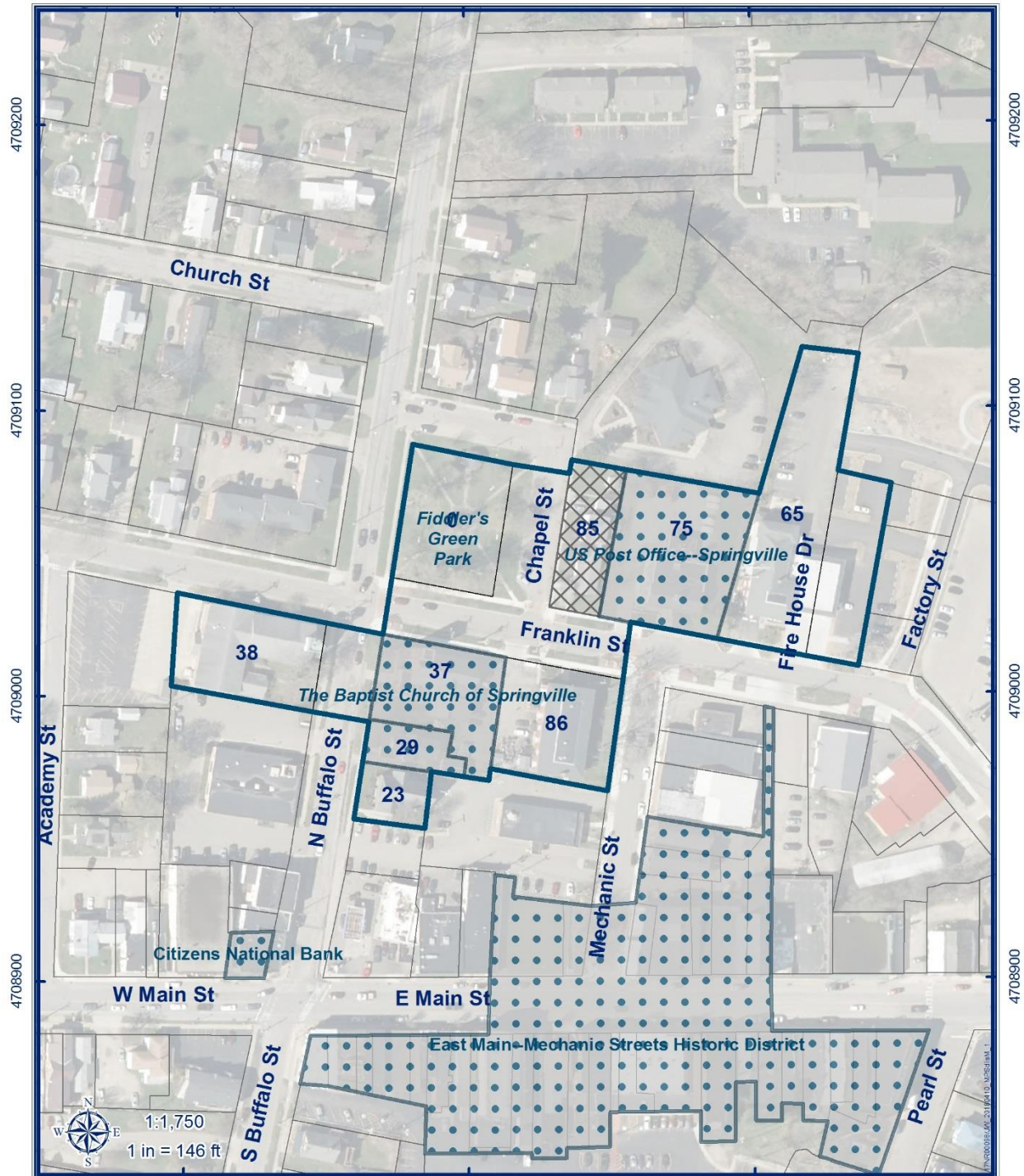
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Fiddler's Green Historic District

Springville, Erie  
County, New York



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



Fiddler's Green HD  
Previously NR Listed



Contributing  
Non-Contributing



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation  
Division for Historic Preservation

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Photo Log:

Name of Property: Fiddlers Green Historic District  
City of Vicinity: Springville  
County: Erie  
State: New York  
Photographer: Clinton Brown, Clinton Brown Company Architecture  
Location of Original Digital Files: 617 Main Street, Suite M303, Buffalo, NY 14203  
Date of Photographs: May 2018  
Number of Photographs: 14

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0001.tif  
Fiddlers Green Park, camera facing southwest

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0002.tif  
Fiddlers Green Park, camera facing southeast

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0003.tif  
Fiddlers Green Park, camera facing southeast

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0004.tif  
Fiddlers Green Park, camera facing northeast

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0005.tif  
85 Franklin Street, camera facing north

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0006.tif  
US Post Office – Springville, 75 Franklin Street, camera facing northeast

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0007.tif  
Municipal & Fire Hall Building, 65 Franklin Street, camera facing northwest

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0008.tif  
Godard Memorial Hall, 86 Franklin Street, camera facing south

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0009.tif  
South side of Franklin Street, at N Buffalo Street, camera facing southwest

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0010.tif  
Franklin Street, camera facing east

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NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0011.tif  
East side of N Buffalo Street between E Main St and Franklin St, camera facing southeast

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0012.tif  
East side of N Buffalo Street between E Main St and Franklin St, camera facing northeast

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0013.tif  
N Buffalo Street between E Main St and Franklin St, camera facing north

NY Erie County Fiddlers Green Historic District\_0014.tif  
First Presbyterian Church, 38 N Buffalo Street, camera facing west



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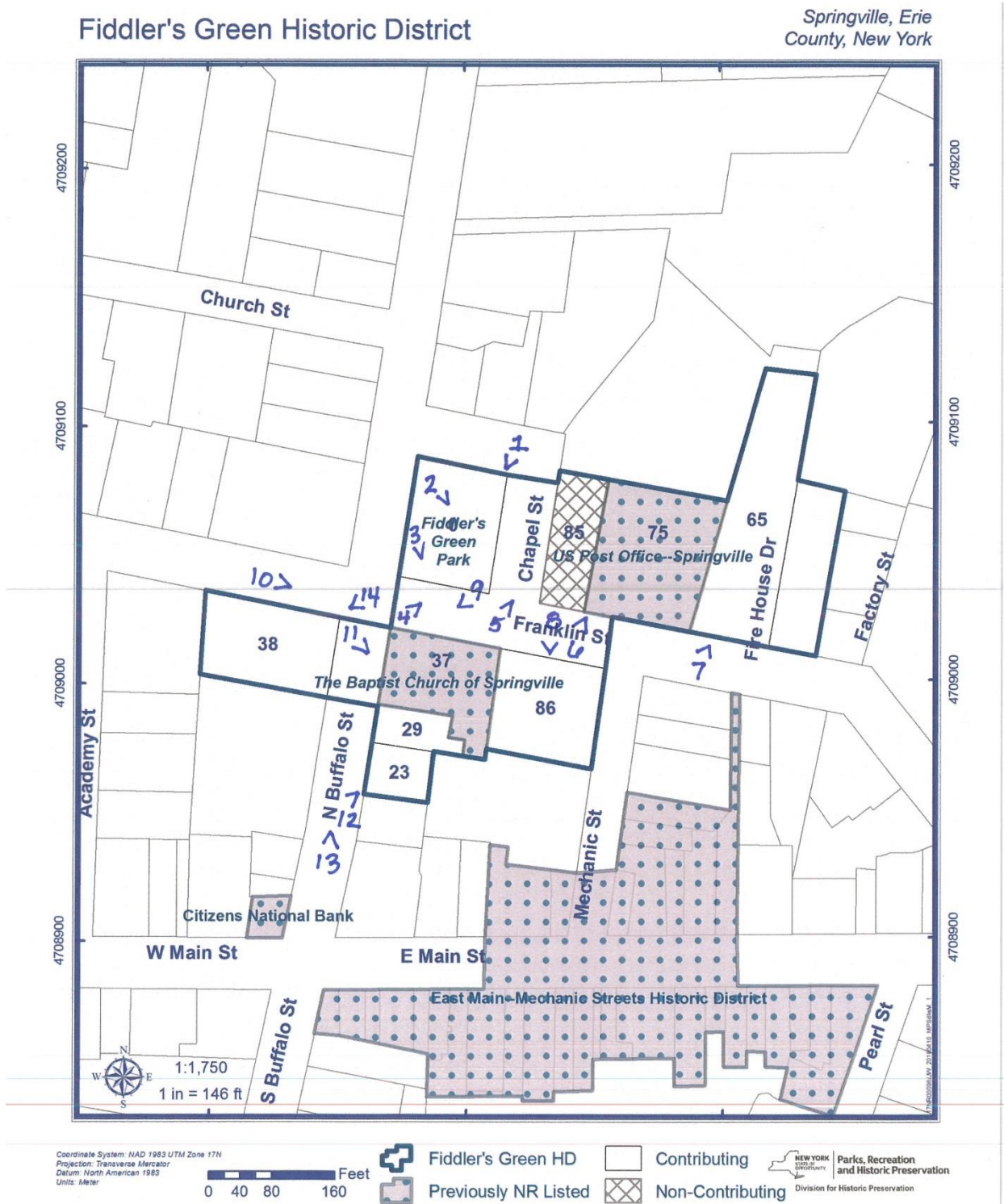
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Photo Key:



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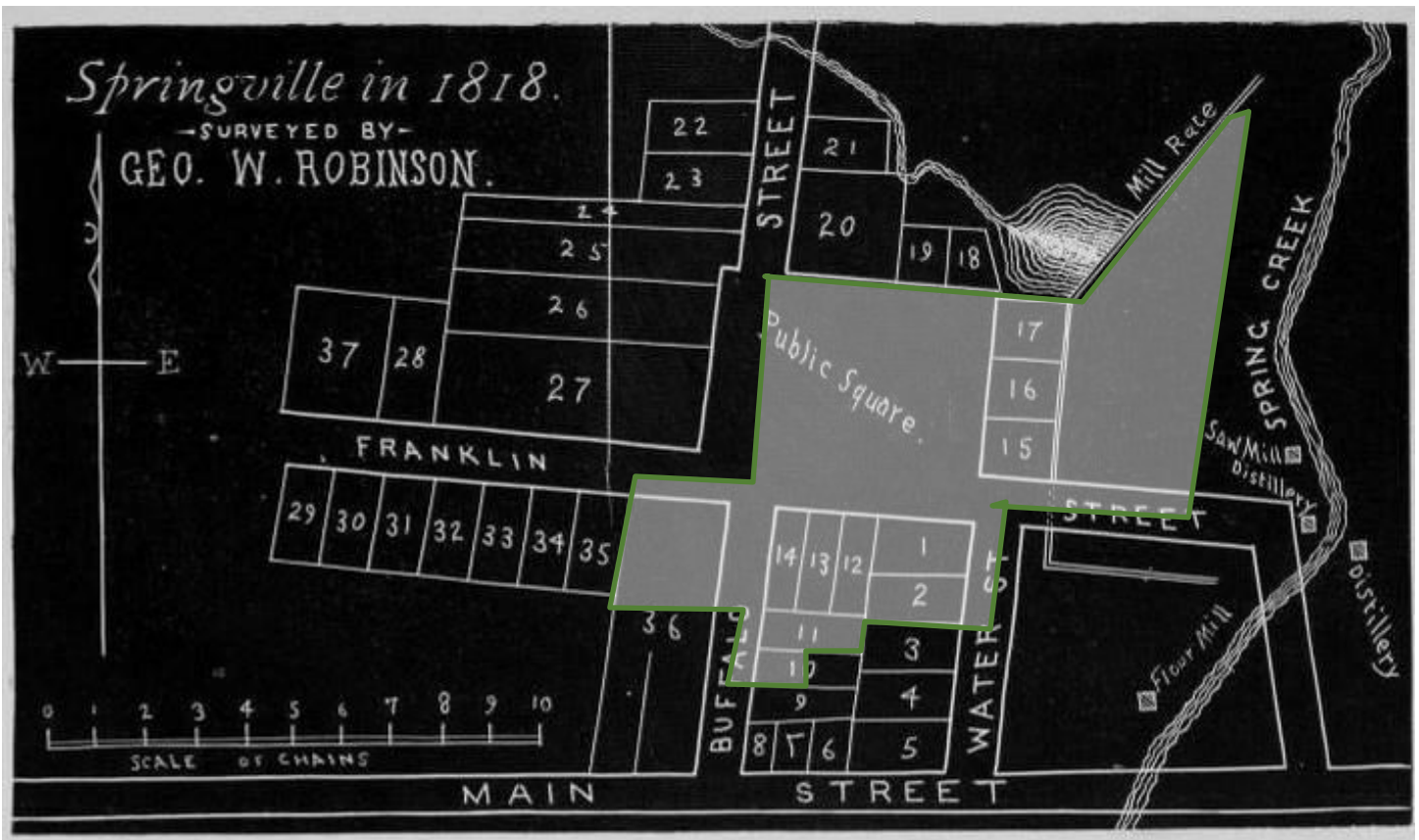
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Additional Information

**Historic Maps and Photos**



**Map of Springville, 1818.**

The first known plat of the village shows the intent to establish a precinct around a central public square apart from Main Street, the commercial thoroughfare a block south on Buffalo Street, where the north-south Buffalo Street linked to the east-west Main Street. This pattern echoes Joseph Ellicott's plan for Buffalo of 1804, which separated a residential square from the commercial route. The donation of a plot land by Rufus Eaton for religious purpose set the course of development of this section of the village ever since.

*From History of the Original Town of Concord*



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**Detail, Map of Springville, 1866.**

Note there are churches at Buffalo and Franklin Streets (two), at 24 Church Street, and at Franklin and Chapel Streets. A hotel is located at the intersection of Buffalo Street and Main Street (currently a gas station and convenience store) and a printing office opposite demonstrate the commercial nature of this intersection.

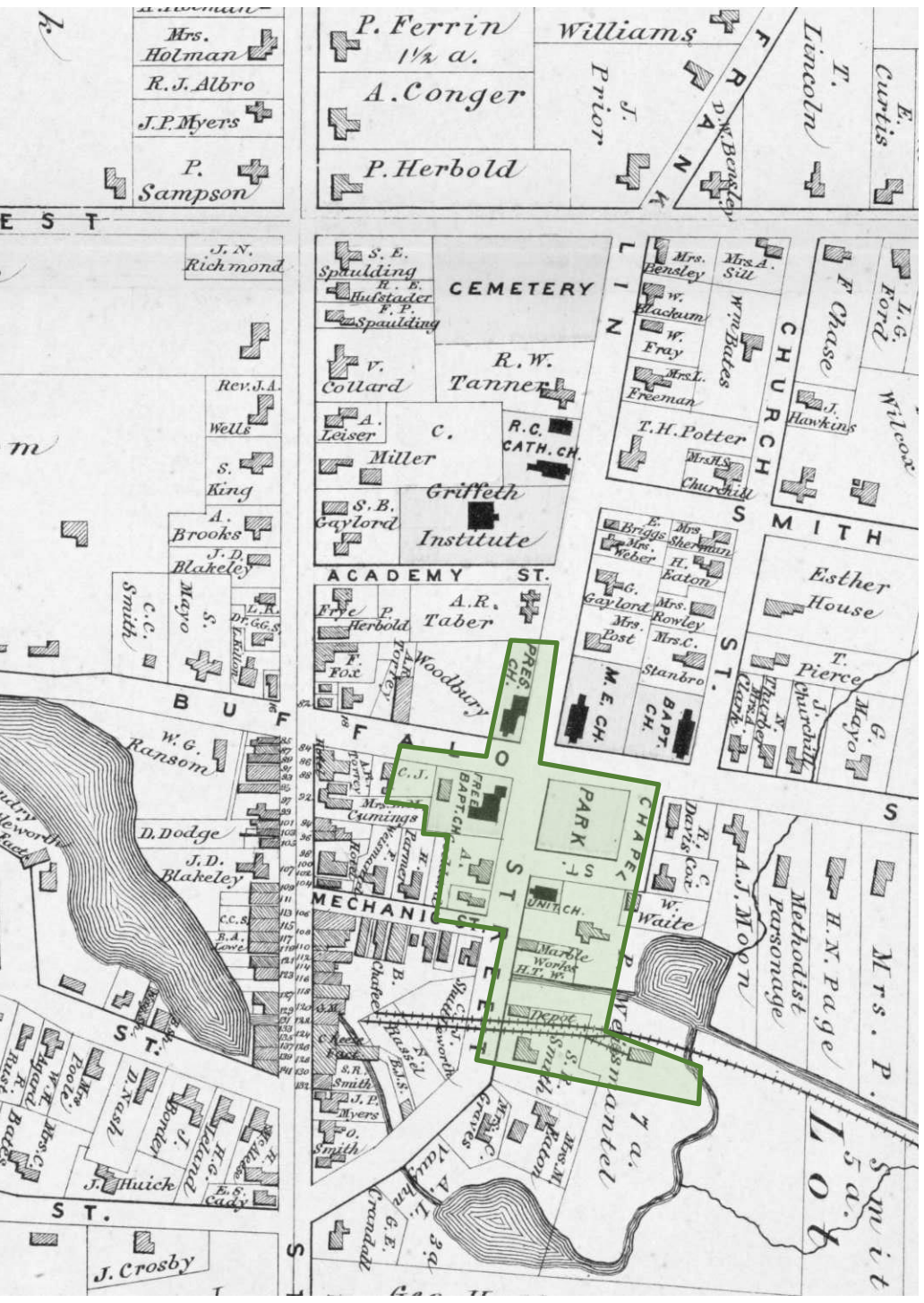
From the *New Topographical Atlas of Erie County*  
(Map courtesy of New York Public Library Digital Collection)

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**Detail, Map of Springville Village, 1880**

By 1880, there are five churches around the park, and the Griffith (Educational) Institute and a sixth church and a cemetery nearby.

From the *Illustrated Atlas of Erie County*  
(Map courtesy of New York Public Library Digital Collection)

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**North Buffalo Street, looking north, undated.**  
**The Presbyterian Church is to the left, with the Methodist Episcopal and Baptist churches behind, and the Free Baptist Church is to the right.**  
(Photo Courtesy of the Lucy Bensley Center, Concord Historical Society)



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**North Buffalo Street, looking north (Baptist Church left, Mrs. A. Clark's house distant and Fiddlers Green right), undated. Note that Fiddlers Green is fenced, to keep livestock out, and people are admitted through a turnstile, which presumably the animals could not navigate.**

**Dirt road, no curbs. New trees in the background.**

(Photo Courtesy of the Lucy Bensley Center, Concord Historical Society)

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**Ca. 1904 Postcard, "Central Park, Springville, NY"**

**Looking southeast, toward Goddard Hall to the left and the Free Baptist Church is to the right.**

**Note the simplicity of the park's design.**

(Courtesy of the Lucy Bensley Center, Concord Historical Society)

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**Postcard, “Free Baptist Church, Springville, NY”, undated, but before the addition. Goddard Hall to the left.**

(Photo Courtesy of the Lucy Bensley Center, Concord Historical Society)

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**Postcard, "Baptist Church and Parsonage, Springville, NY," undated.**

Note paved street, curbs, hitching post and mix of young and old trees.  
(Photo Courtesy of the Lucy Bensley Center, Concord Historical Society)



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Postcard, "Godard Hall, Springville, NY", undated, but before its circa 1930s expansion.  
(Courtesy of the Lucy Bensley Center, Concord Historical Society)



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Ca. 1940s Photo, "Fire Hall, Springville, NY", undated.  
(Courtesy of the Lucy Bensley Center, Concord Historical Society)

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**View looking northeast from Fiddlers Green, ca. 1910.**

At the center of the photograph is the mill pond, in the front left is a residence that was torn down to build the library, and at the front right is the residence that is currently located at 85 Franklin Street (rear portion of current building).

(Photo Courtesy of the Lucy Bensley Center, Concord Historical Society)









The Town of Concord and  
Village of Springville hereby  
dedicate this Bandstand, in this  
Bicentennial Year, to the continued  
development of our Country,  
and rededicate our Community  
To the Ideals of our Ancestors









N BUFFALO  
FRANKLIN





85  
Chiropractic Care  
w/c  
Brian K. Scharf, D.C.









GENERAC  
INDUSTRIAL  
SPRINGVILLE  
NEW YORK

POLICE  
PARKING  
ONLY

POLICE  
PARKING  
ONLY

POLICE  
PARKING  
ONLY

NO  
PARKING

NO  
PARKING

NO  
PARKING





GODARD MEMORIAL HALL

86

86

86  
GODARD MEMORIAL HALL  
100 N. 1st St.  
St. Albans, VT 05478  
Tel: 248-3333  
Fax: 248-3334  
www.godardmemorialhall.org







STOP

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TIME AT









IT'S A HARD KNOCK LIFE

IT'S A HARD KNOCK LIFE





CONCORD GENEALOGY LIBRARY  
SPRINGVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

M&T Bank

23  
NORTH BUFFALO STREET  
Lucy Bensley  
CENTER  
HOME OF

Concord Historical Society  
Springville Area  
Chamber of Commerce





Community Bank

NO STANDING  
ANY TIME

23  
NORTH BUFFALO STREET  
Lacy Bensley  
CENTER  
HOME OF  
Elwood Historical Society  
Springville Area  
Chamber of Commerce





First Presbyterian Church  
1816 - 2016 Bicentennial

First Presbyterian Church  
COME WORSHIP  
WED. 10:30AM  
SUN. 10:30AM  
SUN. 11:00AM  
MON. 7:00PM  
TUE. 7:00PM  
WED. 8:00PM  
THURS. 7:00PM  
FRI. 7:00PM  
SAT. 7:00PM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM  
YOUTH 11:00AM  
ADULTS 11:30AM

N BUFFALO ST



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 7/30/2018      Date of Pending List: 8/27/2018      Date of 16th Day: 9/11/2018      Date of 45th Day: 9/13/2018      Date of Weekly List: 9/14/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal           | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request     | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver           | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      9/14/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



## Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**ROSE HARVEY**  
Commissioner

April 6, 2018

Mr. Daniel B. Delahaye  
Federal Preservation Officer  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 6670  
Washington, DC 20260-1862

Re: Fiddlers Green Historic District  
75 Franklin St  
Springville, NY 14141  
Erie County

FOR A HISTORIC DISTRICT - **properties already listed**

Dear Mr. Delahaye:

We are pleased to inform you that property you own, noted above, is included in an historic district that will be considered by the New York State Board for Historic Preservation at its next meeting, **June 7, 2018**, for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. These registers are the official lists of properties that are significant in history, architecture, engineering, landscape design, and culture. Listing in the registers provides recognition of our national, state and local heritage and assistance in preserving it. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated for listing.

Listing in the National and State Registers affords properties a measure of protection from the effects of federal and/or state sponsored or assisted projects, provides eligibility for certain federal and/or state tax credits and renders properties owned by non-profits or municipalities eligible for state preservation grants. In general, there are no restrictions placed upon private owners of registered properties. The results of listing are explained more fully in the attached fact sheet.

Owners of private properties proposed for listing in the National Register must be given the opportunity to concur in or object to the listing. If a *majority* of the private property owners in the district object to the listing, it will prevent the district from being listed. Objections are only counted against the listing of the district as a whole. If a majority does not object, no single property owner in the district can exempt himself or herself from the listing via an objection. Each private property owner has one vote, regardless of how many properties or what portion of a single property that party owns.

While the rules stated above apply to most of the district owners, because your property was previously listed on the National Register individually, you may not file an objection to the district listing. And, if by any chance, district owners vote down the district, your property will remain listed. We are notifying you as a courtesy and in case you would like to review the new documentation.

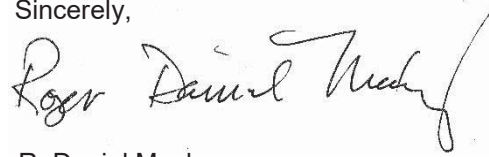
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### Division for Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189 • (518) 237-8643 • [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com)

A draft copy of the proposed nomination will be posted on our web site ([www.nysparks.com/shpo](http://www.nysparks.com/shpo)) prior to the board meeting. For more information, contact Jennifer Walkowski, Division for Historic Preservation, Peebles Island State Park, P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188, (518) 268-2137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Daniel Mackay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

R. Daniel Mackay  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation and  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure: Fact Sheet  
Criteria for Evaluation



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner



25 July 2018

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following three nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Mooers Riverside Cemetery, Clinton County  
Queensbury Hotel, Warren County  
Fiddlers Green Historic District, Erie County (4 owners of newly added properties,  
0 objections)

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office