

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory--Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common

2. Location

street & number various - see continuation sheet not for publication

city, town Westfield vicinity of congressional district

state New York code 036 county Chautauqua code 013

3. Classification

also see inventory forms

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> na in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> resource		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> area			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name multiple ownership - see continuation sheet

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chautauqua County Courthouse

street & number North Erie Street

city, town Mayville state NY

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of Historic
title Resourceshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

city, town Albany state NY

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Westfield Village Multiple Resource Area is comprised of the incorporated village of Westfield located in the northwest sector of rural Chautauqua County. Within the multiple resource area, two historic districts and eighteen individual properties are being proposed for National Register listing at this time. The districts and individual properties represent a diverse collection of the most distinctive and intact representations of Westfield's nineteenth and early twentieth century built environment or are closely associated with individuals or events important to the growth and development of the village.

The village of Westfield includes 2315 acres of land. Two-thirds of the village lies on the slightly rising plain of Lake Erie. The southern portion of the area is hilly farmland. A narrow strip of lowland along Lake Erie supports prize vineyards. Chautauqua Creek winds its way through the western part of the village in a picturesque gorge with rocky cliffs from thirty to sixty feet high. The area's primary thoroughfares, Main and Portage Streets, form a crossroads at the village center.

The Westfield Village Multiple Resource Area nomination is the result of a multi-phased survey/inventory. In the first stage, the Chautauqua County Historical Society conducted a preliminary survey of the entire village. In the second stage, documentation was prepared for all properties which possessed integrity and historical or architectural significance. This was all done in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer's staff to ensure that a comprehensive inventory was undertaken. In the third stage these properties were evaluated against National Register criteria and additional documentation was compiled for properties which appeared to be eligible. The resources identified as meeting the National Register criteria are generally located near, but are not limited to, the commercial and residential center of the village.

The French Portage Road Historic District encompasses Westfield's primary commercial and residential streets. Concentrated around the intersection of South Portage and East Main Streets at the village common, the district includes 104 buildings. In addition to the large number of residences and commercial buildings, a number of other building types common to a town center are located in the district including a theatre, a hotel, a museum, a library, and a municipal building. In design the buildings reflect the various architectural styles popular from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Particularly well represented in the district are intact, stately vernacular residences with rich detailing.

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Just west of the center of Westfield, the East Main Street Historic District continues the nineteenth-century and early twentieth century residential streetscape of East Main Street from the French Portage Road Historic District. The two districts are separated by several modern intrusions. Twenty buildings and a cemetery constitute the East Main Street district. Like the residences in the French Portage Road District, the buildings of the East Main Street Historic District are primarily large stately homes built from the 1830's to the early twentieth century. Along with Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Colonial Revival style residences are houses constructed from catalogue plans. The historic village cemetery is centrally located in the district and features a landscaped drive.

The eighteen individual structures of the multiple resource area were primarily constructed in the nineteenth century. There are eleven residences, one of which was originally an inn, one bridge, a railroad station and two rail freight buildings, a mill and feed store, and a grape processing plant presently housing presses and offices for a newspaper. The structures are located throughout the village, with a number on the two primary roads in the area, Main and Portage. Among the residences are several outstanding examples of the Italianate style. The stately residences are finely detailed and recall the village's prosperous nineteenth-century past. The six commercial and transportation-related structures of the district are primarily of a rural, vernacular style with modest details and straight forward, functional designs. More detailed descriptions of the two historic districts and eighteen individual structures are contained on the enclosed New York State Historic District and Building/Structure Inventory forms.

Westfield Village Multiple Resource Area Summary

French Portage Road Historic District
East Main Street Historic District
Rorig Bridge, Water Street
Thompson House, 29 Wood Street
Mach House, 79 North Portage Street
Hall House, 34 Washington Street
Fay-Usborne Mill, 48 Pearl Street
Reuben Gridley Wright House, 233 East Main Street
York-Skinner House, 31 Union Street
Reuben Wright House, 309 East Main Street
-Landmark Acres, 232 West Main Road
-Welch Factory Building Number 1, 101 North Portage Street
Nixon Homestead, 119 West Main Street
Ward House, 118 West Main Street
L. Bliss House, 90 West Main Street
-Nickleplate Railroad Station and Freight House, East Pearl Street
-Lake Shore Railroad Depot, English Street
Lake Shore Railroad Freight Station, English Street Extension
Campbell/Taylor House, 145 South Portage Street
Atwater-Stone House, 29 Water Street

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1812-1940

Builder/Architect various

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Village of Westfield contains a significant concentration of nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century structures associated with its settlement and subsequent prosperity and growth. The agricultural potential of the area was initially recognized by early French explorers travelling via the Portage Trail which traversed through the area of the present village. Settlement was fostered by rich agricultural lands; grape growing became a particularly vital aspect of Westfield's economy. Physical development of the area focused around the intersection of the two primary thoroughfares, Main and Portage Streets. Stately residences, two and three-story commercial blocks, churches, buildings related to the grape industry, railroads, a mill, and a number of other functional building types were constructed. Surviving with a considerable degree of integrity, these resources reflect much of the historical development of the village.

The Portage Trail, closely following the course of Chautauqua Creek in the village of Westfield, served eighteenth-century French explorers in their expeditions south to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Throughout the century, what is today the village of Westfield was uncleared forestland. After long years of dispute between the French and English over the possession of the Portage Trail, the lands around the trail in Chautauqua County were surveyed by the Holland Land Company in 1798. Settlement of the area began shortly thereafter.

Clearing of the forested lands supported the lumbering industry and the production of potash, pearl ash and black salt in the early part of the nineteenth century. The hilly lands in the southern portion of the village were put to agricultural use and by 1818 the lowlands along Lake Erie were nurturing grape vines. By 1859 grape production in the area had attained commercial importance.

In 1833 the village of Westfield was incorporated. By this time several of the residential structures included in the multiple resource area had been built. James McClurg, one of the first storekeepers in Westfield constructed a Federal influenced brick mansion, which replaced an 1802 log cabin, on the village common. The first settler in the county, Colonel James McMahan, built a homestead with two barns and horse stables during the 1820's. Other vernacular and early Greek Revival homes were built along Portage and Main Streets to replace earlier log cabins. During the ensuing decades of the nineteenth century, many more residences and a row of brick commercial buildings were built. In 1851 the railroad first entered the county. After 1869, when the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad initiated operation through Westfield, several rail-related buildings

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were constructed. Reflecting technological advances of the late nineteenth century, an iron truss bridge was erected in 1890.

In the early part of the twentieth century a number of commercial structures on East Main Street just east of Market Street were replaced after a fire destroyed earlier buildings. Colonial Revival, stately vernacular, and catalogue type homes were added to the residential streetscapes.

A major force in the past and present economic base of Westfield was Dr. Charles Welch. In 1869 in Vineland, New Jersey, Thomas Bramwell Welch, a dentist, developed the process of pasteurizing grape juice. He soon turned his small business for making "Unfermented Wine" over to his son Charles Welch, also a dentist. By the time the business exhibited its product at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, it had incorporated as the Welch Grape Juice Company. In 1897 Charles Welch moved the company to Westfield because of the area's excellent suitability for growing grapes. Upon arriving in the village he constructed a plant building at 101 North Portage Street. Growth of the company was enlarged in 1899 and again in 1902. A second plant was built in 1906, and a large office block was constructed in 1910. Both the original Welch plant and the company's 1910 Neo-classical office are included among the structures of the multiple resource area. Originally a small business employing only a handful of men, the Welch company has grown to a nationally known major industry.

The structures included in the Westfield Village Multiple Resource nomination, representing the most outstanding architectural and historical resources of the village, display a considerable degree of integrity. A diverse array of nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural styles, building materials, and functional building types documenting the evolution of Westfield into the early twentieth century are included in the nomination. Many of the structures, among them the McClurg Mansion, the McMahon Homestead and the Welch buildings, have considerable local historical significance. More detailed statements of significance for the nomination's two historic districts and eighteen individual structures are contained on the enclosed New York State Historic District and Building/Structure Inventory forms.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

See continuation sheets

Quadrangle name Westfield

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets - tax maps and site plans attached to building/structure inventory forms.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

NA

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claire L. Ross, Field Representative

organization Div. for Historic Preservation

date November 1982

street & number Empire State Plaza, Bldg. 1

telephone 518/474-0479

city or town Albany

state NY 12238

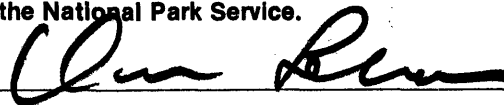
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

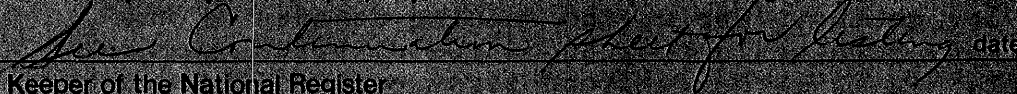


title Commissioner

date 8-4-83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Westfield Village Multiple Resource Area

State New York

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

OK 1. Atwater-Stone House

for Keeper

[Signature] 12/16/83

Attest

2. Bliss, L., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

[Signature] 9/26/83

Attest

3. Campbell-Taylor, Harriet, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

[Signature] 9/26/83

Attest

OK 4. East Main Street Historic District

for Keeper

[Signature] 12/16/83

Attest

5. Fay-Usborne Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

[Signature] 9/26/83

Attest

6. Hall, Frank A., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

[Signature] 9/26/83

Attest

7. Lake Shore & Michigan Southern
Freight Depot

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

[Signature] 9/26/83

Attest

OK 8. Lake Shore & Michigan Southern
Railroad Station

for Keeper

[Signature] 12/16/83

Attest

9. Mack, Gerald, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

[Signature] 9/26/83

Attest

10. McMahan Homestead

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

[Signature] 9/26/83

Attest

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Westfield Village Multiple Resource Area
State New York

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature
~~Determined Eligible~~

11. Nickleplate Railroad, Norfolk &
Western Freighthouses & Depot

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Linda McClelland 9-26-83

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

12. Nixon Homestead

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/26/83

Attest

13. Rorig Bridge

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/26/83

Attest

14. Thompson, Henry Dwight, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/26/83

Attest

15. Ward House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/26/83

Attest

16. Welch Factory Building #1

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/26/83

Attest

17. Wright, Reuben Gridley, Farm
Complex

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/26/83

Attest

18. Wright, Reuben, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/26/83

Attest

19. French Portage Road
Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Robert J. Boyd 12/16/83

Attest

20. York-Skinner House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/26/83

Attest