



Hedstrom Gate House



Historic preservation is the process of identifying, protecting, and enhancing buildings, places, and objects of historical and cultural significance. This process embraces many phases including the survey and evaluation of historical, architectural, and cultural resources; the development of planning and legal measures to protect these resources; the identification of public and private funding sources for preservation projects; the design for the restoration, rehabilitation, and/or adaptive use of historic structures; and the ongoing maintenance of these resources.

Amherst's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was established by the Town Board in 1994 to:

- 1 - protect and enhance the landmarks and historic districts which represent distinctive elements of Amherst's historic, architectural, and cultural heritage.
- 2 - foster civic pride in the accomplishments of the past.
- 3 - protect and enhance Amherst's attractiveness to visitors and support and stimulate the town's economy.
- 4 - insure the harmonious, orderly, and efficient growth and development of the Town.

Amherst's Historic Preservation Commission consists of seven Amherst residents appointed by the Town Board. When possible, HPC membership includes an architect, a historian, a licensed real estate broker, and a licensed professional engineer.

The HPC meets monthly to review the status of historic properties and other actions necessary to preserve the historic features of the town. HPC meetings are held at Amherst Town Hall, 5583 Main Street in Williamsville, and are open to the public.

For schedule/agendas, go to www.amherst.ny.us, (keyword = historic).

Benefits of Historic Designation:

- Possible increased property value
- Eligibility for listing on State and National Registers of Historic Places
- Recognition within the community
- Added prestige to property
- Opportunity to receive historic marker plaque for property

Additionally, owners of income-producing properties can apply for the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit, which allows them to deduct from their federal taxes 10 to 20% of the cost of rehabilitating their buildings.



Mennonite Meeting House



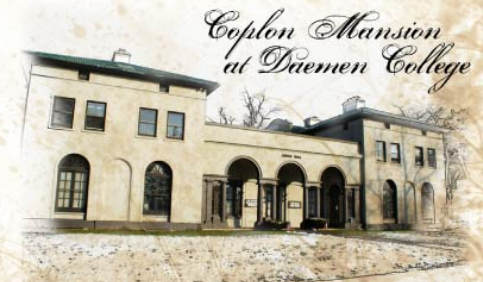
Smallwood Entranceway

Designated historic properties in Amherst:

- **Williamsville South High School**
5950 Main Street
- **Mennonite Meeting House**
5178 Main Street at North Forest Road
- **St. Mary of the Angels Motherhouse**
400 Mill Street
- **One - Room Schoolhouse**
1323 North Forest at Maple Road
- **Haussauer House**
1000 North Forest Road
- **Coplon Mansion (on Daemen College campus)**
4380 Main Street at Getzville Road
- **Hedstrom Gatehouse**
4196 & 4230 Main Street at Getzville Road
- **Goodyear Water Tower**
6380 Main Street (rear)
- **Entranceways:**
Walls on Main Street at Darwin Drive, High Park Boulevard, Ivyhurst Road, Getzville Road, Lafayette Boulevard, Lamarck Drive, Lebrun Road, Roycroft Boulevard, Smallwood Drive and Westfield Road; and walls on Kensington Avenue at Roycroft Boulevard (north and south).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **Amherst Historic Preservation Commission**
www.amherst.ny.us
(keyword = historic)
amhersthpc@gmail.com
716-631-7051
- **Amherst Museum**
www.amherstmuseum.org
- **New York State Historic Preservation Office**
nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo
- **National Trust for Historic Preservation**
www.preservationnation.org
- **Preservation League of New York State**
www.preservenys.org
- **Preservation Buffalo Niagara**
www.preservationbuffaloniagara.org
- **National Park Service**
www.nps.gov/history



Coplon Mansion at Daemen College

A Brief History of Amherst

The Town of Amherst was officially created in 1818, and was named after Sir Jeffrey Amherst, who was awarded 20,000 acres of land in New York for his service over British troops from 1758-1763. Timothy S. Hopkins was elected first supervisor in Amherst in 1819. At the time, only about 750 people lived in the town. In 1825, the Erie Canal was completed, a section of which ran through the northern part of Amherst. This major accomplishment allowed farmers to more easily transport their goods to other areas. It also gave immigrants and other settlers a much easier mode of travel.

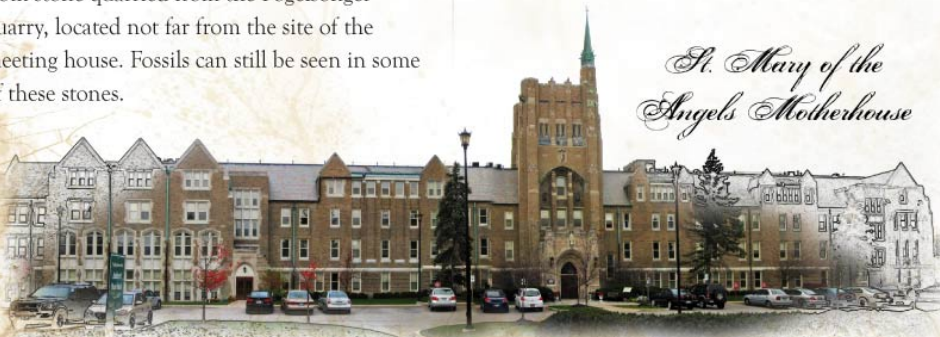
Many of these early settlers to Amherst had German origins, with German being spoken in many homes and places of worship well into the 1800s. One of these German-speaking groups was the Mennonites, who built a meeting house in 1834 on Main Street near North Forest Road. This structure was built from stone quarried from the Fogelsonger quarry, located not far from the site of the meeting house. Fossils can still be seen in some of these stones.

The Village of Williamsville, which was incorporated in 1850, was originally named Williams Mills because of the central role played by the mills located along Ellicott Creek. Waterfalls along the creek were used to power mills for wood, flour, and cornmeal.

Although Williamsville is the only incorporated village within the town of Amherst, there are several other hamlets within the town borders, including Snyder, Eggertsville, Getzville, Swormville, and East Amherst.

By the 1850s, Amherst had developed into a prosperous farming community. Other early industries in the town included grist mills, saw mills, blacksmith shops, tailor shops, a paper mill, breweries, cabinet shops, a slaughterhouse, and several taverns and saloons.

*St. Mary of the
Angels Motherhouse*



Maple & North Forest Schoolhouse

By the 1920s, new subdivisions began developing in increasing numbers as commuting became more feasible with the development of the automobile. An increasing number of country clubs also began to be established in Amherst as city-dwellers looked to escape the bustle of downtown for the more bucolic setting of the suburbs. An electric trolley that ran along Main Street to the city of Buffalo also served commuters. This rail line ran until the 1950s.

The Town of Amherst Historic Preservation Commission seeks to honor and protect the history of Amherst, while ensuring that the town remains a vibrant residential, business, and education community.



*Burbank Drive
street sign*

The Designation Process

Any individual or group may submit an application to designate a property as historic. The HPC reviews applications for designation of individual properties as well as districts. Once the application is complete and deemed appropriate, the HPC issues a Notice of Proposed Designation and a public hearing is scheduled. Following the hearing, the HPC may recommend to the Town Board that the property or district be designated. The Town Board then holds a second public hearing and votes on the recommendation.

Applications, as well as more detailed information about the application process, are available on the Town website, www.amherst.ny.us (keyword = historic).



*Goodyear
Water
Tower*