

Historical & Cultural Resources



Village of Granville Quaker Cemetery

Preservation and promotion of history and culture can help to reinforce a strong sense of pride and identity within the community. The response to the Village of Granville Residential Survey illustrated a high commitment to preserving the history of the Village, with over 88% of the respondents noting the importance of safeguarding the historic nature of the community. It is apparent that steps should be made to recognize the past and maintain the unique qualities of the Village for its future.

Major historical events have shaped the development of the Village of Granville. A stronger Village identity can be built through the recognition of important historical events that have shaped the development of the area. The strongest historical theme within the Village is centered around the colored slate industry. The history of this unique natural resource should be celebrated and recognized, for it is the main reason why the Village of Granville has prospered in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Goal 1: Preserve and enhance historic resources, which reinforce a sense of identity and pride for the residents.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Conduct an inventory to identify historic sites and structures of importance and create a priority list for protecting them.
2. Develop a thematic signage program proclaiming the historical significance of important structures and sites.

3. Establish a historic overlay district and historic preservation regulations to protect important sites and structures.
4. Enhance knowledge of the significance of history, with a public information program that includes, a Village web site, brochures, tours, and a dedicated column in *The Granville Sentinel* for historical stories.
5. Work closely with the Granville Area Chamber of Commerce and Washington County to utilize their resources, i.e., their web sites, to advertise the historic charm of the Village and promote tourism.

Goal 2: Maintain and enhance the character of existing historic structures in a manner that respects their historic value.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Encourage the protection and restoration of historic structures through the delineation of historic districts and the development of design guidelines for renovations and additions to existing historic structures that are compatible with the historic architecture and layout of the original building.
2. Ensure compatibility of uses in and abutting historic districts, or areas that have been identified as properties of importance or significance to the Village.
3. Encourage appropriate adaptive reuse of existing historic structures by creating a historic preservation incentive program.

4. Develop strategies to protect and enhance the Village's Victorian homes and other historic structures that include funding sources, public/private partnerships, and tax incentives.

Goal 3: Raise awareness of historic properties throughout the Village.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Establish a system of award or recognition for business owners and homeowners who preserve and restore historic structures within the Village.
2. Encourage the protection and restoration of historic buildings on Main Street through the delineation of historic districts and the development of design guidelines for renovations and additions to existing historic structures.
3. Develop partnerships with business groups and other interested organizations to beautify historic neighborhoods.
4. Formulate an exhibition of historical photographs of the Village that includes educational information about the different architectural styles and types of buildings.
5. Organize an annual "Historic Home Tour" of individual private homes within the Village.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Goal 1: Heighten public awareness of all the Village has to offer for both tourists and residents alike.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Coordinate with the Granville Area Chamber of Commerce, Washington County, and other regional tourism organizations to enhance advertising and promotions of cultural opportunities in the Village and publicize Village events and attractions such as the Slate Valley Museum and the Pember Library and Museum of Natural History.
2. Expand on the already existing assets in the Pember Library and Museum, the Slate Valley Museum and the pedestrian bridge over the Mettawee. Incorporate historical information kiosks, picnic areas, and nature trails, with links to the downtown shopping district.
3. Develop additional mechanisms to promote local art and cultural opportunities such as direct mailings, newsletters, and the use of the development of a web page.
4. Develop a more recognizable signage program throughout the Village that will lead visitors to the various cultural attractions such as the Slate Valley Museum, the Pember Library and Museum of Natural History and other areas of interest.
5. Encourage continued cooperative efforts between the Granville Central Schools, the Slate Valley Museum and the Pember Museum and Library to share educational resources.
6. Work closely with the officials from the New York State Scenic Byway Program to ensure that the cultural, historical, and commercial

attractions are included as a part of their extensive promotion effort.

Goal 2: Encourage and support greater civic participation and pride throughout the Village, and enhance the Village as a tourist destination.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Create a cultural events program to bring residents together to get to know each other and communicate ideas about common concerns. Plan festivals, block parties, concerts, fundraisers, or other community activities for all seasons of the year.
2. Continue to encourage and support community events such as *Granville Days*, the *Fireman's Carnival* and parade and the *Annual Autumn Leaves Car Show*.
3. Plan community activities such as an annual "Village Beautification Day" to actively engage the residents in community cleanup activities, such as park grooming, picking up litter along streets, sweeping sidewalks, planting wildflowers in vacant lots, helping your neighbor (the elderly or infirm) etc.
4. Build upon the theme of "Colored Slate Capital of the World" and develop an annual "Slate Valley Festival" and "Craft Fair."
5. Develop programs that encourage youths and seniors to get together for social activities.

Goal 3: Heighten awareness of the history and diversity of the many cultural backgrounds and ethnicities of the Granville's original residents.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Develop cultural and heritage programming that promotes the exchange of historical information regarding the various ethnic backgrounds of Village founders.
2. Create annual cultural festivals to celebrate the unique heritage of Village residents.
3. Work closely with the Slate Valley Museum, the Pember Library and Museum of Natural History, other regional libraries and historians to share artifacts and historical information with the community.
4. Work with the Granville Central Schools and the Senior Center to develop opportunities whereby the information and oral history can be transferred from the senior citizens to the community's youth.