

ERIE COUNTY, PA CULTURAL HERITAGE PLAN



A Component of the Erie County Comprehensive Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Erie County comprises about 804 square miles in the northwestern section of Pennsylvania and is the only county in the Commonwealth with frontage on Lake Erie. The story of Erie County begins in the eighteenth century as a highly-disputed area during the French and Indian War, after which communities developed around shipping ports, roads, oil discoveries, the Erie Extension Canal, and railroads.



This rich history bestowed an incredible wealth of resources upon the County's residents. Assets range from tangible items such as buildings, collections of buildings, sites, objects, and landscapes, to intangible resources exemplified in authentic expressions of culture and ethnicity. Shipwrecks are even among this list, just one example of the unique assembly of assets found across Erie County.

Why Plan? The Need for this Cultural Heritage Plan

This Cultural Heritage Plan for Erie County presents a strategy that will support Countywide historic and cultural preservation efforts over the next five to seven years.

In many respects, local governments, property owners, businesses, grassroots advocates, heritage organizations, historic societies, preservation professionals, institutions of higher learning, and others are making a lot of headway in preservation efforts. Nonetheless, all of these admirable, individual efforts can be unified by an overarching strategy to ensure that the County's full spectrum of meaningful places, sites, objects, and traditions are recognized and given equal access to the help needed to assure they become long-term economic and quality-of-life assets for future generations.

The main focus of this Plan is to better ensure that the assets targeted for preservation in Erie County are being considered equitably and with an eye to the future. The ultimate goal is for the County's collection of historic and cultural assets to remain relevant in the modern world, adapted to the needs of today's population, and attractive to future residents, businesses, investors, and visitors. Although historic and cultural preservation efforts will continue to face challenges, these resources offer boundless long-term opportunities that should not be offhandedly lost to the sometimes-easier path of demolition and new construction; because, once a historic asset is gone, it is gone forever.

Why Preserve? The Benefits of Preservation

In the 21st century economy, people want not only access to jobs, but also opportunities to live in interesting places, to be within reach of unique experiences, and to feel a sense of connectedness to their communities and the environment. For these reasons, Erie County has an advantage. It offers a diverse collection of historic and cultural resources that are unique to the region's physical geography and people. In addition, the benefits of preservation are closely aligned with the core values and desires of modern society. Economic prosperity, social enrichment, environmental responsibility, and educational development are just a few of the benefits closely tied to preservation.

In summary, preservation achieves the following:

<i>Preservation achieves:</i> ECONOMIC PROSPERITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improves economic competitiveness.• Increases property values.• Starts a domino-effect of economic improvement.• Attracts small and entrepreneurial businesses.• Protects taxpayer investments.• Attracts tourism spending.• Offers eligibility for tax credits.
<i>Preservation achieves:</i> SOCIAL ENRICHMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contributes to a high-quality living environment.• Provides diversity in housing choice and cost.• Inspires cultural celebrations and events.• Influences artistic expression.• Connects people to their family and friends.• Draws people to small towns and inner-city areas.
<i>Preservation achieves:</i> ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduces waste deposited in landfills.• Boosts the County's sustainability movement.• Shows long-term value of the natural environment.
<i>Preservation achieves:</i> EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops skilled labor.• Provides tangible resources for learning.• Acts as a real-world educational environment.

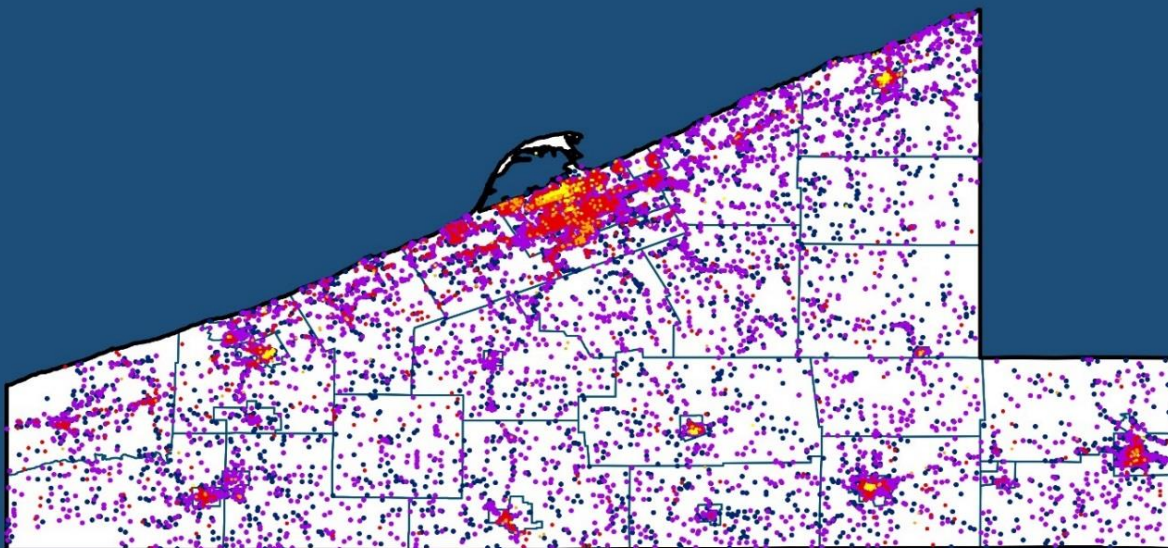
What's Here? The Historic and Cultural Assets of Erie County

Erie County has a large, diverse collection of historic and cultural assets, some natural and others human-made. These assets, whether tangible or intangible, were influenced by the County's distinctive topography and the presence of Lake Erie. The natural environment influenced settlement patterns, agricultural and industrial development, and transportation routes. Many settlers were of English descent, followed by Portuguese, German, Irish, Russian, Swedish, Finnish, Polish, Italian, and African Americans drawn to Erie by fishing, maritime trades, agriculture, and manufacturing industries. These ethnicities influenced how buildings were designed, arranged, and used. Celebrations of ethnicity were common, and still are today in the County's even more diversified ethnic demographic.

Erie's most tangible cultural assets, its architectural legacy, is captured in the "Historic Resources of Erie County" inventory found at www.eriebuildings.info, a service of Preservation Erie. The website is a living record of buildings and collections of buildings of all types with historic value to Erie County. The map below shows the widespread nature of the resources that are included in the inventory.

As these resources age and lose their original uses, some are being used for new purposes such as offices, restaurants, pubs, museums, antiques stores, and art galleries, while others are vacant or underutilized. If Erie County communities follow the lead of other places that are experiencing revival, the interesting architecture and creative spaces that these older structures offer will attract people and businesses to secure their permanence on the landscape.

Historic Resources of Erie County Inventory Map



For more information, go to www.eriebuildings.info

Who Engaged? The Stakeholders Speak Up

Erie County's past, present, and future is an important topic among all segments of the population. As such, the authors of this Plan gathered input from a Task Force representing state, county and local governments, non-profit and regional organizations, businesses, and institutions of higher learning. Also, the County Department of Planning administered an on-line survey and held public meetings in late 2016 and early 2017 to gain additional perspectives.



The results of the public engagement process revealed that significant components of Erie County's quality of life are cultural expression and the physical diversity provided by the mixing of historic assets with compatible new construction. Participants said that historic houses, residential neighborhoods, main streets/business districts, and other community gathering spaces are important because of their historic character and because they offer places to express and support Erie's cultural heritage. Further, many believe that these assets are entrusted to their owners, who have the social responsibility to care for them and leave a legacy that future generations will value.

The engagement process also revealed challenges to preservation efforts. The County's historic building stock is aging and faced with vacancies and maintenance issues, human and financial resources available to advance preservation efforts are limited, incentives can be hard to come by, and some of the even most basic preservation needs are being addressed reactively instead of proactively. Government leaders indicated that because local communities have shrunk in population and tax base over the past 40+ years, municipal capacities to provide assistance are limited. Local government leaders expressed that although few historic structures are at immediate risk of being demolished, many are in need of repair.

Therefore, priorities need to be set because the upkeep of historic buildings requires ambition, proper execution, and monetary investment. While not every historic and cultural resource in Erie County can or should be saved, there is a general sense that communities need to identify their priority assets so that preservation efforts can be targeted and purposeful. With this approach, the most important assets, with the greatest potential for future benefits, will be saved. By doing so, and demonstrating positive results, a domino effect of preservation is likely to take hold.



What's Next? The Goals and Action Plan

The Erie County Department of Planning developed an Action Plan to guide the County's historic preservation efforts towards the achievement of three main goals. Although the paths that will be taken to achieve these goals are subject to adjustment as new ideas emerge, new funding sources become available, and momentum is built from past successes, the Action Plan presents the general framework.

The Action Plan is the basis for moving forward with an overarching historic and cultural preservation strategy. Its implementation will give Erie County's local governments, residents, property owners, and other stakeholders the tools they need to advance preservation in their communities and capitalize on the associated economic, social, environmental, and educational benefits. Refer to PART 6 and PART 7 of this Plan for more information.

GOAL 1	Build capacity to address cultural and historic preservation in the region.
Action 1-1	Establish a Circuit Rider position. (A Circuit Rider is a professional who travels a regular circuit of locations to provide [historic preservation] services).
Action 1-2	Update and increase the use of historic resource data.
Action 1-3	Identify priority assets in the region on which preservation-related efforts will be focused.
Action 1-4	Quantify the financial resource needs to implement this Cultural Heritage Plan and secure funding.
GOAL 2	Promote responsible stewardship of historic and cultural assets.
Action 2-1	Promote the benefits of preserving and using priority assets in the region (identified as part of Action 1-3).
Action 2-2	Provide technical assistance to municipal governments and community groups.
Action 2-3	Provide technical assistance to property owners and occupants.
GOAL 3	Increase public awareness and community pride in historic and cultural resources.
Action 3-1	Identify and address needs and priorities for increased public awareness of historic and cultural resources.
Action 3-2	Expand marketing efforts that promote cultural and historic assets to reach County residents and visitors.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Relationship to Erie County's Comprehensive Plan

This Cultural Heritage Plan is an element of the Erie County Comprehensive Plan.

Pursuant to Article III, Section 301 (a) (7) (iv) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247 of 1968, as reenacted and amended) a county comprehensive plan is required to include a plan for historic preservation. This Plan serves that purpose; however, because the County's history is integrally tied to its people, this document addresses much more than the built environment. It also addresses the cultures and traditions of Erie County's residents.

For that reason, this document is called a Cultural Heritage Plan.

CULTURAL

Relates to the ideas, customs, and social behaviors of a society transmitted from one generation to another.

HERITAGE

Tangible items and traditions handed down from the past.

PLAN

An intention about what will be done.



The Need for This Plan

Erie County is at a crossroads between its past and future. With a profound history dating back long before its formal establishment on March 12, 1800, the residents and landowners of Erie County are stewards of a vast collection of historic and cultural heritage assets. These include large and small communities, neighborhoods, business districts, farmlands, maritime resources, civic sites, parks, buildings, artifacts, works of art, and innumerable items and traditions with ties to the past. Some people consider many Erie County historic and cultural resources as “outdated,” “deteriorated,” and “ready for the wrecking ball,” while others see the exact same resources as “valuable,” “unreplaceable,” and “assets that must be saved at all costs.” In reality, both of these mindsets are likely true, depending on the particulars of the situation.



Valiant efforts were undertaken to save the historic Judson Building in downtown Waterford.

If left ignored and in a state of deterioration, older structures can present many challenges. Also, unkempt properties can diminish the image and appeal of surrounding structures, the block, or even the entire neighborhood. This type of domino effect can be reversed, however, when action is taken to address the problem, either through rehabilitation or by removing the structure and replacing it with a use that is compatible with its context.

Although it may be too early to tell how many of Erie County's older spaces, and which ones, will be the vessels of new homes and businesses, once a building is lost, it is lost forever.



With practical and creative use of historic and cultural heritage assets, these resources can be springboards to improving the economy, the environment, and the quality of life across Erie County.



Buildings in the Union City National Register Historic District, erected between 1865 and 1925. The revival style architecture is an asset in drawing interest to this area. At the corner of South Street and South Main Street, the Union City Area Historical Museum occupies the former Hansen Building, shown with a wood cornice supported by large brackets.

Based on the experiences of preservation programs undertaken in other parts of Pennsylvania and around the nation, one thing is certain: when cultural heritage planning is integrated with larger community and economic development initiatives, preservation is seen as a sign of faith and confidence in a community's future. These resources also convey a sense of longevity and permanency that new construction can fail to provide.

The time has come to make decisions about how, and if, Erie County's past is important to its future; and, to determine what is important to save and what is bearable to lose. For this reason, there is great need to forge forward with a comprehensive Countywide strategy in the form of this Cultural Heritage Plan.

The Fundamental Purposes of This Plan

Any plan worth following needs to have a clear purpose and an intended result. The expected outcome from successfully implementing this Cultural Heritage Plan is a county with forward-thinking leaders and stakeholders who make wise choices about the cultural assets bestowed on their communities by past generations.

This Plan is about looking forward, not back. Its three fundamental purposes are presented in the following six parts of this document.

FIRST	<i>Identify the current state of Erie County's historic and cultural resources.</i> PART 2 –Developmental History Context PART 3 – What's Here? The Historic & Cultural Assets of Erie County
SECOND	<i>Determine the opportunities and challenges associated with integrating historic and cultural assets into a plan for the County's future.</i> PART 4 – Engaging the Stakeholders PART 5 – Why Preserve? The Benefits of Preservation
THIRD	<i>Present an action-oriented strategy that will be widely embraced and implemented.</i> PART 6 – Strategic Goals & Actions PART 7 – Action Plan

This Cultural Heritage Plan is expected to have real and lasting impacts on every community across the County, no matter its size. PART 6 and PART 7 are particularly important, and will help leaders and stakeholders set priorities, coordinate efforts, increase capacities, and identify ways that preservation practices can be bolstered for economic growth, environmental kindness, and an improved quality of life.

Why Focus on Culture?

History and culture are related, yet different. Culture relates to the “pulse” of a community and expresses itself in everything from how people relate to their surroundings, to one another, social groups, food, art, and generally, the values of a larger society. In comparison, history refers to how a culture evolves over time. Evidence of both history and culture are found in the form of tangible resources (anything physical, such as buildings, works of art, methods of transportation, etc.), and in the intangible (things that lack a physical form, like music, dance, traditions, and values).

Most people desire to live and thrive in places where they feel a sense of belonging. For this reason, connecting people to the unique and authentic physical environments and social traditions found in Erie County, and which do not exist in exactly the same way in other places across Pennsylvania and the nation, is an important part of retaining and attracting residents and businesses.

Cultural identity

inspires pride and a sense of belonging. It serves as the roots that connect people to places. For these reasons, cultural identity - and the preservation of it - helps retain and attract residents and businesses, which impact the local economy.



The many cultural traditions of Erie County residents include connections with the natural environment, traditional foods, community-based festivals and fairs, visual arts, performance arts, and much more.

Linking the County's Cultural Identity to the Built Environment

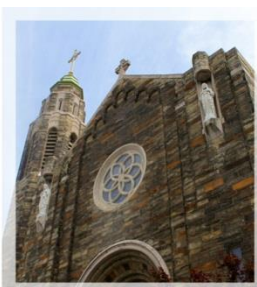
Erie County has a strong and diverse cultural identity that is welcoming to people of various nationalities, races, religions, socioeconomic classes, cultural backgrounds, and interests. The County's origin of diversity dates back to the 1700s, and continues today with a population even more diverse than ever before.

When first settled, as was typical across eastern America in its early days, individuals' identities were strongly tied to their ethnic origins. In early Erie County, many settlers were of English descent, including American Revolutionary War veterans. Erie is the only Pennsylvania county with frontage on the Great Lakes and thus drew countless settlers from New England and New York in part due to the ease of travel along the lake.



Kevin Petrone plays Amazing Grace at Kelso Beach, Memorial Day 2014.

The City of Erie and some smaller communities along the lakeshore had an influx of boat-builders during the War of 1812, and over the following century many ethnic groups were drawn to Erie County by fishing, maritime trades, agriculture, and manufacturing industries. These primarily included Portuguese, German, Irish, Russian, Swedish, Finnish, Polish, Italian, and African Americans. In the cities of Erie and Corry, where job opportunities were strongest, ethnic groups developed their own neighborhoods, often centered on a church and social hall. Celebrations of ethnicity were very common, and still are today.



The architectural style and selected building materials for many churches, schools, social halls, and civic buildings were influenced by the ethnic backgrounds of early settlers.

Ethnic ties influenced how buildings were designed, arranged, and used, giving people physical connections to their homelands. Locally available construction materials and popular architectural styles of the times also influenced the composition of the built environment (refer to PART 2 and PART 3 of this Plan for more detail). For these reasons, many places in Erie County convey a sense of connectedness and authenticity to their times of establishment.

As these resources age and lose their original usefulness, questions arise about how to make these resources, and particularly historic buildings, relevant to Erie County's culture of today and the cultural diversity that is being cultivated for the future.

The past several decades saw people moving out of small towns and city centers into sprawling suburban neighborhoods complete with new houses, parks, and shopping centers with chain stores and restaurants. As this occurred, the historic structure of Erie's older spaces may have been viewed as irrelevant and impractical. However, with online shopping and e-commerce now becoming dominant and brick and mortar chain stores losing appeal, combined with people of all ages seeking "cool" and interesting places to spend their time, older buildings are offering incredible opportunities for new uses. Businesses such as bookstores, restaurants, bars and pubs, inns, service professions, and start-up trades are already using spaces in older buildings, as are museums, antique stores, and art galleries. Even large companies such as Erie Insurance and places of higher learning such as Gannon University are making productive use of older properties.

If Erie County communities follow the lead of other places that are experiencing revival, there is no question that people and businesses will be attracted to the appeal of interesting architecture and creative spaces that older buildings offer. There is no leeway for mistakes when it comes to the hasty removal of irreplaceable resources. There are no second chances for something once it is gone.



The City of Erie's oldest grocery store, 1926. At the time, the location bordered a Polish settlement to the north and a German settlement to the south.



The City of Corry is the only "oil boom" town in Erie County and its business district is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Many buildings on Center Street are now occupied by antique shops and specialty stores on the first floor.

PART 2:

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

CONTEXT

Every person and place in Erie County has been influenced by history in one way or another. Some people recognize this fact as they go about their daily lives while others do not. Regardless, the connections that exist among past and present are important to understand when making decisions about how to treat the vast array of historic and cultural resources found across the County's landscape.

This section contains a brief account of the progression of the development of Erie County by highlighting some of the most significant events that shaped its present character. This is not a complete account of history; rather, it aims to concisely explain why Erie County contains the diversity of resources it does today.

Unique resources range from popular and recognizable landmarks, like Presque Isle and the City of Erie's Millionaire's Row, to lesser known places like Underground Railroad sites and covered bridges. How these places came to be and the potential they hold for future generations of diverse people, sets the stage for the Strategic Plan found in PART 6 of this document.



The Beginning

The story of present-day Erie County begins in the eighteenth century, before which the area was occupied by Native Americans. Initial Euro-American settlement was tied to competition for land and the building of empires. The shore of Lake Erie was a frontier to the west, so whoever controlled this western gateway had a strategic military advantage. The short portage from the safe harbor in Erie to LeBoeuf Creek in the town of Waterford connected the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River basin, thereby making Erie County a strategic transportation link. For this reason, Erie County was a highly-disputed area during the French and Indian War.

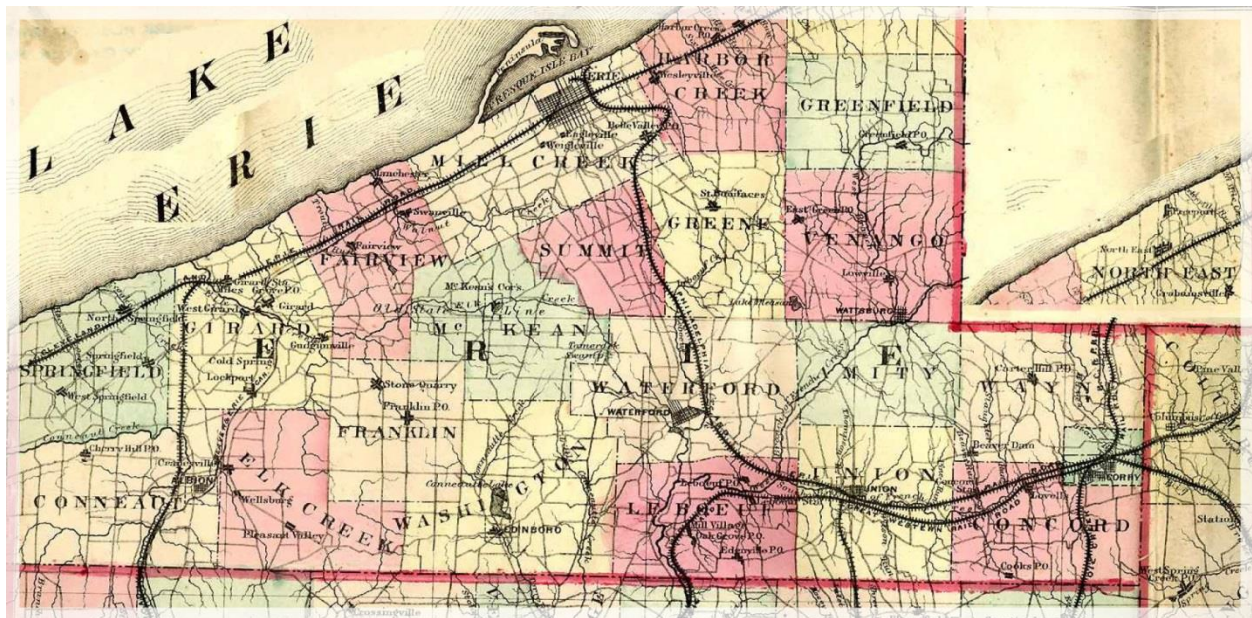
In 1753, the French government built two fortresses within the confines of what would become Erie County. Fort Presque Isle (Fort de la Presqu' ile) was located at Presque Isle Bay in the present-day City of Erie. A second fort, Fort LeBoeuf (Fort sur la Rivière aux Boeufs), was located at the headwaters of French Creek near what is now Waterford Borough. A portage road connected the two forts (a segment of that road is now Route 19, a major north-south route that connects Erie County with Pittsburgh). The forts served as trading posts and garrisons until 1759, when advancing English troops impelled the French to burn the two forts. The English would rebuild a fort at Presque Isle in 1760, only to have it destroyed by Native Americans three years

Erie County, PA Cultural Heritage Plan

later. Conflicts between new settlers and native tribes were common and made settlement difficult until about 1795 when the native tribes were defeated and attacks ceased.

Competing state claims to the land along Lake Erie also played a role in settlement patterns. Because of ambiguities in the language of various colonial charters, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania all asserted that the triangular shaped wedge at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania belonged to them. The dispute was settled in 1792, when the federal government awarded the “Erie Triangle” to Pennsylvania. The triangle followed Lake Erie for 43 miles and extended 18 miles along the New York State border, tapering to a point in Springfield Township. The triangle included all of North East, Greenfield, Venango, Harbor Creek, Greene, Summit, and Mill Creek townships, a small portion of Springfield Township, about two-fifths of Girard and McKean townships, and four-fifths of Fairview Township.

Much of the land in the triangle and other parts of the County was purchased by speculators, who bought plots originally awarded to American Revolution veterans who preferred cash to land. A surveying team hired by the Commonwealth laid out the initial grids for what would become the City of Erie in 1792 and Waterford in 1794. North East also had a thriving community by the first decade of the 1800s. This is why these places have some of the oldest non-agricultural buildings found in Erie County today.



Communities Develop Around Early Transportation Corridors

Lake Erie connected the City of Erie with the east coast and the growing Midwest. In addition to the lake, the Meadville-Waterford-Erie Turnpike, constructed between 1806 and 1809, was another useful avenue of commerce for almost 35 years. It connected Erie and Waterford with central Pennsylvania and turnpikes to the east. However, two transportation improvements in the mid-nineteenth century would profoundly impact Erie County's built environment in ways that are still visible today: the canal and the railroad.

The first transportation improvement was the Beaver and Erie Division of the Pennsylvania Canal System. Also known as the Erie Extension Canal, its purpose was to connect the City of Erie to Pittsburgh and the state's east-west Main Line canal. Authorized in 1826, the canal followed the

Beaver and Shenango rivers, reaching Conneaut Lake by 1838, at which point the state abandoned the project. The final 45 miles to Erie were completed by the privately-owned Erie Canal Company.

The Erie Extension Canal provided an economic and relatively dependable means of moving products shipped to and made in, the City of Erie to Pittsburgh, helping northwestern Erie County grow as a manufacturing center. It also provided a much-needed outlet for Erie County farm products and timber. The canal passed through the western portion of Erie County, bringing development and population increases to communities like Albion, Cranesville, Platea, Girard, and Fairview. Platea, originally called Lockport, grew around a series of 28 locks built in just a two-mile area in order to lift canal boats from the lake shore plain over the ridge, to the rolling farm and woodlands in the rest of the County. Girard developed on the east side of the canal, where stores, docks, and small manufactories were established. Although physical evidence of the canal is not strongly evident in these communities, they contain buildings with Greek Revival, Italianate, and other architectural styles that were popular during this period.

Railroads Spur Additional Commerce and Growth

The Erie Extension Canal remained in operation until 1871. By that point it had been supplanted by a much more reliable means of transportation, the railroad. Unlike canals, which needed a water source and could freeze in the winter, railroad tracks could be laid anywhere and railroad engines could run in any weather. Between the 1850s and 1900, numerous railroad lines were built through Erie County, connecting the County with all parts of the United States. East-west lines along the lakefront included the New York Central and the Nickel Plate. Other lines included the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad, a division of the Pennsylvania Railroad; the Erie Railroad, which traversed the southern part of the County; and the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad, which largely took over the route of the Erie Extension Canal in western Erie County.

The effects of railroad construction on Erie County's built environment were profound, particularly in communities that were directly serviced by rail. An entire category of railroad-related resources developed, including passenger stations, freight depots, roundhouses, shop buildings, switch and signal towers, and warehouses. This is why communities along the lake served by rail, including North East, Harborcreek, Erie, Fairview, Lake City, and East Springfield, and also inland communities served by rail, such as Waterford, Union City, Corry, and Mill Village, contain buildings constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as specific rail-related resources.

Railroads also made possible the expansion of manufacturing in every community through which a line passed. This increase in manufacturing, in turn, attracted people to Erie County's cities and towns, creating a demand for housing of all types: working class houses; houses for the growing middle class; and larger houses for business managers and owners. To service the needs of the growing population, commercial areas developed or expanded, churches and schools were built, hotels were constructed, and fraternal organizations were formed. Twenty-four breweries were operating by the late 1800s. These building types remain on Erie County's landscape, as do many of the manufacturing buildings.

Union City is just one example of a community changed by the coming of the railroad. Although settlement occurred in the vicinity as early as the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the community did not begin to develop in earnest until the 1850s, when both the Philadelphia & Erie and Erie railroads reached the town. A number of oil refineries developed there during the oil boom of the late nineteenth century, as did a brick factory and an extensive chair manufacturing business.

The City of Corry has a similar story. In 1861, the small hamlet became a junction point between the Philadelphia & Erie and Erie railroads. Railroad growth and the presence of oil and coal in nearby areas produced a boom in Corry's population. In 1863, Corry was chartered as a borough and in 1866 it was designated as a city, with a population of more than 6,000 people. Manufacturing concerns begun in the late nineteenth century included the Gibbs and Sterrett Manufacturing Company, which made equipment related to oil extraction; the Corry City Iron Works; the Corry Lounge Factory; the Corry Novelty Works; the American Writing Machine Company; and the Climax Locomotive Company.

Agriculture

The coming of the Erie Extension Canal and then the railroads coincided with a period of increased specialization in Erie County's agriculture. Fast, year-round transportation provided by railroads opened new markets for agricultural products. A distinct fruit and vegetable growing region developed in a band of about six miles inland from Lake Erie. The region became a premier, national producer of grapes, cherries, and other fruits. North East, the largest borough in the region and now an anchor community for Erie's wine industry, also developed auxiliary industries like basket factories and packing plants.

Erie County farmers outside of the lake shore region placed a much greater emphasis on raising livestock and managing grasslands and woodlands. Grasslands provided pastures for grazing, and woodlands supplied lumber, maple sugar, and potash (salts leached from wood ashes). Mill Village, located in the center of a rich grazing country, produced milk, butter, and cheese for market. A creamery was established at Albion. Historic resources associated with the County's agricultural industry include farmhouses, barns, carriage houses, summer kitchens, spring houses, and machine sheds. Today, many parts of Erie County still have a substantial agricultural industry and offer a rural lifestyle that is ingrained in the culture of many communities.

Roadway Network Matures

Local and state transportation improvements also played a role in developing Erie County's landscape. Electrified streetcar and interurban lines began to appear in the mid-1880s, allowing people to live farther than walking distance from their places of employment and commerce. This led to the development of "streetcar suburbs" along trolley routes, particularly outside of the City of Erie and along the lake shore, where an interurban line connected Erie with Cleveland and Buffalo. An interurban line also ran north from Edinboro through McLane, McKean, and Kearsarge to Erie. Generally, the land in streetcar suburbs was purchased by speculators who sold lots to individual buyers. Because buildings were individually designed, these neighborhoods offer wide variations in housing types and styles.

In southern Erie County, the Pennsylvania Department of Highways completed a major transportation project around 1927 with the construction of Pennsylvania State Route 6. The road functioned as a major vehicular transportation route across Pennsylvania's Northern Tier and linked Erie County to the Pacific Ocean. Route 6 connected many of the communities in southern and western Erie County, including Corry, Union City, Mill Village, Edinboro, and Albion, providing Erie County farmers and manufacturers with another means of transporting products to distant markets.

The Industrial Revolution Transforms the City of Erie

The economic opportunities brought by the industrial revolution drew immigrants from Europe seeking a better life. Irish and German immigrants formed the first wave in the mid-nineteenth century, followed by Southern and Eastern Europeans between the late nineteenth century and the beginning of World War I. Most settled in the City of Erie, by far the County's largest city and the place with the greatest number of employment opportunities. Immigrants tended to settle together in ethnic neighborhoods, with the local church often the focal point of each community. Russians settled along Front Street, adjacent to the docks. Little Italy was centered on 16th and Walnut streets. Poles largely lived around St. Stanislaus Church at 13th and Wallace streets. In this period, houses were generally built in close proximity to the places of industry, creating a mixed-use urban landscape. Erie's civic buildings were located around Perry Square Park, a small greenspace in the center of downtown and an area of stately brick homes and commercial buildings.

In the early twentieth century, as vacant land became more difficult to find within Erie's city limits, major employers such as the Hammermill Paper and General Electric (GE) locomotive works built large factory complexes on the outskirts of the city, along with housing for their workers. Between 1910 and 1913, GE introduced a new type of development to Erie's landscape, a community it called Lawrence Park. Lawrence Park was a self-contained "Garden City" featuring 106 detached houses located on 40- by 125-foot plots. The community also featured utilities, street lighting, 1,000 trees, trolley service, a school, and several commercial buildings. A greenbelt separated the factory from the residential and commercial districts. Following the outbreak of WWI, GE built hundreds of brick row houses, which became the core of the Lawrence Park community.

Maritime Pursuits

Without question, Lake Erie is a tremendous resource and significant contributor to the traditions and culture of Erie County. Erie County is the only Pennsylvania county with frontage on the Great Lakes. The water's presence strongly influenced the history, culture, and economy of each community along the lake shore and even those extending several miles inland. The City of Erie served as a shipbuilding and maritime port from the early nineteenth century to the post-World War II era. Thanks to the deep-water harbor at Presque Isle, ships could bring in raw materials and send out finished products, which strengthened Erie County's position in commerce. During the Industrial Revolution, the Port of Erie became a trans-shipment point for iron, iron ore, coal, oil, grain, and hay. The port helped build Erie into a manufacturing center known for items such as locomotives, locomotive components, and trolley engines, paper products, and the products of forges and foundries, such that in the early twentieth century the City of Erie was touted as the "Boiler and Engine Capital of the World." The Lake Erie fishery was also important to the local economy and the City of Erie was once the largest commercial fishery on the Great Lakes. But, the lake could also be dangerous. The combination of deep water, quickly changing weather, and treacherous shallows have claimed many lives and ships over time.

Lake Erie also has a connection to the Underground Railroad. From around 1830 until the end of the Civil War, an influx of runaway men and women fleeing enslavement came through Erie County seeking their freedom, not in Erie County, but across Lake Erie in Canada where they would be legally freed from bondage. Freeport in North East Township served as a gateway to traverse across Lake Erie. The City of Erie was one of many sanctuaries throughout the County, which also included Girard, North East, Wesleyville, and Waterford. These sanctuaries were

mainly the homes of abolitionists and churches, which secretly housed men and women fleeing enslavement until they could safely cross the lake to Canada.

Industry Declines

The manufacturing, commercial, and agricultural opportunities in Erie County produced population increases into the 1950s, particularly in the City of Erie. However, Erie's manufacturing base and population began a period of decline beginning in the 1950s. In 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened to navigation, which allowed ocean-going vessels to travel to the farthest reaches of the Great Lakes. Combined with the modernization of ports in Ohio and further west, this meant that many commodities that had formerly passed through the Port of Erie no longer did. The Pennsylvania Railroad closed ore and coal docks in the early 1960s. Shipbuilding operations soon followed suit and closed. Also, railroads declined with growth of the Interstate Highway System, and freight traffic that once flowed through Erie's smaller communities did no more. Further, Erie's metals industries were hurt by competition from newer, more efficient domestic mills as well as foreign producers. For largely these reasons, large manufacturers like Hammermill and GE shut down plants or greatly reduced their workforces. By 2001, the City of Erie had lost almost 21% of the manufacturing jobs it had in 1970. Smaller communities like Union City and Corry also lost much of their manufacturing base.

The post-World War II era also saw a major shift in population from urban areas to newly created automobile suburbs. Large tracts of what had once been farmland on the outskirts of the City of Erie were converted into sprawling suburbs. The new suburbs often included (or had built near them) schools, churches, strip and enclosed shopping malls; this represented a reordering of the landscape seen throughout the country at this time in American history.

New Markets Emerge

Despite industrial decline, manufacturing in Erie County still accounts for a larger proportion of the region's work force than in most other metropolitan areas in Pennsylvania. Other major employers in Erie County include insurance, healthcare, higher education, and tourism. Although the County's population is fewer in number than it once was, the culture of its residents is more diverse, with people of wide-ranging ethnicities now calling Erie County home.

The tangible and non-tangible assets that exist in Erie County today, which are the result of the County's history, are discussed in more detail in PART 3: "The Historic & Cultural Assets of Erie County."

PART 3:

WHAT'S HERE? THE HISTORIC & CULTURAL ASSETS OF ERIE COUNTY

Erie County has a wealth of historic and cultural assets, some natural and others made by the men and women who lived and worked in the County over its more than 200-year history. This PART 3 provides a general overview of these resources, ranging from those that are highly recognizable to hidden treasures.

While reviewing the information in this section, keep in mind that preservation is both a right and a responsibility. It is this movement toward being good stewards of the built environment so that the memory of Erie County's communities and the craftsmanship and authenticity of its cherished places remain in place for centuries to come. A place without meaning often fails to prosper. The richly-developed history and culture of Erie County gives its communities their individuality and also their connectedness. The physical structure of a place tells its story, and in Erie County, it is a story worth remembering and preserving.

Looking Across the Cultural Landscape

Erie County's assets, whether tangible or intangible, were influenced by the County's distinctive topography: the expansive body of water that is Lake Erie; the flat and temperate lake shore region along its edge; the rolling farm and woodlands in the rest of the County; and the ridge that divides the two landforms. All had a role in shaping Erie County's cultural heritage by influencing settlement patterns, agricultural and industrial development, and transportation routes. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the County's early settlers considered the value of all natural resources, and used them for profit and economic growth as was typical for the time.

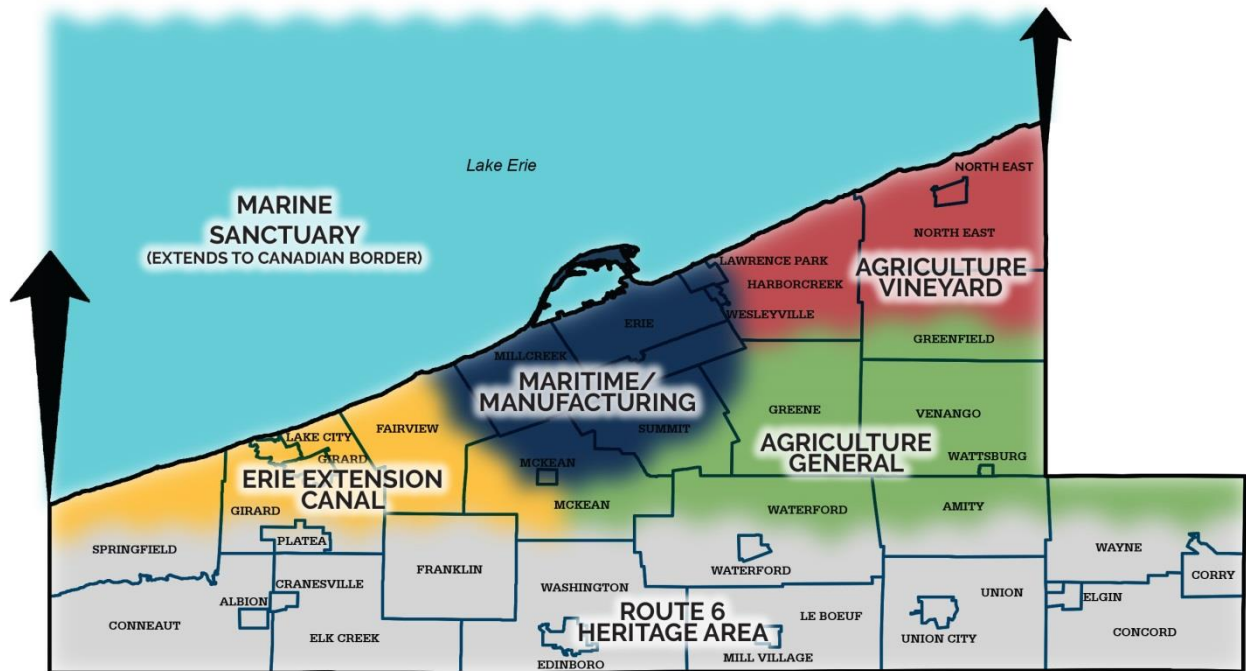
In a general sense, Erie County can be divided into six thematic cultural areas:

- Maritime/Manufacturing Area
- Agricultural/Vineyard Area
- Agricultural/General Area
- Route 6 Heritage Area
- Erie Extension Canal Area
- Marine Sanctuary Area

In addition, other influences had wide-reaching effects throughout the entire County. These include the railroad, institutions of higher learning, architectural styles and patterns, and tourism. For purposes of an organized discussion, the remainder of this PART 3 is organized around the thematic cultural areas and influences.

Thematic Cultural Areas

The illustration below shows the county's six thematic cultural areas. A thematic map is simply a map that tells a story about a place by focusing on a specific theme. In this case, the theme is the historic and cultural character of Erie County.



Maritime/Manufacturing-Influenced Area

Erie County's location on Lake Erie had, and continues to have, a significant impact on the character of places positioned along the lakeshore. Presque Isle peninsula provides a natural and protected deep water harbor, which shaped and helped define the City of Erie and nearby areas. Many Maritime/Manufacturing resources and the residential neighborhoods and ancillary services that supported these enterprises are found in proximity to Presque Isle, in the City of Erie, Millcreek Township, Lawrence Park, Wesleyville Borough, and parts of McKean Township, McKean Borough, Summit Township, and Fairview Township. In recent times, there has been an outmigration of residents and jobs from the City of Erie to new suburbs located in places like Millcreek Township, which creates a challenge for preservation in the older portions of this area.

Historically, the lake supported a thriving maritime industry that played an important role in Erie County's economy for more than 100 years. The original grid for the City of Erie was laid out in relation to the lake; its docks and wharves, developed beginning with the War of 1812 and the construction of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet, became the city of Erie's commercial center in its early years. A remnant from that era remains as Dobbins Pier. Volunteers poured into the City of Erie to help build the fleet and fight the British. Many, including African Americans, remained and became the backbone of the city's nascent industrial economy.

Thanks to access to the lake and the influx of people, Erie grew into an important maritime and commercial fishing center. The lake was an important transportation route connecting Erie with all parts of the world.

Erie's maritime history also is reflected in its two lighthouses on Presque Isle, the Erie Land Lighthouse, Perry's reconstructed Flagship Niagara and the associated maritime museum, and the many monuments to Perry. The Presque Isle peninsula, which provided the harbor and in large measure accounted for the City of Erie's location and growth, is another cultural asset in and of itself. Pennsylvania's most popular state park, Presque Isle attracts more than four million visitors annually.



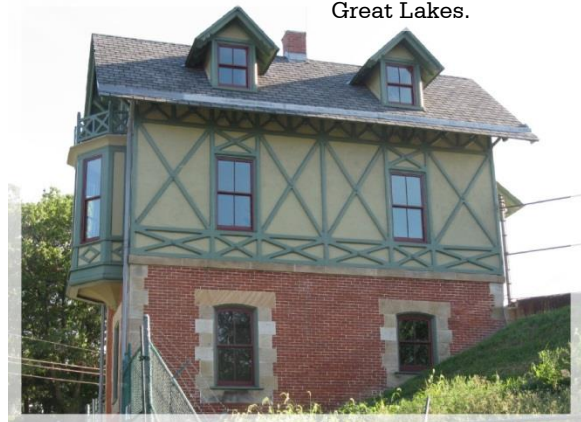
Erie City Ironworks in the potentially eligible East 12th Street Industrial Historic District.



Perry Monument on Presque Isle, honoring the U.S. Naval victory on Lake Erie in the War



The Erie Land Lighthouse, erected in 1818 as the first American stone lighthouse on the Great Lakes.



Caretakers house for the Sigsbee Reservoir in the City of Erie. The home is currently preserved, maintained by the Erie Water Authority, and potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Erie County, PA Cultural Heritage Plan

The Industrial Revolution facilitated population growth in the City of Erie and surrounding communities. The availability of manufacturing and industrial jobs attracted households from across the region and beyond. Many neighborhoods were designed and built to accommodate the expanding population. There are many historic neighborhoods in the Maritime/ Manufacturing Area, several of which are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Recently, Erie City and County stakeholders have made great strides in redeveloping the Lake Erie Waterfront, converting former industrial buildings and constructing new buildings for restaurants, breweries, wine bars, museums, and an environmental education center.



Lovell Place, formerly the Lovell Manufacturing Company



Lighthouse at Presque Isle.



East Front Street, Erie, home of the Erie Maritime Museum.



Erie Historical Society Museum, formerly the Watson-Curtze Mansion.

Popular Expressions of Culture in the Maritime/Manufacturing Area

- **Ethnic Festivals and Celebrations of Nationality**
- **Scenic Drives along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail and America's Byway™**
- **Culinary Art Celebrations**
- **Music Concerts**
- **Theater and Dance**
- **Art Displays, Gallery Tours**
- **Water Recreation (boating, fishing, etc.)**
- **Tall Ships Festival**
- **Activities at Presque Isle State Park, the Regional Science Consortium, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, the Erie Maritime Museum, the Bayfront Maritime Center, and more**



Agriculture/Vineyard- Influenced Area

Agriculture played an important role in the Erie County economy, and still does today. The crops that are grown are, and always have been, influenced by the region's topography, which is unique among all of Pennsylvania's counties. Lake Erie is bordered by a flat, temperate region, while the rest of the County is rolling and wooded. The temperate zone along the lake has always been an ideal fruit-growing region that in the twentieth century became renowned for its grape cultivation. The area is Pennsylvania's wine country, with miles and miles of vineyards, picturesque farmhouses, and wineries.

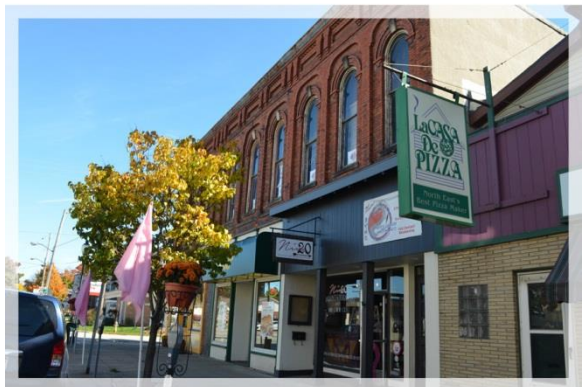


North East Borough is the cultural heart of the Agriculture/Vineyard Area. Its National Register Historic District features commercial and residential buildings ranging in age from the third quarter of the nineteenth century through the middle of the twentieth century. Surrounding North East Township, Harborcreek Township, and parts of Greenfield Township also are considered part of the Agriculture/Vineyard Area.



Popular Expressions of Culture in the Agriculture/Vineyard Area

- Grape Country Wine Trail
- Winery Tours and Tastings
- Harvest Festival
- Cherry Festival
- Winefest
- Art and Antique Galleries
- Water Recreation (boating, fishing, etc.)
- Scenic Drives along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail and America's Byway™



Northeastern Erie County has a distinctive character influenced by its temperate climate that spurred numerous wineries and fruit-growing industries.

Agriculture/General-Influenced Area

East-central Erie County was better suited for grain production, raising livestock, and dairy operations. Eastern Erie County retains this agricultural feel, as does south central Erie County, which is rural and low-lying and conveys an early nineteenth century ambiance.

This area encompasses Greene Township, Venango Township, Wattsburg Borough, and parts of Greenfield, McKean, Washington, Waterford, Amity, and Wayne Townships. The Erie County Fair, held annually in Wattsburg, was started in 1884. In the late seventeenth century, Wattsburg served as a hub that met the needs of many smaller surrounding towns and villages. Historically, the Agriculture/General Area contained small communities supported by agricultural operations and schools, churches, and commercial outlets. Today, many of the remaining historic resources in this area include farmhouses, barns, single-family homes, and schoolhouses. In addition, the entire agricultural landscape is a cultural resource for the character it provides across the region.



Agricultural operation.



Erie County Fairgrounds located just north of Wattsburg Borough in Venango Township.



Hornby School Museum in Greenfield Township.



Residence with Prairie style architecture in Venango Township.

Popular Expressions of Culture in the Agriculture/General Area

- **Erie County Fair**
- **Roadside Farm Stands and Farmers' Markets**
- **Scenic Drives Alongside Active Farms**

Route 6 Heritage Area-Influenced Area

U.S. Route 6 crosses the southern portion of Erie County from east to west. Historically, Route 6 connected communities and facilitated the movement of rural goods to market. It exemplifies a rural, small-town lifestyle that has persevered through changing times. A segment of Washington's Trail also traverses this area along a portion of US 19, which is a driving route that commemorates George Washington's first military and diplomatic venture of in the fall and winter of 1753 - 1754.

Route 6 is designated a State Heritage Corridor by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). According to PA Route 6 Alliance, a non-profit 501(c3) corporation that was established in 2003 to manage the corridor, approximately 3.5 million people travel the historic highway through Pennsylvania each year to visit the historic sites, national and state parks, artist studios, and quaint towns. Among the Erie County attractions along its route are the Little Church on the Hill in Albion, Goodell Gardens and Homestead in Edinboro, and soon-to-be-developed walking or driving tours of Corry, Union City, Edinboro, Albion, and the Waterford Historic District. National Geographic calls Route 6 "One of America's most scenic drives." Erie County also has two covered bridges, Harrington Bridge over Conneaut Creek between Springfield and Conneaut Townships, and Waterford Bridge, one of only a few Town Lattice bridges remaining in the state.

Popular Expressions of Culture in the Route 6 Heritage Area

- **Scenic Drives on Route 6**
- **Walking Tours**
- **Outdoor Recreation (hiking, camping, lake boating, fishing)**
- **Waterford Days Community Fair**
- **Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society/Judson House**
- **Hurry Hill Farm & Maple Museum**
- **Edinboro Area Historical Society**
- **Valley School Museum**
- **Corry Area Historical Society**



Edinboro.



Waterford Covered Bridge, built in 1875 to span LeBoeuf Creek.



Scenic U.S. Route 6.



Edinboro Lake, a popular recreational resource since 1914.

Erie Extension Canal-Influenced Area

Most of the County's oldest buildings date from the 1830s and 1840s. This coincides with the arrival of the Erie Extension Canal, which brought population and wealth to the region by providing another dependable means of shipping out Erie County's agricultural products and manufactured goods. The canal entered Erie County at Conneaut Township and passed through towns like Albion, Platea, Girard, and Fairview on its way to the City of Erie. As a consequence, these towns contain houses and other buildings constructed in the popular architectural styles of the time, including Greek Revival (which worked particularly well for upright-and-wing houses), Italianate, and Gothic Revival.

Remnants of the canal undoubtedly remain in Erie County, including stone locks and perhaps even the canal "trace," or path, itself. One area where remnants may remain is around Platea, where 28 locks were needed to raise and lower canal boats over the ridge that separates the lake shore region from the more rolling hill portions of Erie County.

Girard was one of the towns that experienced tremendous growth with the coming of the canal. The Girard town center contains both residential and commercial architecture from the canal era. Among the houses are a number that were built with board-and-batten siding. In a board-and-batten house, the exterior boards are placed vertically rather than horizontally. The spaces between the boards are covered by thin wood strips known as battens. Remaining examples of board-and-batten construction are comparatively rare, making them particularly noteworthy.



Italianate style home in Conneaut Township.



Girard's commercial core.

The canal also brought the colorful character Dan Rice to Girard. A showman and impresario, Rice managed a popular circus company known as "Dan Rice's Great Hippodrome and Menagerie." Looking to expand his appeal to the northern United States, Rice made Girard the circus's winter headquarters. In addition to the circus, Rice was also responsible for funding and erecting what is reportedly the first monument to those who perished in the Civil War. The 27-foot-high granite and marble monument remains in place.

Popular Expressions of Culture in the Erie Extension Canal Area

- **Dan Rice Days**
- **Historic House Museum Tours**
- **Scenic Drives along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail and America's Byway™**
- **Historic Cemeteries**
- **19th Century Commercial Districts**
- **Battles Museums of Rural Life**
- **Sturgeon House**

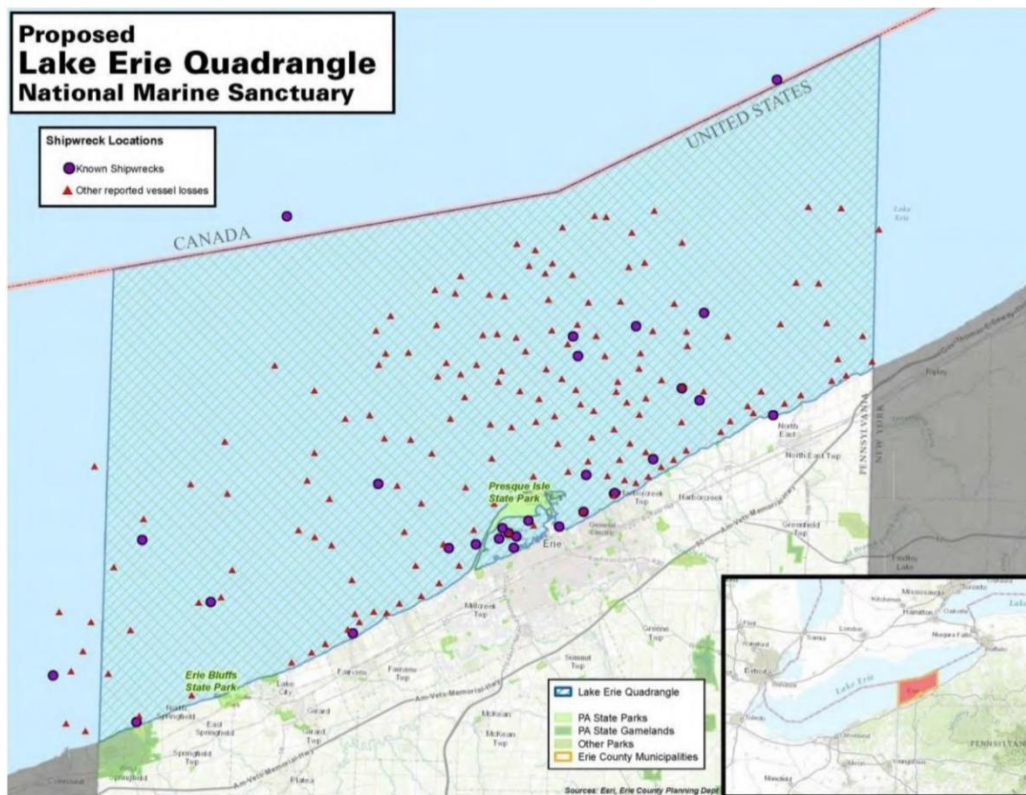
Marine Sanctuary Area

Lake Erie is historically and culturally significant to the Commonwealth and the nation. Prior to the Civil War, Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters housed the nation's largest fleet of steamboats and was a major hub on the Underground Railroad, with the lakeshore serving as a final U.S. 'stop' before many crossed Lake Erie to Canada. Known for its dangerous shallows and highly variable weather, Lake Erie claimed many ships over the past two and a half centuries. It is reported that more than 430 marine disasters occurred in the waters of Lake Erie. Capitalizing on this unique asset, the Great Lakes Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary is proposed off the shore of Erie County. It will serve as an underwater museum of sorts and extend to Canada.

Popular Expressions of Culture in the Marine Sanctuary Area

- **Underwater Shipwrecks**
- **Recreational and Scientific Diving**
- **Dive Training**
- **Exhibits and educational programming**

As documented in the National Marine Sanctuary proposal, the Sanctuary is intended to protect the many cultural and historical artifacts in this area. These include the various vessels that have sunk in the waters over the past two and a half centuries. The 2,500-square mile proposed sanctuary area is home to a known 196 shipwrecked vessels. This area serves as a resting place for at least one of every type of vessel that has operated on the Great Lakes for over two centuries.



Map showing known shipwrecks and locations of other report vessel losses in the proposed Marine Sanctuary area. Image from the "Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary Proposal," December 2015)

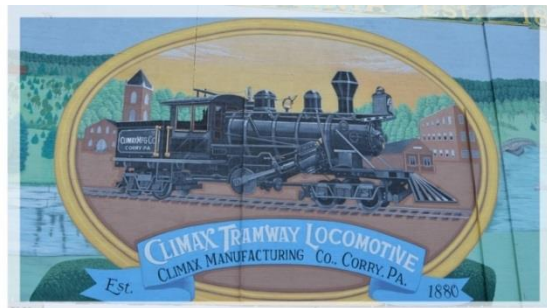
Influence of Railroads Across Erie County

Railroads succeeded the canal as the major transportation system in Erie County beginning in the 1870s. The impact of railroads on Erie County's built environment was transformative, with entire categories of railroad-related resources constructed, including passenger stations, freight depots, roundhouses, shop buildings, switch and signal towers, and warehouses.

Former railroad stations remain in Corry, Union City, Girard, Lake City, West Springfield, North East, and the City of Erie. One former station in public use is the former New York Central/Lake Shore Railway passenger station in North East Borough. Now home to the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society and Museum and with artifacts of local, regional and/or industrial significance, the former passenger station preserves and shares the memory, history and experience of railroading, particularly that of northwestern Pennsylvania, western New York, and northeastern Ohio. The City of Erie's Union Station, which served both the New York Central and Pennsylvania railroads, is still an active station, but it also houses a hotel, wine company, micro-brewery, and events center.

Railroad access, combined with Lake Erie, helped Erie County grow into an important industrial center between the late nineteenth century and World War II. Much of that growth occurred in the City of Erie, but Corry and Union City also became manufacturing centers. Erie County's Historic Resources Inventory notes that an industrial historic district has been identified along East 12th Street and the railroad tracks in the City of Erie. It includes buildings associated with important Erie manufactories like Pennsylvania Boiler Works, Nagle Engine and Boiler Company, Erie City Iron Works, and Stearns Manufacturing Company. Union City also has a designated historic district.

The Italian Renaissance-style Erie Water Works on West Bayfront Parkway, built in the early twentieth century to provide clean drinking water, is now a tourist attraction housing the four-story tall Big Bertha steam-driven pump, a Mechanical Engineering Landmark. Union City's cultural heritage as a furniture manufacturing center is evident in collections of industrial and formerly industrial buildings on Main and Market streets and its commercial district, which is eligible for National Register listing.



Architectural Legacy

Erie County's most tangible cultural assets—its architectural legacy—is captured in the Historic Resources of Erie County Inventory at www.eriebuildings.info, a service of Preservation Erie. The website is a living record of buildings and collections of buildings of all types with historic value to Erie County.

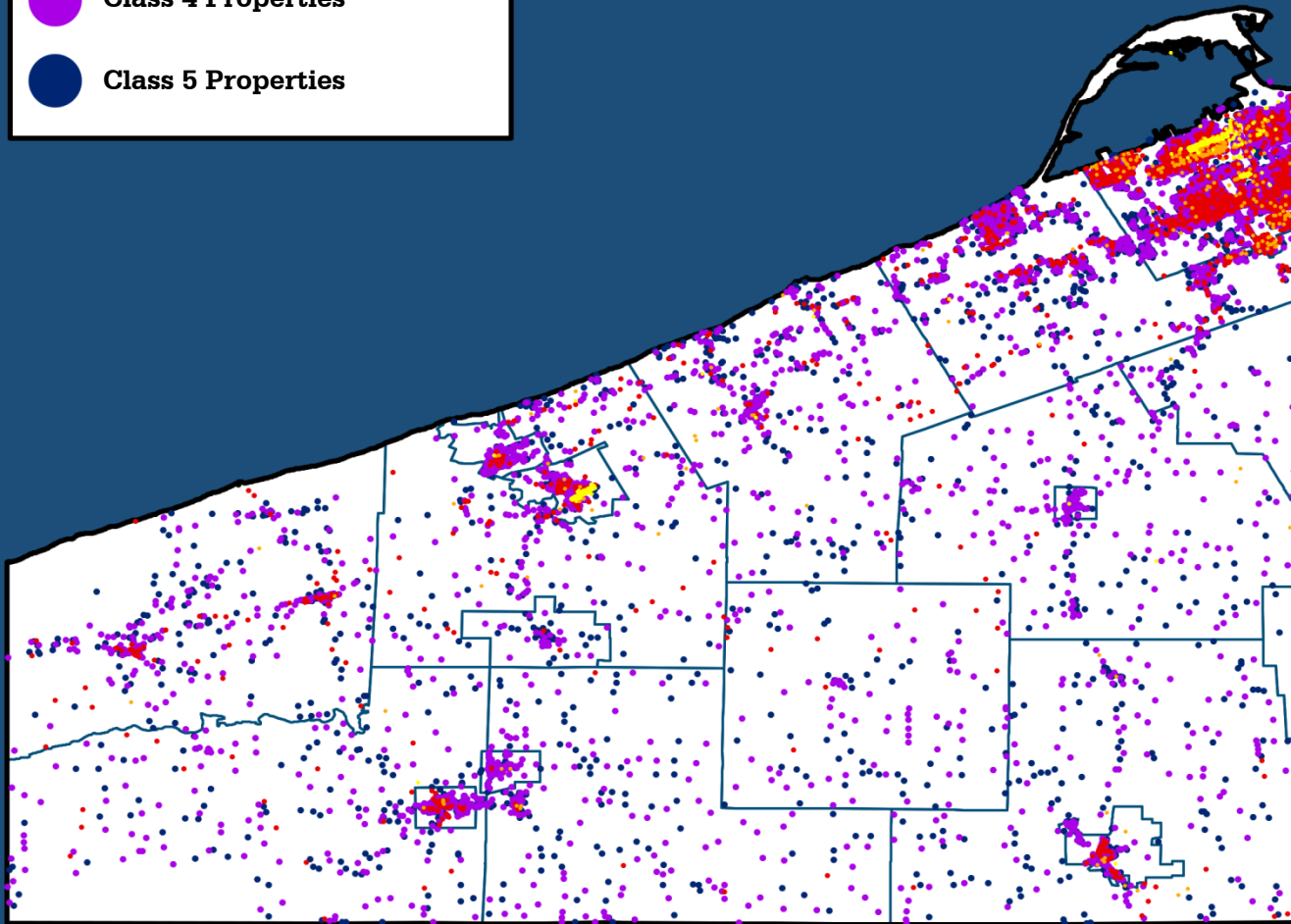
The inventory categorizes structure into five classes, as follows.

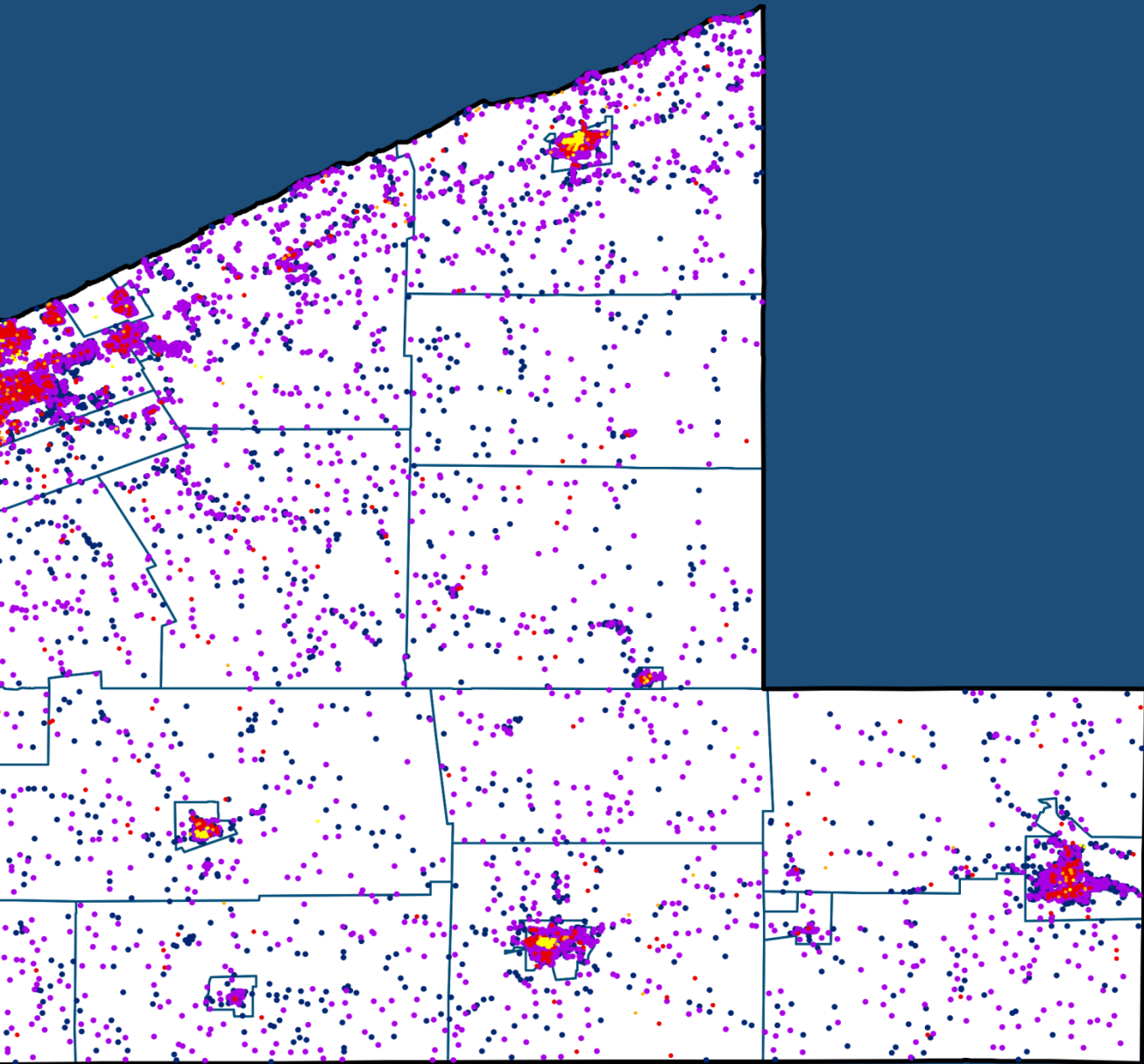
CLASS 1	Properties containing historic resources that are at least 50 years old and of major architectural or historical significance. These properties have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, been determined eligible for the National Register, or are contributing resources in a National Register Historic District.
CLASS 2	Properties containing historic resources at least 75 years old and of high architectural significance and architectural integrity; these properties, in the opinion of the consultant who prepared the inventory, have the potential to be determined eligible for the National Register.
CLASS 3	Properties containing historic resources at least 75 years old and of moderate to high architectural significance and integrity. These properties do not appear individually to meet National Register criteria for architecture but are among the more important buildings of the County. They are highly intact and fine representatives of a particular architectural type or style, but not necessarily large or opulent. These properties would contribute to a theoretical historic district.
CLASS 4	Properties containing historic resources at least 75 years old and of moderate architectural significance. These properties do not appear to have the architectural significance to meet National Register criteria individually, but maintain their general historic appearance or integrity.
CLASS 5	Properties containing resources at least 75 years old but of low architectural significance. The resources are either highly altered, damaged, or have little or no architectural significance.

To show the extent of all five classes, and the extent of data available at www.eriebuildings.info, the following map shows the locations of all property classes.

Class 1 and Class 2 properties are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places if certain criteria are met, and with property owner consent. The National Register is the United States federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation, and is a way to bring honor and in some cases, tax incentives to building owners. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places is an honor, but listing in and of itself does not protect the listed resources, nor impose any obligations on their owners. Collections of resources that qualify as a "historic district" are shown on the following maps.

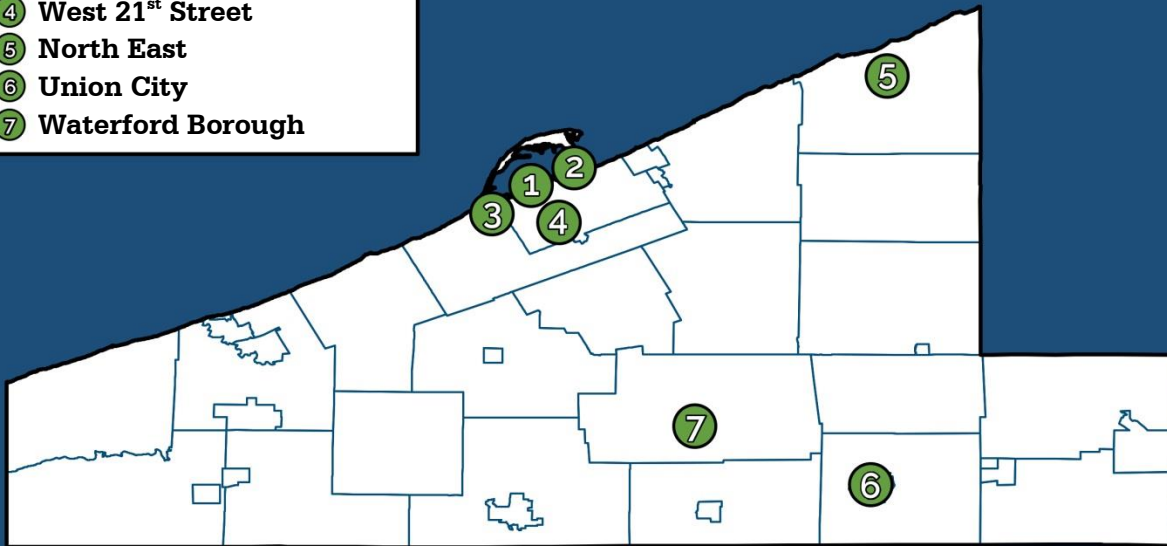
Class 1-5 Properties





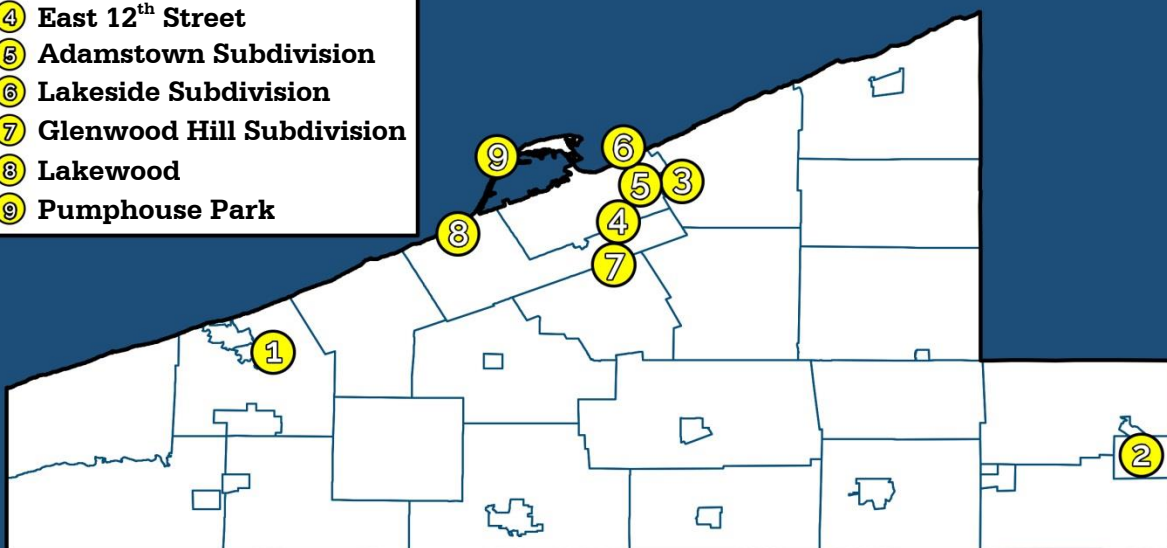
Listed National Register Historic Districts

- 1 West Park Place
- 2 West 6th Street
- 3 Federal Row
- 4 West 21st Street
- 5 North East
- 6 Union City
- 7 Waterford Borough



Potentially Eligible National Register Historic Districts

- 1 Girard
- 2 Corry
- 3 Lawrence Park
- 4 East 12th Street
- 5 Adamstown Subdivision
- 6 Lakeside Subdivision
- 7 Glenwood Hill Subdivision
- 8 Lakewood
- 9 Pumphouse Park



Architectural Styles

Because Erie County was claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York as well as Pennsylvania, many of Erie County's early settlers came from New England and New York State. These settlers brought with them two notable architectural expressions influenced by their original homes, a house style known as an upright-and-wing, and the English barn. An upright-and-wing house has a two-story portion with a front gable roof and a one-story portion with a side gable roof off to one side. Upright-and-wing houses are generally found on Erie County's farms and its smaller towns. An English barn, unlike the more common Pennsylvania barn, lacks a bank and a forebay. The English barn is three bays long and accessed through a sliding central door. A variation also built by early Erie settlers is a New England barn, which is an English barn with a basement. Settlers from other parts of Pennsylvania and Germany brought with them the more familiar Pennsylvania bank barn, as well as a five-bay, I- or L-shaped farmhouse type. All remain a part of Erie County's landscape.



English Barn.

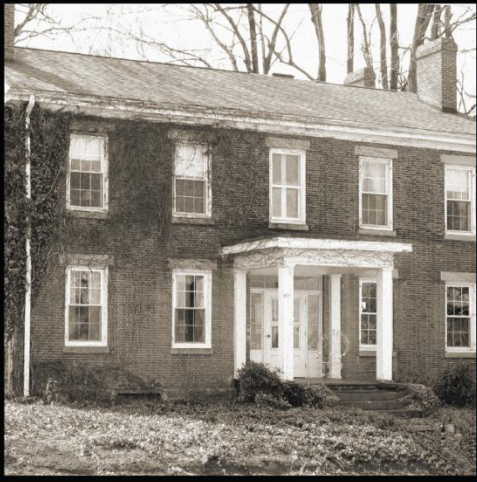


Upright-and-Wing House.

The growth of industry created a demand for housing of all types. Immigrants attracted to the City of Erie's economic opportunities tended to settle together in ethnic neighborhoods, with the local church, synagogue, or school often the focal point of each community. The City of Erie's West 6th Street Historic District was historically and is still known as Millionaire's Row, and contains a concentration of high-style residences designed in the popular styles of the period, including Italianate, Stick, Queen Anne, Romanesque, and Colonial, Classical, and Tudor Revivals. But middle class and working class housing from the peak period of industrial growth abounds in virtually every community in Erie County. For example, between 1910 and 1913 General Electric built Lawrence Park to the east of the City of Erie, a self-contained "Garden City" featuring 106 detached houses located on 40-by 125-foot plots. The community also featured utilities, street lighting, 1,000 trees, trolley service, a school, several commercial buildings, and a greenbelt separating the factory from the residential and commercial districts. Erie County's Historic Resources inventory website also identifies other middle and working class historic districts, including three in the City of Erie, the Adamsburg, Lakeside, and Academy Historic District; and the Lakewood Historic District in Millcreek Township.

The post-World War II era saw a major shift in population from older urban areas to newly created automobile suburbs, made possible by the construction of the Interstate Highway System beginning in 1956. Large tracts of what had once been farmland on the outskirts of the City of Erie were converted into sprawling suburbs. The new suburbs often included or had built near them schools, churches, strip- and enclosed shopping malls, a reordering of the landscape seen throughout the country.

FEDERAL
1800-1840



ITALIANATE
1840-1890



LATE VICTORIAN
1860-1900



1800

1825

GREEK REVIVAL
1825-1850



GOTHIC REVIVAL
1850-1880



SECOND EMPIRE
1865-1885



STICK
1865-1890



1850

QUEEN ANNE
1875-1915



ROMANESQUE
1880-1900



LATE GOTHIC REVIVAL
1890-1930



1875

SHINGLE
1880-1900



SPANISH REVIVAL
1890-1940



CLASSICAL REVIVAL
1895-1950



1875

1900

COLONIAL REVIVAL
1890-1950



ITALIAN RENAISSANCE
1890-1935



PRAIRIE
1900-1920



DUTCH COLONIAL REVIVAL
1900-1940



BUNGALOW
1910-1940



MODERNE
1920-1940



1925

1950

AMERICAN FOURSQUARE
1910-1935



TUDOR REVIVAL
1910-1940



CAPE COD
1925-1950



Influence of Educational Institutions Across Erie County

Erie County's universities are also important cultural assets; they include Gannon, Mercyhurst, the Behrend Campus of Penn State, and Edinboro. Edinboro was founded in 1857 as a private academy and named a State Normal School (a teacher's college) in 1861. The academy's large white, frame, cross-gabled, Italianate-style original building houses the admissions office. Memorial Hall, built in 1941, has murals on the interior. A quadrangle began to take shape in 1931, when an Erie architectural firm designed the Classical Revival-style Loveland Hall. Mercyhurst University in Erie occupies an 85-acre campus that was purpose-built for the school beginning in 1925 with Collegiate Gothic buildings in stone, while Gannon University occupies nearly 30 buildings in 12 blocks of downtown Erie that have been adapted for use by the university from their original purposes. In addition to these institutions of higher learning, other educational buildings on Erie County's cultural landscape include former one-room schoolhouses and primary and secondary schools from various eras.



Edinboro University.



Gannon University.



Mercyhurst University.

PART 4:

ENGAGING THE STAKEHOLDERS

To support the preparation of this Cultural Heritage Plan, the Erie County Department of Planning undertook several steps to ensure that this Plan addresses the concerns and ideas of the region's stakeholders. Most importantly, outreach was conducted to identify the challenges that can be overcome and the opportunities that can be seized, based on the ideas and experiences of the people of Erie County.

Stakeholders:

Every person, group, and organization that has an interest in, or is affected by, Erie County's cultural heritage.

Task Force

First, the County formed a Cultural Heritage Plan Task Force. Individuals serving on the Task Force were invited to attend nine meetings to represent the perspectives of their organization and others like it. The Task Force helped to identify on-the-ground issues associated with historic resources and cultural heritage that are important to their constituencies. They also offered ideas about the future of Erie County's historic and cultural assets.

Task Force Representation:

State Government:

- Office of Ryan Bizzarro, PA House of Representatives
- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)
- PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)

Local Governments:

- The Erie County Department of Planning
- Downtown North East
- Impact Corry
- Millcreek Township
- North East Borough

Non-Profits and Regional

Organizations:

- Emerge 2040
- Erie Art Museum
- Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
- Erie Maritime Museum
- Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society
- Housing & Neighborhood Development Services
- Main Street Media
- Our West Bayfront
- PA Route 6 Alliance
- Preservation Erie
- Sisters of Saint Joseph's Neighborhood Network East
- Erie County Historical Society
- VisitErie

Businesses:

- Erie Insurance
- Weber Murphy Fox

Education:

- Edinboro University
- Mercyhurst University
- PA Sea Grant Program

Erie County, PA Cultural Heritage Plan

Members of the Task Force principally believe that historic and cultural resources are economic assets that can be used to revitalize communities and attract new residents and businesses to Erie County. The Task Force also strongly acknowledged the connection of historic and cultural assets to quality of life and environmental sustainability benefits, but acknowledged that this connection is not readily understood by the general public. The Task Force was instrumental in identifying the low capacity that typically exists at local government levels to proactively address cultural and historic preservation issues.

Engaging the Community

To reach a broader audience, the County administered an on-line public engagement survey between November 2016 and January 2017 and held public meetings in three locations on December 14, 2016. Invitations to participate were published in local newspapers and advertised on websites and social media. The County also reached out to local municipal officials in every Erie County city, township, and borough. Lastly, because the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), had just completed an initial public outreach program for the 2018-2022 Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, responses to the SHPO's survey from Erie County zip codes were considered.

The remainder of this PART 4 summarizes the collective concerns, ideas, and aspirations of the cross-section of stakeholders who participated in the public engagement process.



Public meeting held at the Erie Art Museum on December 14, 2016.

Listed below are the challenges and opportunities most widely expressed by those participating in the Cultural Heritage Plan planning process.

Challenges

- Many residents of Erie County don't recognize the wealth of cultural and historic resources all around them.
- Many municipal governments lack the staff resources and financial capacity to lead a movement towards preserving Erie County's historic and cultural resources.
- Many communities have experienced population and job loss, which has led to vacancies and deferred maintenance (disrepair) of historic structures.
- Apathy about local heritage and historic preservation among the general public and the expense of upkeep for historic buildings are the biggest concerns when it comes to efforts of preserving historic and cultural resources in Erie County.
- The economic benefits that stem from historic and cultural resource preservation are not widely understood.

Opportunities

- Most stakeholders have a positive view of the role that historic places and cultural traditions will play in the County's future. Ethnic festivals, music, and local fairs and festivals are highly valued.
- There are many historic and cultural assets in Erie County that can attract residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Lake Erie is a valuable resource with strong links to the County's past and future.
- Erie County residents highly value the natural environment, public places connected to Lake Erie and its history, and the many local parks and natural recreation areas.
- Historic houses, residential neighborhoods, main streets/business districts, and other community gathering spaces are important assets because of their historic character and because they offer places which express and support Erie's cultural heritage.
- The availability of technical assistance and financial incentives may help to motivate owners of historic properties to improve and/or maintain their buildings or properties.
- Erie County's youth may become more interested in history and become involved with historic and cultural preservation if there are more learning opportunities offered about the local history of Erie County's communities.

Erie County Municipal Leaders Survey

In order to identify the interest and needs of local municipalities in the cultural heritage planning effort, local government leaders were invited to participate and share feedback. Despite a low response rate (only nine of the 38 Erie County municipalities (24%) opted to respond), a number of conclusions were made from reviewing the survey responses.

Most expressed that cultural and historic assets in their communities are not at immediate risk of being demolished, but many priority assets have maintenance issues and are in need of repairs. Also, it was clear that many local municipalities do not have the staffing resources, base of volunteers, and financial capacity to address historic and cultural preservation issues. When asked what resources and assistance each municipality needs to help preserve and maintain historic buildings and places, answers included:

- public outreach and education,
- professional advice,
- zoning and municipal code amendments,
- volunteers,
- maintenance incentives, and
- funding.

Thoughts from Municipal Leaders:

Respondents to the municipal leaders survey shared their thoughts on the preservation of cultural and historic resources in Erie County:

"I realize the preservation of a cultural or historic resource may impose more of a financial burden on the owner if and when they attempt to maintain, add on or whatever. However, the Erie area is rich in history and many Erie County residents and tourists are attracted to this area because of that. I've always felt the need to preserve the "old" and feel strongly that Erie County needs to be more proactive preserving our history."

"It is too easy to raze an old building that has historical significance. I guess that goes along with our disposable society of today. Once something is razed, removed, thrown away, etc. it is gone forever..."

"The old architecture in the small towns should be preserved. It adds character."

"When it's gone, it's gone forever."

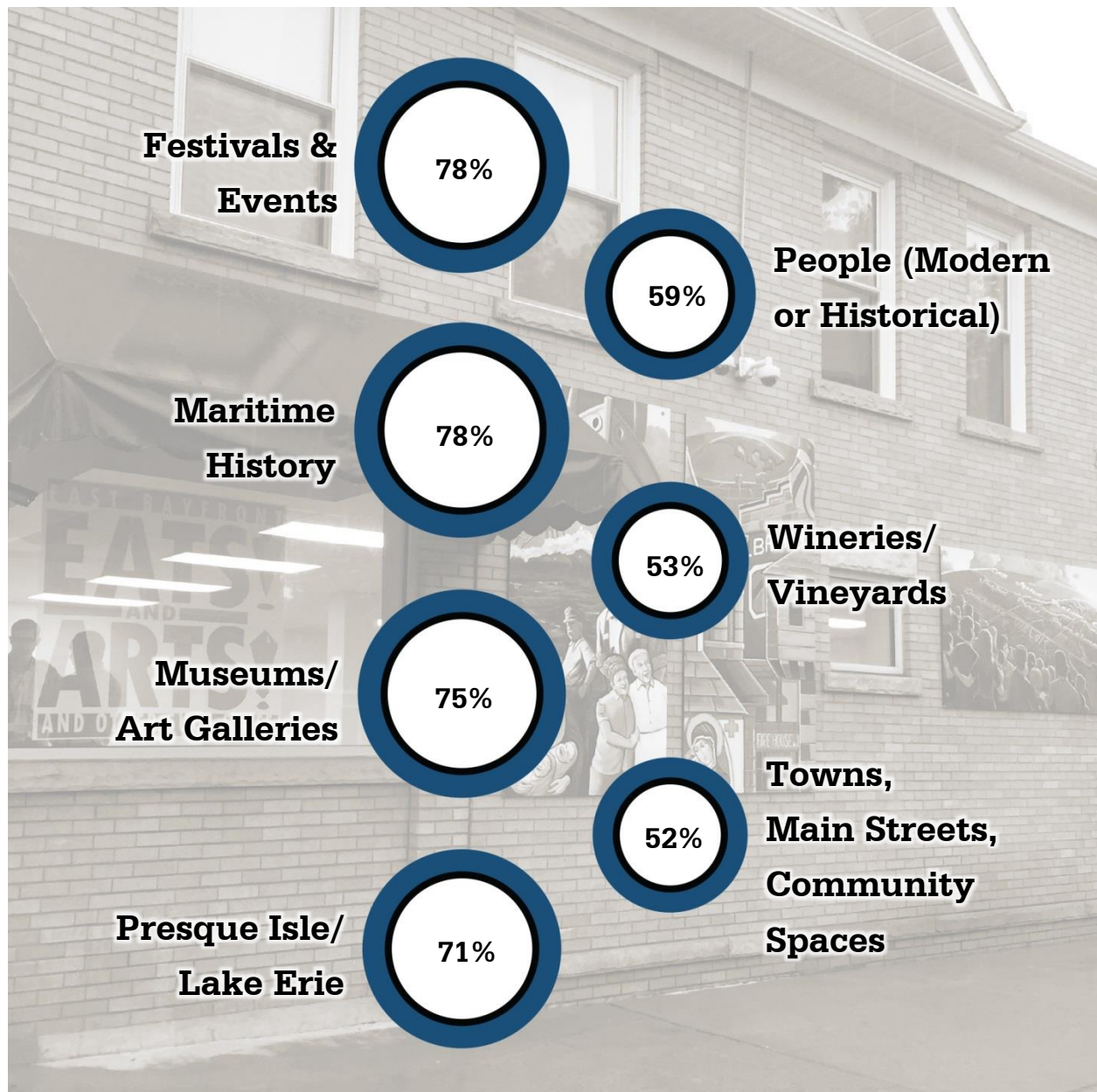
Public Survey and Meetings

An on-line public engagement survey conducted between November 2016 and January 2017 elicited 243 responses. In addition, 31 people participated in public meetings held in three locations on December 14, 2016. Refer to APPENDIX B for a full account of the public survey results. In regards to public sentiment about the culture and historic resources of Erie County, the results were overwhelmingly positive.

Public Survey Response - Culture

Stakeholders firmly believe that the expression of culture is important to the quality of life in Erie County. When asked to rate the importance of culture on a scale of 0 (not important) to 10 (very important), the average response was 8.2. When stakeholders were asked if cultural events should be continued for future generations, 92% responded yes. In the online survey, respondents said that the culture of Erie County is most strongly expressed in the following ways. Percentages indicate the percent of respondents who selected each of these responses.

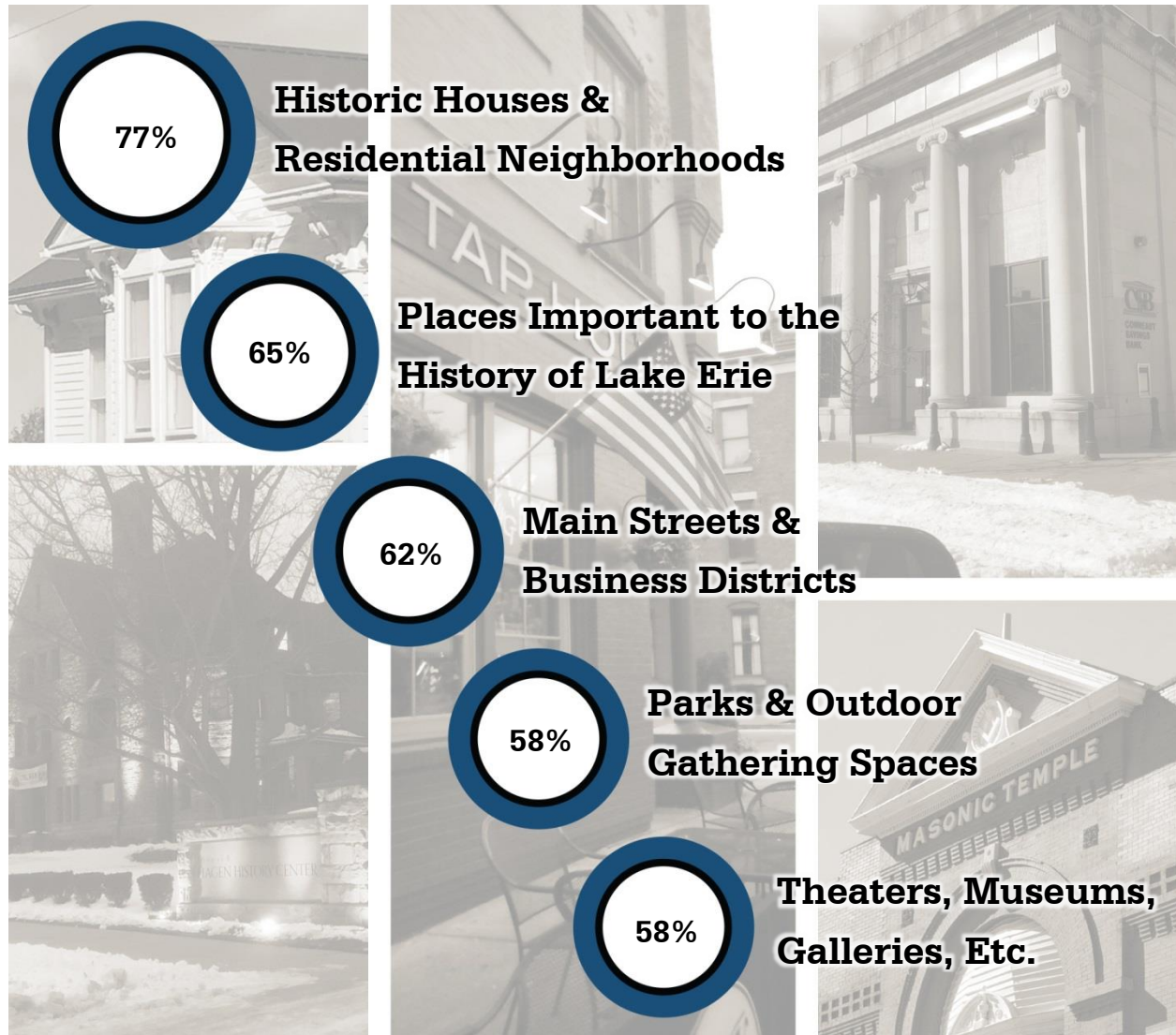
Cultural Resources Most Valued by Erie County Stakeholders



Public Survey Response - Historic Buildings and Places

Respondents believe that the preservation of historic buildings and places is very important to the quality of life in Erie County, with an average response of 8.5 on a scale of 0 (Not Important) to 10 (Most Important). The following places were selected most often as important to the future envisioned for Erie County. Percentages indicate percent of survey respondents who selected each of these.

Historic Resources Most Valued by Erie County Stakeholders



Erie County Input to the SHPO

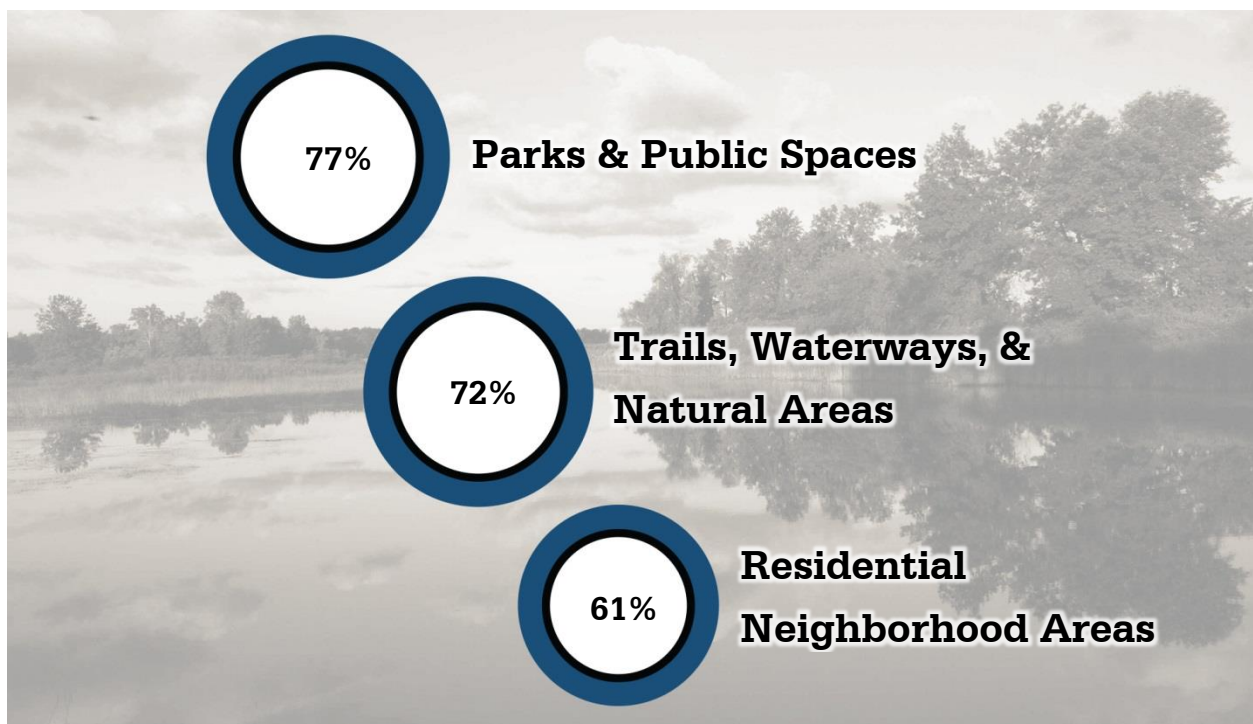
Statewide Survey

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) administered a public survey in 2016 entitled "Community Connections: Planning for Preservation in Pennsylvania" to inform preparation of the next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan update. Data collected from 214 respondents in Erie County was reviewed for applicability to this Erie County Cultural Heritage Plan.

Statewide survey respondents from Erie County represented 25 of the 38 Erie County municipalities, with the City of Erie having by far the most survey respondents (103 out of 214, or 48%). Almost all statewide survey respondents said they have a "Positive" (76%) or "Somewhat positive" (19%) view of historic preservation.

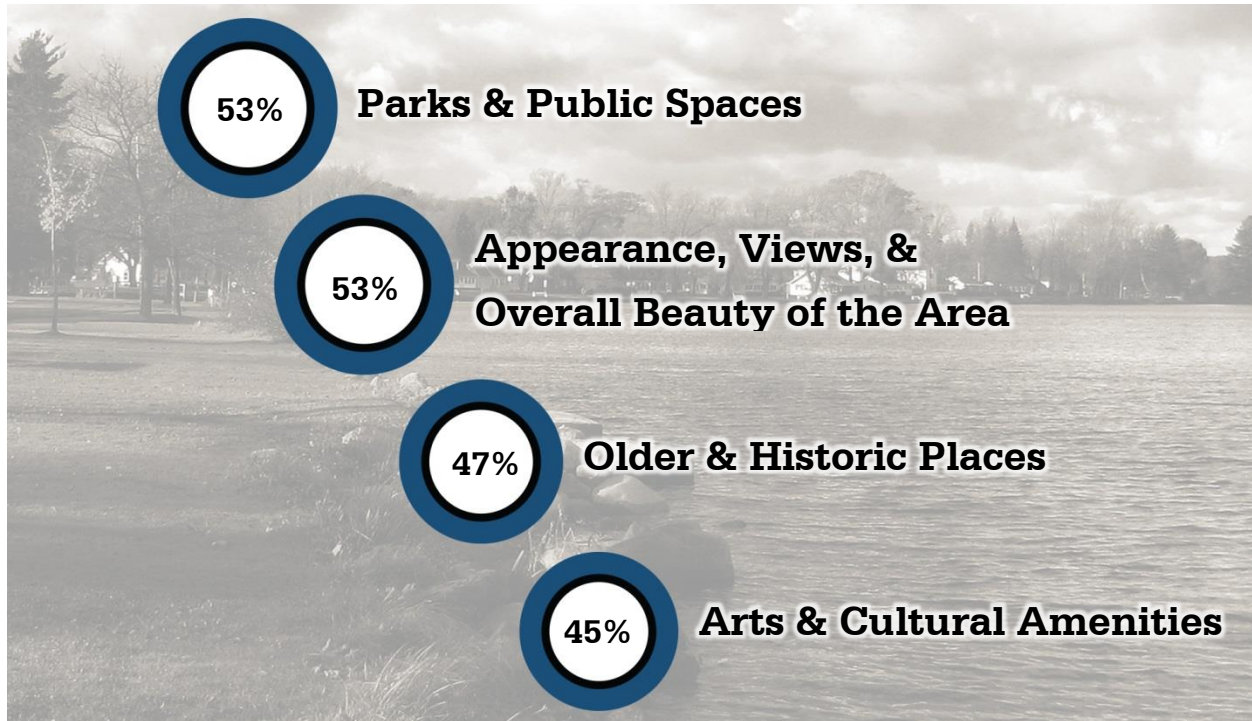
Stakeholders recognize that older and historic places protect Pennsylvania's unique stories and heritage for future generations and improve the beauty and quality of life of communities. These are the top three types of places that best reflect what SHPO statewide survey respondents from Erie County value about their community (percentages indicate the percent of survey respondents who selected the response):

Erie County Community Values



These are the four resources that ranked highest in their ability to enhance communities (percentages indicate the percent of survey respondents who selected each):

Resources that Enhance Communities in Erie



When asked about the condition of older and historic properties in their community, respondents most often selected “Many are generally not well maintained” (25%). Only 2.5% of statewide survey respondents from Erie County indicated that “Vacant properties have been rehabilitated nicely.” Also, when asked if they were worried that older and historic places in Erie County are in danger of being negatively changed or lost, the majority of respondents said “yes” and places identified as in danger are “Older residential neighborhoods” (62%) and “Downtown commercial districts” (52%).

Statewide survey respondents also were asked if they think communities should plan for ways to protect older and historic properties from damage or loss from natural disasters and ensure their future preservation. 84% answered “Yes,” 2% answered “No,” and 14% answered “I’m not sure.”

Erie residents very highly value the County’s natural areas, historic places, and cultural amenities. Most Erie County respondents to the Statewide Survey support historic preservation efforts and public funding, but expressed concern about the lack of government support for such projects and outdated regulations and policies that cause more harm than good for historic or cultural assets.

PART 5:

WHY PRESERVE? THE BENEFITS OF PRESERVATION

It is well known that preservation activities improve the physical conditions of neighborhoods, stimulate struggling areas, reduce building vacancies, slow demolitions, and draw residents, visitors, investment, and jobs. The direct and indirect benefits are immeasurable. With the implementation of this Cultural Heritage Plan, Erie County will be set on a path to elevate its historic and cultural assets to serve central roles in economic development and competitiveness initiatives, neighborhood revitalization programs, resident and job attraction agendas, as well as advances in cultural enrichment, education, environmental sensitivity, and more. Preservation efforts also will continue to bring people together who care about their communities.

The ways that communities look, feel, and function says a lot about the culture and values of its people. Thus, this PART 5 presents the benefits of preservation in terms of values that are important to the stakeholders of Erie County.

Economic Values

Historic and cultural assets improve economic competitiveness.

***Why?** Because . . . in the new, globalized economy, historic and cultural assets are cornerstones of a community's character and quality of life, which draw businesses and residents.*

Erie County has a diversified economy, with major employers spanning the industrial, manufacturing, agricultural, commercial, service business, and institutional sectors. These economic drivers have a long history in Erie County, but unlike ever before, are now operating in an economically globalized world. This means that to be economically sustainable, Erie County must successfully position itself to compete not only with other communities in the region, but also with the global marketplace.

With globalization, the competition to attract employers, workers, and the residential and support services that those employers need is stiff. Also, with advancements in technology that have occurred in just the past few decades, more and more workers can perform their jobs from home. Thus, competition for residents is not always proportional to competition for major employers.

To be economically sustainable, Erie County must set itself apart from other places by defining itself as an attractive place to live, work, and invest. Unlike previous decades, people are now selecting where they want to live as the first priority, and then seeking out work. Whereas in the past, most people followed jobs; today, most jobs follow people. For this reason, economic competitiveness will be grounded on the character and quality of life offered by the communities of Erie County.

Preservation activities increase property values, especially in designated local historic districts.

Why? *Because . . . when groups of properties are recognized for their historic significance and protected by municipal code regulations, these places attract interest and owners are encouraged to invest, which increases the monetary value of the properties.*

Property and resale values have been shown by numerous case studies to stabilize and increase in locally-designated historic districts. As reported by three case studies documented by the Pennsylvania and Historical Museum Commission in the publication “Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation Activities in Pennsylvania,” (2011), property values rose by 3% annually, or 15%-36% in total in studied historic districts. **At a time when municipal governments are facing fiscal distress, increased property values can have a positive impact** on property tax revenues and the attraction of new residents and associated spending. In addition, when preservation is viewed as an indicator of long-term stability and quality in a neighborhood, property owners are more willing to invest in improvements, because the expenditures for those improvements will be protected and offer a chance of positive return.

Preservation starts a domino effect of economic improvement.

Why? *Because . . . when older properties are preserved and in good repair, they raise the bar for other properties in the vicinity.*

When investments are made in historic properties and the improvements are visible in a community, other property owners are encouraged to keep up, and often make similar investments. **The domino effect of economic improvement is usually triggered after one key property is improved and the investment is visible.** Neighbors are able to see the potential for their own buildings and become more inclined to move forward with improvements. Outside investment is also drawn to neighborhoods for these same reasons.

Historic buildings are attractive to small and entrepreneurial businesses.

Why? *Because . . . older properties offer unique and affordable spaces that new construction can often fail to provide.*

In the current American economy, most new jobs are created by companies that employ less than 20 people. Older buildings are attractive to small and entrepreneurial businesses because they are oftentimes affordable, and create niche atmospheres that offer one-of-a-kind experiences for their occupants. Uses such as restaurants, bars, coffee shops, personal care services, gift shops, and creative industries such as art galleries and performance art space, often look for unique properties to create enjoyable experiences for their employees and customers. Also, with the millennial generation starting careers and the baby-boomer generation at or near retirement, both of these age groups are looking for unique experiences in their daily environments, from shopping, to dining, to day-to-day services, which historic building space offers.

Culturally and historically significant places offer communities opportunities to attract and retain the types of businesses and innovators that build a competitive economy. The use of historic properties can enable start-ups and small businesses to stand out amongst larger companies. (Even large companies invest in historic buildings (Erie Insurance, for example)). As small and entrepreneurial businesses that start in Erie County grow and need more employees and more space, it is likely that these businesses will stay for the same reasons that drew them

to Erie County in the first place. That said, historic buildings serve as great incubator sites for new companies.

Preservation protects the investment of taxpayers.

Why? *Because . . . millions of dollars are already invested in existing buildings and their supporting infrastructure and preservation protects this investment.*

Over time, taxpayers have funded millions of dollars of public investment in older communities, such as roads, sidewalks, street lights, parks, civic buildings, water and sewer lines, and more. As such, preserving the authentic character of Erie County's older communities is fiscally-responsible. Revitalization of older communities through strategic preservation efforts **protects public taxpayer investments in public infrastructure and service systems**. This does not imply that every existing building should be saved. In fact, the removal of severely distressed properties that offer little to no rehabilitation potential can allow communities to scale back on supporting infrastructure systems and services, save costs associated with maintaining and operating those systems, and focus monetary resources on other assets that have a positive return.

Cultural and historic assets attract heritage tourism spending.

Why? *Because . . . travelers inject external dollars into the County's economy by spending money for lodging, food, gas, gifts, and more.*

Heritage tourism relies on cultural expression and the preservation of older properties, and Erie County offers a tremendous opportunity to attract this type of visitation. When older properties are well maintained and attractive to outsiders, it is relatively easy to capitalize on heritage tourism spending. **Visitors attracted to Erie County for its cultural and historic assets spend money** on travel services (lodging, gas, etc.), food (restaurants, café's, pubs, coffee shops, grocers), entertainment (events, attraction sites, performances), retail goods (supplies and gifts).

Income-producing properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible for rehabilitation tax credits.

Why? *Because . . . the federal and State government incentivizes investment in properties recognized by the government as examples of American history worthy of recognition.*

Federal and state tax credit programs offer substantial monetary incentives for rehabilitating historic properties. At the federal level, the tax incentives program is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in partnership with each state's State Historic Preservation Office. Additionally, Pennsylvania has its own state incentive program initiated in 2014. **With tax incentive programs in place, eligible historic preservation programs can leverage significant amounts of private investment in local communities.**

Through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Commonwealth issues up to \$3,000,000 in tax credits per fiscal year across Pennsylvania to qualified taxpayers who complete restorations of qualified, income-producing historic structures. These tax credits can reach 25% of qualified expenditures. In addition, income-producing properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible to receive a 20% federal tax credit for major rehabilitation work. If a non-residential income-producing property is not listed on the National Register and is more than 50 years old, its qualifying rehabilitation work can still be eligible for a tax credit, at 10%.



Social and Equitability Values

Historic and cultural assets are important components of a high-quality living environment.

***Why?** Because . . . these assets provide a sense of connectedness with places, people, and community.*

A high standard of living is created when people feel like they belong in, and are connected to, a community. With continued expression of Erie County's diverse cultures, and the integration of historic assets into a contemporary community fabric, the County will continue to feel welcoming to diverse populations, businesses, and investments. In fact, **parts of Erie County may even be seen as innovative and cutting-edge by successfully integrating the "old" with the "new."** In today's economy, many knowledge workers choose where they want to work and live based on the quality of the urban environment; and, the expression of culture and history is an important component.

Older properties provide housing opportunities across a full range of household income levels.

***Why?** Because . . . of the diversity of residential housing in older neighborhoods, affordability issues can be addressed and resolved through preservation; new construction is often more expensive than a preserved older property.*

Older properties, and particularly those that are for-rent, are often more affordable than new construction. As such, **older neighborhoods offer a diversity of housing choices** and allow households of different income ranges to occur in proximity of one another. Many newer communities struggle with diversity issues, where houses are typically of similar cost and accommodate households of similar economic status. In contrast, historic areas are usually dynamic and diverse and interject equitability in housing choice across the population. Also, when older neighborhoods are well-maintained and attractive, they are seen as desirable places to live, and serve as catalysts for the repopulation of small towns and inner city areas.

History and culture inspire community celebrations and events.

Why? *Because . . . the authentic history and culture of Erie County is something to celebrate.*

Celebrations of ethnicity and culture have been occurring in Erie County since its earliest settlement. Today, **many of Erie County's most popular events stem from a historical or cultural celebration.** These include the many faith-based ethnic festivals and celebrations of nationality, culinary art and music festivals, the Tall Ships Festival at Presque Isle Bay, Dan Rice Days in Girard, and agricultural-related celebrations such as the Harvest Festival, Cherry Festival, and the Erie County Fair. These celebrations and events attract and engage residents and visitors, and are popular due to their ability to deliver an authentic Erie County experience.

Historic assets convey and influence artistic expression.

Why? *Because . . . history and culture inspire creativity.*

People have been creating works of art since the beginning of human history for a variety of reasons. In many cases, works of art have meaning and significance, some of which are only understood in the context of their environment. Examples of craftsmanship arts are embodied in the structure of historic buildings. The tradesmen who worked on creating homes and buildings in specific architectural styles would in many cases consider their work, as art. Faith-based and ethnicity-based rituals and cultural traditions also rely heavily on artistic expression. Thus, in many ways, **the preservation of historic structures preserves valued and irreplaceable pieces of craftsmanship art.** In other mediums, art is often created to record history or to tell a story. Creative industries thrive in creative environments, and the existence of cultural and historic assets is a significant contributor to creating inspirational contexts for art.



Environmental Values

Preservation is the ultimate form of recycling.

Why? *Because . . . when older buildings are put to new uses, building materials are not sent to landfills and the energy and natural resources needed for new, replacement buildings are not expended.*

Demolishing historic buildings results in the wasteful use of scarce, natural resources. When a building is preserved, the energy embodied in its original construction is saved. Also saved are the building materials, which for historic buildings in Erie County usually consist of wood/timber, masonry (brick, slate, marble, stone) and plaster. In many cases, these types of building materials are so valuable that they are cost prohibitive to use extensively in new construction today. The decision to send these materials to a landfill makes little sense. Then, to build a new structure in the place of a demolished historic structure requires the production of new materials and the expenditure of even more energy to make those materials. New construction debris constitutes around one-third of all waste generated in America. When buildings are preserved, resources are conserved and not exploited as part of a modern “throw-away” mindset.

Expressions of history and heritage boost Erie County's sustainability movement.

Why? *Because . . . a key component of sustainability is prioritizing long-term benefits over short-term, short-lived opportunities.*

The core concept of sustainable development is to build things that last and transcend generations. With this in mind, **Erie County has an incredible opportunity to promote itself as a sustainable region, simply by making wise choices about its historic building stock and making these assets useful and relevant to today's population.** Many of Erie County's historic assets were built to last. Most are structurally sound and constructed with durable materials, that with general maintenance, are not in jeopardy of loss. Also, many historic areas were designed by following the “smart growth” principals that are popular today. These include compact design, the provision of housing range and choice, creation of walkable neighborhoods, mixing of land uses, and the existence of agricultural lands and open space on the outskirts of populated areas. The principals of “smart growth” are a cornerstone of the environmental sustainability movement. Thus, it is important to preserve the historic fabric of Erie County's historic communities as part of a movement toward environmental sustainability.

Preserving cultural and historic resources with strong ties to nature shows long-term value of the natural environment.

Why? *Because . . . Erie County stakeholders value the natural environment just as much, if not more, than they value historic resources.*

According to a public engagement survey conducted by the PHMC to aid preparation of the Commonwealth's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2018-2022, participants indicated that parks, open spaces, trails, waterways, and natural areas are highly valued assets. **Because many of Erie County's significant cultural and historic assets have strong ties to nature, the preservation of older and historic places conveys respect for the natural environment.** For example, Lake Erie and inland waterways, as well as water bodies such as French Creek, the former Erie Extension Canal, and Edinboro Lake were major contributors to Erie County's history,

and many historic assets were influenced by these water resources. Erie County's topography, climate, geology, and soils influenced settlement patterns and formed many of the building materials used to construct buildings, roads, bridges, and other structures. In Erie County, to value history is synonymous with valuing the natural environment.



Educational and Skills Values

The historic environment serves as a learning laboratory.

Why? *Because . . . historic places provide tangible resources for the teaching of social, economic, political and human history.*

Learning about history and culture from scholarly publications has its limitations, especially when one has difficulty picturing in their minds-eye what past conditions and situations were like. Historic environments, like those available in many Erie County communities, serve as places where active and experiential learning can occur. This is the process of learning through seeing, touching, and doing, in which the environment gives tangible evidence of the past and supplies meaning in both historical and contemporary contexts. **In Erie County, students have access to active learning environments regarding the topics of culture, history, commerce, architecture, transportation, and community design.** Historic places, structure, and objects convey stories about their relevance in American and world history. Valuable educational resources are harnessed by preserving physical aspects of the historic environment.

Preservation supports the work of educational institutions, museums, historical societies and organizations, and personal and scholarly research.

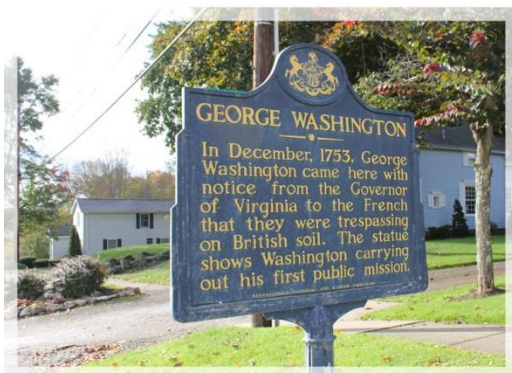
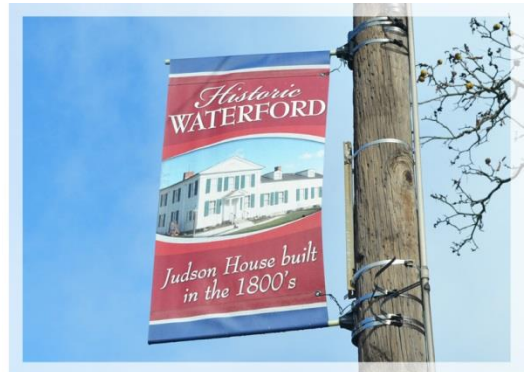
Why? *Because . . . historic places provide research material that is not available through literature alone.*

Several educational institutions in the region engage students and citizens in subjects directly or indirectly associated with history and culture. **The presence of historic and cultural assets in Erie County provides research potential, assistance in understanding the past and present, and inspiration about thoughts for the future.** A rich historic environment also supports similar efforts of historical societies and organizations, which collect, preserve, and exhibit cultural and historic artifacts and information for the benefit of the greater community.

Rehabilitation of historic properties employs skilled labor and provides opportunities for training in the restoration arts.

Why? *Because . . . rehabilitation of historic properties is more labor-intensive than new construction.*

Preserving and restoring older buildings offers more employment opportunities than if buildings were to be demolished and replaced with new construction. On average, building rehabilitation is approximately 50% labor and 50% materials, whereas as new construction is only 35% labor and 65% materials. **With an emphasis on skilled labor, local residents who are employed in building rehabilitation trades will put money back into the economy of Erie County.** Skilled laborers needed for preservation projects can include architects, engineers, carpenters, masons, and other specialized trades. Opportunities also are captured for training and apprenticeship in many restoration art trades, such as masonry, slate and copper work, window repairs, etc.



PART 6: GOALS & ACTIONS

Introduction

The goals of this Cultural Heritage Plan are intended to support historic and cultural heritage preservation efforts in Erie County over the next five to seven years.

This Plan recognizes that many admirable preservation activities are taking place in communities across the region. State and local governments, property owners, businesses, grassroots advocates, heritage organizations, historic societies, preservation professionals, educational institutions, and others all engage in preservation efforts. Regardless, the County is in need of an overarching strategy that gives acknowledgment and support to its full, diverse spectrum of historic and cultural assets. It is intended that with this Plan in place, the County's meaningful places, sites, objects, and traditions will be recognized and given access to the assistance they need to propel them into becoming long-term assets for future generations.

This is a forward-looking Plan, as preservation activities in Erie County must be done so with an eye to the future. Historic and cultural resources have the greatest chance for longevity when they are made relevant to today's population and attractive to residents, businesses, investors, and visitors. Preservation efforts will continue to face challenges, but these assets offer countless long-term opportunities that should not be offhandedly lost to the sometimes-easier path of demolition and new construction; because, once a historic resource is gone, it is gone forever.

This PART 6 presents the Goals and Actions that form the framework of the detailed Action Plan provided in PART 7. Three primary goals are identified, which cover the following topics:



Goal 1 must be achieved first. *Capacity* for preservation efforts must be built in three areas: human capacity (time and talent); information capacity (the collection of facts needed to enable good decision-making); and funding capacity (to pay for the time, talent, and collection of information). Goals 2 and 3 focus on using the built capacity to affect change, by fostering *Stewardship* of Erie County's priority assets, and then by bringing about widespread *Awareness* of these assets to attract even greater economic, societal, environmental, and educational benefits to the region.

GOAL 1 Build CAPACITY to address cultural and historic preservation in the region.

Capacity is:
the ability to do something.

Capacity must be built in three areas:

HUMAN CAPACITY (time and talent):

- Action 1-1** Establish a Circuit Rider position. (A Circuit Rider is a professional who travels a regular circuit of locations to provide [historic preservation] services.)

INFORMATION CAPACITY:

- Action 1-2** Update and increase the use of historic resource data.
- Action 1-3** Identify priority assets in the region on which preservation-related efforts will be focused.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY:

- Action 1-4** Quantify the financial resource needs to implement this Cultural Heritage Plan, and secure funding.

1-1

**Action 1-1: Establish a Circuit Rider* position.
Responsibilities of this role will include:**

- Leading the implementation of this Cultural Heritage Plan.
- Advising municipal governments, community organizations, and others on historic and cultural preservation-related topics (refer to Actions 2-2 and 2-3).
- Conducting education and outreach.
- Coordinating common efforts to make the best use of limited resources.

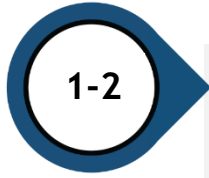
** Circuit Rider - a professional who travels a regular circuit of locations to provide services.*

Although successful historic preservation programs can sometimes be achieved entirely through volunteer efforts, municipal governments have the authority, and the responsibility under the Pennsylvania Constitution (Article 1, Section 27) to preserve historic values of the environment. Additionally, Act 247, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), allows local governments to use zoning powers to protect historic resources. Across Erie County, many municipal governments do not have the expertise, staffing, and/or funding to proactively address preservation issues. Much of the preservation work that occurs at local levels is done by private citizens, historic societies, grassroots organizations, and similar entities. Thus, there is a great need to increase preservation capacity at the local levels.

ACTION 1-1 calls for the provision of a Circuit Rider staff position, placed at Preservation Erie, the Erie County Department of Planning, or in another organization that serves the County as a whole. The Circuit Rider's primary role will be to assist and educate municipal governments on preservation-related concerns and to help build local capacities for addressing preservation issues. In some communities, capacity-building may take the form of assistance directly to the municipal agency, and in other cases capacity may be built from outside support systems. Every community and municipal government will have different needs. The Circuit Rider also will provide assistance and support to volunteer groups, community organizations, and others; lead the overall implementation of this Cultural Heritage Plan; conduct outreach and education; and coordinate common and sometimes duplicative efforts conducted by various groups to make the best use of limited resources.

Preservation Erie, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, undertakes some of these tasks today. However, Preservation Erie's mission is not targeted to municipal capacity-building. A Circuit Rider would fill this needs gap. Some communities and preservation organizations may rely heavily on the Circuit Rider, while others may need assistance or advice only periodically. The Circuit Rider would be responsible for prioritizing capacity needs at the local levels and equitably addressing them over the five- to seven-year period of this Plan, and beyond if necessary.

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 1-1, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.



Action 1-2: Update and increase the use of historic resource data. This will include:

- Erie County's Historic Resources Inventory (www.eriebuildings.info).
- Pennsylvania's Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS).

The typical first step in implementing a preservation program is to compile an inventory of the area's significant historic resources. In 2014, Preservation Erie engaged Wise Preservation Planning, LLC to assemble an inventory of the County's pre WWII historic structures. Over 30,000 buildings were surveyed. The website www.eriebuildings.info houses the inventory and makes it publicly available. Also, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) maintain a Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS) that contains records of historic and archaeological sites, including those in Erie County (www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Cultural-Resources-GIS).

These reliable sources of information are incredibly insightful, but based on the public outreach conducted for this Plan, it appears that the stakeholders of Erie County are not using these inventories and particularly www.eriebuildings.info, to their greatest potential. Historic resource inventories are much more than "interesting." An accurate inventory is a highly valuable tool to understand the historic significance of a property, particularly when making decisions about its future. Information available from www.eriebuildings.info includes data on individual sites and districts that are listed in or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Also, each entry in the inventory is assigned a historic significance classification, and if known, data is supplied about the building's architectural style, date of construction, historic function, name of the original architect and builder, and much more.

Property owners, preservation organizations, municipal governments, tradesmen, investors, and others should know about the inventories and be inspired to use them in their decision-making processes, particularly when deciding how to improve a property, whether or not to demolish a property, and how changes to a property might affect historically significant neighboring properties. ACTION 1-2 calls for Preservation Erie and its partners and constituents to get the word out, and to conduct training on how and when to use www.eriebuildings.info, as well as the PHMC and PennDOT's CRGIS.

Most importantly, the inventory housed on www.eriebuildings.info is designed to be dynamic and continually updated. This means that as physical conditions change in Erie County, so should the inventory to ensure that it is complete and up-to-date. Moreover, when the inventory was initially compiled, its data collection methods relied heavily on Assessors Records, so not every entry is complete. Also, the inventory focused on pre WWII structures and will need to be expanded to add historically-significant properties through the mid 1960's. ACTION 1-2 also calls for Preservation Erie and its partners to proactively solicit continual updates to the inventory and to implement a process for keeping it current and relevant. The inventory is intended to serve as a critical preservation planning and educational resource tool in Erie County for government entities, property owners, businesses, grassroots advocates, heritage organizations, historic societies, preservation professionals, educational institutions, and many others.

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 1-2, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.

**1-3****Action 1-3: Identify priority assets in the region on which preservation-related efforts will be focused.****Priority assets will include:**

- Individual properties.
- Current and potential historic districts.
- Cultural resources and events.

As time passes, not every historic and cultural resource in Erie County will be preserved. Some assets are beyond the point of repair. Some have lost their original usefulness and the chance of accommodating a new use is impractical. Other assets are *old*, but don't necessarily possess characteristics that make them historically significant or key contributors to a community's authentic historic character.

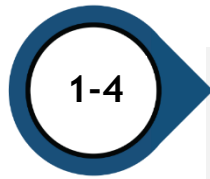
ACTION 1-3 focuses on identifying priority assets in the region. These are the assets on which preservation efforts will be initially focused and where limited human and financial capacities will be targeted. To do this, priorities will need to be set based on local needs, concerns, and contexts.

A good starting point for identifying priority assets is Erie County's Historic Resources Inventory found at www.eriebuildings.info; however, just because a resource is or is not listed in the inventory should not be the deciding factor as to whether it is a priority asset. Also, note that the inventory only includes buildings, whereas there are many other historically and culturally significant sites, structures, objects, and cultural expressions found across Erie County's physical and cultural landscape worthy of preservation and identification as a priority asset.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the United States' historic places worthy of preservation. The Register is part of a national program that coordinates and supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources. Resources listed in the Register or eligible for listing in the Register should likely have priority as key assets, partially because of the ability for income-producing properties listed in the Register to secure tax credits for qualifying rehabilitation work. The nomination of resources to the National Register, and their ultimate acceptance to the Register, also will raise the profile of Erie County's resources on a national scale.

Other priority assets should include those that are key contributors to a community's authentic historic character and those that have the greatest potential to attract and retain residents, businesses, investors, and visitors. By identifying priority assets that have the greatest potential to bring economic, social, environmental, and educational opportunities to local communities, a domino effect of preservation activities can be triggered. This will bring even-greater cumulative benefits to the local area and region.

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 1-3, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.



Action 1-4: Quantify the financial resource needs to implement this Cultural Heritage Plan and secure funding. This will cover:

- **A dedicated funding source for historic and cultural resource preservation activities.**
- **Pursuit of grants, gifts, and donations.**

A strategy for sustained funding is necessary to implement the Actions and reach the Goals outlined in this Cultural Heritage Plan. At the present time, Erie County does not have dedicated funding, either through a single source or multiple sources, to undertake robust historic and cultural resource preservation activities. Because preservation has been proven to leverage long-term benefits in the forms of economic gain, improved quality-of-life, environmental responsibility, and educational development, funding for preservation must not be thought of as an expenditure, but as an *investment in the future* with a high rate of return.

ACTION 1-4 calls for the leaders of this Plan to quantify the financial costs that will be incurred to undertake the Actions identified herein, and subsequently seek out sustained sources of funding in order to implement the Actions over the next five to seven years. The building of financial capacity is essential to successfully implement this Plan.

The funding sources needed to implement this Plan are most likely to come from within Erie County itself. Federal and state sources of funding for basic preservation work is unstable at best. Also, in 2017, the Trump Administration unveiled plans to further cut back federal sources of preservation funding and programming. By emphasizing the links between historic and cultural preservation and economic development, social responsibility, environmental sustainability, and education, capital may be found not only from traditional funding sources, but also from sources not customarily associated with history and culture.

To supplement the dedicated funding, the leaders of this Plan also have the ability to pursue grants, gifts, and donations from foundations, corporations, non-profit organizations, and individuals. These types of funding streams are typically sourced for specific preservation projects, but can also supplement the overarching preservation work identified by this Plan as sorely needed across the region.

With reliable funding to implement this Plan, Erie County will establish a strong foundation for preservation, which will then serve as a springboard for future endeavors. Also, surety of funding will better assure equitable geographic distribution of preservation support across Erie County, which cannot be provided on a project-by-project basis alone.

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 1-4, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.

GOAL 2 Promote responsible STEWARDSHIP of historic and cultural assets.

Stewardship is:

the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

Stewardship must be garnered by:

UNDERSTANDING PRESERVATION BENEFITS:

- Action 2-1** Promote the benefits of preserving and using priority assets in the region (identified as part of Action 1-3).

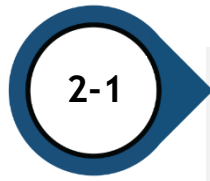
ACTION BY MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS:

- Action 2-2** Provide technical assistance to municipal governments and community groups.

ACTION BY THE CITIZENS AT-LARGE:

- Action 2-3** Provide technical assistance to property owners and occupants.





Action 2-1: Promote the benefits of preserving and using priority assets in the region (identified as part of Action 1-3). This will entail:

- **Preparing case studies on the quantifiable economic benefits realized from preserving and using priority assets.**
- **Identifying and advertising the other (non-economic) benefits that stemmed from preserving and using priority assets.**

In order to cultivate a culture of stewardship, municipal governments and owners and occupants of historic properties must understand the benefits that preservation can bring not only to them personally, but also to the greater community. When someone owns something, they have certain rights associated with that ownership. Take a historic building, for example. Unless there are local municipal code requirements that restrict what can be done, the owner can improve the building, let it fall to disrepair, or even demolish it. In contrast, when people think of themselves as stewards of what they govern or own, they act under an understanding that they are its entrusted caretakers, and that what they currently govern or own will remain in the community as their legacy, long into the future. To be a steward means being entrusted with something valuable to the greater community, and having the social responsibility to care for it.

Because Erie County's communities will gain numerous benefits from maintaining their priority historic and cultural assets and putting them to good use, these benefits must be widely known. Refer to PART 5 for a more detailed description of the many benefits that stem from preservation.

ACTION 2-1 calls for the leaders of this Plan to promote the benefits of preserving Erie County's priority cultural and historic assets in meaningful and impactful ways. Of the various benefits, economic outcomes and job growth are the easiest to quantify, and also the most compelling. When investors in preservation projects see return on their investments, either personally, or to their business or community, they often become advocates for like-projects. Similarly, when government leaders see positive economic impacts in their communities, government support for preservation often grows.

Quantifying the economic and other more qualitative impacts of preservation in Erie County can take the form of case studies of completed preservation projects. Also, job growth is usually easy to track. Case studies, once prepared, should then be used to promote preservation-related opportunities to municipal governments, property owners and occupants, businesses, investors, the youth, and others.

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 2-1, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.

2-2

Action 2-2: Provide technical assistance to municipal governments and community groups. Assistance will cover the following topics:

- Identifying and preserving priority assets.
- Addressing urgent historic preservation issues.
- Establishing historic districts.
- Updating zoning ordinances and preparing historic district ordinances.
- Establishing and implementing preservation-related programs, such as Main Street, Elm Street, Easement, and Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance programs.
- Implementing public improvement projects that complement a community's authentic character.

With the capacities built by achieving Goal 1, Erie County will have a foundation in place to assist municipal governments and community groups with preservation-related matters. Because decisions about what to preserve, and how to best do so, is most effectively done at the local level, ACTION 2-2 calls for the Circuit Rider (see Action 1-1) to directly assist and put an assistance structure in place to help local leaders, municipal government staff, and community-based preservation organizations.

Technical assistance will include the identification of priority assets, which will enable local communities to prioritize and direct their attention to preservation projects that are most urgent and/or have the greatest chance of bringing economic improvements and other benefits to the community. For communities interested in addressing preservation beyond voluntary bases, technical assistance also will cover the particulars about how to revise municipal codes, update zoning ordinances, and/or establish local historic districts and prepare historic district ordinances. The Erie County Department of Planning is likely to assist in all matters related to zoning.

Municipal governments also can demonstrate their commitment to historic preservation by investing in capital improvement projects in historic areas that will enhance the authentic aesthetics of the community and attract new investment. Technical assistance in this area also will be available through the Circuit Rider and his/her assistance structure.

In addition, technical assistance will be made available to help with starting and implementing preservation-related programs, including but not limited to Main Street, Elm Street, Easement, and Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) programs. Main Street programs are designed to promote revitalization efforts in the commercial cores of historic downtowns, whereas Elm Street programs are designed to provide revitalization efforts focused on residential rehabilitation within 1/2 mile of a commercial core. Easement programs often offer tax advantages in exchange for preservation, and LERTA programs can allow for certain deteriorated industrial, commercial, and other business properties to be exempted from local taxes for a certain time period of time as an incentive for making improvements.

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 2-2, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.

2-3

Action 2-3: Provide technical assistance to property owners and occupants. Assistance will cover the following topics:

- **Maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.**
- **Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.**
- **Obtaining tax credits and other financial incentives for qualifying projects.**

Erie County's historic resources are in varying degrees of maintenance and repair. Some are well preserved and productively used. Others are in a state of transition. Still others have already been demolished, have fallen into states of disrepair, or have been modified in ways that have lessened their architectural integrity and/or appeal. Some of the reasons for the loss and modification of buildings include inadequate maintenance, fires, vacancy and inability to attract a new occupant or use, financial impracticality of reuse, and outmigration of population to areas that offer newly built neighborhoods, shopping areas, and public services such as new schools and parks. The impact is the same on all historic building types, including houses, churches, social halls, office buildings, storefronts, industrial and manufacturing plants, barns and farmhouses, etc. If too many historic buildings are lost or become altered in ways that diminish their historic significance, Erie County would suffer a significant loss of overall historic character. For this reason, technical assistance to owners and occupants is warranted.

ACTION 2-3 calls for the Circuit Rider (see ACTION 1-1) to directly assist and put an assistance structure in place to help owners and occupants of historic properties to act as stewards of their property. By improving and appropriately caring for historic assets, these resources will remain respected legacies of each community's historical period and remain assets to benefit future generations.

Through technical assistance, owners and occupants of historic properties will become aware of the historical significance of their properties, and gain access to the financial, human, and/or educational resources needed to conduct appropriate maintenance. For properties eligible for tax incentives for rehabilitation work, more owners will be encouraged to pursue it. Also, assistance will be supplied to nominate historic properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, which brings recognition and tax incentive eligibility without imposing any restrictions on the property owner.

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 2-3, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.

GOAL 3 Increase public AWARENESS and community pride in historic and cultural resources.

Awareness is:

concern about, and well-informed interest in, a particular subject.

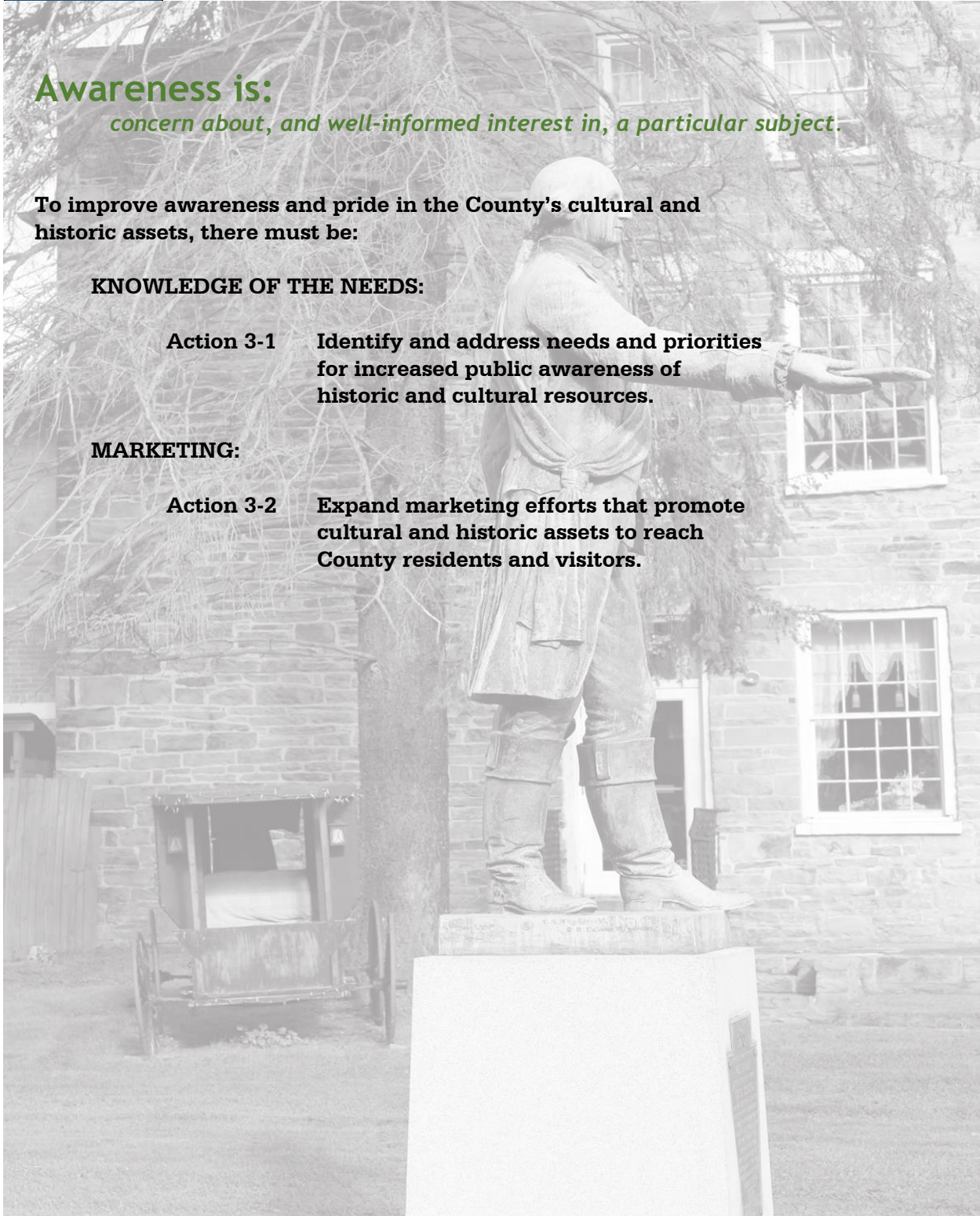
To improve awareness and pride in the County's cultural and historic assets, there must be:

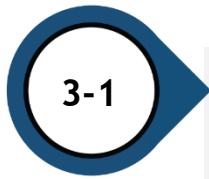
KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEEDS:

- Action 3-1** Identify and address needs and priorities for increased public awareness of historic and cultural resources.

MARKETING:

- Action 3-2** Expand marketing efforts that promote cultural and historic assets to reach County residents and visitors.





Action 3-1: Identify needs and priorities for increased public awareness of historic and cultural resources; then, focus on:

- Using signs and markers to identify important places.
- Installing art projects to interpret history and express culture.
- Delivering learning opportunities that engage the youth.

Erie County has a wealth of cultural and historic assets, but many are not widely known about or as appreciated as they deserve. Raising understanding of Erie County's past by identifying and interpreting it in physical ways will help grow the pride that residents have in their community and its history, and also will attract interest from visitors and investors.

ACTION 3-1 aims to identify public awareness needs, and then address those needs through signage, interpretation, and learning opportunities. This will entail installing signs and markers to identify and explain the historic significance of people, places, and events. It also will entail the use of art to interpret a community's cultural and historic significance and additional educational programming to engage students and elevate their interest in local history and culture.

For example, the interpretation of maritime history at Presque Isle is evident, expressed in the form of statues, signs, markers, lighthouses, and educational programming at Presque Isle State Park and many other places. In the City of Corry, interpretive signs are placed in the commercial core that elevates awareness; however, this is the exception across the region. When one travels through the commercial cores of Erie County's smaller communities, there is a sense that something special happened there (mostly evidenced by the historic building architecture), but there are few markings to offer an explanation. If a person enters a historic area, or is experiencing a cultural event, they will appreciate it more if they understand its context.

Interpretation helps people experience places, artifacts, and culture in ways that authentically represent the stories and the people of the past and present. Interpretation also provides an informal learning environment with visual clues that allow people to understand and appreciate the tangible and intangible contexts around them. Appreciation and respect for Erie County's history will grow stronger when its citizens and visitors more fully understand the significance of historical events. This understanding is typically cultivated through interpreting history in present-day forms (signs, murals, artwork, etc.)

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 3-1, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.

3-2

Action 3-2: Expand marketing efforts that promote cultural and historic assets to reach county residents and visitors. This will entail:

- Promoting heritage tourism throughout the region.
- Facilitate joint marketing opportunities among communities and regional organizations.
- Recognizing culturally affiliated or ethnic businesses, and “legacy” businesses.
- Promoting cultural events.
- Publicizing the physical and cultural diversity of Erie County.

ACTION 3-2 focuses on drawing enterprise, spending, and investment to Erie County by promoting heritage-based community engagement, tourism, and business.

Most residents and visitors are attracted to local events in their own communities or large and widely advertised popular events and locations, such as the Tall Ships Festival in Presque Isle Bay, Winefest in North East, Dan Rice Days in Girard, and the Erie County Fair just north of Wattsburg. On an everyday basis, many small communities across Erie County have attractive historic and cultural assets, but many don't have enough “draw” to ever make them major destination points in and of themselves. A great opportunity exists to attract visitors to these smaller sites through joint marketing. Even short stops by residents and visitors can heighten awareness and appreciation and stimulate spending in the region on travel services (gas, lodging, food, etc.), retail goods, and more. This already occurs to a certain extent along PA Route 6 and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail and America's Byway™, but additional opportunities exist along other, lesser-known travel routes.

As the only county in Pennsylvania with frontage on Lake Erie, Erie County is already afforded the advantage of a great marketing opportunity – the lake. Visitors that are already planning a trip to Erie County can be attracted to other destinations with the heritage-based marketing efforts envisioned for ACTION 3-2. Also, historically-, culturally-, and ethnically-affiliated businesses are attractive to local residents, visitors, and associated spending, which can interject money into local economies and spur interest in local cultural and historic assets.

For a detailed Action Plan to fully implement ACTION 3-2, refer to PART 7, the Action Plan.

PART 7:

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan presented in this PART 7 articulates detailed suggestions for implementing the Actions presented in PART 6. The measure of success for this Plan is achievement of the identified Actions over the next five to seven years, regardless of the exact steps that were taken to get there. This Action Plan is to be used a guide, realizing that its recommendations may be subject to change as capacities evolve, responsibilities are defined, and sources of financing are identified.

GOAL 1 Build CAPACITY to address cultural and historic preservation in the region.

Action 1-1: Establish a Circuit Rider position. (A Circuit Rider is a professional who travels a regular circuit of locations to provide [historic preservation] services.)

Leader(s) of Action 1-1: Preservation Erie (lead), Erie County Department of Planning (assist)

Recommended Plan of Action:

- Task 1-1.A:** Identify where the Circuit Rider position will be housed. Ideally, the Circuit Rider will be a staff position at Preservation Erie, the Erie County Department of Planning, or other agency or organization that serves Erie County as a whole.
- Task 1-1.B:** Prepare a job description for the Circuit Rider position.
- Task 1-1.C:** Establish the Circuit Rider's compensation package and determine other costs associated with the position and its duties.
- Task 1-1.D:** Secure a dedicated funding source for costs of the position (refer to Action 1-4).
- Task 1-1.E:** Advertise for, interview, and retain the Circuit Rider.

Once retained, the responsibilities of the Circuit Rider role will include:

- Sub-Task 1:** Lead the implementation of this Cultural Heritage Plan.
- Develop a chart or matrix to monitor how each Action identified herein is being implemented, how it is being funded, and who is participating in its implementation.
 - Develop a network of supporters who will take a leadership role in implementing this Plan and/or provide the support services needed.

- Prepare annual reports documenting the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Plan, with quantifiable and qualitative results. Deliver the annual report to Preservation Erie, the Erie County Department of Planning and any funders that request status reports.

Sub-Task 2: Advise municipal governments, community organizations, and others on historic and cultural preservation-related topics.

- Refer to Actions 2-2 and 2-3 for detailed tasks.
- Inform municipal governments and community organizations about the Circuit Rider, the duties that he/she carries out, and contact information.

Sub-Task 3: Conduct education and outreach.

- Refer to Actions 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3 for detailed tasks.

Sub-Task 4: Coordinate common efforts to make the best use of limited resources.

- Work with municipal governments, Preservation Erie, and Erie Yesterday (a regional coalition of heritage organizations) to compile a list of the preservation-related assistance programs and assistance needs in the region.
- Compare and contrast the compiled list to determine how needs can be met and assistance can be delivered that eliminates unnecessary duplication of efforts, fills need gaps, and makes the best use of limited resources.
- Serve as a regional point of contact for preservation-related services and needs, in order to coalesce efforts in effective and efficient ways.

<p>Action 1-2: Update and increase the use of historic resource data. This will include Erie County's Historic Resources Inventory (www.eriebuildings.info) and Pennsylvania's Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Cultural-Resources-GIS).</p>
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<p>Leader(s) of Action 1-2: Preservation Erie</p>
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Recommended Plan of Action:

Task 1-2.A: Develop a fact sheet that explains the information available in Erie County's Historic Resources Inventory (www.eriebuildings.info) and how it can be used by target audiences. Develop separate fact sheets for these audiences, such as:

- municipal governments and community groups
- property owners, occupants, and tradesmen
- educators and students

Widely distribute these fact sheets using a variety of methods.

- Task 1-2.B:** Provide periodic training sessions to target audiences about how to use the Inventory for municipal decision-making, property-owner decision-making, and educational purposes. Online webinars may be an effective method.
- Task 1-2.C:** Proactively and periodically reach out to municipal governments and heritage organizations and solicit their help in keeping the Historic Resources Inventory data current. Request that they review the Inventory for their community, supply initial updates, and continually supply updates when conditions change (particularly if a resource in the Inventory is demolished or substantially improved or changed in physical appearance).
- Task 1-2.D:** Coordinate with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's CRGIS staff to enhance compatibility between the Inventory housed at www.eriebuildings.info and the data housed at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Cultural-Resources-GIS.
- Task 1-2.E:** Coordinate with municipal governments that use Geographic Information System (GIS) software to share information and encourage use and integration of the Inventory housed at www.eriebuildings.info.

Action 1-3: Identify priority assets in the region on which preservation-related efforts will be focused. Priority assets will include individual properties, current and potential historic districts, and cultural resources and events.

Leader(s) of Action 1-3: Preservation Erie (lead), Circuit Rider (assist)

Recommended Plan of Action:

- Task 1-3.A:** Develop a map of priority historic assets, and continually update the map as this Cultural Heritage Plan is implemented.
- Task 1-3.B:** Initially, identify resources as priority assets that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and those that have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register. These are the Class 1 and Class 2 properties categorized on www.eriebuildings.info.
- Task 1-3.C:** Through the Circuit Rider, work with municipal governments and heritage organizations to identify locally-important priority assets. Target resources that are:
- Significant contributors to local community pride and character.
 - Exemplary or rare examples of an important aspect of Erie County's or the local community's history and heritage.
 - Income-producing properties.
 - Likely to attract or possess potential to attract economic investment or spur economic and job growth.
 - Likely to attract or possess potential to attract visitors and visitor-related spending.
- Task 1-3.D:** Focus preservation efforts on priority assets, in order to build momentum for additional preservation-related projects in the local area and region.

Action 1-4: Quantify the financial resource needs to implement this Cultural Heritage Plan and secure funding. This will cover a dedicated funding source for historic and cultural resource preservation activities, as well as the pursuit of grants, gifts, and donations.

Leader(s) of Action 1-4: Circuit Rider (lead), Preservation Erie (assist)

Recommended Plan of Action:

Task 1-4.A: Evaluate each Action identified in this Cultural Heritage Plan to determine the estimated financial costs associated with its implementation. Prepare the cost forecast as an annual budget, because not all costs will recur from year-to-year, and not every Action will be under simultaneous implementation or require the same level of effort year over year. The more specificity that can be provided, tied to an expected time schedule, the closer the cost estimates will be to actual incurred costs.

Task 1-4.B: Compile the costs of every Action into sub-totals by year, and by the entities that will incur the cost. For example:

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2	
	Entity A	Entity B	Entity A	Entity B
Action/Task	\$ Cost	\$ Cost	\$ Cost	\$ Cost
Action/Task	\$ Cost	\$ Cost	\$ Cost	\$ Cost
Cost for Entity A	Year 1 Cost Entity A		Year 2 Cost Entity A	
Cost for Entity B		Year 1 Cost Entity B		Year 2 Cost Entity B
	\$ Total Cost Year 1		\$ Total Cost Year 2	

Task 1-4.C: Compile a list of all potential funding sources that could solely or collectively serve as dependable funding to complete each Action over the five- to seven-year horizon of this Plan.

Task 1-4.D: Consider non-traditional sources of funding by emphasizing the links between historic and cultural preservation and economic development, social responsibility, environmental sustainability, and education.

Task 1-4.E: Contact elected representatives at the local, state and federal levels to provide assistance in identifying and accessing information on funding sources.

Task 1-4.F: Request/apply for, and secure reliable and sure sources of funding as the first priority.

Task 1-4.G: Pursue grants, gifts, and donations as supplemental sources of funding as the second priority. This can come from state agencies (PHMC in particular), foundations, corporations, non-profit organizations and individuals.

Task 1-4.H: When funding is received, implement careful financial management and operational efficiencies to make the most of the funding. Responsible spending and reporting of positive results (see Action 2-1) can leverage other capital for preservation-related activities.

GOAL 2 Promote responsible STEWARDSHIP of historic and cultural assets.

Action 2-1: Promote the benefits of preserving and using priority assets in the region (identified as part of Action 1-3).

Leader(s) of Action 2-1: Circuit Rider (lead), Preservation Erie (assist)

Recommended Plan of Action:

Task 2-1.A: Compile a list of the economic, societal, environmental, and educational benefits associated with cultural and historic preservation (refer to PART 5 of this Plan). Target five audience categories:

- municipal governments
- property owners, occupants, and tradesman
- financial institutions and investors
- businesses
- students and educators

Task 2-1.B: From the compiled list of benefits, determine specifically how those benefits have been, are currently, and can continue to be realized in Erie County using Erie County's priority assets.

Task 2-1.C: Identify the ways that the audiences identified in Task 2-1.A receive information about their local communities. This can include but not be limited to:

- local newspapers
- television
- internet websites
- social media
- flyers
- schools
- community events, etc.

Use these channels of communication to convey the benefits of preservation to the target audiences.

Task 2-1.D: Supply the benefits information to heritage organizations and solicit their help in conveying the benefits of preservation. Be sure to provide the heritage organizations with copies of the audience-targeted materials so that there is consistent messaging.

Once the benefits are documented and the communication channels are identified, then:

Sub-Task 1: Prepare case studies on the quantifiable economic benefits realized from preserving and using priority assets in Erie County.

- Identify adaptive reuse and other preservation projects that will create quantifiable economic benefits in the local community, such as a) use of skilled labor and purchasing of locally-produced materials for rehabilitation work; b) garnered tax incentives; c) increased property values, d) increased sales tax revenues; e) attraction of employee, customer, and visitor spending, f) job growth, g) direct and indirect attraction of other businesses, etc.
- Gain permission from the property- and/or business-owner to document economic impacts and participate in a case study, and then work with the owner to retrieve relevant information they may have in their possession. While not required, it is always a good idea to share the draft case study with the property- or business-owner and seek their concurrence before it is published.
- Highlight the economic impacts of successful adaptive reuse projects when promoting economic opportunities to potential investors and developers.
- In the last year of this Plan's effect (in about five to seven years from its publication [or, 2022 - 2024] develop a publication titled "The Economic Impacts of Preservation in Erie County" with all of the case studies and other relevant information compiled into one publication. Also, include statistics on what it would cost, in today's dollars, to build Erie's priority historic assets, if they were constructed today.

Sub-Task 2: Identify and advertise the other (non-economic) benefits that stemmed from preserving and using priority assets.

- Develop a messaging campaign directed to historic property owners about stewardship, and the benefits that preservation can bring not only to them personally, but also to the greater community.
- Developing a messaging campaign relating historic preservation to environmental (e.g., "green") initiatives. Convey information about: a) reducing waste diversion to landfills associated with preservation vs. demolition; b) saving the energy embodied in historic structures; and c) revitalizing older communities and avoiding adverse environmental effects associated with sprawl.

Action 2-2: Provide technical assistance to municipal governments and community groups.
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Leader(s) of Action 2-2: Circuit Rider (lead), Preservation Erie (assist), Erie County Department of Planning (assist)

Recommended Plan of Action:

Task 2-2.A: Led by the Circuit Rider, establish a technical assistance network, on which the Circuit Rider can rely to swiftly prioritize and appropriately respond to preservation-related assistance requests made by municipal governments and community groups. While the Circuit Rider will serve as the primary technical assistant to municipal governments, he/she should also have an on-call

network in place in cases where specialty expertise is required or urgent requests exceed the Circuit Rider's capacity to respond.

Task 2-2.B: Periodically notify municipal governments that technical assistance is available, primarily through the Circuit Rider, on preservation-related matters to municipal governments and community groups. In the notification, list the types of assistance services that are available. Assistance services that are expected to be made available over the life of this Cultural Heritage Plan are listed below as Tasks 2-2.C through 2-2.H.

Task 2-2.C: Assist in identifying priority assets (refer to Action 2-1).

Task 2-2.D: Provide technical assistance in addressing urgent historic preservation issues. Urgent issues associated with preservation typically include threats of priority asset demolition; public health and safety concerns; and permitting and zoning matters that have specified timing requirements stipulated by law.

Task 2-2.E: Provide technical assistance for the establishment of historic districts.

- Work with municipal governments, heritage organizations, and property owners to clarify the differences between a National Register Historic District (nationally recognizes the district, establishes eligibility for federal tax credits on qualifying rehabilitation work, and affords protections from federally-funded projects with possible negative impacts) and a local historic district (imposes regulatory restrictions and requirements on contributing properties in the district). At the time this Plan was prepared (2017), there were seven National Register Historic Districts (four in the City of Erie, one in North East Borough, one in Union City Borough, and one in Waterford Borough) and no local historic districts in Erie County.
- Encourage nominations of historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places, and provide assistance during the nomination process.
- Provide technical assistance to municipal governments that express interest in establishing a local historic district. Refer to Task 2-2.F below, for more information.

Task 2-2.F: Provide technical assistance for updating zoning ordinances and preparing historic district ordinances.

- Regularly communicate to municipal governments and property owners that historic properties are not protected unless protection is provided by the municipality's zoning ordinance.
- Encourage municipal governments to pursue regulatory means to address historic preservation if and when voluntary means are failing, or if inappropriate building alterations or new construction is occurring or is anticipated to occur in the community that would substantially and negatively affect the community's authentic cultural and historic character.
- Provide technical assistance to municipal governments that express interest in revising their zoning ordinance to establish protections for historic properties, either through a zoning overlay, local historic district

ordinance, or other municipal code provisions such as demolition delay ordinances, stronger code enforcement and property maintenance provisions, and/or conditional use permit processes. Because this will entail municipal code amendments, solicit additional assistance from the Erie County Department of Planning and, if a historic district ordinance is contemplated, also from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to ensure compliance with Pennsylvania's Historic District Act.

Task 2-2.G: Provide technical assistance for establishing and implementing preservation-related programs, such as Main Street, Elm Street, Easement, Façade Improvement, and Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance programs.

Task 2-2.H: Provide technical assistance for implementing public improvement projects that complement a community's authentic character.

- Encourage municipal governments to review their capital improvement plans and identify those that will occur in areas that have a distinct historic character or significance. If yes,
- Assist municipal governments in determining if any adjustments can be made to the improvement plans to enhance the historic character or to negate any potential harmful effects to historic character. Elements in capital improvement projects that can impact historic character positively or negatively include paving and curbing materials, light fixture styles, crosswalk and parking space marking materials, landscaping, public art, etc.
- If capital improvements are needed but not planned in historic areas, and particularly areas where storefronts and customer spending occurs, assist municipal governments in identifying funding and methods to implement needed projects.

Action 2-3: Provide technical assistance to property owners and occupants.

Leader(s) of Action 2-3 Circuit Rider (lead), Preservation Erie (assist)

Recommended Plan of Action:

Task 2-3.A: Led by the Circuit Rider, establish a technical assistance network, on which the Circuit Rider can rely to swiftly prioritize and appropriately respond to preservation-related assistance requests made by property owners and occupants. While the Circuit Rider will serve as the primary technical assistant, he/she should also have an on-call network in place in cases where specialty expertise is required or urgent requests exceed the Circuit Rider's capacity to respond.

Task 2-3.B: Periodically notify owners and occupants of historic properties about the historic significance of their property (many are not aware) and that technical assistance is available, primarily through the Circuit Rider, on preservation-related matters. In the notification, list the types of assistance services that are available. Assistance services that are expected to be made available over

the life of this Cultural Heritage Plan are listed below as Tasks 2-3.C through 2-2.E.

Task 2-3.C: Provide technical assistance for the maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

- Make educational materials readily available that will assist property owners and occupants to properly care for and renovate their buildings. Compile a “library” of publicly-accessible information resources related to the maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. Many are available from the National Park Service (“Preservation Briefs” found at
- www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. (www.nps.gov/tps/about.htm). Make these materials widely available through internet links and local libraries, and provide these resource materials upon request.
- For maintenance inquiries on key priority assets, encourage the conduct of a historic structure assessment by a skilled professional that can identify maintenance needs that are required to stabilize the building until it can be rehabilitated. Stabilizing the structural integrity of key buildings is necessary, before they fall into states of deterioration beyond repair.
- For buildings that are publicly owned and open to the public (municipal government offices, libraries, schools, etc.) proactively encourage maintenance to set an example for preservation in the community.
- Compile a list of professionals and tradesman that are have demonstrated skill working on historic properties (architectural historians, architects, carpenters, painters, etc.) and who agree to have their services referred to historic property owners.
- Encourage property owners to take advantage of architectural salvage programs.

Task 2-3.D: Provide technical assistance for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Identify individual properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and notify the owners of the benefits of listing. Because one of the advantages of listing a property on the National Register is tax credits for rehabilitation work on income-producing properties, prioritize buildings for nomination that have income-producing potential (buildings that house businesses, rental units, etc.).
- Encourage the property owners of eligible buildings to contact the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) for more information about nominating their building to the National Register and to submit a nomination application to the PHMC. Provide technical assistance during the nomination process.

- Task 2-3.E:** Provide technical assistance for obtaining tax credits and other financial incentives for qualifying projects
- Identify what kind of assistance is and should be available to help property owners maintain and restore their historic homes and buildings. Typically, assistance is confined to two categories: 1) financial assistance; and 2) human resource assistance (labor). Make information about the available financial and labor assistance sources available to owners of historic properties.
 - Periodically remind local real estate agents, tax accountants, and the loan departments of financial institutions about the programs and encourage them to help inform historic property owners of these programs, particularly the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit (RITC).
 - Publicize the minimum requirements for Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit (RITC) eligibility through the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS). Provide assistance to owners of income-producing properties to apply for and receive tax incentive rebates for qualifying rehabilitation work. Refer owners to the PHMC for additional information and support.

GOAL 3**Increase public AWARENESS and community pride in historic and cultural resources.**

Action 3-1: Identify needs and priorities for increased public awareness of historic and cultural resources.

Leader(s) of Action 3-1: Circuit Rider (lead), VisitErie (assist), Preservation Erie (assist), Erie Yesterday (assist)

Recommended Plan of Action:

- Task 3-1.A:** Using the list of priority assets (see Action 1-3), determine which ones lack appreciation and public awareness and would benefit from greater public attention. Improve recognition by the means listed below as Tasks 3-1.B through 3-1.D, and also through the tasks identified for Action 3-2.
- Task 3-1.B:** Use signs and markers to identify important places.
- Work with the Erie County Signing Region Trust, the Pennsylvania Tourism Signing Trust, and PennDOT so that Tourist Oriented Directional Signs are placed in appropriate places to help targeted audiences and the traveling public to find their way to historic sites when traveling on State roadways.
 - Provide technical assistance to municipal governments and community groups and organizations that desire to install interpretive signs and markers to identify historic assets.
 - National Register Historic Districts are nationally recognized, and deserve to be well-marked with signs signifying their significance. Work with local communities, potentially by providing incentives, to achieve the installation of attractive and durable welcome signs at entrances to National Register Historic Districts and strategically-placed signs within the District that signify its national recognition. It is not the intent to overbear communities with signage and interpretive media. Rather, signs should be placed in strategic locations that are most likely to be viewed by passers-by and pedestrians.
 - Provide technical assistance to organizations seeking to establish historic building plaque programs.
- Task 3-1.C:** Install art projects to interpret history and express culture.
- Provide technical assistance to municipal governments and community organizations when selecting locations, methods, and media for the installation of art projects that express history and culture. Recommended locations include outdoor civic spaces such as parks and yard areas of government buildings; and at priority asset sites where a pedestrian can

comfortably stop without impacting the privacy of nearby homes and properties.

- Before installation, identify how the interpretive media will be maintained (and by whom) and plan ahead for maintenance issues.

Task 3-1.D: Deliver learning opportunities that engage the youth.

- Collaborate with institutions of higher learning to engage college students in preservation-based community service projects and the implementation of this Cultural Heritage Plan.
- Work with educators and school district curriculum directors to increase knowledge and interest in local history and volunteerism among Erie County's youth. Erie Yesterday has teaching resources available at <http://www.erieyesterday.org/education/teaching-resources/>.
- Suggest to heritage organizations that they prepare modified versions of historic walking tours focused on a young audience, and to community service organizations that they offer experiences and tours of historic places that are appealing to children and teens.
- Encourage the leaders of community celebrations and special events (e.g., walking tours, restaurant and ethnic market tours, etc.) to offer "experiential learning" about Erie County's history and culture. An educational experience helps people emotionally and intellectually connect to the area. Engage all segments of the population in these activities, and especially the youth.

Action 3-2: Expand marketing efforts that promote cultural and historic assets to reach County residents and visitors.

Leader(s) of Action 3-2: Circuit Rider (lead), VisitErie (assist), Preservation Erie (assist)

Recommended Plan of Action:

Task 3-2.A: Promote heritage tourism throughout the region, to both Erie County residents, and visitors.

- Identify the ways that Erie County's cultural and historic assets and celebratory events are currently being promoted and made known to Erie County residents and visitors. Identify and execute ways that promotion can be improved to generate more interest in the Erie's priority assets.
- In addition to already popular sites and attractions, also promote lesser-known sites.

Task 3-2.B: Facilitate joint marketing opportunities among communities and regional and local organizations.

- To avoid duplication of effort, identify and pursue opportunities for joint marketing to heritage tourists among local communities, organizations, and events, and regional organizations such VisitErie, PA Route 6, The Great Lakes Seaway Trail and America's Byway™, PA Tourism Office, and others.
- Leverage the popularity of cultural heritage assets that have wide-reaching and repeat visitor attraction (maritime sanctuary, Presque Isle, wineries, The Great Lakes Seaway Trail and America's Byway™, PA Route 6, local festivals, breweries, etc.) to advertise and attract residents and visitors to other interesting sites and events in Erie that are visited less frequently but have a cultural or physical connection to the more popular areas. Strengthen the links between the larger and more popular sites with the smaller sites.

Task 3-2.C: Recognize culturally affiliated or ethnic businesses and “legacy” businesses.

- Develop promotional materials that recognize communities and neighborhoods that define their identity by ethnic relationships. Promote the resident- and visitor-serving businesses in these areas to attract visitor spending.
- Develop a recognition program for legacy businesses, to honor them for their continued operation and longevity in Erie County. Recognized businesses will have made a significant impact on the history or culture of their neighborhood, and maintained the historic name and trade of their business in Erie.

Task 3-2.D: Promote cultural events.

- Promote festivals, fairs, and other community-based celebrations.
- When opportunities arise, promote multi-cultural themes that are common to all cultures (food, dance, art, etc.) and expand promotion to attract the participation of diverse populations.

Task 3-2.E: Publicize the physical and cultural diversity of Erie County.

- In promotional materials, make links between Erie County's natural resources, recreational opportunities, and historic and cultural assets and experiences.
- Create specific marketing pieces that are targeted to attracting visitors to Erie County for its diverse historic qualities and cultural experiences.

APPENDIX A:

HELPFUL RESOURCES

The resources listed in this Appendix are meant to be comprehensive but may omit resources relevant to your specific project. The organizations listed offer grants, technical assistance, and/or volunteer support. If additional help is needed, contact Preservation Erie, the Erie County Department of Planning, and/or the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) for assistance. A list of local heritage organizations also is provided at the end of this Appendix.

Inventories

Erie County's Historic Resources Inventory, <http://www.eriebuildings.info>, was created as part of a 2014 historic resources survey commissioned by Preservation Erie and provide information on over 30,000 Erie County properties that contain historic buildings. The website is designed to be a dynamic resource and updated as more information becomes available. The site allows users to enter a property address, and displays a photograph and information about that property. Alternatively, users can search by municipality or architectural style.

PHMC's Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS) is a map-based inventory of the historic and archaeological sites and surveys stored in the files of the PHMC, Pennsylvania's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). <http://www.phmc.pa.gov/preservation/cultural-resources-gis/pages/default.aspx>

The **National Register of Historic Places** is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. <https://www.nps.gov/nr/>

Technical Assistance and Funding

LOCAL-BASED ASSISTANCE –

In addition to the resources listed below, check with your local municipal government about any relevant available local assistance programs and resources, local comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, municipal codes, etc. that pertain to your preservation project or interest.

Erie County Department of Planning offers assistance to municipal governments with respect to creation of comprehensive plans and municipal code amendments, including but not limited to zoning overlay districts, local historic district ordinances, demolition delay ordinances, property maintenance ordinances, and other regulatory options to support the preservation of Erie County's cultural and historic resources. The Department of Planning also facilitates agricultural easements for the long-term conservation of agricultural lands.

<https://www.eriecountypa.gov/county-services/county-offices/planning-department/planning-department.aspx>

Erie County Department of Planning | 150 E. Front Street, Suite 300 | Erie, PA 16507 | (814) 451-6336

Preservation Erie is a volunteer organization with the mission to promote, preserve, and enhance the distinctive character of greater Erie through community-based planning, design, and historic preservation. <http://preservationerie.org/>

Preservation Erie | 10 East Fifth Street, Box 3 | Erie, PA 16507

The Erie Community Foundation is a collection of over 700 charitable endowments operating under the administrative umbrella of a single public charity. The organization has a mission to improve quality of life by evaluating and addressing community issues, building permanent charitable endowments and promoting philanthropic and community leadership. <http://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/>

VisitErie helps market Erie County's tourism industry and promotes its economic growth by providing support through the website, visitor guides, partnerships, grant opportunities, advertising, advice, and advocacy. www.visiterie.com/

Erie Yesterday is a consortium of heritage organizations located in (and around) Erie County. The organization was created with the purpose to promote an awareness of the history, historic sites and museums of Erie County, provide a unified voice for the heritage community and provide a cooperative public relations program. www.erieyesterday.org

The Regional Science Consortium at Presque Isle is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that facilitates research and education. This organization is leading the effort to designate a National Maritime Sanctuary off the shore of Erie County. <http://www.regsciconsort.com>

COMMONWEALTH-BASED ASSISTANCE –

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) / Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) – The SHPO | PHMC has a number of roles, including promotion of economic development by protecting and repurposing Pennsylvania's historic buildings and helping create vital places to live and work by protecting the uniqueness of Pennsylvania's distinctive communities. The PHMC can provide assistance related to nomination of a district or property to the National Register of Historic Places, creating a local historic district ordinance, preparing historic preservation plans, design guidelines, and more. Erie County municipalities and citizens looking for assistance from the PHMC should contact the Community Preservation Coordinator (Western Region). www.phmc.pa.gov | Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office | Commonwealth Keystone Building | 400 North Street | Harrisburg, PA 17120 | (717) 783-8946

The **Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)** has a mission to foster opportunities for businesses to grow and for communities to succeed and thrive in a global economy and improve the quality of life for Pennsylvania citizens while assuring transparency and accountability in the expenditure of public funds. <http://dc.ed.pa.gov/>

Housed within the DCED is the **Governor's Center for Local Government Services**, which is a resource for local government officials on all matters affecting local government operations throughout Pennsylvania, including Erie County.

<http://dced.pa.gov/local-government/>

The **Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)** is responsible for the management of state parks, including Presque Isle State Park and Erie Bluffs State Park in Erie County. <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/>

Preservation Pennsylvania is dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant resources and serves as leader, partner, or advisor to individuals and groups with preservation-related efforts. The group's mission is to assist Pennsylvania communities to protect and utilize the historic resources they want to preserve for the future. <http://www.preservationpa.org/>

The **Pennsylvania Downtown Center** is dedicated to the revitalization of the Commonwealth's core communities. Primarily through utilization of the National Main Street Center's Four-Point Approach®, the group works with communities to revitalize central business districts (Main Street Program) and surrounding residential neighborhoods (Elm Street Program). <http://www.padowntown.org/>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL-BASED ASSISTANCE –

The **U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service** houses the National Register of Historic Places (see above), Technical Preservation Services, and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

Technical Preservation Services, housed within the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service, develops historic preservation policy and guidance on preserving and rehabilitating historic buildings, administers the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program for rehabilitating historic buildings, and sets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. <https://www.nps.gov/tps/about.htm>

Preservation Briefs provide guidance on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings by helping historic building owners recognize and resolve common problems associated with repairs and maintenance. They can be found here: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm>.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties – these common-sense principles are presented by the National Park Service in non-technical language to promote historic preservation best practices to help protect our nation's irreplaceable cultural resources. There are standards for preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These are useful to private property owners and others interested in making changes to historic properties, including residential properties. In some cases, these must be followed to receive tax credits. After reviewing the description of each set of standards, if you're still unsure about which standards to follow, you are encouraged to contact the PHMC for assistance. <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>

The ***National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)*** advances the application of science and technology to historic preservation. Working in the fields of archeology, architecture, landscape architecture and materials conservation, the Center accomplishes its mission through training, education, research, technology transfer and partnerships. <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/>

The ***National Trust for Historic Preservation*** is a nonprofit organization working to save America's historic places. It works to protect significant places representing our diverse cultural experience by taking direct action and inspiring broad public support. <https://savingplaces.org/>

Preserve America is a federal initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage. Goals include a greater shared knowledge of our nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities. <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/>

The ***Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)*** is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of our nation's diverse historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic properties. The ACHP also has a key role in carrying out the Preserve America program. <http://www.achp.gov/>

Grants.gov allows users to search and apply for federal grants from a variety of grant-making agencies. www.grants.gov

Partners for Sacred Places helps faith-based congregations and others with a stake in older religious properties make the most of them as civic assets in ways that benefit people of all faiths and of no faith. The group is national, nonsectarian, and not-for-profit, and may be a resource for those looking to reuse underutilized religious properties. <http://www.sacredplaces.org/>

The ***1772 Foundation*** works to ensure the safe passage of our historic buildings and farmland to future generations. They offer grants to specific geographic areas and nationwide to those who qualify. <http://www.1772foundation.org/1772/page.jsp?pagename=home>

The ***PreservationDirectory.com*** is an online resource for historic preservation, building restoration and cultural resource management in the United States and Canada. Their goal is to foster the preservation of historic buildings, historic downtowns and neighborhoods, cultural resources and to promote heritage tourism by facilitating communication among historic preservation professionals and the general public. www.PreservationDirectory.com

Tax Incentives

COMMONWEALTH-BASED INCENTIVES –

Pennsylvania Tax Incentives

Historic Preservation Tax Credits are available to qualified taxpayers who will be completing the restoration of a qualified historic structure into an-income producing property. All projects must include a qualified rehabilitation plan that is approved by the PHMC as being consistent with the standards for rehabilitation of historic buildings as adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior. The tax credits awarded to a qualified taxpayer shall not exceed 25% of the qualified expenditures as determined by the application in connection with the completed project. The total tax credits awarded to a qualified taxpayer may not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year. <http://dced.pa.gov/programs/historic-preservation-tax-credit-hptc/>

FEDERAL-BASED INCENTIVES –

National Park Service Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives

Administered by the National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office (PHMC), there are a few tax incentives offered to encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings and properties. <https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm>

A **20% Tax Credit** is available for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings that are considered “certified historic structures.” Rehabilitation work must comply with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation.htm>

A **10% Tax Credit** is available for the rehabilitation of non-historic buildings constructed before 1936 rehabilitated for non-residential use. To qualify, three criteria must be met: at least 50% of existing external walls must remain in place as external walls; at least 75% of existing external walls must remain in place as either external or internal walls; and at least 75% of the internal structural framework must remain in place. There is no formal review process for rehabilitations of non-historic buildings. Refer to the booklet “Historic Preservation Tax Incentives,” available here: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives/taxdocs/about-tax-incentives-2012.pdf>.

Tax Benefits for **Historic Preservation Easements** may be available to property owners who donate an easement. An easement voluntarily places restrictions on the development of or changes to the historic property; the legal agreement permanently protects the historic property, typically in the form of a deed. Property owners should consult with their accountant and/or tax attorney to understand the potential benefits. Refer to the booklet “Easements to Protect Historic Properties: A Useful Historic Preservation Tool with Potential Tax Benefits,” available here: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives/taxdocs/easements-historic-properties.pdf>.

Zoning Resources

The ***Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code***, a Pennsylvania Act of 1968, among many other purposes, authorizes municipal governments “to promote the preservation of this Commonwealth’s natural and historic resources and prime agricultural land.” <https://www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/growingsmarter/MPCCode%5B1%5D.pdf>

The “***Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code Made Easy!***” is a website and PowerPoint presentation prepared by the Governor’s Center for Local Government Services as a reference and guide for municipalities. <http://mpc.landuselawinpa.com/>

PHMC’s ***Historic District Designation in Pennsylvania*** (2007) offers wisdom gleaned from the years of success and failure experienced by local governments in the process of initiating and administering historic district preservation ordinances. <http://www.phmc.pa.gov/preservation/about/documents/historic-district-designation.pdf>

The Economic Benefits of Preservation

In addition to the quality of life and environmental benefits of historic preservation, there are numerous economic benefits that result from preserving cultural and historic resources. The following resources are just a few that describe these benefits.

In 2012, PHMC released a report titled “***Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation Activities in Pennsylvania***.” The report analyzed data on five areas of study: 1. Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits, 2. Potential Impact of a State Tax Credit, 3. Property Values, 4. Heritage Tourism, and 5. Qualitative Impacts. <http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Pages/Economic-Impact.aspx>

In 2011, Preservation Pennsylvania released a companion report to PHMC’s Economic Benefits report (above). This companion report is titled “***Policy Recommendations to Strengthen the Power of Preservation***.” <http://www.preservationpa.org/page.asp?id=50>

In 2011 (second edition 2013), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) commissioned a study called “***Measuring Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation***.” This study includes an Appendix with a list of data and programs from across the nation that were included the analysis. <http://www.achp.gov/docs/Economic%20Impacts%20v5-FINAL.pdf>

In 2016, a study was released by The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a legislative agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, titled “***The Economic Impact of Pennsylvania Heritage Areas***.” There are 12 heritage areas in Pennsylvania; economic impact was analyzed in five of these areas, and an estimation of the economic impact of the heritage-related visitation to all 12 heritage areas statewide. http://www.rural.palegislature.us/documents/reports/PA_Heritage_Tourism_2016.pdf

This 2015 article “***Six Practical Reasons to Save Old Buildings***” by Julia Rocchi of the National Trust for Historic Preservation is short but straightforward. <https://savingplaces.org/stories/six-reasons-save-old-buildings#.WQI8hfnvIU>

The ***Atlas of ReUrbanism: Buildings and Blocks in American Cities*** by the National Trust for Historic Preservation seeks to make connections between older buildings and economic, demographic, and environmental measures. The Summary Report was prepared in 2016, but this tool is interactive and available here: <http://forum.savingplaces.org/act/pgl/atlas>.

Local Historic and Cultural Heritage Groups

Everyone is encouraged to actively participate in Erie County's historic and cultural heritage activities. Listed below are just a few of the organizations that offer ways to get involved and/or to experience some of the historic and cultural activities available in Erie County.

- The Archaeology Museum Gallery at Gannon University
- Asbury Woods Nature Center
- Bayfront Maritime Center
- Bhutanese Community Association of Erie
- Corry Area Arts Council
- Corry Area Historical Museum
- Edinboro Area Historical Society
- Edinboro University
- Elk Creek Township Historical Society
- Erie Art Museum
- Erie Asian Pacific American Association
- Erie Cemetery Association
- Erie County Historical Society
- Erie Maritime Museum
- Erie Philharmonic
- Erie Society for Genealogical Research
- Erie Zoo
- expERIEnce Children's Museum
- Fairview Area Historical Society
- Firefighter's Historical Museum
- Flagship Niagara League
- Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society
- German Heritage Society
- Goodell Gardens & Homestead
- Great Lakes Seaway Trail Inc.
- Harborcreek Historical Society
- Harry T. Burleigh Society
- Heritage Room at the Raymond M. Blasco, M.D. Memorial Library
- Hornby School Restoration Society
- Hurry Hill Farm Maple Museum
- Islamic Cultural Center
- Italian American Women's Association of Erie
- Jewish Community Council of Erie
- Lake Shore Railway Historical Society
- Lawrence Park Historical Society
- Mercyhurst University
- North East Arts Council
- North East Historical Society
- NW PA Spinners and Weavers Guild
- PA Route 6 Alliance
- Penn State Erie, The Behrend College John M. Lilley Library
- Pennsylvania Archeological Shipwreck Survey Team
- Presque Isle Light Station
- Tom Ridge Environmental Center
- Union City Historical Society
- Valley School Museum
- Wattsburg Area Historical Society
- West County Historical Association

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS & ANALYSIS

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The Erie County Cultural Heritage Plan (CHP) Survey was developed for the purpose of gathering public input to guide the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Plan for the County of Erie, Pennsylvania. The Plan is being developed for the citizens of Erie County by the Erie County Department of Planning, in partnership with Preservation Erie and other community leaders. When completed, it will serve as a component of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The survey was available online (at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ErieCoCHP>) from November 15, 2016 through January 16, 2017. An invitation to participate was published in local newspapers, shared at three public meetings held in December 2016, through various stakeholder email lists, emailed to Erie County municipal government leaders, and via a banner with survey link on the Erie County government website and Preservation Erie website. Paper copies of the survey were also available at the public meetings and by request via the Erie County Department of Planning.

Banner on Erie County Government Website



A total of 273 responses were collected, all via the online survey. No completed paper copies were submitted. The following pages present the survey results and analysis of the responses conducted by T&B Planning, Inc. Note that quotes shared in blue boxes are from survey respondents.

The survey results are not based on a statistically valid sample size. Survey participants were self-selected (meaning, they willingly chose to take the survey under their own volition).

Question 1: Check all that apply to your affiliation with Erie County. I _____ in Erie County.

Erie County Affiliation

Response	% of Respondents (out of 273)	# of Respondents
Live	91.2%	249
Used to Live	7.3%	20
Work	38.5%	105
Visit Frequently (3 or more times a year)	7.3%	20
Visit Infrequently (less than twice a year)	0.4%	1
Learn (Enrolled in School or College)	3.3%	9
Have Family Ties	33.7%	92
Other (please specify)	5.8%	16

“Have a second home in Erie because Erie ‘rocks’, but Erie doesn’t know it.”

More than 90% of survey respondents live in Erie County, nearly 40% work there, and more than 30% have family ties in Erie County. Only 3% are current students. “Other” responses were from those who used to work or learn in Erie County, several who own property in but do not reside in Erie County, and others who indicated that they “play,” “recreate,” or “love being” in Erie County. The 249 survey responses from those who “live” in Erie County represent less than 1% (0.089%) of the total population of Erie County in 2016 (280,566 according to Census.gov).

Question 2: What is the zip code of your home address?

While there were 273 responses to this required question, three of the responses were “invalid zip codes” according to the United States Postal Service. Of the remaining 270 responses, 247 are Erie County zip codes (91%), three are in neighboring Crawford County, 12 are in other Pennsylvania counties, and 8 responses are from other states (California, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee, and Virginia).

The zip codes with the most responses were 16505 (36 responses; City of Erie) and 16509 (City of Erie and Greene, McKean, Millcreek, and Wattsburg Township). No responses were received from 15 Erie County zip codes (there are 38 zip codes in Erie County).

Responses by Erie County Zip Code

Erie County Zip Codes, Number of Responses	List of Zip Codes
30-39 responses	16505, 16509
20-29 responses	16502, 16506
10-19 responses	16417, 16507, 16508, 16510, 16511
5-9 responses	16411, 16415, 16428, 16503, 16504
1-4 responses	16407, 16410, 16411, 16412, 16421, 16423, 16426, 16438, 16443
No responses	16401, 16413, 16427, 16430, 16442, 16501, 16512, 16514, 16515, 16541, 16544, 16546, 16550, 16563, 16565

Question 3: Identify your age group.

All but one survey respondent answered this question. No one under the age of 20 responded to the survey. The most represented age groups were 60-69 Years Old (81 responses, 30%) and 50-59 Years Old (62 responses, 23%).

Survey Respondent Age Groups

Age Group	Response % (out of 272)	# of Respondents
Under 20 Years Old (<20)	0.0%	0
20-29 Years Old	8.5%	23
30-39 Years Old	15.1%	41
40-49 Years Old	13.6%	37
50-59 Years Old	22.8%	62
60-69 Years Old	29.8%	81
70-79 Years Old	7.4%	20
80 Years Old or Older (≥80)	2.9%	8

Question 4: When you think of CULTURE in Erie County, Pennsylvania, what do you think of? (Check all that apply):

The most popular responses to this question, both selected 212 times (by 78% of respondents), were “Festivals and Events” and “Maritime History.” Also with more than 70% response rate were “Museums / Art Galleries” (204 responses, 75%) and “Presque Isle / Beach / Lake Erie” (194 responses, 71%). Rounding out the top 5 was “People (modern and/or historical figures)” with 159 responses (59%).

Culture in Erie County

CULTURE Answer Options	Response % (out of 272)	# of Respondents
Festivals and Events	77.9%	212
Maritime History (shipwrecks, ship-building, lighthouses, naval battles)	77.9%	212
Museums / Art Galleries	75.0%	204
Presque Isle / Beach / Lake Erie	71.3%	194
People (modern and/or historical figures)	58.5%	159
Wineries / Vineyards	52.9%	144
Towns, Main Streets, Community Gathering Spaces	51.8%	141
Restaurants / Food	49.3%	134
Recreation (camping, biking, hiking, exploring parks and natural areas)	44.5%	121
Churches and Other Places of Worship	43.8%	119
Underground Railroad History	43.4%	118
Houses	42.6%	116
Boating / Fishing	40.8%	111
Native American History / Archaeology	39.7%	108
Manufacturing (factories / industry)	36.4%	99
Conversations about Life in Erie County	34.9%	95
Schools / Civic Buildings	34.6%	94

Question 5: In your opinion, how important is the expression of culture to the quality of life in Erie County?

Not Important | 0-----1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10 | (Most Important)



Avg. 8.17

On a scale from 0 (Not Important) to 10 (Most Important), the most selected value for the importance of expression of culture to the quality of life in Erie County was 10 (29%), followed by 8 (24%), then 9 (18%). The average response value was 8.17.

Clearly, among survey respondents, the expression of culture is extremely important to the quality of life in Erie County.

Importance of the Expression of Culture

Value	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
% (out of 269)	0.4%	0%	0.4%	1.1%	0.4%	7.4%	5.2%	14.1%	23.8%	18.2%	29.0%
#	1	0	1	3	1	20	14	38	64	49	78

Question 6: Are there cultural activities (fairs, festivals, programs) in Erie County that are important to continue for future generations?

	% of respondents (out of 262)	# of Respondents
No	8.4%	22
Yes	91.6%	240

“The Polish festival is a place where three plus generations of people get together and celebrate common heritage, and so is the Irish festival. At both festivals, there were people fifty years in age apart dancing the same steps to the same music, and I think that's beautiful.”

Of the 262 respondents who answered Question 6, 22 (8%) selected “No” indicating that they believe no cultural activities in Erie County are important to continue for future generations. Most respondents (240, 92%) answered “Yes” and listed one or more cultural activities.

While the responses varied, there were several responses that appeared often. Responses were reviewed carefully and similar responses were counted, as shown in the following table. Some responses had several categories checked, and these responses were counted for all relevant categories. “All” or “Everything” was noted in 17 responses (6.5%), but, more often than not, specific cultural activities were listed.

The most often noted response to the survey was “ethnic festivals,” with 136 (52%) of respondents identifying one or more specific ethnic, church, or other celebration of nationality. The next most noted response was related to “music,” with 78 (30%) of respondents identifying live music festivals, concerts, the symphony orchestra, or Erie Philharmonic in their response. Local fairs and festivals (with many examples including the Cherry Fest, Grape Harvest Fest, and Dan Rice Days) were the third most common response (51, 20%), followed by Presque Isle and related events/activities (48, 18%); Celebrate Erie / Erie Days (43, 16%; though many noted that they preferred the “older version” of this annual event); Tall Ships and other celebrations of Maritime heritage (39, 15%); Museums and related activities (36, 14%); and Arts Festivals and Programs (32, 12%).

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Important Erie County Cultural Activities Identified in Open-Ended Survey Responses

Question 6 Response Categories (as identified by T&B Planning)	% (out of 262)	# of Respondents
Ethnic and Church Festivals / programs, international celebrations	51.9%	136
Music (Concerts, Festivals, Symphony, Philharmonic)	29.8%	78
Local Fairs & community festivals (Maple Fest / Cherry Fest / Girard Fest / Grape Harvest Fest / Dan Rice Days, small town fairs)	19.5%	51
Presque Isle, TREC, DCNR Events, Discover PI (and Parks in general)	18.3%	48
Celebrate Erie / We Love Erie / Erie Days (many want older version to return)	16.4%	43
Tall Ships / Flagship Niagara / Maritime Events	14.9%	39
Museums / exhibits / gallery nights / programs	13.7%	36
Arts Festivals / Programs	12.2%	32
History Education / heritage programs (library, historical societies, Jefferson Society, reenactments, etc.)	8.4%	22
Erie County Fair(s) (Wattsburg, Waterford)	8.0%	21
Playhouse/Warner performances (Theater)	7.3%	19
Food / Beer / Wine Events (& farm markets)	6.9%	18
Everything / All	6.5%	17
Tours (Historic homes, gardens, historic places)	5.0%	13
Holiday events (St. Patrick's Day, tree lighting, first night, 4th of July)	4.6%	12
Roar on the Shore / Bikers on the Bay (an additional 4 survey respondents opposed continuation of this event)	4.6%	12
zoo / zoo boo	2.3%	6
block parties	1.5%	4
College arts/music/theater/speakers	1.5%	4
Parades	1.5%	4
Public Art (murals, sculptures)	1.9%	5
Walks/Runs for a cause MLK Walk, Jazz Walk, PI Marathon	1.1%	3
Waldemeer or Splash Lagoon	0.8%	2
Youth Activities/Programs (school music, sports, newspapers, social services)	0.8%	2
Antique Car Shows	0.4%	1
Native American	0.4%	1
Railroad history	0.4%	1
Women's Club of Erie	0.4%	1

Question 7: In your opinion, how important is the preservation of historic buildings and places to the quality of life in Erie County?

Not Important | 0-----1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10 | Most Important



Avg. 8.47

On a scale from 0 (Not Important) to 10 (Most Important), the most selected value for the importance of the preservation of historic buildings to the quality of life in Erie County was 10 (40%), followed by 9 (24%), then 8 (13%). The average response value was 8.47.

Importance of the Preservation of Historic Buildings

Value	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
% (out of 269)	0.7%	0.4%	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%	3.7%	4.4%	10.3%	12.9%	24.0%	39.9%
#	2	1	3	3	4	10	12	28	35	65	108

Clearly, among survey respondents, the preservation of historic buildings is extremely important to the quality of life in Erie County, just a bit more so than the expression of culture (see Question 5; average response value 8.47 compared to 8.17).

Question 8: Preservation and continued use of which of the following places are most important to the future you envision for Erie County? (Choose up to 5).

Survey respondents could select up to five of the responses for Question 8, and 77% (210 out of 273) chose “Historic Houses & Residential Neighborhoods” as the places that are most important to the future envisioned for Erie County. The next four most popular responses were “Places Important to the History of Lake Erie” (65%) “Main Streets / Business Districts” (62%), “Public Parks & Outdoor Gathering Spaces” (58%), and “Indoor Event Sites (theaters, galleries, etc.)” (58%). Three answers were selected by many fewer survey respondents (“Agricultural Land / Vineyards / Wineries” (32%), “Outdoor Recreational Sites” (31%), and “Churches and Other Places of Worship” (30%). The two options selected least often by survey respondents were “Schools / Civic Buildings” (26%) and “Manufacturing and Industrial Sites” (25%). Because all possible answers were selected by at least 25% of survey respondents, all 10 are considered at least somewhat important to the future envisioned for Erie County.

Places Important to the Future Envisioned for Erie County

Places	% (out of 273)	# of Respondents
Historic Houses & Residential Neighborhoods	76.9%	210
Places Important to the History of Lake Erie	64.5%	176
Main Streets / Business Districts	61.9%	169
Public Parks & Outdoor Gathering Spaces	57.9%	158
Indoor Event Sites (including theaters, art galleries, museums, and concert halls)	57.9%	158
Agricultural Land / Vineyards / Wineries	31.9%	87
Outdoor Recreational Sites (including campgrounds, sports fields, arenas, and amusement parks)	31.1%	85
Churches and Other Places of Worship	30.4%	83
Schools / Civic Buildings	25.6%	70
Manufacturing and Industrial Sites (including factories)	24.5%	67

Question 9: Are there places and/or buildings (in any Erie County community) that you think are special or unique because of their historic character?

Are there special / unique places because of historic character?

	% of respondents (out of 247)	# of Respondents
No	10.1%	25
Yes	89.9%	222

“Many places are special or unique because of their architectural quality. It doesn't make them historic.”

Of the 247 survey respondents who chose to answer Question 9, 222 (90%) of them answered “Yes,” that there are places and/or buildings that are special or unique because of their historic character, and 25 (10%) who answered “No.”

There were a wide variety of responses to this open-ended question answering “where,” including general places in Erie County (neighborhoods, streets, towns), categories of structures (all/many churches, railroad related sites and features, industrial/manufacturing heritage sites, parks, covered bridges), and specific buildings (house museums, theaters, and specific clubs, etc.). The following table is an attempt to properly categorize responses and the count of specific response.

Places That Are Special or Unique Because of Their Historic Character

Places	% (out of 222 “Yes” responses)	# of Respondents
West 6 th Street Historic District / Millionaire’s Row / Mansions	32.0%	71
Presque Isle and/or Erie Lighthouses	21.6%	48
Warner Theater	17.6%	39
Many / Lots / Everything / All (unnamed but generally with “old” or “historic” buildings in the response)	14.9%	33
Watson-Curtz Mansion / Museum	13.1%	29
Main Streets / Small Town Business Districts (some specific buildings were also mentioned within this category)	12.6%	28
Downtown or Midtown Erie (includes Perry Square, North Park Row, French Street, State Street)	12.2%	27
Churches / Chapels / Places of Worship (either a specific one or few, or a general response including churches)	11.3%	25
Manufacturing / Industrial Heritage Sites (including 12 th Street factories, industrial corridor, general industrial or manufacturing buildings)	9.9%	22
Waterfront / Bayfront (including boathouses / docks)	9.0%	20
Waterford (Waterford Square, Main Street, Judson House, Fort LeBoeuf, etc.). (Note that when Waterford was included in a response, a count was added to the “main streets” category above, but also to this separate category because Waterford and sites in the town were mentioned often. (The Eagle Hotel alone was mentioned by six survey respondents (2.7%))	8.1%	18
School Buildings / Old Schools / One-Room Schoolhouses (specific or general, including Academy and Strong Vincent Schools)	8.1%	18
Customs House and/or Erie Art Museum	6.8%	15
Old Library Building (present Erie Federal Courthouse on Perry Square)	6.8%	15
Boston Store (or its clock) on State Street	5.9%	13
Railroad Heritage (old train stations, Union Station, rail lines, etc.)	5.4%	12

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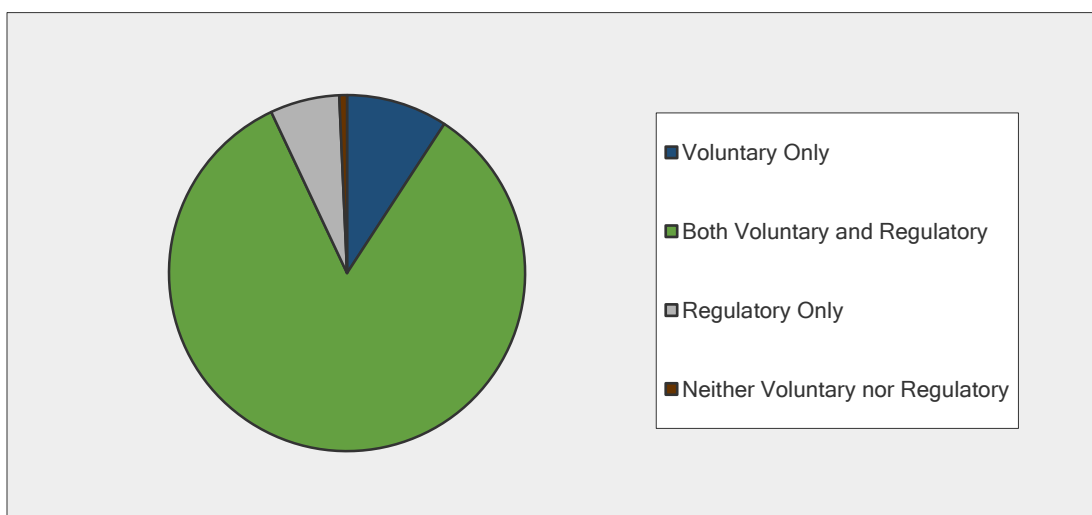
Courthouses (specific or general)	4.5%	10
Gannon University Buildings (specific building, like "Old Main," former residences, or a general statement)	4.5%	10
Neighborhoods or Older Homes (general; different than "mansions" or specific districts)	4.5%	10
Battles Buildings and Land (Yellow House, Farm Houses, in Girard)	4.1%	9
West 21 st Street Historic District	4.1%	9
Dickson Tavern (Perry Memorial House)	4.1%	9
Parks (general or specific, like Frontier Park, Scott Park, neighborhood parks)	3.6%	8
Dobbin's Landing, Smuggler's Wharf, Bayfront Gallery	3.2%	7
Waldemeer / Rainbow Gardens	3.2%	7
Flagship Niagara (Tall Ship)	2.7%	6
Cemeteries (specific or general)	2.3%	5
Covered Bridges	2.3%	5
Hagen History Center / Historical Society	2.3%	5
Mercyhurst Campus (general or a specific building like Old Main, Chapel, Egan Building)	2.3%	5
Agricultural / Rural / Farm Buildings	1.8%	4
Archaeological Sites (Native American / Erie Indians Cultural Sites)	1.4%	3
Other Places mentioned three or fewer times: Cashier's House, Erie Club, Soldiers and Sailors Home, Armory, Erie Waterworks, houseboats, Modern Tool Square, Parade Street, Post Office Building, Villa Apartments/Chapel/Schools, Women's Club, Erie Zoo, Ainsworth Field, Blasco Erie County Library/Museum, Brick or stone streets, Erie Renaissance Centre, Federal Row, Firefighter Museum, Lawrence Park Row Houses, McBride / East Avenue Viaduct, Mid-Century commercial and modern buildings, Monuments, Old planetarium, Sturgeon House in Fairview, The Erie Playhouse, Union City Museum, Wayne Blockhouse, Street Trees in Lawrence Park, 26 th /Peach Buildings, Clubs (general), East 38 th Saltbox Houses, East Lake Road Boulevard, Academy Hall at Edinboro University, Fish Hatchery, Girard Hotel, Goodell Gardens and Bank Barn, Griswold Plaza, Historic Markers, House on Route 8 North of Lowville, Kraus' Department Store, Lawrence Park Dinor, Little Italy, Mighty Fine Donuts, Old French Road Trail, Palace Building, Riverside Inn, Schuster Theater, Small Markets (Urbaniak's, Trawka's, Larry's), Sunset Drive-In, Underground RR Houses and Passages, Veteran's Stadium, Vineyards, Wright House (Graycliff Estate)	0.5%-1.4%	1-3

Question 10: Should preservation of historic places in Erie County be done voluntarily or be required by government regulation? (Choose the option that best matches your opinion):

By far, survey respondents desire a combination of voluntary efforts and government regulations in a balance that makes the most sense for each community (84%, 227 people). There were 9% (25 people) who selected only voluntary efforts, 6% (17 people) who chose only government regulation, and less than 1% (2 respondents) who selected the option that preservation of historic places doesn't matter to them and no time or money should be spent preparing voluntary or regulatory preservation measures.

Voluntary vs. Regulatory Historic Preservation

	% of respondents (out of 271)	# of Respondents
Both Voluntary and Regulatory Preservation of historic places should be done by <u>a combination of voluntary efforts and government regulations</u> in a balance that makes the most sense for each community.	83.8%	227
Voluntary Only Preservation of historic places should always be done on a <u>voluntary only basis</u> . Government regulations should not require the preservation of historic places.	9.2%	25
Regulatory Only Preservation of historic places should <u>always be regulated by the government</u> and there should be consequences for those who do not follow the law.	6.3%	17
Neither Voluntary nor Regulatory Preservation of historic places doesn't matter to me. <u>No time or money should be spent</u> preparing voluntary or regulatory preservation measures (none).	0.7%	2

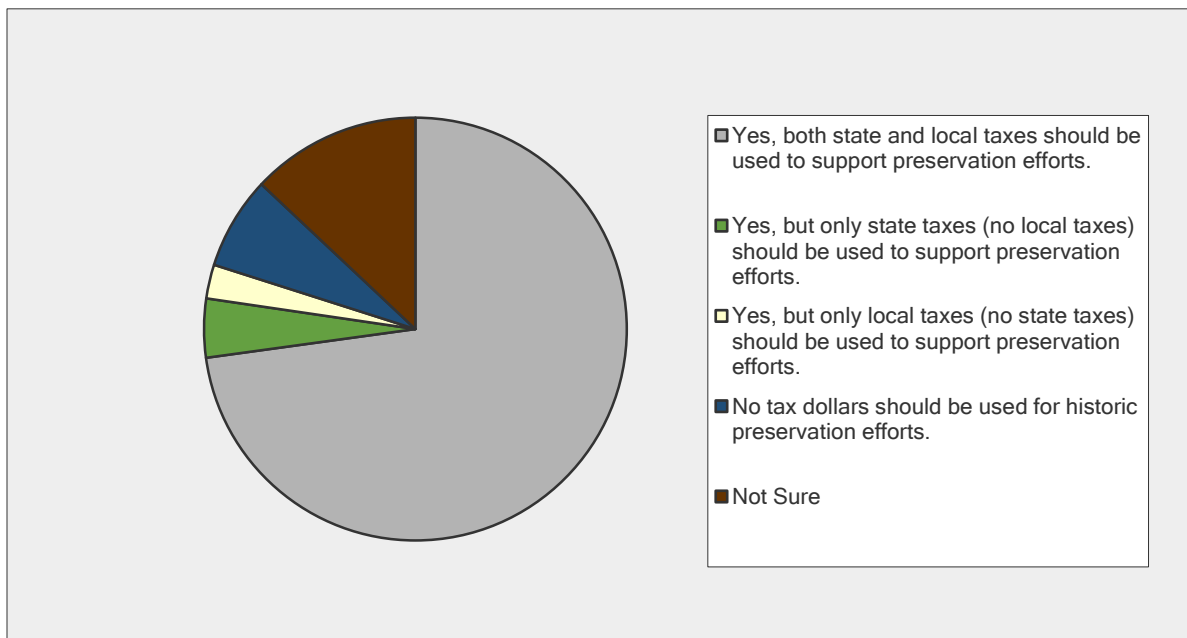


Question 11: Should state or local tax dollars be used to support cultural and historic preservation efforts in Erie County?

Most (73%, 196) survey respondents believe that state and local taxes should be used to support cultural and historic preservation efforts in Erie County; 13% were not sure, 7% believe no tax dollars should be used, 5% believe only state tax dollars should be used, and 3% believe only local tax dollars should be used.

Should State and Local Tax Dollars Be Used to Support Preservation?

	% of respondents (out of 269)	# of Respondents
<u>Yes, both</u> state and local taxes should be used to support preservation efforts.	72.9%	196
<u>Not Sure</u>	13.0%	35
<u>No tax dollars</u> should be used for historic preservation efforts.	7.1%	19
<u>Yes, but only state taxes</u> (no local taxes) should be used to support preservation efforts.	4.5%	12
<u>Yes, but only local taxes</u> (no state taxes) should be used to support preservation efforts.	2.6%	7



Question 12: In your opinion, who should be responsible for preserving, maintaining, and/or financially supporting historic sites?

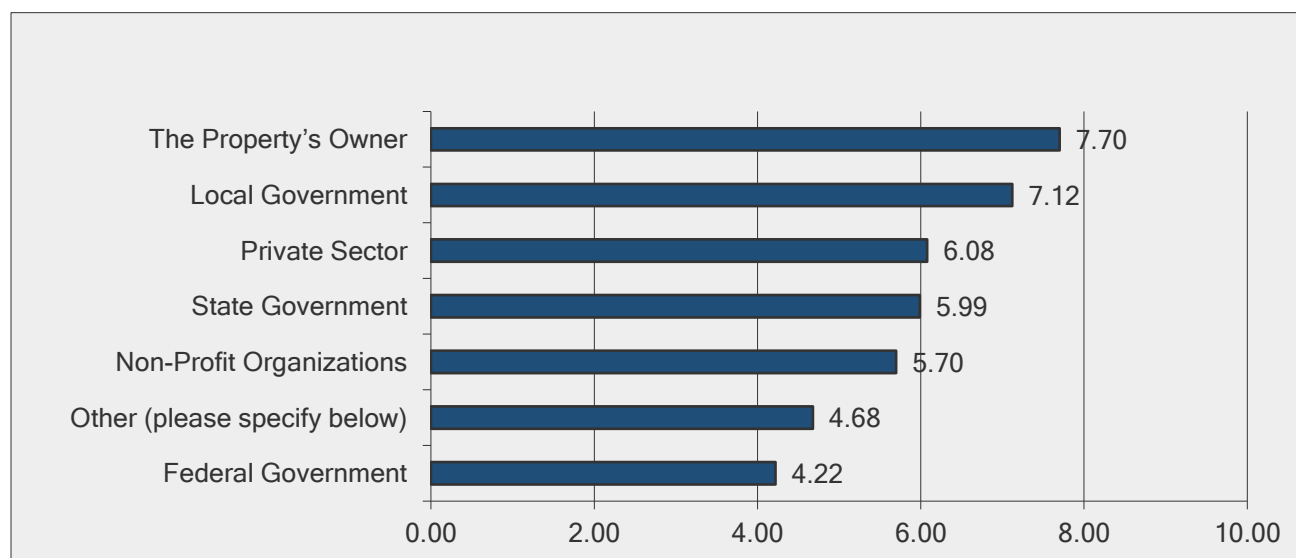
Question 12 asked whether the survey respondent felt that the Federal Government, State Government, Local Government, Private Sector, Non-Profit Organizations, or The Property's Owner were "Most Responsible," "Somewhat Responsible," or "Not Responsible." Other (please specify) was also available as an option.

For analysis, "Most Responsible" was given a value of 10, "Somewhat Responsible" was given a value of 5, and "Not Responsible" was given a value of 0. The bar chart shows the average value of the responses for each choice, and the table shows the how often survey respondent selected each response for each option. Note that 270 survey respondents answered at least a portion of this question, but not all gave their opinion for each option.

Most survey respondents believe that the owner of a historic site should be most responsible for preserving, maintaining, and/or financially supporting that historic site. The rest were more often selected as "somewhat responsible" (local government, private sector, state government, non-profit organizations, and the federal government) for supporting historic sites. In the table, below, the answer selected most often for each option is shown in **bold**.

Who is Responsible for Supporting Historic Sites?

	Most Responsible	Somewhat Responsible	Not Responsible	Rating Average	# of Respondents
The Property's Owner	143	102	7	7.70	252
Local Government	116	131	8	7.12	255
Private Sector	69	160	16	6.08	245
State Government	62	178	12	5.99	252
Non-Profit Organizations	62	152	28	5.70	242
Other (please specify below)	10	9	12	4.68	31
Federal Government	18	170	56	4.22	244



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The responses specified for “Other” are listed here under the heading of Most, Somewhat, or Not Responsible, exactly as entered by respondents (includes original spelling errors). It appears that some survey respondents wanted to provide a comment, but not all comments seem to match with the ranking of Most, Somewhat, or Not Responsible provided. At least one did not understand the question or its wording and stated such.

Most Responsible:

1. The community
2. Need economic incentives to do this, tax abatements, rebates, etc.
3. depending on the site's ownership--govt. by govt. private by private
4. Those whose activities have endangered the resources. Businesses
5. Historical Society
6. Preservation Committee tasked with protecting valuable places of importance
7. The government has no right to force people to do historic preservation on their property unless the government compensates them for lost use
8. There are many nuances to this, and I would have to explain my thoughts listed above, as preservation dollars have to be spent within reason. The definition of what constitutes an historic site would also have to come into play.
9. State law should mandate that municipalities have a system for historical review such as a historical review board
10. It needs to be an across-the-board effort, where the community cares enough to want it preserved, and the state and local governments offer a hand in the process.

Somewhat Responsible:

1. There should be information and/or assistance available for current and prospective property owners about resources to fix, preserve, maintain etc.
2. Community at large
3. Responsibility should be divided equally amongst everyone
4. General Public
5. My sister-in-law volunteers at a beautiful historic home and grounds in NY and they could not keep it maintained without government help.
6. It really depends on the situation, but someone should take responsibility.
7. Private donations
8. Neighborhood organizations

Not Responsible:

1. Community volunteers and philanthropists

Unknown: (survey respondent did not select Most, Somewhat, or Not Responsible ranking)

1. No tax but public fees and tour costs. paid by participating entities.
2. Responsibility should be delegated to lowest power center. Need
3. Just not sure unless I can say a mix of all elements above
4. Once restored, a structure's maintenance should mainly be the owner's responsibility. It is getting the buildings restored that will be the most expensive and out of reach of some owners.
5. Feds by 10% and 20% tax credits, State by 25% tax credit with Fed Register nomination, however the State should offer a 10% tax credit for structures over 50 years old.
6. This answer depends on the site and use.
7. Responsibility should be shared.
8. I think that Local Government should do the hiring/maintenance efforts to coordinate with State funding and grant opportunities.

Question 13: On a scale of 0 (not concerned) to 10 (most concerned), how concerned are you that the following hinder efforts to preserve cultural and historic resources in Erie County?

When asked about their concern about nine potential things that could hinder efforts to preserve cultural and historic resources in Erie County, all potential options were generally a concern to survey respondents with average ratings between 6.7 and 7.7, on a scale from 0 (not concerned) to 10 (most concerned).

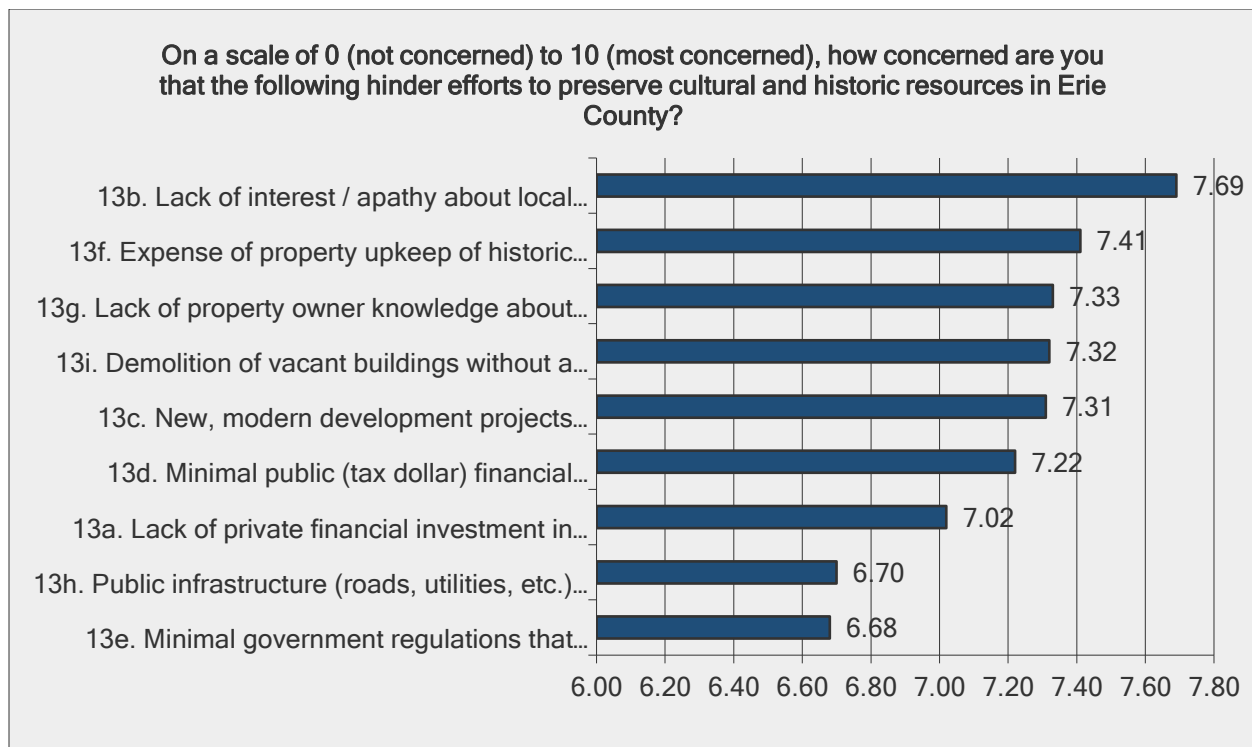
Survey respondents were most concerned about the “lack of interest / apathy about local heritage and historic preservation” (7.7), followed by “Expense of property upkeep of historic buildings” (7.4), “Lack of property owner knowledge about how to care for a historic building” (7.3), “Demolition of vacant buildings without a plan for reuse” (7.3), and “New, modern development projects replacing older buildings” (7.3). In the table, below, the ranking selected most often for each option is shown in **bold**.

Concern about Hindering of Preservation Efforts

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Rating Avg.	Rating Avg. Rank	# of Respondents
Lack of interest / apathy about local heritage and historic preservation	8	2	6	3	5	20	15	38	52	46	74	7.69	1	269
Expense of property upkeep of historic buildings	9	2	5	4	6	31	17	37	52	47	59	7.41	2	269
Lack of property owner knowledge about how to care for a historic building	7	3	9	5	7	19	29	30	64	47	50	7.33	3	270
Demolition of vacant buildings without a plan for reuse	16	6	6	6	14	19	9	23	44	41	84	7.32	4	268
New, modern development projects replacing older buildings	13	2	8	8	8	30	21	23	36	36	85	7.31	5	270
Minimal public (tax dollar) financial support and incentives for historic preservation	11	2	9	7	6	27	18	35	55	39	59	7.22	6	268
Lack of private financial investment in historic preservation efforts	9	0	7	9	8	33	28	43	56	29	48	7.02	7	270

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Public infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc.) causing demolition of historic buildings	14	5	8	9	16	28	31	33	41	31	52	6.70	8	268
Minimal government regulations that require preservation of historic sites, buildings, and properties	15	9	11	8	8	30	25	28	46	40	48	6.68	9	268



Question 14: Which of the following will help the public better appreciate Erie County's historic and cultural assets? (Check all that apply.)

Respondents were able to select as many of the options as they desired; 109 respondents selected all five options and six didn't select any of the options. All options (except for "Other") were selected by at least 74% of survey respondents. The most often selected response was "More education about local history for kids attending school in Erie County" (85% of survey respondents).

Public Appreciation for Historic and Cultural Assets

	% of respondents (out of 268)	# of Respondents
More education about local history for kids attending school in Erie County	85.1%	228
Installation of signs or markers to identify historic and culturally important sites	79.1%	212
More things to do (like cultural festivals, walking tours, historic open house tours, church tours, etc.)	75.7%	203
Public education programs or lectures about historic preservation and cultural heritage	73.9%	198
Expanded marketing efforts to increase tourism related to historic sites	73.9%	198
Other (please specify)	13.8%	37

Question 15: In your opinion, how likely would the following motivate owners of historic properties to improve and/or maintain their buildings or properties?

Question 15 asked the opinion of survey respondents about how likely each option would motivate owners of historic properties to improve and/or maintain their buildings or properties. Options were “A Lot,” “Somewhat,” or “Not At All.” Other (please specify) was also available as an option.

For analysis, “A Lot” was given a value of 10, “Somewhat” was given a value of 5, and “Not At All” was given a value of 0. The bar chart shows the average value of the responses for each choice, and the table shows the how often survey respondent selected each response for each option. Note that 272 survey respondents answered at least a portion of this question, but not all gave their opinion for each option.

“A Lot” was selected most often for options “15c. Financial support...” and “15d. Help with historic renovation....” “Somewhat” was selected most often for “15a. Recognition...,” “15b. Voluntary guidelines...,” and “Threat of fines...” “15c. Financial support for restoration / rehabilitation work” was the most popular option, with a rating average of 9.17, and “15e. Threat of fines or penalties for lack of maintenance” was the least popular option, with a rating average of 4.7.

When looking at survey responses to Question 15 by only those who own historic properties (or are not sure if they own a historic property because they own an older building or home but don’t know if it’s historic, see Question 16), the results remain the same but there is even more support for “15c. Financial support...” (9.48 compared to 9.17) and less support for “15e. Threat of fines or penalties...” (4.05 compared to 4.68).

In the tables, below, the answer selected most often for each option is shown in **bold** text.

Motivating Owners of Historic Properties

	A Lot	Some- what	Not At All	Rating Average	# of Respondents
Financial support for restoration / rehabilitation work (low interest loans, grants, tax incentives)	237	25	10	9.17	272
Help with historic renovation activities and construction (qualified tradespeople)	207	53	6	8.78	266
Other (please specify below)	17	4	7	6.79	28
Recognition (awards, media coverage, plaque, etc.)	93	155	24	6.27	272
Voluntary guidelines to help with historic preservation and property maintenance.	90	153	26	6.19	269
Threat of fines or penalties for lack of maintenance	61	129	78	4.68	268

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Motivating Owners of Historic Properties – By Historic Property Owners (or those Not Sure, see Question 16)

	A Lot	Some- what	Not At All	Rating Average	# of Respondents
Financial support for restoration / rehabilitation work (low interest loans, grants, tax incentives)	55	0	3	9.48	58
Help with historic renovation activities and construction (qualified tradespeople)	48	7	3	8.88	58
Other (please specify below)	3	1	0	8.75	4
Recognition (awards, media coverage, plaque, etc.)	16	36	6	5.86	58
Voluntary guidelines to help with historic preservation and property maintenance.	15	37	6	5.78	58
Threat of fines or penalties for lack of maintenance	10	27	21	4.05	58

Question 16: Do you own a historic building and/or property in Erie County?

(A historic building or property is generally at least 50 years old, is in relatively good or repairable condition, and has some level of historic significance (for example: has a distinctive, historic architectural style; is associated with the life of a significant person in history; is associated with a significant historic event; or is likely to yield information that is important in history).

Owners of Historic Buildings or Properties

	% of respondents (out of 272)	# of Respondents
Yes	13.6%	37
No	78.7%	214
I Don't Know (I own an older building or property but I don't know if it's historic.)	7.7%	21

79% of survey respondents (214) do not own a historic building or property. 14% (37) do own a historic building or property, and 8% (21) own older buildings or properties but don't know if they are historic.

Question 17: If there's anything else you'd like to say about historic preservation, culture, or the development of a Cultural Heritage Plan for Erie County, Pennsylvania, please share it here.

One-Hundred (100) survey respondents provided additional information in response to Question 17. Results are on file with the Erie County Department of Planning.

Question 18: If you would like to receive public notices regarding the Erie County Cultural Heritage Plan, please provide your name, e-mail address, and/or mailing address here.

Ninety-Six (96) survey respondents provided contact information.

For and in honor of the past, present, and future citizens of Erie County, Pennsylvania

