

## 4.0 HERITAGE AREA RESOURCES

The purpose of the Heritage Area Resources section of the Management Plan Amendment is to identify and summarize the cultural, historic, and recreational resources within the Susquehanna Heritage Area. An inventory of Heritage Area resources was completed in an effort to gain a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the opportunities for heritage development within the region. This chapter provides an overview of the resources currently in place within the Heritage Area and to identify existing strengths and opportunities that can be capitalized upon through the implementation of the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

The Heritage Area Resources section begins with an overview of strengths and challenges and identifies key resources are defined below:

- **Primary Destinations** within the Heritage Area include those sites and areas that currently attract residents and visitors to the region and have designated staff, regular posted operating hours, and some level of visitor services already in place.
- **Historic Resources** include national, state, and local historic districts; historic buildings and structures; and historical societies and museums.
- **Arts and Cultural Resources** are the galleries, venues, and cultural districts that highlight the arts, music, and ethnic diversity of Broome and Tioga Counties.
- **Agritourism Resources** are agriculture-based businesses that are currently open and accessible to the public and can serve as a catalyst for agritourism and regional economic development.
- **Recreation and Natural Resources** include passive and active recreation opportunities and facilities available in for residents and visitors ranging from state, county, and local parks to nature preserves and golf courses that have a heritage connection. Natural resources are the cultural landscapes, viewsheds, and character-defining natural features, such as the Susquehanna River, within the Heritage Area.

Heritage Area Resources include more than the physical resources with Broome and Tioga Counties. Other resources considered in the inventory include:

- **Heritage Area Partners** are groups and organizations that may choose to participate in efforts associated with the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

- **Programming and Special Events** identifies the range of special programs and events that are organized and/or hosted by the various communities within the proposed Heritage Area boundary.
- **Visitor Services** looks at the amenities that are currently in place within the Heritage Area as they relate to supporting visitors.
- **Stewardship** examines the existing level of preservation activity within proposed Heritage Area communities. This section identifies communities that have preservation regulations in place and considers to what extent preservation and heritage-related topics are discussed in local planning documents.

#### 4.1. Overview: Strengths and Challenges

The Susquehanna Heritage Area has strong regional character stemming from the cultural development of the landscape over time. The Susquehanna River is the backbone of the region, forming a broad river valley that has guided transportation and human settlement. The river valley was the site of significant manufacturing and industrial development and warrants attention as home of the region's unique industrial heritage. Beyond the river valley are rolling hills and smaller creek and stream valleys that provided lumber resources during the region's early development, evolved into a predominantly agricultural landscape, and today, feature historic, rural villages and scenic open space.

##### Strengths

The expansive landscape of the Susquehanna Heritage Area is its primary asset and primary strength. The river valleys, the smaller streams and creeks, and the rolling hills provide a setting of great character and natural resources of significant value that warrant visionary and proactive stewardship. Unlike many rural areas, the Susquehanna region is blessed with a strong urban center, the City of Binghamton. The city's historic urban fabric is in marked contrast to the surrounding rural landscape. It provides a place where business, governmental, educational, and cultural activities are concentrated. This urban fabric is valuable and should continue to be preserved and reused to create a regional center of great character. Many steps have been taken toward this end over recent years, and the results, though mixed, are obvious and impressive to visitors from outside the region.

In many ways, the economic slowdown within the region over the past half century, both industrially and agriculturally, has set the stage for rebirth. In many places and ways, this rebirth is evident. While Binghamton is the urban core, the larger Triple Cities, including Johnson City and Endicott, comprise a sophisticated manufacturing and industrial community with strong character and great diversity. The urban neighborhoods surrounding these centers have been discovered as great places to live and warrant continued investment and resource nurturing.

Beyond the Triple Cities, the Heritage Area has numerous villages and hamlets with their historic character intact, a rare occurrence. The two largest centers are the Villages of Owego and Waverly in Tioga County. These villages retain their historic commercial centers and lovely surrounding neighborhoods. They embody the ideal living environment of the American small town. Their future lies in this direction, as they become communities-of-choice for those seeking a balanced and personable place to live. Owego's ongoing success in revitalizing its commercial center and stimulating the interest of prospective residents is a model for other communities throughout the Heritage Area.

Some of the other smaller villages within the region have taken steps with similar results, and others remain yet to be discovered. Windsor, Newark Valley, and Spencer are examples of villages where creative initiatives appear to have been undertaken in concert with the vision of the Heritage Area. Villages such as Lisle and Whitney Point have outstanding buildings and great locations and appear ready for discovery and investment. The Heritage Area's numerous villages are among its greatest assets and strongest features.

Of course, the region's greatest strength is its people and their initiative. Throughout the course of this planning project, the consultant team has been impressed with the range and extent of activities being undertaken throughout the Heritage Area. Many impressive initiatives are apparent, ranging from historic preservation endeavors, to arts and cultural institutions, to agribusiness, to events, to trails and parks, to restaurants and small businesses, to the establishment of small museums. The job of planning the Heritage Area has become the task of envisioning them as a whole and threading them together.

The region has many large institutions as well, and their leadership is crucial to the success of needed large-scale community-building endeavors. Visionary civic leadership from the business community has been the hallmark of the Triple Cities; it must continue to be encouraged. Institutions such as Binghamton University, local hospitals and medical center, and others set an important tone with their interests and leadership. The short timeframe of this heritage area planning project did not provide time enough for the partnership building activities that need to take place to bring the pieces together.

The Susquehanna region has the elements necessary to create a fine place to live, a place with a strong regional identity, with a balance of urban and rural, natural and man-made. Decreased development pressures have enabled this vision to be possible, while also making its implementation more challenging. A sustained effort to keep the vision of the Susquehanna Heritage Area in the forefront, coupled with collaborative initiatives, will advance implementation of the Amendment Plan goals and objectives.

## Challenges

Today, the region is perceived more as a gateway to other destinations, such as the Finger Lakes or Cooperstown, rather than a destination in and of itself. However, its position as a gateway should be embraced as an opportunity rather than seen as a weakness.

One of the biggest issues that will need to be overcome is the lack of identity associated with the Heritage Area. Is the region part of the Finger Lakes? Does the region see itself as more closely related to the Endless Mountains region in Pennsylvania? Or is the region a mosaic of different character areas and histories? Although residents of the Greater Binghamton region have a strong sense of who they are, there is not one solid perception of the region by outsiders. To those not familiar with the great resources within the region, it is just a place to change highways and stop for a bite to eat or to buy fuel on the way to somewhere else. The most important charge for the Heritage Area partners will be to identify what the Heritage Area is and what it stands for and then to implement the strategy to change that perception in the eyes of the public.

The name of the Susquehanna Heritage Area is, in and of itself, one of the sources of confusion and lack of identity for the Heritage Area. Visitors and local residents alike typically associated the name “Susquehanna” with other parts of the country in Pennsylvania and even Maryland. However, the Susquehanna River is an important and prominent feature through Broome and Tioga Counties and efforts should focus on furthering that association and recognition in concert with further public promotion and awareness efforts associated with the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

Part of the confusion for visitors may lie in the way New York State markets the region, with Broome County considered part of the Central Leatherstocking Region and Tioga County included in the Finger Lakes Region. While Tioga County does associate itself with the Finger Lakes, Broome County feels less attached to its Central Leatherstocking designation. The New York State Empire State Development Corporation is currently considering possible changes and restructuring of the Statewide districts to better represent actual relationships. The Susquehanna Heritage Area should determine how, if at all, the restructuring will impact the proposed Heritage Area.

Marketing within the region is comprehensive, but does not focus on the Heritage Area as a whole, rather on smaller parts or pieces. Visitor guides for Tioga County and Broome County, both hard copy and online, contain a plethora of information on different visitor resources, including attractions, recreation facilities, places to stay, places to shop, and places to eat. However, there is no publication specific to the Susquehanna Heritage Area that would help guide a visitor through the Heritage Area and the many stories it encompasses. The expanded Heritage Area boundary presents greater opportunities for developing marketing materials and a visitor guide for the entire region with a focus on creating an experience that is both educational and enjoyable.

The current lack of a cohesive signage network, limited interpretation at key attractions, and a lack of public knowledge about the history and relevance of the region are all important factors that must be addressed to ensure the vision of the Heritage Area is realized. Wayfinding signage currently includes only those signs installed by the NYS Department of Transportation and not all key attractions are included on those signs and the name of the Visitor Centers are inaccurately recognized. Signage that unifies the Heritage Area, even across county boundaries, is critical to creating regional identity, ensuring sites, attractions, and stories are linked into a larger experience.

Interpretation in the Heritage Area is currently limited to two Visitor Centers and a handful of resources, sites, and attractions. Interpretation of broader community themes and stories, including immigration, the industrial heritage, and Native American settlement can be told throughout the Heritage Area, within parks, along trails, and in village centers. Large-scale interpretation of the Heritage Area will help to link resources and assets and create a well-rounded visitor experience.

The Susquehanna Heritage Area should use the amended Management Plan as a means to reach out to state officials, agencies, and decision-makers to ensure that recommendations from the Plan are incorporated into other planning and design decisions made for the region by state agencies. Of particular importance will be future coordination between the Heritage Area and the NYS Department of Transportation to ensure that wayfinding and interpretive signage is meaningful, consistent and contributes to a welcoming and cohesive visitor experience.

## 4.2. Primary Destinations

Encompassing all of Broome and Tioga Counties, the Susquehanna Heritage Area guides residents and visitors through beautiful, changing landscapes, historic crossroad villages, and remnants of important historical events that helped to shape the region. The region's inherent qualities, including its destinations, historic resources, arts and cultural resources, natural landscape, and recreational resources, cumulatively contribute to a visitor experience that is unique to the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

Primary destinations within the Heritage Area include those sites and areas that currently attract residents and visitors to the region. It is at these locations that there is the greatest potential to share and tell the stories of the Heritage Area, particularly in the short-term. Recommendations and strategies will be developed for these specific sites, ranging from interpretive tools to marketing strategies and partnerships, in order to make these sites and destinations even more visible and attractive to visitors.

Each of the designated sites and destinations have been identified as those places which are currently "visitor ready," meaning the sites have designated staff, regular posted operating hours, and some level of visitor services already in place. These sites currently offer a specific visitor experience including self-guided tours and visits, interpretation and education through exhibits and displays, guided tours and presentations, cultural activities, a heritage experience, and/or special programming and events. Detailed profiles of each attraction, including location, hours of operation, site descriptions, and visitor experience are included in Appendix 5.

Established attractions and visitor destinations within the Susquehanna Heritage Area include:

- Historic Owego Marketplace
- Little Italy, Endicott
- Endicott Visitor Center
- Kopernik Observatory
- Link Planetarium at the Roberson Museum
- Roberson Museum
- Artists Row, Binghamton
- Binghamton Visitor Center at the Roberson Museum
- Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park
- Chenango Valley State Park
- Discovery Center of the Southern Tier
- Carousels

The Binghamton and Endicott Visitor Centers are at the center of information dissemination related to the Susquehanna Heritage Area. The Binghamton Visitor Center, located in the

Roberson Museum, offers on-site education and interpretation about local culture, heritage, and activities, specifically focusing on the industrial development of the region. The Endicott Visitor Center also focuses on early industry, specifically looking at the regional impacts associated with George F. Johnson, Thomas J. Watson, and the IBM and Endicott-Johnson workers.

Six extant working carousels are also noted as visitor generators within the Heritage Area and have been the focus of significant past Heritage Area efforts. The carousels, located in the Villages of Endicott and Johnson City, Town of Union, and City of Binghamton were gifts from George F. Johnson and his family. The carousels were donated to local parks between 1919 and 1934. George F. Johnson believed they should be enjoyed by all and as part of the agreement between local municipalities when they were donated, it was stated that no one should ever be charged to ride them. They continue to run, free of charge, between Memorial Day and Labor Day and are an exciting and unique attraction for the region. The “Ride-the-Carousel” Program has been one of the most successful and recognized Heritage Area efforts that has been in existence since 1993.

The carousels have also been the recipients of seven grant awards through the Heritage Area, combining for funding of approximately \$400,000. Total project costs associated with these awards are notably higher as they leveraged other funding sources to complete capital projects, such as carousel restoration. Grant awards have not paid for carousel-oriented programs, publications, or exhibits; these are paid for out of the local Susquehanna Heritage Area budget.

Other key attractions offer a wide variety of experiences and an array of visitor opportunities including zoological facilities, a children’s museum, and shops and restaurants located within National Register Historic Districts. The existing primary attractions noted within the Susquehanna Heritage Area have varying hours of operation, undertake limited cooperative marketing, and offer varying levels of visitor amenities. These attractions are all largely located near the original Urban Cultural Park boundaries.



*This page intentionally left blank.*



PRIMARY DESTINATIONS

LEGEND

1

Heritage Area Destinations

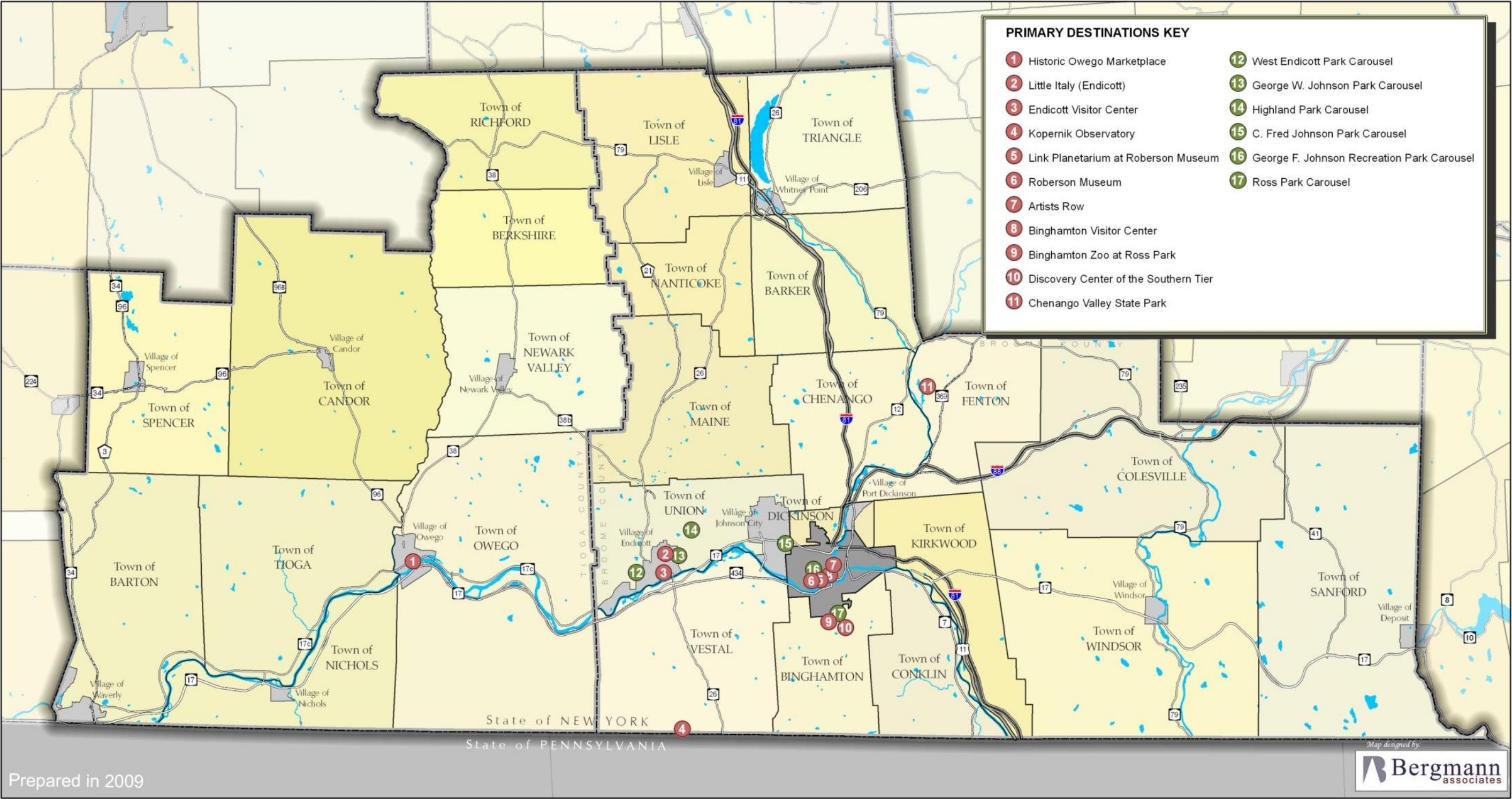
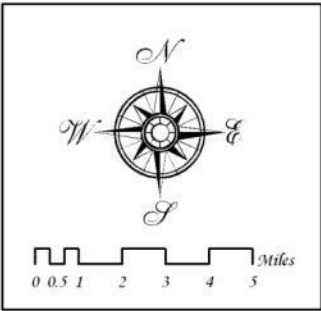
12

Carousels

Cities

Towns

Villages





### 4.3. Historic Resources

Historic resources include those districts, sites, and structures that help to define and explore the historic legacy of the Susquehanna Heritage Area. Historic resources include designated national historic districts and sites, locally designated or recognized historic districts, historic buildings and structures, and historical societies and museums. Although not all identified buildings and structures are publicly accessible, they are directly related to the historic significance and interpretive themes presented in the Management Plan Amendment and should be recognized for their historical contributions to the Heritage Area.

Historic districts are the broadest historic resource category, acknowledging a group of buildings and properties that have historic or architectural significance. Buildings and sites within an historic district may be a combination of contributing and non-contributing resources. A contributing resource generally enhances the overall integrity of the historic district and is integral to supporting the context, character, and significance of the historic district. According to the National Register of Historic Places, an historic district is, "a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development."

#### National Register Historic Districts

When an historic district is nationally designated, it receives an honorary status whereby the federal government is acknowledging the historic district as nationally significant and worthy of preservation. National Register Historic District designation does not create any property restrictions and property protections are limited to actions involving a federal or state government or agency.

Within the Susquehanna Heritage Area, there are eight designated National Register Historic Districts, six within Broome County and two within Tioga County. With the exception of the Berkshire Historic District, the districts are focused along the primary river corridor where a vast majority of the historic resources in the region are concentrated. The historic districts represent a range of architectural styles, time periods, historical themes, and areas of significance which are further detailed in Appendix 6.

- The Abel Bennett Tract Historic District in Binghamton is the most recent district addition within the Susquehanna Heritage Area, listed in February 2008. The district is recognized as an extant example of a late nineteenth to early twentieth century residential subdivision.
- The Court Street Historic District in Binghamton encompasses 33 acres and includes 87 buildings, including Courthouse Square. This district represents significant civic and commercial architectural styles and trends from 1825-1949.



- The Railroad Terminal Historic District in Binghamton includes 19 buildings representing the period between 1875 and 1949. The buildings reflect the City's history associated with transportation and industry.
- The State Street-Henry Street Historic District, also in Binghamton, encompasses seven acres and includes 20 buildings. The district includes a Federal Courthouse and Post Office, as well as an arts district and vernacular early twentieth century commercial structures.
- The Cyrus Gates Homestead Historic District in Maine includes 1300 acres and seven buildings. The farmstead is historically significant from the perspectives of social history, architecture, and agriculture.
- The Windsor Village Historic District is in the heart of the Village of Windsor and includes 70 buildings and 1 structure, covering over 550 acres. The significance of the district is related to architecture, exploration, and settlement from 1800 through 1924.
- The Berkshire Historic District in Berkshire includes 190 acres and 25 buildings representing agriculture and the architectural work of Pierce & Dockstader.
- The Owego Central Historic District, including the boundary increase in 1998, is the largest historic district in the Heritage Area. The district includes 285 buildings and covers over 1,150 acres of land. The predominant architectural styles in the district include Gothic, Italianate, and Greek Revival from the period of 1800 through 1949.
- In addition to the geographically defined national historic districts listed above, the six carousels in the Triple-Cities are listed as a thematic National Register Historic District.

Additional information on each of the national historic districts is included in Appendix 6, with the general location of the districts graphically depicted on the Susquehanna Heritage Area Historic Resource Map.

### State and Local Historic Districts (Designated and/or Recognized)

In addition to the National Register Historic Districts there is one State Registered Historic District in the Town of Vestal, three local historic districts, and one Susquehanna Heritage Area-recognized historic district within the proposed Heritage Area. The Susquehanna Heritage Area-recognized historic district is recognized only in the context of the Heritage Area and is not regulated at the local level or listed or identified as a state registered historic district.

Locally designated historic districts can provide the greatest level of legal protection for historic properties as land use decisions in New York State are made at the local level. As a result, local

historic district designation can also be the most difficult designation to gather public support, as some property owners are resistant to accepting any additional requirements or restrictions on their property, even for the sake of community and building preservation. Locally adopted historic districts in the existing and proposed Susquehanna Heritage Area are limited to the City of Binghamton, Village of Endicott, and Village of Owego.

- Binghamton Local Historic District (locally designated)
- Johnson City Local Historic District (Heritage Area recognized)
- Endicott Local Historic District (locally designated)
- Rivercrest Historic District in the Town of Vestal (local and state designated)
- Owego Historic District (nationally and locally designated)

Additional information on each of the historic districts is included in Appendix 6, with the general location of the districts shown on the Susquehanna Heritage Area Historic Resource Map.

In the City of Binghamton all site plan approval applications for parcels within an historic district and for identified resources within the Urban Cultural Park boundaries (as depicted on map from 1996 plan) are required to be reviewed by the City of Binghamton Commission on Architecture and Urban Design (CAUD). The City of Binghamton is also a Certified Local Government (CLG) community (see sidebar).

The Johnson City Local Historic District was identified in 1986 as part of the development of the Urban Cultural Park Management Plan. Although never officially adopted by the Village and

### *Certified Local Government Program*

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program is a partnership, focused on preservation, between local, state, and national governments which promotes historic preservation at the grassroots level. The program is administered through the National Park Service and the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Designation provides communities access to the expert technical advice of many important preservation agencies and organizations, as well as funding and financial assistance available from these groups.

In order to be designated a CLG, a community must demonstrate commitment to historic preservation by:

- Establishing a historic preservation commission;
- Enforce legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties, through adoption of a local ordinance;
- Maintain a system of survey of local resources; and
- Provide for public participation in the historic preservation program.

incorporated into local regulations as an official local district, the historic district is recognized for its concentration of historic resources and cultural significance as exemplified in the 1986 Urban Cultural Parks Plan. Johnson City does have a local historic preservation ordinance that allows for local historic designations as well as review of projects, but only a few individual resources have been officially designated.

The Endicott Local Historic District was established in 1986. In the same year the village also established historic preservation legislation that provided for the creation of the Endicott Historic Preservation Commission. Their historic preservation legislation was amended in 2000. The Historic Preservation Commission was disbanded at this time. Endicott became a Certified Local Government in the early 1990s but was de-certified in 2009.

The Rivercrest Historic District was approved for state registry designation in 2008 and includes 28 houses along Vestal Parkway that remain from a planned community developed in the 1930s.

The Owego National Register Historic District is both nationally and locally recognized. Decisions regarding historic sites and structures within the district are reviewed by the Owego Historic Preservation Commission.

### Historic Buildings, Structures, and Sites

The history of the Susquehanna Heritage Area is diverse and this diversity is reflected in its historic buildings and sites which range from grand government buildings to modest farmsteads. While a concentration of historic sites are located in the more urbanized Triple-Cities area, important historic buildings are scattered throughout the rural landscape reflecting the rich and varied history of the region.

Within the Susquehanna Heritage Area there are 92 individual buildings, structure, sites, and objects designated in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects that have been deemed to be worthy of preservation. It is intended as one tool to assist in the coordination and support of public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic resources. The National Register list provides a solid baseline for identifying key, priority historic resources within the Susquehanna Heritage Area that may be of interest to visitors. These sites offer opportunities for future interpretation and have potential to be the focus of future investment and marketing efforts.

Cumulatively, the resources in the Susquehanna Heritage Area date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and include individual buildings, cemeteries, religious institutions, bridges, monuments, and carousels. A detailed listing of each of the National Register resources is included in Appendix 7, with locations graphically depicted on the Susquehanna Heritage Area Historic Resource Maps. National Register listed buildings and sites are scattered throughout

the Heritage Area, with notable concentrations in the villages between Waverly and the City of Binghamton. A significant number of sites are also located in the rural areas of Tioga County along the State Route 38 corridor in the Towns of Newark Valley and Berkshire.

In addition to nationally designated historic buildings, structures, and sites, a thorough inventory of historic resources, both nationally and locally significant, was conducted for the City of Binghamton, Village of Endicott, and Village of Johnson City in association with the original Susquehanna Urban Cultural Park Management Plan and subsequent 1996 Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Update. The 1996 Management Plan identified a total of 129 historic resources in the City of Binghamton (58 resources), Village of Johnson City (42 resources), and Village of Endicott (29 resources). A list of resources which have previously been inventoried and documented are identified in Appendix 8.

The list of buildings and sites inventoried to date is not finite. Communities, individuals, and groups throughout the Heritage Area are consistently striving to add resources to the National Register and to existing and proposed historic districts. Identifying, inventorying, and documenting resources is an ongoing effort throughout Broome and Tioga Counties. The Susquehanna Heritage Area has also worked with the Smithsonian Institute to inventory and document every historic monument in Broome County through the Save Outdoor Sculpture program, which is a nationally listed inventory of historic monuments.

There is opportunity for further evaluation, study, and education regarding the varied historic resources within all of the communities of the Heritage Area. Appendix 9 includes a table of other historic resources in Heritage Area communities that have local, regional, or national significance. This table is provided as a sample of the types of resources that may be inventoried by a community, as has been done in the Town of Vestal. It is expected that this list will be continuously modified and updated as additional sites, structures, and buildings are identified and inventoried. Only a small portion of the Heritage Area has been surveyed and there are a large number of historical resources that still need to be identified and surveyed.



*This page intentionally left blank.*



HISTORIC RESOURCES (MAP 1 OF 2)

LEGEND

1

National Register of Historic Places Sites

SHA Recognized Historic Districts

National Register Historic Districts

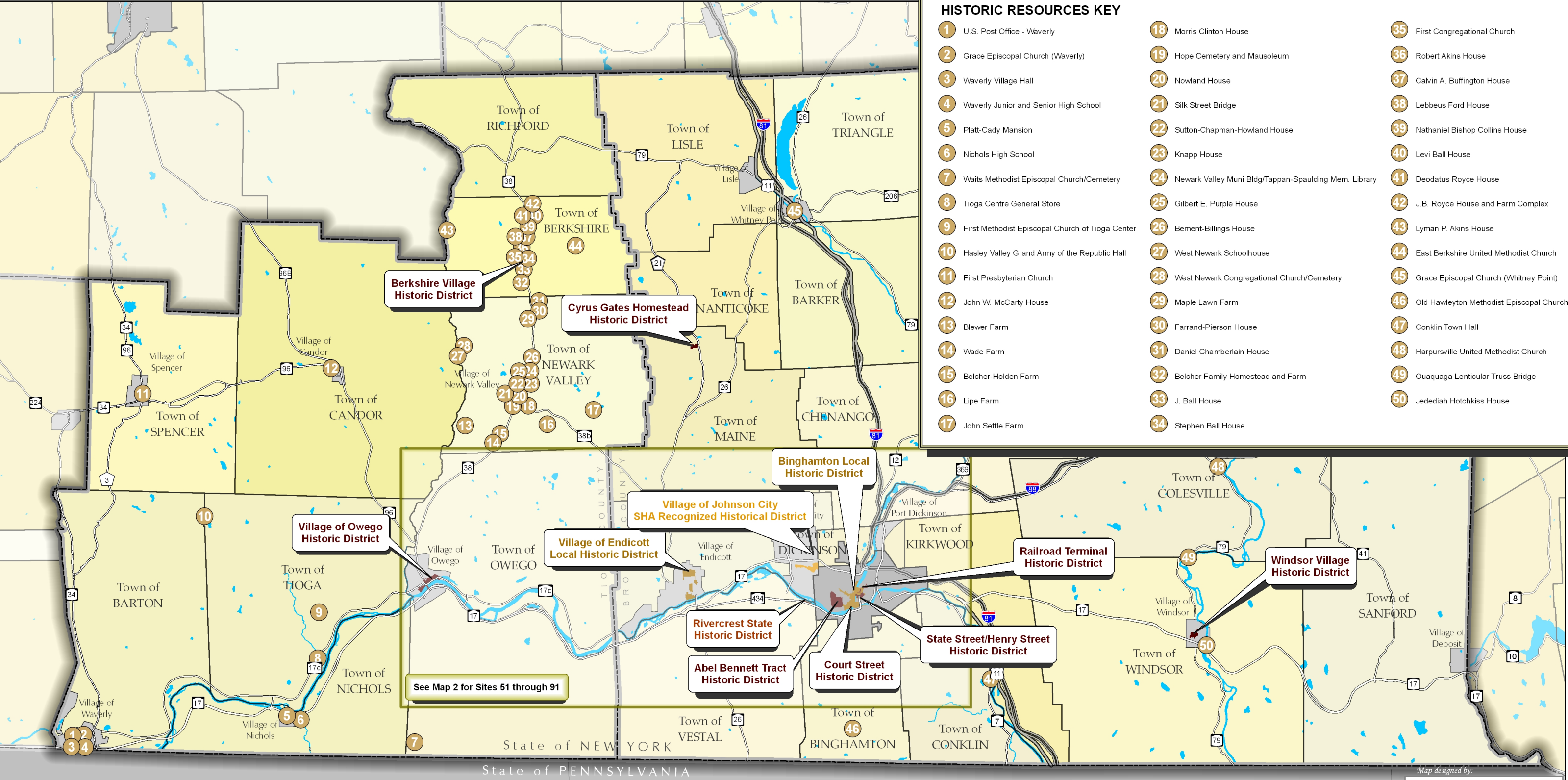
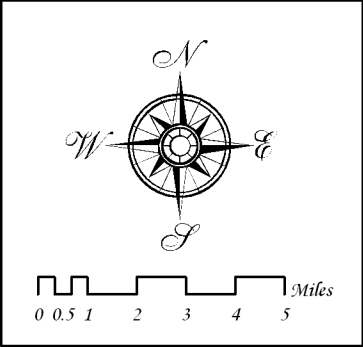
State Register Historic Districts

Local Historic Districts

County Boundaries

Cities

Villages



HISTORIC RESOURCES KEY

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 U.S. Post Office - Waverly                       | 18 Morris Clinton House                                  | 35 First Congregational Church              |
| 2 Grace Episcopal Church (Waverly)                 | 19 Hope Cemetery and Mausoleum                           | 36 Robert Akins House                       |
| 3 Waverly Village Hall                             | 20 Nowland House   | 37 Calvin A. Buffington House               |
| 4 Waverly Junior and Senior High School            | 21 Silk Street Bridge                                    | 38 Lebbeus Ford House                       |
| 5 Platt-Cady Mansion                               | 22 Sutton-Chapman-Howland House                          | 39 Nathaniel Bishop Collins House           |
| 6 Nichols High School                              | 23 Knapp House   | 40 Levi Ball House                          |
| 7 Waits Methodist Episcopal Church/Cemetery        | 24 Newark Valley Muni Bldg/Tappan-Spaulling Mem. Library | 41 Deodatus Royce House                     |
| 8 Tioga Centre General Store                       | 25 Gilbert E. Purple House                               | 42 J.B. Royce House and Farm Complex        |
| 9 First Methodist Episcopal Church of Tioga Center | 26 Bement-Billings House                                 | 43 Lyman P. Akins House                     |
| 10 Hasley Valley Grand Army of the Republic Hall   | 27 West Newark Schoolhouse                               | 44 East Berkshire United Methodist Church   |
| 11 First Presbyterian Church                       | 28 West Newark Congregational Church/Cemetery            | 45 Grace Episcopal Church (Whitney Point)   |
| 12 John W. McCarty House                           | 29 Maple Lawn Farm                                       | 46 Old Hawleyton Methodist Episcopal Church |
| 13 Blewer Farm                                     | 30 Farrand-Pierson House                                 | 47 Conklin Town Hall                        |
| 14 Wade Farm                                       | 31 Daniel Chamberlain House                              | 48 Harpursville United Methodist Church     |
| 15 Belcher-Holden Farm                             | 32 Belcher Family Homestead and Farm                     | 49 Ouaquaga Lenticular Truss Bridge         |
| 16 Lipe Farm                                       | 33 J. Ball House   | 50 Jedediah Hotchkiss House                 |
| 17 John Settle Farm                                | 34 Stephen Ball House                                    |   |





HISTORIC RESOURCES (MAP 2 OF 2)

LEGEND

51 National Register of Historic Places Sites

SHA Recognized Historic Districts

National Register Historic Districts

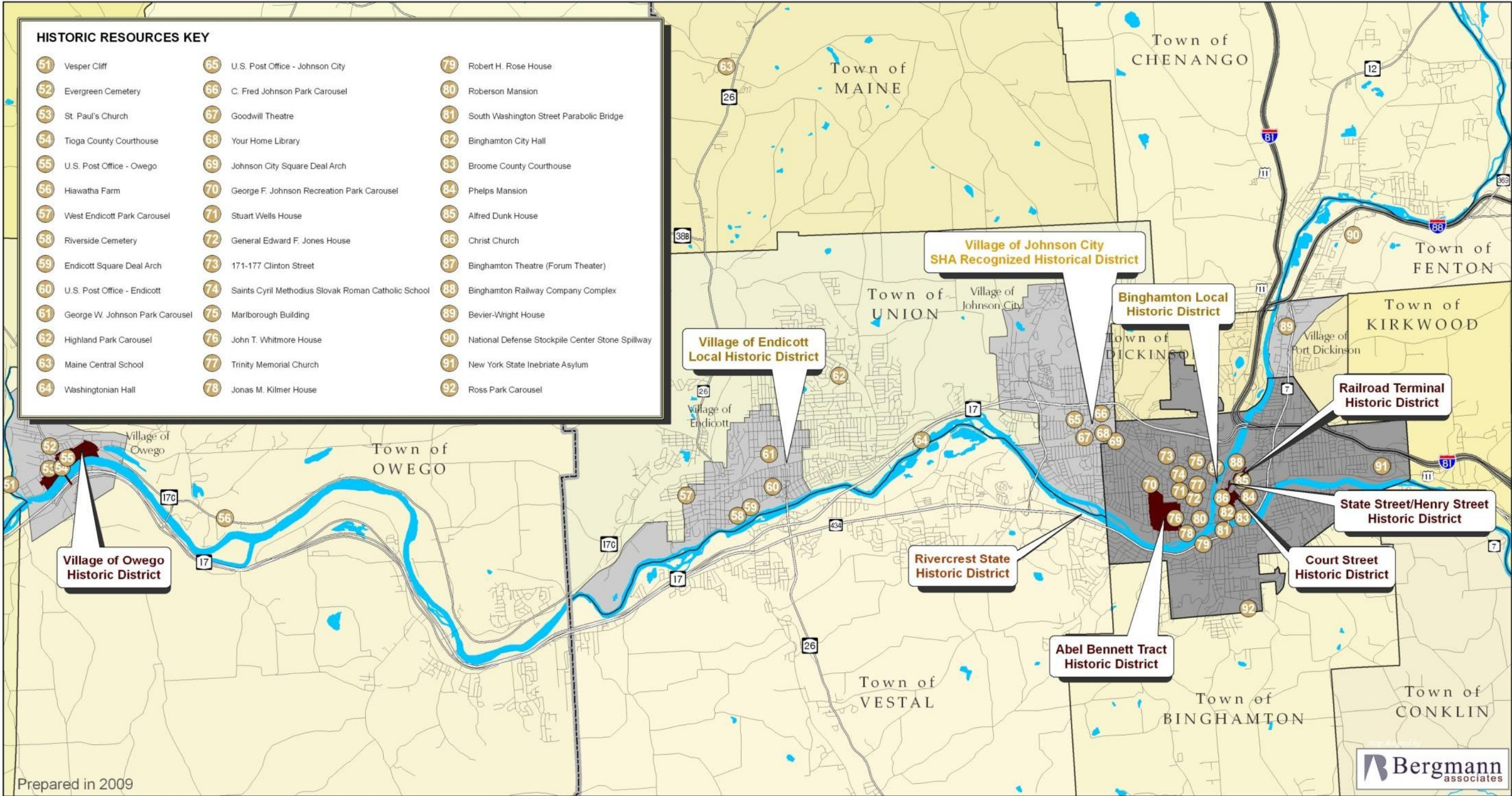
State Register Historic Districts

Local Historic Districts

County Boundaries

Cities

Villages







### Historic Societies and History Museums

A number of communities within the Heritage Area have established historical societies and history museums that highlight the unique heritage and development of their community and the region as a whole. These also serve as locations for information dissemination, education, and interpretation. The hours of operation and availability of these sites for regular public visitation vary significantly, but each site contributes to the overall Heritage Area goals, objectives, and experience. Additional information on each of the historic societies and museums can be found in Appendix 10.

- Amos Patterson Museum & History Center (currently looking for new location)
- Bement Billings Farmstead
- Bundy Arts and Victorian Museum
- Chenango Schoolhouse Museum
- Deposit Historical Society and Museum
- Frisbie Homestead Museum
- IBM Endicott History and Heritage Center
- Kirkwood Historical Society
- Merrill Historical Collection
- Newark Valley Historical Society Depot Museum
- Nanticoke Valley Historical Society and Museum
- Old Stone House Museum
- Olde Village of Union Historical Society
- Phelps Mansion Museum
- Spencer Historical Museum
- Susquehanna River Archaeological Center
- Tioga County Historical Society Museum
- Vestal Museum



*This page intentionally left blank.*

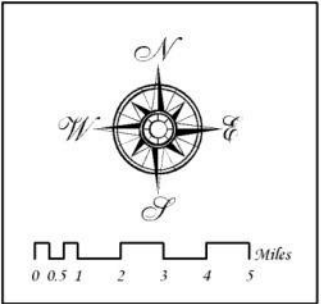
Susquehanna Heritage Area  
BROOME AND TIOGA COUNTIES, NY

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES & MUSEUMS

LEGEND

- 1

Heritage Area Destinations
- Towns
- Cities
- Villages



HISTORICAL SOCIETIES & MUSEUMS KEY

- 1

 Merrill Historical Collection
- 2

 Susquehanna River Archaeological Center
- 3

 Frisbie Homestead Museum
- 4

 Spencer Historical Museum
- 5

 Tioga County Historical Society Museum
- 6

 Newark Valley Depot Museum
- 7

 Bement Billings Farmstead
- 8

 Vestal Museum
- 9

 Olde Village of Union Historical Society
- 10

 IBM History and Heritage Center
- 11

 Nanticoke Valley Historical Society & Museum
- 12

 Bundy Arts and Victorian Museum
- 13

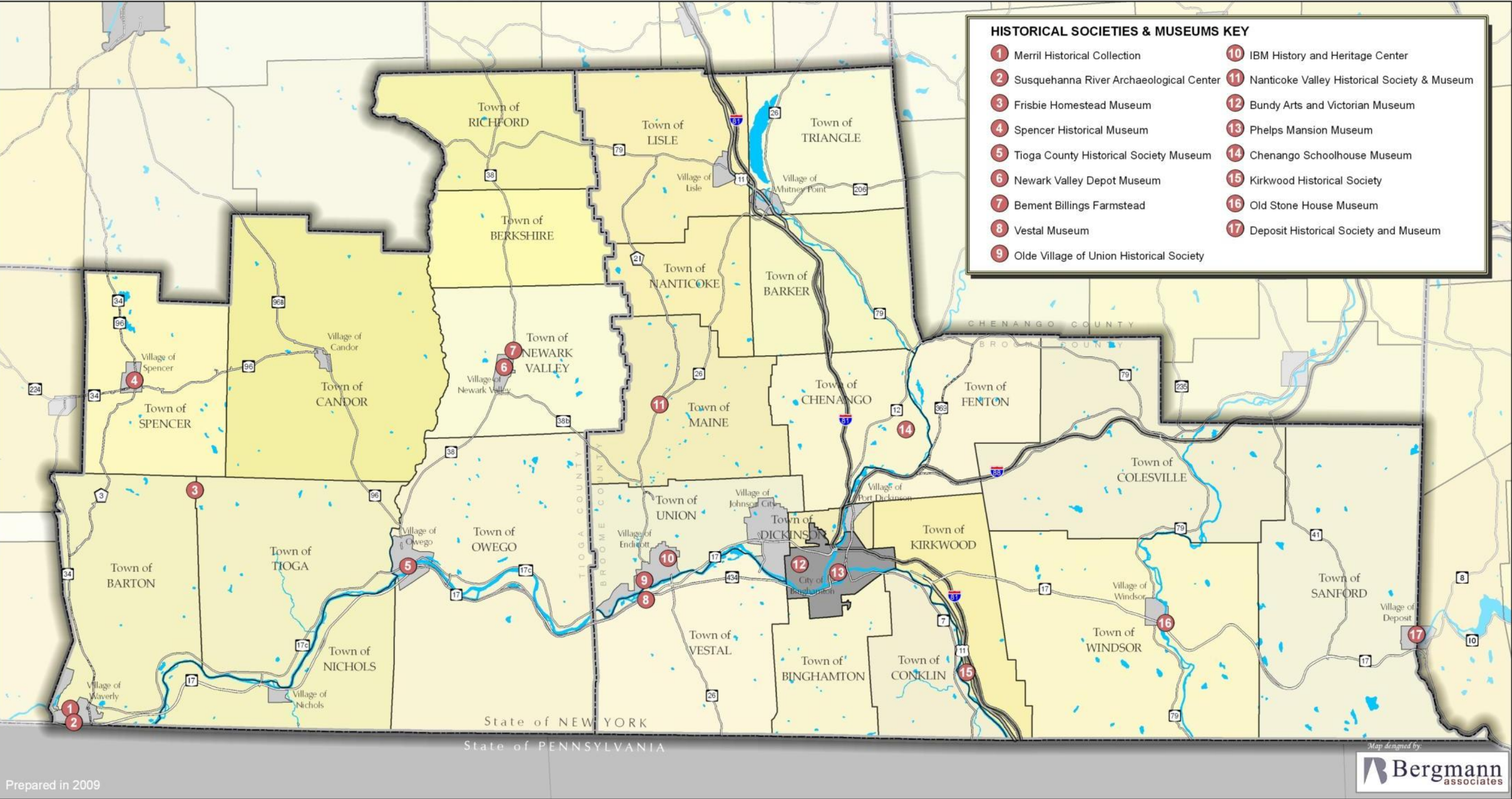
 Phelps Mansion Museum
- 14

 Chenango Schoolhouse Museum
- 15

 Kirkwood Historical Society
- 16

 Old Stone House Museum
- 17

 Deposit Historical Society and Museum



Prepared in 2009

Map designed by:  
**Bergmann**  
associates





#### 4.4. Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are those sites that focus on the arts, music, and ethnic diversity of the region. These resources include performing arts venues, galleries, and cultural districts that have regular operating hours or scheduled performances which are open to the public. The Susquehanna Heritage Area is fortunate to have a varied tapestry of arts and culture venues which range from large stage productions to independently owned and operated art galleries.

The Susquehanna Heritage Area is home to a talented artistic community ranging from craftspeople to musicians to fine artists. Some use the raw materials of the region, such as old barn wood, to produce finished goods while others draw on the region's natural beauty for inspiration. The art groups within the region continue to keep the spirit of Heritage Area alive by maintaining active calendars of cultural events and special programs including monthly gallery walks and annual arts festivals.

The Cultural Resource Map highlights the location of cultural resources in the Heritage Area, with additional information about each of the identified resources included in Appendix 11.

##### Performing Arts Venues

Performing Arts Venues within the Heritage Area are located along the State Route 17 corridor, extending from the west end of the study area in the Village of Waverly (Waverly Opera House) to the easternmost Heritage Area community, the Village of Deposit (Deposit Community Theatre & Arts Center). Thirteen other venues are located in the Village of Owego and in the Triple-Cities region.

The Heritage Area is anchored by two regionally significant performing art centers, Anderson Center for the Performing Arts on the Binghamton University campus and The Forum – Broome County Performing Arts Center. Each offers a range of productions and media art opportunities. The Anderson Center for the Performing Arts features a full range of performances from international artists to popular acts to student recitals. The center is designed to accommodate a full range of performers ranging from student plays to solo performances to large theatrical productions complemented by a full-scale orchestra. The Binghamton Philharmonic, Broadway Theatre League, Tri-Cities Opera, and various dance troupes from across the nation and the world perform at The Forum, a restored vaudeville house. In addition to a rotating performance schedule, the Forum also houses a permanent display, *Day of a Playwright*, which celebrates the work of Rod Serling, the creator of "The Twilight Zone."

The Anderson Center and The Forum are supplemented by an impressive series of local performing groups and theatres, many of which are housed within historic sites, including the Ti-Ahwaga Performing Arts Center in Owego, Cider Mill Playhouse, Endicott Performing Arts Center, and Firehouse Stage in the Goodwill Theatre Complex. Together, these organizations

and performing art sites help to highlight and support local musicians, actors, and craftspersons and offer a variety of cultural opportunities to local residents and visitors.

### Galleries

Twenty-nine galleries have been identified within the Heritage Area, stretching from the Village of Owego to the Village of Windsor. The majority of these resources are concentrated in the City of Binghamton. Binghamton is recognized for their Artists Row district which includes dozens of galleries along State Street in the downtown core. Gallery resources range from showrooms and working artist studios to locally made jewelry retailers and unique gift shops. The galleries provide a unique experience and targeted marketing opportunity for future visitors to the Heritage Area, both on an individual and collective level. In addition to identified galleries, several restaurants throughout the region have acclaimed art collections on their walls, most notably in “Little Venice” in Binghamton and “Little Italy” restaurants in Endicott.

Binghamton in Broome County and Owego in Tioga County are home to monthly events that draw attention and focus to the artist community within the region. The events draw a significant number of visitors on a monthly basis to the respective downtowns and offer a successful incentive for increased visitation and can serve as a catalyst for further downtown revitalization efforts.

Binghamton is recognized for its highly successful *First Friday* events presented by the Gorgeous Washington Association. This monthly event features over forty sites in the downtown including not only galleries but also restaurants, museums, theatres, bars, and small businesses. Free Broome County Transit Trolley rides are provided during the event and include guided tours of the downtown.

Owego is home to the *Third Friday Art Walk Art Talk* event. Presented by the Historic Owego Marketplace, the event is similar to that in Binghamton’s First Friday in that it seeks to highlight the creative arts community within the Village. Restaurants and businesses in the downtown core actively participate in the event which typically involves more than a dozen local artisans.

### Cultural Attractions

Four additional cultural attractions were identified in the Heritage Area that have the potential to be enhanced through implementation of the Management Plan and are already, to some extent, established visitor destinations. Cultural attractions that welcome residents and visitors include the Broome County Fairgrounds, Historic Owego Marketplace, Clinton Street Antique Row in Binghamton, and Little Italy in Endicott.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

LEGEND

1

Cultural Attractions

5

Galleries

35

Performing Arts/Venues

Artists Row (see map inset)

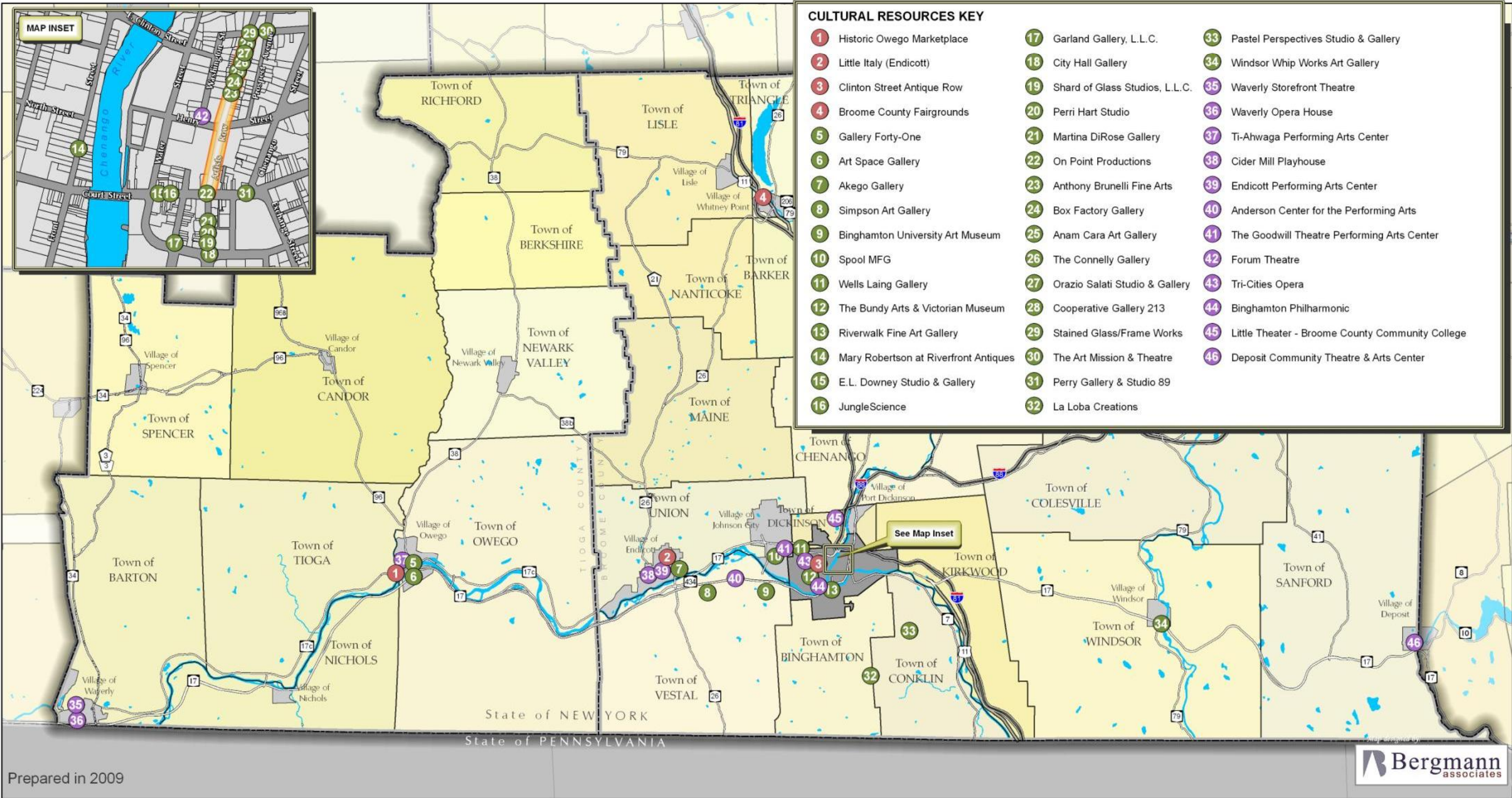
County Boundaries

Cities

Towns

Villages

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 4 Miles



Prepared in 2009

Bergmann Associates | John Milner Associates 89





#### 4.5. Agritourism Resources

The rural landscapes of Broome and Tioga Counties present an opportunity for local economic development. Within the Susquehanna Heritage Area there is a variety of specialty farms that provide exceptional opportunities for promoting agritourism in the region while also supporting the needs of local residents. Agribusinesses are scattered throughout the Susquehanna Heritage Area and include farmers markets, individually-operated produce markets, horse farms and specialty markets that produce a range of goods such as honey, maple syrup, and organic products (see Agritourism Resource Map and Appendix 12 for additional information).

Tioga County has already invested a significant amount of marketing into its agribusinesses, and they are well documented and highlighted in both tourism books and on the official tourism website for Tioga County where they have a direct link on the homepage under the heading “Farm Tours and Products.” Agribusinesses are also highlighted on the Greater Binghamton Convention and Visitors Bureau (GBCVB) website under a link for Agritourism, which is a secondary link under the primary heading of “Great Outdoors.” The GBCVB has also developed a brochure that highlights and maps 36 different agritourism sites in the County. However, there does not appear to be any clear partnerships or joint marketing between existing agribusinesses to promote and market themselves uniformly.

Broome County is currently undertaking a feasibility study to determine whether a year-round regional farmers market could be supported somewhere in the County. A primary site for consideration of a Regional Farmer’s Market facility is Otsiningo Park and the location would offer numerous opportunities for interpretive and promotional Heritage Area initiatives due to its high visitation and visibility. This would also provide identified agribusinesses an additional opportunity for marketing and promotion.

Below is a summary of agritourism resources within the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

##### Farmers Markets

There are 10 farmers markets in the Heritage Area, located in urban and village centers, including a concentration of six markets in the Triple-Cities area. Outlying markets are located in the Village of Owego, Village of Waverly, Village of Whitney Point, and Village of Deposit.

The markets are seasonal in nature, typically opening in late May or early June and running through October. Each market has either a one or two-day operating schedule with limited hours of operation. With the exception of the markets in Binghamton and Owego, each of the farmers markets is open on at least one day on the weekend. The markets offer a variety of seasonal produce, including flowers, herbs, homemade soaps, wines, baked goods, jam, honey, and maple syrup.

Each of the farmers' markets is a member of the Farmers' Market Federation of New York, which is a grassroots membership organization of market managers, farmers, and supporters. The goal of the organization is increase the capacity of local farmers' markets in the New York State, improve the management of markets, and improve the ability for markets to serve the local community. The Federation website lists each of the farmers markets, including contact information, location, and hours of operation.

### Flowers and Plants

The flower, plant, and garden agribusiness category includes garden centers and greenhouses. Seven agribusinesses have been identified in this category and are scattered throughout the study area in both Broome and Tioga Counties, with many located along or in close proximity to the Route 17 corridor. The focus of all the businesses in this category is on retail sales, with many of the sites also integrating other opportunities to enhance the visitor experience through display gardens, gift shops, and tours. Other special visitor features offered at these destinations include ornamental ponds for viewing, a conservatory, water gardens, special events, a driving range, and a corn maze. One of the garden centers also focuses on rare and unusual plants that are typically not available at retail centers.

All but one of the businesses has an individual website which provides information on the history, location, hours of operation, contact information and amenities and services available. Only one of the businesses was noted as being open all-year round, with the others noting their season as running from April or May through September or October.

### Horse Farms and Stables

Horse farms are a notable niche market within the Heritage Area, with eight farms and stables identified in Broome and Tioga Counties extending from the Town of Spencer on the west to the Town of Windsor on the east. Seven of the eight farms have individual websites which promote and showcase their business. Farms within Tioga County benefit from direct marketing on the county tourism website.

The range of services provided by these establishments varies widely. Three of the farms focus solely on breeding and selling horses, thus offering limited potential for promotion to the public as a destination within the Heritage Area. Other farms offer a range of goods and services marketable to the general public and visitors, including lessons, camps, boarding, trails for riding rented horses, and special events.

### Livestock Farms

Livestock and poultry farms include those agribusinesses that focus on raising animals and either selling the animals or selling products from that animal. Livestock and poultry farms in the region are diverse, making it a unique attribute of the Heritage Area. Within the Heritage

Area, livestock and poultry farms include products from the following animals: alpacas, goats, pheasants, peacocks, geese, chicken, rabbits, cows, buffalo, sheep, pigs, llamas, and cattle.

Of the 13 identified livestock and poultry farm businesses, nine are located within Tioga County, with a concentration in the northwest corner of the Heritage Area. All of the farms are open to the public, whether they only sell livestock or also sell products, ranging from meats to dairy products to fleece and finished goods. Ancillary products sold include furniture made from recycled barn wood and handmade alpaca merchandise. Organic farming is a specialty industry that is also represented and offers a niche market with growing appeal.

The majority of the identified livestock and poultry farms have individual websites which highlight their farm and identify contact information and state how to make purchases. A small number of the farms also attract visitors by offering special events and behind-the-scenes farm tours. On-site gift shops, on-line selling, and participation in local farmers' markets are alternative avenues utilized by farmer's to promote their business and sell products.

### Produce Farms

The Heritage Area is home to upwards of 21 produce farms and markets, generally consisting of operations that grow fresh fruits and vegetables. Given the seasonal nature of crops, these businesses are typically open to the public from May to November, many open for extended days, for seven days a week in-season. Amenities and experience offered to the public range from full markets in designated buildings to roadside produce stands to u-pick opportunities. Some of the larger establishments host special events, maintain on-site gift shops, and have on-site greenhouses.

The location of produce farms within the Heritage Area is widely scattered across both Tioga and Broome Counties. A number of these farms are located on identified scenic road connections within the Heritage Area, resulting in enhanced opportunities for future coordination with regards to marketing, signage, thematic tours and designated linkages.

Individual marketing of these businesses ranges from sophisticated brochures to handmade roadside signs. The larger, more established produce farms have individual websites that are very effective in relaying information to the public about services, operating hours, and history. Other farms rely on business information being shared from centralized websites, such as the tourism website for Tioga County. A small number of the individual websites provide links to other websites that promote the region, including other farm businesses, bed and breakfast establishments, and regional tourism sites.

### Specialty Farms

A total of 13 specialty agribusinesses are located across Broome and Tioga Counties. Specialty businesses are defined as those that cater to one specific area of expertise, including honey,

maple syrup, wine-making, pumpkins, or Christmas trees. Few of these sites host their own individual websites, but are included on regional sites such as County websites and the Cornell Cooperative Extension site, which highlights agricultural businesses throughout the State.

Hours of operation and accessibility to the public vary widely by the type of business. Maple syrup focused businesses are typically open during maple syrup season in February and March for an extended hours and extended services, including tours and demonstrations. The selling of maple products to the public ranges from a roadside stand open May through October to year round on-site retail.

One business which focuses on pumpkin production is open daily from May through October and is host to a wide variety of related visitor services, including a craft display, corn maze, petting zoo, hayrides, and a haunted house. Christmas tree farms are also seasonal, typically open only in the months of November and December, though open daily for extended periods during those months. They offer people the opportunity to cut their own Christmas tree on-site.

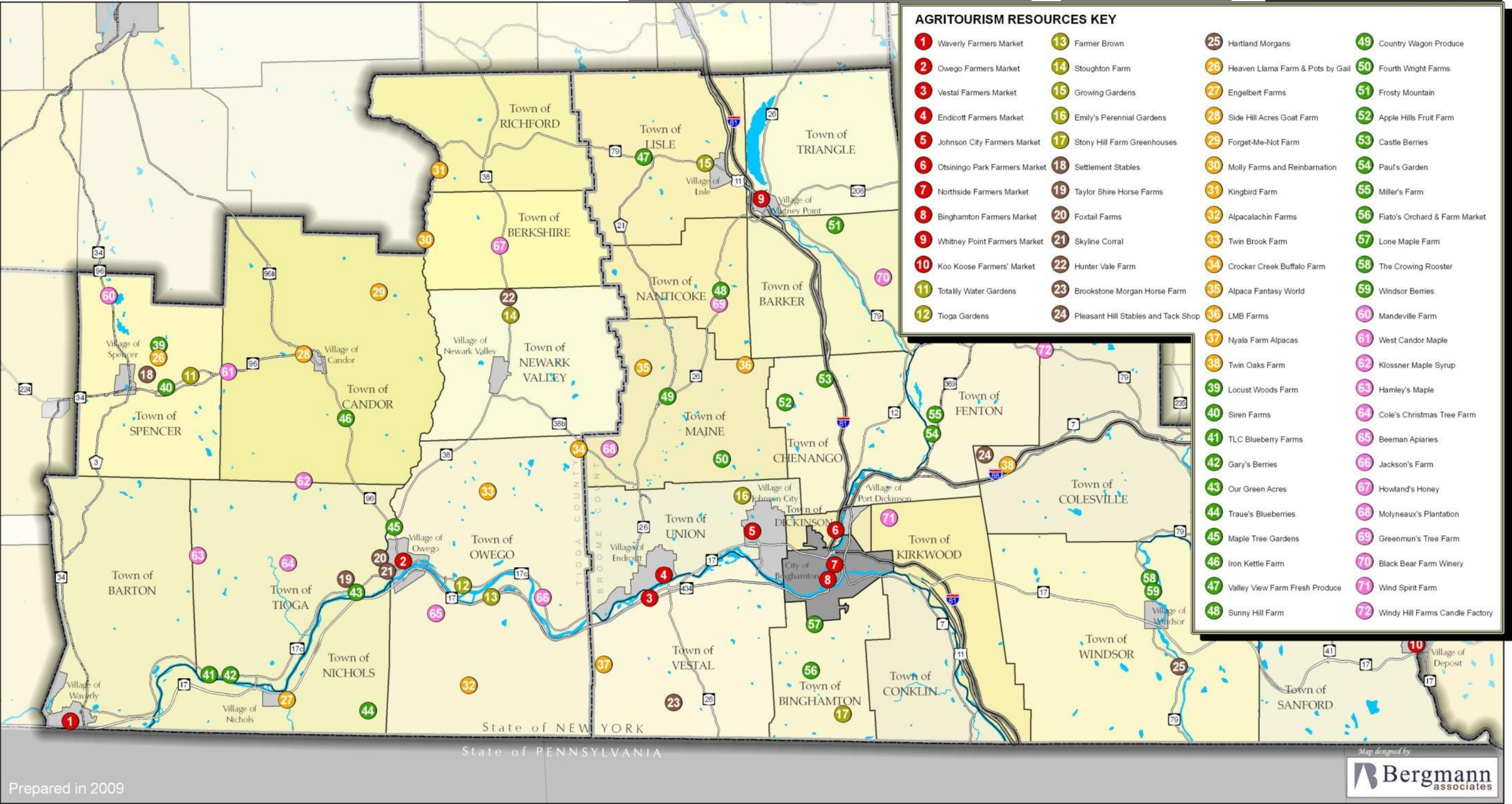
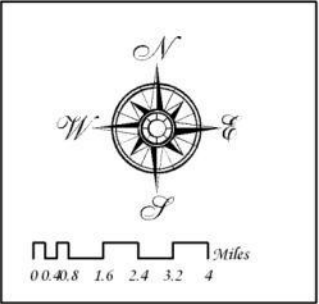


Susquehanna Heritage Area  
BROOME AND TIOGA COUNTIES, NY

AGRITOURISM RESOURCES

LEGEND

1 Farmers Markets	26 Livestock & Poultry Farms
11 Flowers, Plants, & Gardens	39 Produce Farms
18 Horse Farms	60 Specialty
County Boundaries	Towns
Cities	Villages





#### 4.6. Recreational and Natural Resources

The Susquehanna Heritage Area is defined by its natural resources, most notably the Susquehanna River which flows through the region before emptying into the Chesapeake Bay. The Susquehanna River watershed includes a myriad of other rivers and streams, hills, open fields, woodlands, and wildlife that help to define the region, both in terms of natural resources and recreational opportunities. Recreational opportunities abound within the Susquehanna Heritage Area. Activities range from a passive walk on one of the many state forest trails to kayaking along the river to a variety of other passive and active pursuits in the regions abundant local, county, and state park sites.

##### State Forests

There are 18 state forests identified within the Susquehanna Heritage Area, covering more than 20,000 acres in Broome and Tioga Counties. The state forests, operated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), provide exceptional opportunities for a wide variety of active and passive recreation, including:

- Hunting
- Trapping
- Snowmobiling
- Bird Watching
- Hiking
- Skiing
- Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Fishing
- Snowshoeing
- Nature Observation

Amenities and opportunities vary widely within each state forest. Information about each state forest is available through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation but there does not appear to be any widely distributed marketing materials specific to the region which highlight these resources in a comprehensive fashion.

##### State Parks

There are three state parks within the Heritage Area, two in Broome County and one in Tioga County, that offer a wide variety of amenities, natural landscapes, and recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. The state parks are operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and are described in further detail below.

*Chenango Valley State Park*, located in Chenango Forks, has not only exquisite natural beauty, but also features a number of historically-significant, rustic-style stone buildings constructed by



the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s. Several picturesque stone pavilions are located at picnic areas off the main road of the park, a well-preserved rustic clubhouse occupies a central location adjacent to the golf course, and recreation buildings stand near the beach on Lily Lake. Historic CCC-built cabins and stone bridges are also located in the park. In addition, remnants of a Chenango Canal lock and the towpath trail, which is pending as a National Register listing on the state-wide thematic district, are located in the park.

Recreational opportunities are plentiful for those seeking both passive and active activities. With over 200 campsites and two dozen campgrounds, the park offers opportunities for multi-day, and multi-purpose, visits. Visitors can be entertained in the summer by fishing, swimming, picnicking, biking, hiking, birdwatching, or golfing at the park's 18-hole golf course. In the winter ice skating, cross-country skiing, and sledding attract visitors. The park is open year round from sunrise to sunset.

*Oquaga Creek State Park*, partially located in the Town of Sanford, features attractions that appeal to visitors in all seasons including a 55-acre lake with sand beach, fishing, forested campsites, six miles of trails, boat rentals, picnic facilities, and a full-service vacation rental house. In the winter the park welcomes ice skaters, ice fisherman, snowshoers, and cross-country skiers.

The *Two Rivers State Park*, in Waverly, is a fairly new state park, designated in 2005. The park boasts 600-acres of wooded, picturesque parklands and offers hiking and biking trails. A Master Plan for the park is underway to identify future amenities and services that should be added within the parklands.

### County Parks

Each of the nine County Parks within the Heritage Area are located within Broome County but are assets for the entire region as they offer an abundance of passive and active recreational opportunities on over 2,500 acres of parkland. The Broome County Parks and Recreation system includes the following park facilities which range in size from 12 acres to over 1,000 acres:

- Aqua-Terra Park (Town of Binghamton)
- Dorchester Park (Town of Triangle)
- Finch Hollow Nature Center (Town of Maine)
- Grippen Park (Village of Endicott)
- Greenwood Park (Town of Nanticoke)
- Hawkins Pond Nature Area (Town of Windsor)
- Nathaniel Cole Park (Town of Colesville)
- Otsiningo Park (Town of Dickinson)
- Roundtop Picnic Area (Village of Endicott)

Each of the parks offers recreation opportunities, facilities, and services that range from picnic shelters and playgrounds to boat rentals and white sand beaches. The facilities available at each park are listed in Appendix 13.

### Regional Parks

Although Hickories Park is located and maintained by the Town of Owego, it is considered to be the Tioga County equivalent of the County parks that exist within Broome County. Located on the banks of the Susquehanna River, the park encompasses more than 100 acres and offers a variety of recreational amenities. Camping pads, tent sites, showers, and a boat launch are also park attractions. Hickories Park is home to a number of special events that occur annually in the Town and is a well-known passive and active recreation asset for the region. Given its waterfront location and strong ties to both Tioga County and the Susquehanna River, Hickories Park is an ideal location for outdoor interpretive exhibits associated with the Heritage Area.

### Municipal Parks

With over 40 municipal parks, the Heritage Area has no shortage of passive and active recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The municipal parks also provide opportunities for outdoor education and interpretation as determined appropriate at the local community level.

### Regional Recreation Facilities

Regional recreational facilities highlighted in the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment include those sites that contribute to the history and heritage of the region. The Management Plan Amendment identifies seven regional recreation facilities sites in the Heritage Area that already offer educational and interpretive programming, have a strong historical connection to the Heritage Area, or have the potential to incorporate interpretive programming in the future.

Identified regional recreation facilities include:

- Hiawatha Island
- Waterman Conservation Education Center
- En-Joie Golf Course
- The Glen
- Binghamton University Nature Preserve
- Cutler Botanic Garden
- Whitney Point Lake Recreation Area

*Hiawatha Island* is recognizable for both its current environmental and natural resources and its history with remnants of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century hotel and farm building still visible on the island. Today, a pontoon boat provides access from the mainland to the island for special tours and events. Hiawatha Island lies within the Susquehanna River between Owego and Apalachin and

was turned over to the Waterman Center in the 1990's to be managed as a wildlife refuge and education center.

The primary site of the *Waterman Conservation Education Center* is located in Apalachin and is open to the public. In addition to public trails, the site offers educational programming, special events, and includes exhibits that interpret the history and natural resources of the region.

*En-Joie Golf Course* is historically significant locally as it was originally built by George F. Johnson, the owner of Endicott-Johnson Company, for use by his employees working at the local shoe factory in Endicott, as well as the public-at-large.

*The Glen*, in the Town of Union, contains some of the oldest and largest trees in Broome County and is recognized for its cascading gorge. One of the first homesteaders in the region built next to the Glen during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Today, visitors can still use the trail built in the 1930s that includes natural stone steps and two stone arch bridges. The Glen was owned and cared for by the IBM Corporation for over 7 decades before they donated the facility to the Waterman Conservation Education Center in 2005.

*Binghamton University Nature Preserve* is a significant natural resource asset within the Heritage Area, located on the Binghamton University campus. More than two-thirds of the campus is undeveloped with 182-acres officially designated as Nature Preserve. The presence of the Nature Preserve makes the campus a valuable resource for teaching, learning, and outdoor recreation. It is home to a variety of mammals, as well as over 200 bird species. In addition to nature and bird watching, the preserve also includes a number of maintained hiking trails and a wooden footbridge.

*Cutler Botanic Garden* is a three and a half acre site in Binghamton that is open daily in the summer to visitors. The garden was established by Miss Frances Cutler who donated it to Cornell University Cooperative Extension. The garden serves as a classroom for teaching horticulture and environmentalism and provides opportunities for expanded educational and interpretive programming.

Located in the Town of Triangle, the *Whitney Point Lake Recreation Area* was created between 1938 and 1942 by the Baltimore District of the Army Corps of Engineers. The dam extends 95 feet high and backs up the Otselic River, creating a 1200 acre lake that extends four and a half miles long. The Recreation Area includes Dorchester Park as well as trails and a snowmobile corridor outside of the park.

## Other Recreational Opportunities

### *Regional Trails Initiative*

Walking and hiking trails are plentiful throughout the region and offer opportunities for exercise and to enjoy the scenic beauty of the region. Though these trails are typically not well signed or mapped, they are widely used and very popular with both local residents and visitors. In addition to trails located in the state forests and in area parks, other walking trails include the Arnold Park Nature and Exercise Trail in Vestal, the Binghamton River Trail, Binghamton University Nature Preserve Trail, Choconut Creek Flood Wall, Dodd Road in Vestal, Foley Road in Vestal, Gardner Road in Vestal, Hawkins Pond Nature Area, and the Vestal Rail Trail.

The Regional Trails Initiative, identified in the Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study, provides guidance and recommendations associated with developing a comprehensive trail network throughout the region that expands on the multitude of trails already in place. There are solid plans in place to connect the City of Binghamton to Binghamton University, to provide the Binghamton River Trail connection north along the Chenango River to Otsiningo Park, and from the Vestal Rail Trail to Owego. There is notable potential for further expansion of the trail connection which could be directly tied to Heritage Area efforts and projects aimed at linking and connecting Heritage Area communities.

### *Bicycle Infrastructure*

The Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study identifies multi-use trails as well as on-road bikeway linkages that would connect Owego to Chenango Valley State Park and the Town of Conklin. A significant number of the proposed trails and linkages are directly associated with the River Resource Corridor identified on the Concept Plan for the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

Bicycling opportunities also abound in the rolling hills of the Heritage Area, which provide welcome challenges for cyclists. The rural roadways of the Heritage Area benefit from limited traffic levels and a number of the highly scenic roads are designated bike routes, including NYS Bike Route 17, Foley Road in South Vestal, and trails throughout Chenango Valley State Park.

### *Susquehanna River*

The Susquehanna River and its tributaries provide opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, boating, fishing, and swimming that should be further enhanced. However, access to these opportunities is not widely available or identifiable. The Tioga County Visitor Guide and website does provide specific locations for access to the Susquehanna River but widespread information is not readily available to visitors, particularly in the form of signage. River access potential will be identified in the County-wide Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) study that is currently underway.



### *Winter Season Activities*

There are also opportunities within the Susquehanna Heritage Area for a range of winter recreation activities, including trails for snowmobiling and cross country skiing.

### *Horseback Riding*

Horseback riding is an already established sport in the Heritage Area, with eight horse farms scattered throughout Broome and Tioga Counties. The existing horse farms offer a variety of opportunities to visitors, some have limited public accessibility limited while others offer a full range of public services including horse trails, rentals, lessons, and guided horseback tours.



RECREATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

LEGEND

1

Municipal Recreation Facilities

43

Regional Recreation Facilities

Bike Routes

Multi-Use Trails

State Forests

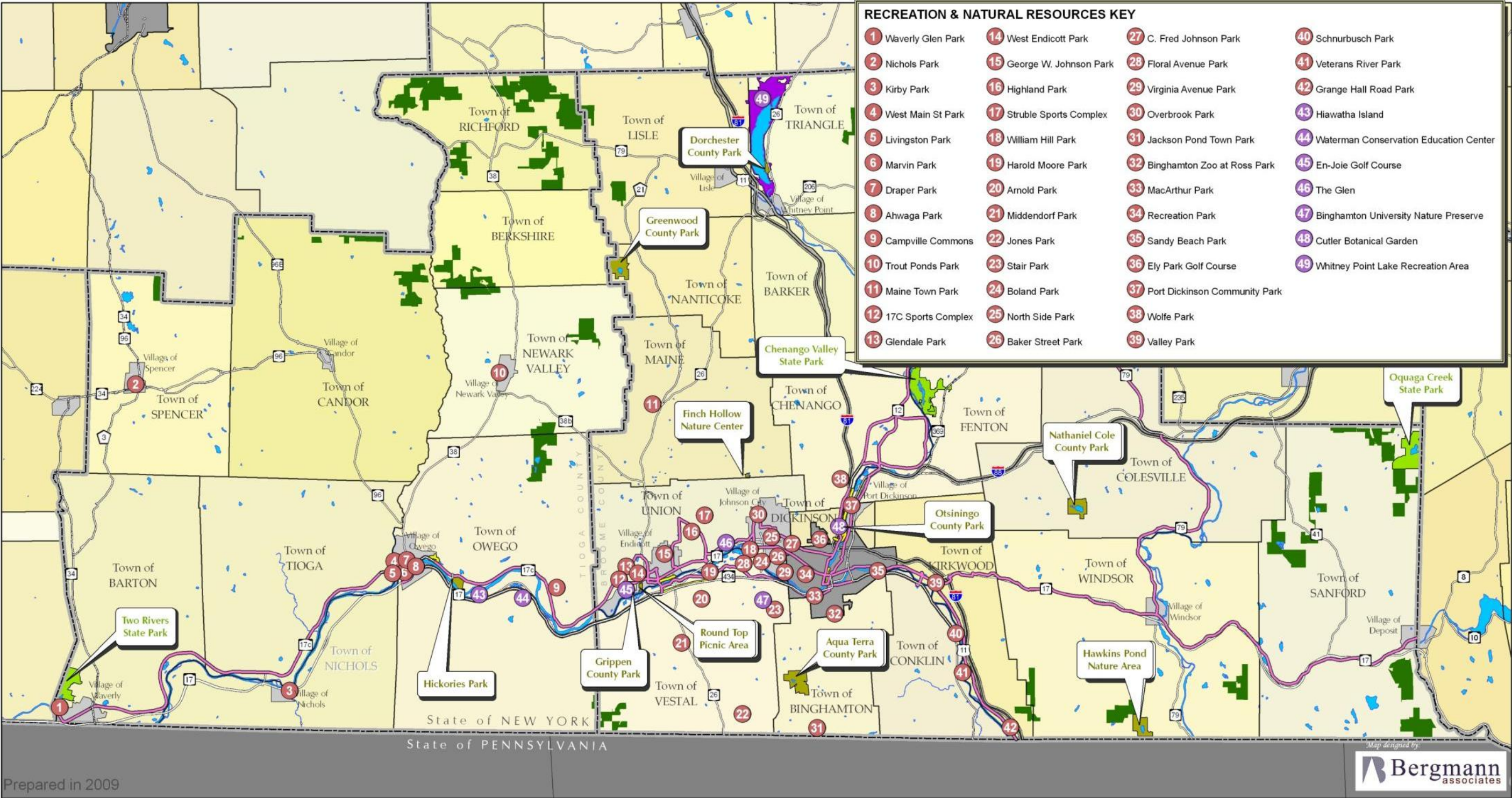
County/Regional Parks

State Parks

Cities

Towns

Villages







## 4.7. Heritage Area Partners

The Susquehanna Heritage Area includes community groups, agencies, and organizations that continuously strive to offer a multitude of community services to Heritage Area residents and visitors. Local business groups, government agencies, tourism organizations, art groups, neighborhood associations, and religious institutions are some examples of the existing partners that offer programs, events, and activities within the region. The following section identifies stakeholders that can positively contribute to the future of the Heritage Area.

Stakeholders may change and new organizations may be identified. This list should not be considered finite and is intended to serve as a starting point for considering potential partners for the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

### 4.7.1. NATIONAL PARTNERS

National partners that could assist in furthering the goals and objectives of the Susquehanna Management Plan Amendment are identified below. These organizations and agencies can provide monetary and technical assistance in implementing programs and projects associated with the Heritage Area. Efforts should be made to establish and maintain strong, active, and productive relationships with these organizations.

- Alliance of National Heritage Areas
- American Farmland Trust
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Land Trust Alliance
- National Park Service
- National Scenic Byway Program
- National Trust for Historic Preservation

### 4.7.2. STATE PARTNERS

There are a number of state partners that currently support Heritage Area efforts and could continue to assist in furthering the goals and objectives of the Susquehanna Management Plan Amendment. These organizations and agencies can provide monetary and technical assistance in implementing programs and projects associated with furthering the vision of the Heritage Area. Efforts should be made to establish and maintain strong relationships with these organizations and to be involved in decision making that has the potential to impact the Heritage Area.

- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
- NYS Department of Economic Development

- NYS Department of Education
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Department of State
- NYS Department of Transportation
- NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal
- NYS Empire State Development
- NYS Heritage Area Advisory Council
- NYS Heritage Area Association
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- NYS Scenic Byway Program
- NYS Urban Development Council
- Preservation League of New York State

### 4.7.3. REGIONAL PARTNERS

Regional organizations and potential partners that will be key stakeholders in the long-term success of the Heritage Area include, but are not limited to:

- American Civic Association
- Binghamton Downtown Inc.
- Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
- Binghamton Visitor Center at Roberson Museum
- Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park
- Broome County Council of Churches
- Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development
- Broome County Historical Society
- Center for Technology and Innovation
- Chesapeake Bay Gateway
- County-wide Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Endicott Visitor Center
- Endless Mountains Heritage Area (Pennsylvania)
- Finger Lakes Land Trust
- Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
- Goodwill Theatre, Inc.
- Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Binghamton Visitor and Convention Bureau
- Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST)
- Roberson Museum & Science Center
- Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission
- Tioga County Economic Development and Planning
- Tioga County Tourism Office
- Upper Susquehanna Coalition

#### 4.7.4. LOCAL PARTNERS

The New York State Heritage Area program is a locally-driven, grassroots program that relies heavily on local communities and organizations to meet its goals and objectives. Historically, local communities help provide and administer a program and experience that entertains and educates visitors from near and far.

Active local organizations in the Heritage Area often include neighborhood groups to historical societies and business associations. Each of the groups offers a slightly different perspective to Heritage Area development but they are connected by a common theme – a desire to revitalize and improve the region through the promotion and preservation of the region’s unique natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources.

The following list identifies local organizations and groups that have been, or could be, involved in the future success of the Susquehanna Heritage Area. The Heritage Area should reach out to these groups to determine their level of interest in participating in the Heritage Area and its complementary projects.

Each community within the proposed boundary, led by local officials, should partner with the Heritage Area to implement projects that help to revitalize and enhance local communities and resources while also furthering the vision, goals, and objectives of the Heritage Area.

##### Town of Berkshire

- Berkshire Resident Action Group

##### City of Binghamton

- Binghamton Neighborhood Assemblies
- Binghamton Downtown Business Association
- Binghamton Downtown Inc.
- Binghamton River Trail Initiative
- Commission on Architecture and Urban Design
- Gorgeous Washington Avenue Association

##### Town of Candor

- Candor Chamber of Commerce

##### Village of Deposit

- Deposit Historical Society
- Main Street organization



### Village of Endicott

- Visitor Center Advisory Committee
- Oakhill Avenue Improvement Corporation
- Patterson Museum
- Village Beautification Committee
- Endicott Merchants Association
- Sons of Italy
- Olde Village of Union Historical Society
- Service Clubs of Western Broome County
- George F. Johnson Library

### Village of Johnson City

- Your Home Library
- Goodwill Theatre, Inc.
- Service Clubs
- Wilson Hospital
- Merchants Association

### Hamlet of Maine

- Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

### Village of Newark Valley

- Newark Valley Historical Society
- Newark Valley Chamber of Commerce

### Town and Village of Owego

- Tioga County Council on the Arts
- Owego Historic Preservation Commission
- Historic Owego Marketplace
- Owego Revitalization and Betterment Corp.
- Tioga County Historical Society
- Tioga County Chamber of Commerce
- Tioga County Tourism Office

### Village of Spencer

- Spencer Chamber of Commerce
- Nichols Park Pond Beautification Committee

### Town of Tioga

- Ransom Park Association



### Town of Union

- Amos Patterson Museum and History Center
- Union Historical Society

### Town of Vestal

- Vestal Historical Society
- Binghamton University

### Village of Waverly

- Waverly Business Association

### Village of Windsor

- Windsor Partnership Association

#### 4.7.5. NON-PROFIT AGENCIES AND PARTNERS

The following is a list of non-profit agencies that the Heritage Area could potentially partner with to implement projects and strategies identified within the Management Plan Amendment.

- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Finger Lakes Land Trust
- Nature Conservancy

## 4.8. Programming

Specialized programming, such as historic walking tours, are an important component of the overall visitor experience within the Heritage Area. Many of the identified individual resource sites within the Heritage Area have special programs which occur on their site. In addition, many municipalities in Broome and Tioga Counties host and market a range of special programs that cater to the creation of a unique Heritage Area experience. The special programs occurring in Heritage Area communities could be further promoted and expanded through implementation of the Management Plan Amendment. A number of programs, which further the goals and objectives of the Heritage Area, are listed below by host community.

### Regional

- PAST Walking Tours
- Ride the Carousel Circuit
- Triple Cities I-Spy

### City of Binghamton

- Ride the Carousel Circuit
- Binghamton Downtown Walking Tour
- Candlelight Mansion Tour (on hiatus)
- Downtown I-Spy
- Westside Walking Tour
- City of Binghamton I-Spy Tour
- PAST Ghost Tour

### Town of Candor

- Holiday Tour of Homes

### Village of Johnson City

- Ride the Carousel Circuit
- Village of Johnson City I-Spy Tour

### Village of Endicott

- Ride the Carousel Circuit
- Walking Tour 1
- Walking Tour 2

### Village of Owego

- Courthouse Square Self-Guided Walking Tour
- Historic Holiday Tour of Homes

- Owego West Cell Phone Walking Tour
- Owego East Cell Phone Walking Tour
- Tioga Journeys Themed Bus and Walking Tours

### Town of Union

- Ride the Carousel Circuit

## 4.9. Special Events

Special events are an opportunity for the Heritage Area to highlight its history, its present, and its future. Numerous local festivals and special events are held throughout the year in communities both large and small. Some special events and festivals represent traditions associated with the region while others are annual events and fundraisers geared to energizing and bringing together the local community for a common cause. Other events in the Susquehanna Heritage Area replicate historic events and tie directly into the region's identified themes. Many of the events also draw on the growing cultural and artists community, whether on an annual basis or through regularly scheduled monthly activities, such as First Fridays in Binghamton and Third Friday Art Walk Art Talk in Owego.

Special events and festivals of note within the heritage region are listed below by municipality. These events and festivals should be incorporated into Heritage Area marketing and programming with a specific focus on potential heritage relationships.

### Town of Berkshire

- Berkshire Heritage Days

### City of Binghamton

- Broome County Ethnic Festival
- Binghamton Historic Bridge Pedal
- Blues on the Bridge
- Chris Thater Memorial
- First Fridays
- Summer Music Festival
- First Night

### Town of Candor

- Fourth of July Celebration
- Fall Festival

### Village of Deposit

- Lumberjack Festival

### Town of Dickinson

- Broome County Spiedie Fest and Balloon Rally

### Village of Endicott

- Endicott Apple Festival



- Endicott Carousel Festival
- St. Anthony's Bazaar and Italian Street Painting
- Summer Concert Series
- Farmers Market
- Senior PGA Golf Tournament
- St. Joseph's Bazaar
- Little Italy Concerts in the Park and Sidewalk Art

### Village of Johnson City

- Music in the Park
- Ethnic Church Festivals
- Johnson City Field days

### Town of Maine

- Broome County Air Show

### Village of Newark Valley

- Apple Festival
- Music in the Park
- Holiday Magic
- Mountain Man Rendezvous
- Newark Valley Days
- Depot Friday Nights

### Town of Nichols

- Old Home Day

### Village of Owego

- Third Friday Art Walk
- Strawberry Festival
- Lights on the River Festival
- EnPlein Air Art Festival
- Holiday Showcase
- Tioga County Fair
- O'Tannenbaum Holiday Showcase

### Town of Owego

- Concerts in the Park
- Hickory Smoked Music Festival
- Catfish Derby

- Apalachin Firemen's Field Days
- Cars in the Park Car Show
- Walk thru Time and Hiawatha Pow-Wow
- Annual All Breed Dog Show
- Rudin's Old Tyme Farm Days

### Town of Richford

- Potato Festival

### Town of Spencer

- A Decemburr to Rememburr
- Spencer Picnic
- Concerts in the Park

### Town of Tioga

- Pumpkin Festival

### Town of Union

- Fourth of July at Highland Park

### Town of Vestal

- Vestal Festival

### Village of Waverly

- Racing Fan Fair
- Tinsel N' Lights
- Concerts in the Park

### Village of Whitney Point

- Broome County Fair
- Crappy Derby
- Fall Festival

### Village of Windsor

- Window on the Arts, Music and Art Festival

#### 4.10. Visitor Services

Visitor services and infrastructure are an important component of the overall experience for tourists. Examples of visitor services include visitor centers, commercial nodes with support services such as restaurants and specialty shops and convenient public restrooms. Tourists to the Susquehanna Heritage Area experience a loosely organized system of visitor services that include independent attractions, a variety of special events, several hospitality providers, and information sources located at visitor centers and cultural or historic sites. Existing signage is inconsistent and does not adequately direct visitors to sites and attractions. There is also not a Susquehanna Heritage Area specific website currently, though funding has been secured, and heritage sites are not highlighted specifically on other visitor and tourism sites.

##### 4.10.1. VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Hospitality providers include hotels and other lodging options, restaurants, and shopping opportunities. Supporting hospitality services can include public restrooms and banks and ATM machines. To complement the heritage area experience, heritage-oriented hospitality providers can be marketed in conjunction with other destinations, attractions, and resources.

Heritage themed retailers are located throughout the region, with a heavier concentration of unique retail and restaurant opportunities along the river corridor. These areas include the Village of Waverly, Village of Owego, Village of Johnson City, Village of Endicott, and City of Binghamton.

##### 4.10.2. VISITOR GUIDES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Information sources, such as visitor guides and websites, can help visitors choose their destinations and hospitality providers and allow them to modify their itinerary to meet travel objectives. The first contact experienced by visitors has the potential to impact their overall impression of the Heritage Area and for that reason, it is important that early contact be a positive experience. Today, the most commonly used form of information exchange is arguably the internet. This is especially true for visitors coming from outside the region who are interested in getting a feel for and the flavor of a destination before they arrive.

##### Heritage Area Visitor Centers

Once people have arrived in the region, centralized and accessible locations for information dissemination are critical. This is currently something that the region, and Heritage Area, does well. The Heritage Area boasts two Visitor Centers in Broome County that provide an experience as well as a location for information on other attractions, destinations, and hospitality providers in the region. However, while exceptional assets for the local communities as they provide an interpretive experience and serve as an information portal, neither Binghamton nor the Endicott Visitor Centers publicizes regular operating hours. This can be

problematic for those stopping in and expecting facilities to be open, and for those trying to plan an itinerary around a visit to the Visitor Center. Though hours are available by calling ahead of time, for many this can be seen as an inconvenience. Establishing regular operating hours and promoting them on websites and in marketing materials will be important as the Susquehanna Heritage Area moves forward.

### *Binghamton Visitor Center*

The Binghamton Visitor Center opened in 1996 as an addition to the Roberson Museum and Science Center. The Binghamton Visitor Center was primarily funded through NYS Environmental Quality Bond Act grants with some additional local funding. From 1996 to 2005, the Susquehanna Heritage Area Executive Director was responsible for overseeing operations of the Visitor Center under a separate budget. During that time, the average annual operating budget for the Visitor Center was approximately \$15,000 which did not cover staffing but covered utilities, insurance, minor repairs, gift shop products, promotion, maintenance, and exhibit design, fabrication, and installation. Revenues were approximately \$4,000 per year from gift shop sales and rentals. Annual visitation to the Visitor Center between 2003 and 2007 averaged around 45,000 visitors per year.

Roberson Museum is currently responsible for staffing the Visitor Center per the Management Agreement they have with the City of Binghamton. Prior to 2005 the Executive Director of the Susquehanna Heritage Area was the primary staff member of the Visitor Center and was responsible for operations, exhibits, and programming. The Executive Director was funded by the inter-municipal agreement and contributions made by the current Heritage Area communities of Endicott, Johnson City, and Binghamton. This served as a good model for operation of the Visitor Center and benefited both the facility and the Heritage Area as a whole. Additional staff was assigned by the Museum to assist the SHA Executive Director with gift shop sales, maintenance, repairs, exhibit design, and program development. It is unclear under the current management agreement between the City and Roberson Museum how staffing, maintenance and operations, exhibit development and programming are being accomplished.

Although funding has recently been approved for the development of a Susquehanna Heritage Area website, at this time there is not an independent website associated with the Heritage Area or the Binghamton Visitor Center. The Binghamton Visitor Center link on the Roberson website does not currently have information specific to the Visitor Center nor does it state it is open during the same hours as the museum. Museum hours are listed on the website but it is not immediately clear that the two have an interconnected relationship. However, hours of operation for the Visitor Center are identified on a recorded message when someone calls the facility.

In addition to exhibit space, the Binghamton Visitor Center also offers rental space for school groups and community organizations. The Visitor Center offers educational programs for more than 14,000 students from more than 50 school districts annually. In addition, more than 175

groups participate in other public programs developed within the Binghamton Visitor Center galleries.

### *Endicott Visitor Center*

The Endicott Visitor Center opened in 2003 and is located in Old Colonial Hall, an historic building located within the Village. The use of the building for a Visitor Center, as well as the construction of an attached Community Meeting Hall were made possible by a combination of New York State Grants (NYS Environmental Quality Bond Act, Urban Cultural Parks, and other NYS Heritage Area awards) and from local businesses, service organizations, and the Village of Endicott.

Annual visitation at the Visitor Center averages approximately 10,000 people per year. The operational costs and salaries associated with the Visitor Center are paid directly by the Village. Rental and gift shop sales help offset operational costs. The Endicott Visitor Center website identifies varying hours and requests people to call ahead. Hours of operation are identified on a phone message when people call.

The Community Meeting Hall is a large meeting room available for rental for community events, meetings, workshops, lectures, showers, dinners, and small weddings. The Visitor Center Coordinator oversees this activity and has a Community Advisory Board and volunteer staff to assist with events, programs, and facility needs.

### **Tourism Agencies and Facilities**

Both Tioga County and Broome County have tourism promotion agencies which are summarized below.

#### *Tioga County Tourism Office*

Tioga County Tourism has two staff members and has a designated, accessible space on North Avenue in Owego, NY with a storefront in the downtown core. The visitor center has an abundance of materials and information for visitors, the large majority of which is also available online. The Tioga County Tourism (<http://www.visittioga.com/>) website includes a large array of visitor information, including downloadable brochures, sample itineraries, numerous links to categorized attractions and visitor services, maps, a calendar of events, and contact information.

#### *Greater Binghamton Convention and Visitors Bureau*

The Greater Binghamton Convention and Visitors Bureau also has an informative website as well as a physical location on Court Street in Binghamton. The physical facility does not stand out in the downtown, however, as it is located on the second floor of a building, with minimal street presence. The visitors' bureau facility offers a large amount of information to interested visitors, with a focus on conventions and large groups. The website (<http://www.visitbinghamton.org/>) includes an extensive list of visitor information, highlighting



attractions, culture, accommodations, restaurants, shopping, e-brochures, and contact information for obtaining additional information.

### *New York State Gateway Center*

The New York State Gateway Center captures a significant amount of visitors traveling north on Interstate 81 from southern locations, such as Pennsylvania. Brochures associated with the Susquehanna Heritage Area, Binghamton Visitor Center, and Endicott Visitor Center are distributed at this facility. There is no website currently associated with this facility or organization but there is one under construction. Information on the Heritage Area and Visitor Centers, as well as direct links to their websites, from the Gateway Center website would result in greater visibility for the Heritage Area. The Center is also staffed to assist travelers and inform them about local attractions and events.

### Visitor Profiles

Understanding who is currently visiting the Heritage Area is important in identifying target markets, as well as marketing and promotional shortcomings. In 2006 Tioga County Tourism completed a conversion study which included the distribution of 388 surveys to people who had previously requested information on Tioga County. Survey responses indicated that approximately one-third of visitors came to Tioga County for vacationing/sightseeing, followed by events/festivals/attractions (17%) and visiting friends/relatives (11%). More than half (60%) of visitors travel to Tioga County by car and approximately one-third spend at least one night in the area, primarily staying in local hotels/motels (58%) or with friends and relatives (41%). Almost half of the visitors included only adults that spent an average of \$455.71 per person. Summer is the most popular season for travel (23%), followed closely by spring and fall (both at 17%).

In 2007, a New York State Regional Visitor and Travel Behavior Profile was completed for the Finger Lakes Region (of which Tioga County is included). The summary, prepared for Empire State Development, identified the following characteristics of visitors to the Finger Lakes region:

- More likely to live in New York State
- Likely to be married or living with a partner
- Skews to more females
- Age skews younger
- Spend longer than a weekend, but less than a week

The summary report also outlined the reasons why people choose the Finger Lakes as their travel destination. Primary / critical reasons they decide to travel include:

- Chance to spend time with family

- Opportunity to connect with their significant other
- Wine tasting
- Good place to relax and unwind
- A unique and memorable experience

Based on the information obtained from these reports, the Heritage Area should focus marketing efforts in an area that extends within a 90 minute drive from the region. While marketing efforts should be focused in New York State, there may be opportunities for marketing within the Endless Mountains region of Pennsylvania. The NYS HAS has also undertaken efforts to compile survey data from state Visitor Center sites to help to further analyze marketing opportunities in the future.

## 4.11. Stewardship

The diversity and extent of resources within the Susquehanna Heritage Area are clearly impressive but the collaborative management, maintenance, protection, and preservation of these resources has been hindered in recent years by a lack of funding as well as a lack of community recognition and a depressed regional economy. However, the preparation of the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment is a foundational step to spotlight the importance of local resources and highlight their relevance to the future of the region.

### 4.11.1. HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND ORDINANCES

Although the survival and abundance of historic architectural resources in the region would make it seem otherwise, there are few communities in Broome and Tioga Counties that have programs in place to help protect historic resources. The Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment process and subsequent follow-on projects provide an opportunity to educate the public and demonstrate to the region's citizens and property owners the value of preserving and maintaining the historic resources which are in place today.

Currently, the following communities have enacted local ordinances and other programs with respect to the preservation of historic resources in their communities:

- The City of Binghamton is currently re-drafting its Historic Preservation Ordinance, expected to be enacted in 2009. The City is also working to redevelop its Design Guidelines, which should be completed in 2010.
- The Town of Vestal enacted a local law in 2002, amending the existing Town Code, to establish procedures for the creation of historical landmarks and historical districts.
- The Village of Endicott is a Certified Local Government in New York State and adopted historic preservation legislation in 1990. Subsequent changes to the legislation decertified the Village from Certified Local Government status in 2009.
- The Village of Owego has a strong preservation program which includes a National Register Historic District (1998), local historic districts, Certified Local Government status, Owego Historic Preservation Ordinance (1986), and an active Historic Preservation Commission (1986).

#### 4.11.2. COMMUNITY PLANNING

Some communities in the Heritage Area have proactively developed comprehensive plans and other planning studies, such as Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs and Brownfield Opportunity Areas, which incorporate historic preservation policies and other topics pertinent to Heritage Area planning. The consultant team reviewed comprehensive plans in order to gain a more thorough understanding of which communities have plans in place that support planning practices that are related to the overarching goals and objectives of the Heritage Area Management Plan.

This planning assessment assists in identifying those communities that are well-positioned to help support, and be supported by, the Heritage Area program. It also identifies those communities that may need additional assistance in understanding and developing programs and plans to further both their own revitalization and the goals of the Heritage Area program. In general, the city and villages have incorporated preservation-specific goals and objectives into their comprehensive plans while agriculture and rural character have come across as strong objectives in the towns.

##### Regional Plans

A number of regional plans have been developed for Broome and Tioga Counties that support elements of heritage area planning, including the *BC Plan* which highlights sustainable economic growth in Broome County, *Placemaking for Prosperity*, which highlights transportation elements, and the *Greenway Plan*, which identifies trail connections and linkages. A *Regional Farmers Market Feasibility Study* and the *Agricultural Economic Development Plan (AEDP)* were recently completed by Broome County. The AEDP addresses marketing and agri-tourism initiatives.

##### City of Binghamton

Over the past decade, the City of Binghamton has undertaken a wide range of planning initiatives that are pertinent to the update of the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment. In addition to the City Comprehensive Plan, a number of other plans were reviewed for consistency with findings reflected throughout the Management Plan document. Related plans that were considered as part of this planning process include: Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study; a 2003 Comprehensive Plan; and a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. There are no recommendations within these plans that are in conflict with the vision, goals, objectives, and strategies associated with the updated Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

##### Village of Owego

The Village of Owego completed a Consolidated Master Plan in 2003 that has a strong focus on open space and environmental protection, historic preservation, and downtown revitalization.

Strategies specific to open space and environmental protection which are relevant to the Heritage Area Management Plan include working with NYS OPRHP to support the acquisition and enhancement of Village parks and recreation systems and to continue pursuing funding for a RiverWalk connecting Draper and Ahwaga Park.

The Historic Preservation element of the plan recognizes the strong preservation commitment of the community, suggesting the need to integrate the local policies with other County and regional planning activities. The plan also recommends encouraging greater public participation in implementing historic preservation objectives by developing programs for public education and awareness and promoting the historic district in planning activities. The Preservation element of the plan focused on strengthening the local economy and improving the quality of life of residents. The downtown revitalization section also identifies strategies and actions consistent with the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment, including improving gateways, streetscape enhancements, and maintaining the historic character and flavor associated with the existing building stock.

### Village of Whitney Point

The Comprehensive Plan for the Village was most recently amended in 2000. The plan specifies three goals, which are compatible with the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment. In 2008 the Village Board adopted a Downtown Strategic Plan which seeks to guide and direct implementation efforts associated with the revitalization of Main Street.

### Town of Barker

The Town of Barker Comprehensive Plan is over 20 years old (completed in 1986) and should be updated to reflect current conditions in the Town. The Comprehensive Plan does not specify goals associated with preservation but focuses on protecting the agricultural resources within the Town through the designation of Agricultural Districts. The goals and recommendations are compatible with the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Berkshire

Upon the review of community feedback associated within a town-wide community survey, the town recognized that its residents feel that the existing historic buildings and cultural facilities are an important aspect of the community. To encapsulate this idea within their Comprehensive Plan, the town developed a goal focused on expanding cultural, tourism, and recreational opportunities. Specific recommendations in the Town Comprehensive Plan consistent with the Heritage Area goals include:

- Formally designating 15 structures within the village limits as a historic district (completed)
- Discouraging development inconsistent with historic district



- Working with Tioga County Council on the Arts to increase awareness regarding cultural opportunities
- Partnering with the Tioga County Tourism office to create Agritourism events
- Creating a community center at historic school building

The Plan also addresses attracting appropriate economic development, including activities related to agriculture and tourism and recommends cooperating with neighboring communities in an effort to promote local and regional special events. The goals and recommendations are compatible with the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Binghamton

The goals of the Town of Binghamton reflect the larger policies of the Heritage Area Plan including preservation of rural character, pedestrian connections, and protecting and managing natural resources. There is no clear reference to preserving historic or cultural resources and no obvious areas of conflict between the Comprehensive Plan and the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Candor

The goals of the Town of Candor Comprehensive Plan focus on economic development and enhancing open space and recreational opportunities. The plan recognizes the relationship between quality-of-life and the rural, agricultural, and historic assets that exist within the Town. The plan recommends completing a historical reconnaissance survey to establish an inventory of sites of historical or archeological significance and provide recommendations for the protection of such sites. The plan was originally adopted by the Town in 1993 and subsequently updated in 1999. The goals and recommendations are compatible with the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Chenango

The Town of Chenango completed a Comprehensive Plan in November 2005. There is no reference within the Plan related to historic preservation, resource protection, and / or cultural resource activities within the Town. However, there are no direct actions or goals in the plan in conflict with the Heritage Area framework.

### Town of Colesville

The Town of Colesville Comprehensive Plan was completed in 1983 and should be updated to reflect current conditions in the town and region. The goals and recommendations are not in conflict with the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Conklin

The Town of Conklin completed a Comprehensive Plan in 2003. While the goals do not directly address preservation, they do discuss and promote beautification of the town, recreation, and river access, consistent with the overarching goals and objectives of the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

The Town also completed an Open Space and Connectivity Plan in 2006 that considers elements important to planning for the Heritage Area. Specifically, the Open Space Plan recommended bike and pedestrian paths, landscaped nodes, and recognized rural and historic character as assets to the community.

### Town of Deposit

The Town of Deposit Comprehensive Plan and Action Plan was completed in August 2003. The plan recognizes the historical significance of the community and discusses its Native American roots. The goals and recommendations are compatible with the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Dickinson

As a largely built-out community, the Town of Dickinson Comprehensive Plan (2005) focuses on open space preservation. Goals within the plan consider regulatory strategies to guide future development. There is no clear reference to preserving historic or cultural resources and no obvious areas of conflict between the Comprehensive Plan and the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Fenton

The Town of Fenton Comprehensive Plan appears to be in-line with the Heritage Area objective to stimulate economic revitalization through local community improvements, specifically along the Brandywine corridor in the Town and within residential neighborhoods. Preservation of agriculture, promotion of agritourism opportunities, and protecting open space and rural character are all key objectives of the Town that could be furthered through participation in the Heritage Area program. The Comprehensive Plan also recognizes the historical assets within the Town, highlighting the Chenango Canal, Wyoming Conference Home, Stone Barn, North Fenton Methodist Church, and Port Crane Community Baptist Church as key historic resources.

### Town of Lisle

The Town of Lisle Comprehensive Plan addresses the desire of residents to preserve the rural character and protection of agricultural businesses. It also notes that residents feel they have little control over new development because there are no comprehensive zoning laws or land use management laws in place in the Town. Both the preservation of key attributes and the need for land use laws are sensitive to the goals of the Heritage Area program.

### Town of Maine

The Town of Maine prepared a Comprehensive Plan in 2008 that supports the objectives of the Heritage Area. Key goals of the plan include enhancing town identity, hosting special events that build on identity and history, and maintaining remaining history in the town. The enhancement and expansion of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society was specifically mentioned. Maintaining the Hamlet of Maine as a community center and protecting landscape resources were also planning goals for the local community that are in concert with the objectives of the Heritage Area Management Plan. There are no obvious areas of conflict between the Comprehensive Plan and the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Richford

The vision statement for the Town of Richford, as presented in their comprehensive plan, is consistent with and supports the overarching goals of the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment of “balancing preservation of its rural character with developing economic opportunities for residents.” The town vision statement further supports the development of tourism and cultural facilities, the restoration of historic buildings, and the preservation of the natural landscape.

### Town of Sanford

The Town of Sanford Comprehensive Plan addresses the need to preserve agricultural lands but does not address any of the other overarching principles associated with the Heritage Area planning process. The town’s plan was completed in 1992 and is currently being updated.

### Town of Union

A work program has been established by the Town of Union, Village of Endicott and the Village of Johnson City to prepare a unified comprehensive plan for the three jurisdictions. The Draft Technical Background Reports include a report on the early history and the historical influences that have affected the present day land use patterns of the three jurisdictions. The Draft Goals and Objectives include a chapter on Historic Preservation with a Mission Statement “To identify, protect, and safeguard sites, structures, and neighborhoods of historic significance as a means of preserving the heritage customs, and traditions of the community.”

### Town of Vestal

The 2003 Town of Vestal Comprehensive Plan was reviewed for its approach to historic preservation and landscape resource protection. The plan was completed by an outside consultant team. A number of key points from the plan, highlighted below, are relevant to and consistent with the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment. The Comprehensive Plan stresses:

- the protection and maintenance of early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century residential neighborhoods;

- the protection of open space and natural features;
- the promotion of bicycle and pedestrian transportation routes; and
- the development of active and passive recreational resources.

Specific recommendations in the Plan further the goals of the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment:

- The 2003 Comprehensive Plan notes specific historically relevant sites, such as the archeological site of Chugnut Village near Choconut Creek as well as other potential Native American sites along the Susquehanna River.
- The plan recommends the Town consider the creation of an Historical Overlay District to strengthen local review of activities where there are suspected or known historical resources. The Plan enforces the idea that identifying and protecting the Town's historical resources is important.
- The Plan discusses the need to develop a strategy for protecting the Historic Canal Towpath, both for its historic significance and recreation potential.
- The Plan presents an approach to revitalizing the Hamlet of Vestal center as an historic center for the surrounding rural area.
- The Plan recommends identifying Historic District Boundaries and related development guidelines for the area of Main Street north of Vestal Parkway where there are a handful of historic buildings, including the Drover's Inn and Rounds House, dating from the 1800s. The Historic District could encompass these buildings and extend to the riverfront where there are significant early settlement sites. Specific recommendations for this area included fostering pedestrian access to the district; incorporating historic quality signs, lighting, and pavers; landscaping; and developing continuous pedestrian connections between historic sites, the Susquehanna River, and the Rail Trail.

There do not appear to be any notable areas of conflict between the Comprehensive Plan and the Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

### Town of Windsor

The Town of Windsor Planning Board completed a Comprehensive Plan in September 2006 with assistance from Broome County Department of Planning. While the Plan does not address historic resources in a specific fashion, it does note that the Town has the potential to “enhance its reputation as a recreation and tourism destination.”<sup>19</sup> The Comprehensive Plan identifies a

---

<sup>19</sup> Town of Windsor 2006 Comprehensive Plan, Page 27

series of goals, the following of which are consistent with and are supported by the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment:

- Protect natural resources
- Encourage tourism and recreational enterprises (including niche agriculture and agritourism opportunities)
- Promote Windsor as a recreational and tourist area
- Promote protection of the Susquehanna River
- Promote existing recreational facilities

Although the history and heritage of the Town was reflected in public presentations related to the Comprehensive Plan, there is no direct reference to preservation in the goals and objectives. However, the overall goals and recommendations are compatible with the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.



#### 4.11.3. LAND CONSERVATION

The urban core of the Heritage Area – namely the Triple-Cities region – has not experienced significant growth in recent decades and, as a result, the open space and rural character of the outlying areas of Broome and Tioga Counties has been largely unaltered by the effects of suburbanization and sprawl. The integrity of the agricultural landscape is largely intact and is a valuable asset that should continue to be protected and retained.

The preservation of rural character, natural resources, scenic landscapes, and open space is a common goal of the rural communities in the Heritage Area, highlighted in many of the Comprehensive Plans developed by individual communities.

While there are no known local conservation groups that focus specifically on preserving open space lands in Broome and Tioga Counties, there are regional groups – such as the Finger Lakes Land Trust - that may be willing to assist landowners in the region by negotiating conservation easements, fee simple purchases, and education. Local and regional nature conservancies, 4-H groups, and Farm Bureaus may also be able to partner with the Heritage Area and landowners to protect and preserve valuable open space and undeveloped natural lands.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets offers a full range of programs and provides technical and financial assistance to communities and/or not-for-profit conservation organizations. A specific program focus is farmland protection and conservation. Implementation projects for farmland protection are one type of opportunity eligible for funding assistance for not-for-profit groups. Funding is also available for municipalities to complete farmland protection plans.

The American Farmland Trust and Land Trust Alliance are national organizations that are dedicated to the preservation and protection of farmland and open space throughout the country. They offer technical assistance to local municipalities and property owners about land conservation.