



## New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner

Mr. Henry McCartney, Executive Director  
Preservation Buffalo Niagara  
617 Main Street, Suite M108  
Market Arcade  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: Erie Freight House  
9 Ohio Street  
Buffalo, NY  
Determination of Eligibility (DOE)

Dear Mr. McCartney:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Field Services Bureau of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). Your request has come into our office as a third party request for a determination of National Register eligibility. We have reviewed the Erie Freight House at 9 Ohio Street in Buffalo, NY in accordance to the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and determined that the building is eligible for the NYS and National Register programs. The information supplied by Preservation Buffalo Niagara was prepared by Kerry Traynor, who meets and exceeds 36 CFR Part 61 'Professional Qualification Standards' of the Secretary of the Interior standards. Attached you will find the determination of eligibility (DOE), which was reviewed by our office and outlines the criteria for National Register eligibility. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the property owner for notification.

I want to thank you for supplying the office with Ms Traynor's finely prepared research and for your office's continued role leading the efforts to protect western New York State's historic resources. Elizabeth Martin from our office and I were able to visit the Freight House on November 16<sup>th</sup>. It is a rare and remarkable building. While structures like the grain elevators are of enormous importance and continue to be threatened, often times less physically dominant buildings on the Buffalo waterfront have been overlooked, as evidenced by the mass demolition of this type of architecture. The preservation of the Freight House presents an opportunity to further educate the public of the importance of Buffalo's industrial heritage. If there any questions, do not hesitate to contact the office at 518.237.8643 x3257.

Sincerely,

Daniel McEneny  
Historic Preservation Program Analyst

Cc: Great Lakes Paper, Inc.  
Attch: DOE

# RESOURCE EVALUATION

PROPERTY: Erie Freight House

DATE: 11/19/2011

ADDRESS: 9 Ohio Street

PROJECT REF. #: -

MCD: Buffalo

STAFF: McEneny

COUNTY: Erie

USN: 02940.024938

- I.  Property is Individually listed on the State/National Register  
Name of Listing:
- Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR listed district  
Name of district:
- II.  Property meets eligibility criteria.
- Property contributes to a district that meets eligibility criteria.

## Criteria for inclusion in the National Register:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. That embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Based on the information submitted, the property identified as the Erie Freight House at 9 Ohio Street in the city of Buffalo is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a good and extremely rare example of freight depot architecture associated with Buffalo's period of tremendous success following the opening of the Erie Canal. Originally constructed c.1865 on the banks of the Buffalo River, this type of building, like its neighboring grain elevators, once dominated the Buffalo waterfront. The purpose of the Freight House, and others of its type, was to create an exchange point between the waterfront and the rail lines, thus physically connecting the Midwest and eastern states by means of transportation. The opening of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in 1959 had a devastating impact on the region, rendering the Canal and a multitude of the rail lines obsolete, thus beginning a period of industrial decline in western New York State. It has been since this time that Buffalo's waterfront industrial architectural, which remains one of the city's most important resources for interpreting its turn of the century heritage, has slowly disappeared from the landscape. While appreciation has grown for the grain elevators, which continue to be threatened and demolished, the removal of buildings similar to the Freight House have gone largely unnoticed. It is due to this rarity that the Erie Freight House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and

Transportation. As currently surveyed, the building is a rare and surviving structure on the waterfront associated with multimodal transshipment during a period of significance from c.1865 to 1957. Despite some deterioration and compromised materials, the building retains architectural integrity in location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. Significance of the property is further enhanced by the physical presence of the rail lines directly east of the building and the dock posts to the west, both of which contribute to the site. The boundary for the resource is currently defined by its tax parcel and the waters abutting the property that contain the dock posts.

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If you have any questions concerning this Determination of Eligibility, please contact Daniel McEneny at; (518) 237-8643, ext. 3257 or [daniel.mceneny@parks.ny.gov](mailto:daniel.mceneny@parks.ny.gov)