

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 14 1985  
date entered SEP 12 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and or common Clayton Historic District

2. Location

street & number 203 to 215 and 200 to 326 James Street  
500 to 544 and 507 to 537 Riverside Drive not for publication

city, town Clayton vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Jefferson code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 173 Arsenal Street

city, town Watertown state NY

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

city, town Empire State Plaza, Albany state NY 12238

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The village of Clayton is located on the St. Lawrence River in Jefferson County, New York. A compact village of 1,816 people, Clayton has flat topography and is defined by the waterfront on the north, east and west. The Clayton Historic District is part of the only commercial center in the village, located on Riverside Drive and the north end of James Street. Riverside Drive is the broad main street in the village, which runs along the northern waterfront, providing views of the river. James Street intersects Riverside Drive and, as part of the historic Clayton-Watertown Road, now State Route 12, is the main thoroughfare into the village.

The historic district boundaries were drawn to include the cohesive, intact collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings on Riverside Drive and the north end of James Street. On Riverside Drive the boundaries are clearly defined by the lack of architectural integrity of altered nineteenth-century commercial buildings east of John Street and a burned out building to the west. On James Street, the southern boundaries are defined by a change in character marked by a non-historic motel building on the east side and a residential area on the west side of the street.

The district contains thirty-one contributing buildings, including twenty-eight commercial buildings and the Captain Simon Johnston House at 507 Riverside Drive (NR listed 1982), now in commercial use. The only non-contributing building in the district is the gas station (c.1932) at the southwest corner of Riverside Drive and James Street.

The district, constructed between 1854 and the 1920's, contains a concentration of Italianate style buildings in brick and wood, three Richardsonian Romanesque style buildings with stone facades, and other early twentieth century commercial buildings in concrete block and wood. The predominantly two and three-story attached and semi-detached rows contain street level storefronts, most occupied by retail establishments, and upper story residences or storage space. Although many storefronts have been altered, the upper stories, including pressed metal and cast-iron cornices and window crowns, retain a high level of architectural integrity.

The earliest surviving buildings are located on Riverside Drive. Of particular note is the Barker Building (1854) at 530-532 Riverside Drive (Photo 1 & 3). This three-story brick Italianate style building retains two outstanding intact cast-iron storefronts (Photo 2) and an original panelled door to the upper floors. As the earliest building in the district, the Barker Building set the scale and style for subsequent buildings on the northside of Riverside Drive, including the adjacent attached buildings at 528 (1879-1887), 526 (1865-1877), and 522 (1891) Riverside Drive (Photo 1). They display identical cast or pressed-metal window crowns and pressed-metal cornice end brackets. The two-story building at 522 Riverside Drive (1891) also exhibits a cast-iron storefront identical to that at 530-532 (Photo 1). The Richardsonian Romanesque style buildings, 538 Riverside Drive (1884) and 518 Riverside Drive (1905), retain the same scale and facade line. At 538 Riverside Drive, a two-story round arch highlights triple windows on both the second and third floors (Photo 3). A segmental stone arch on the second floor and a corbelled cornice with a corbelled frieze containing three windows distinguish 518 Riverside Drive (Photo 1).

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clayton Historic District

Continuation sheet Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY Item number 7. Description Page 2

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The north side of Riverside Drive maintains a unified appearance through its continuous facade line and a dominant third story cornice line. On the rear, or river elevations of these buildings, numerous porches and other protrusions have been added to provide outdoor space for residents or expand commercial space, reflecting the continuing, multiple uses of the buildings (Photo 4).

On the south side of Riverside Drive, the Italianate style Simon Johnston House (1880-1882, NR listed) is of particular note for its high level of embellishment and craftsmanship, including such distinctive characteristics as a three and one-half story engaged tower with a pagoda style roof, and a pedimented diamond-shaped frieze window. The Simon Johnston House, as appropriate to its original role as a residence, is the only building in the district which is set back from the street line and surrounded by plantings (Photo 5).

The buildings at 517-519 Riverside Drive (pre 1888) and 537 Riverside Drive (c. 1889), both three-story Italianate style brick buildings, are further related by similar cast- or pressed-metal cornices and window crowns. Although both have altered storefronts, 517-519 retains its intact cast- or pressed-metal lintel. Evidence of the fire of 1895 is seen in the open area between 517-519 and 537 (Photo 5). The smaller two-story frame building at 527 Riverside Drive (c. 1876) was moved into the space around the turn of the century. This building, with its pedimented parapet roof and storefront, remains essentially intact except for a recently added pent roof. The adjacent building at 525 was built to a similar scale and retains the same facade line (Photo 6).

The three buildings, which are attached to 537 Riverside Drive, 203, 209 and 215 James Street (1895), although slightly lower in height, retain identical pressed-metal bracketed cornices and upper floor fenestration (Photo 7). Although the storefronts have been heavily altered, 215 James Street retains an intact pressed-metal storefront cornice with end bracket and finial that is identical to that on 517-519 Riverside Drive.

On the west side of James Street there is greater variety in height, materials and style, including the three-story Richardsonian Romanesque style building at 228 James Street (c. 1888) (Photo 9), the one-story rusticated concrete block garage building at 300 James Street (1913) (Photo 10), and the one-story building at 220 James Street (c. 1913) (Photo 9), within a consistent, unifying framework of two- and three-story Italianate style buildings (322-326, 320, 312, 308, 306 and 230-238) (Photo 9).

These two streets form a remarkably cohesive district unified by a similarity of scale and proportion, a consistent facade line, flat roofs with projecting denticulated, bracketed or corbelled cornices, and harmony of stylistic detail.

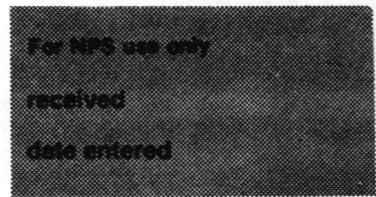
The following is a list of the individual buildings within the district. Additional information on each building is contained in building/structure inventory forms filed with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in Albany, New York.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clayton Historic District

Continuation sheet Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY Item number 7. Description Page 3



BUILDING LIST:

ADDRESS	DATE	PHOTO NO.	DESCRIPTION
530-532 Riverside Dr. BARKER BUILDING	1854	1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Two cast-iron storefronts, upper floor access door with transom.</li> <li>. Molded cast-iron window crowns.</li> <li>. Perma-stone sided.</li> <li>. Pressed-metal cornice, some brackets removed.</li> </ul>
500 Riverside Dr. HUNGERFORD BUILDING	c.1855- 1863	1,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 2-story, frame Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. West side expanded c. 1940's.</li> <li>. Asbestos sided.</li> <li>. Storefront and windows altered.</li> <li>. Pedimented parapet walls with brackets added late 19th century.</li> </ul>
526 Riverside Dr.	c.1865-	1,2,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront windows altered c. 1930's.</li> <li>. Intact metal lintel and double door with transom.</li> <li>. Molded and pedimented metal window crowns.</li> <li>. Pressed-metal cornice with brackets and central frieze window, matches 528.</li> </ul>
527 Riverside Dr.	c.1876	5,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 2-story, clapboard Italiante commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Intact storefront.</li> <li>. Pent roof added late 1970's.</li> <li>. Pedimented window frames.</li> <li>. Pedimented parapet wall with bracketed and denticulated wood cornice.</li> </ul>
528 Riverside Dr.	c.1879-	1,2,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront windows altered c. 1950's, intact metal lintel.</li> <li>. Window pediments and bracketed sills, 2nd floor.</li> <li>. Molded window crowns, 3rd floor.</li> <li>. Bracketed metal cornice, matches 526.</li> </ul>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clayton Historic District  
Clayton Jefferson Co., NY

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Clayton Jefferson Co., NY Item number 7. Description Page 4

ADDRESS	DATE	PHOTO NO.	DESCRIPTION
507 Riverside Dr. SIMON JOHNSTON HOUSE	1880- 1882	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 2-1/2-story, clapboard Italianate residential bldg.</li> <li>. 3-1/2-story engaged central tower with pagoda roof.</li> <li>. Centered entry porch and 3-bay window.</li> <li>. Shallow hipped roof with bracketed denticulated cornice and asymmetrical frieze windows.</li> <li>. Contributing garage.</li> </ul>
538 Riverside Dr. BANK BUILDING	1884	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, Richardsonian Romanesque commercial bldg. with stone facade.</li> <li>. 2-story round arch around triple windows, 2nd and 3rd floors.</li> <li>. Parapet roof with smooth denticulated cornice.</li> </ul>
228 James St.	c.1888	9-12, 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, stone facade, Richardsonian Romanesque style commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront and upper floor access door with transom.</li> <li>. Segmental and round-arched windows, upper stories.</li> <li>. Corbelled cornice with stone finials.</li> </ul>
517-519 Riverside Dr.	pre- 1888	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Two storefronts, altered late 1970's.</li> <li>. Pressed-metal cornice with end brackets and finials, 1st floor, matches 215.</li> <li>. Bracketed metal window crowns and main cornice.</li> </ul>
312 James St.	c.1889	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, frame Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefronts and upper stories extensively altered since 1930's.</li> <li>. Prominent pedimented, bracketed wood cornice with decorative frieze.</li> </ul>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
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Clayton Historic District

Continuation sheet Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY Item number 7. Description Page 5

ADDRESS	DATE	PHOTO NO.	DESCRIPTION
537 Riverside Dr.	c.1889	5,7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront altered late 1970's.</li> <li>. Upper floor access door with transom.</li> <li>. Cast-iron corner post, corner entry with sidelights.</li> <li>. Cast-iron window pediments.</li> <li>. Bracketed pressed-metal cornice.</li> <li>. 3rd floor added 1895.</li> </ul>
306 James St.	c.1889	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 2-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Denticulated storefront cornice with panelled frieze.</li> <li>. Segmental arched windows, stone sills and louvered shutters.</li> <li>. Bracketed, denticulated main cornice with frieze panels and end finials.</li> </ul>
308 James St.	c.1889	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, shingled Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront and upper floor access door.</li> <li>. Pedimented and bracketed, long 2nd floor windows.</li> <li>. Short 3rd floor windows.</li> <li>. Bracketed cornice.</li> </ul>
322-326 James St.	pre-1890	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, frame Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Aluminum sided.</li> <li>. Storefronts and main cornice altered 1980-1984.</li> <li>. Intact finials.</li> </ul>
522 Riverside Dr.	1891	1,2,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 2-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Cast-iron storefront with double door.</li> <li>. Segmental arched molded cast-iron window crowns.</li> <li>. Bracketed cornice, matches 526 and 528.</li> <li>. Notched frieze above a pointed attic window.</li> </ul>
504-510 Riverside Dr. WILLIAMS BUILDING	1894-1895	1,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. One storefront with pressed-metal lintel, and one storefront altered c. 1980-1984.</li> <li>. Pressed-metal, pedimented bracketed window crowns.</li> <li>. Bracketed metal cornice.</li> </ul>

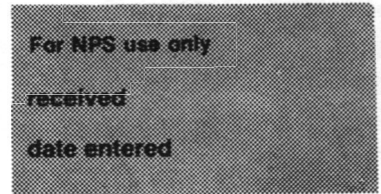
(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clayton Historic District

Continuation sheet Clayton, Jefferson Co., Inc. Item number 7. Description Page 6

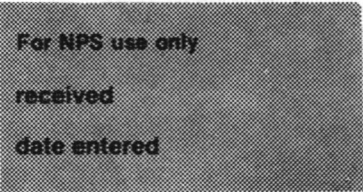


ADDRESS	DATE	PHOTO NO.	DESCRIPTION
203 James St.	1895	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront altered late 1970's.</li> <li>. Door to upper floors.</li> <li>. Bracketed metal window crowns.</li> <li>. Bracketed pressed-metal cornice, matches 537, 209 and 215.</li> </ul>
209 James St.	1895	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront altered late 1970's.</li> <li>. Door to upper floors.</li> <li>. Segmental arched windows with brick hoods, matches 215.</li> <li>. Bracketed pressed-metal cornice, matches 537, 203 and 215.</li> </ul>
215 James St.	1895	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront altered late 1970's, intact pressed-metal cornice with end brackets and finials, matches 517-519.</li> <li>. Door to upper floors.</li> <li>. Segmental arched windows with brick hoods, matches 209.</li> <li>. Bracketed pressed-metal cornice, matches 537, 203 and 215.</li> </ul>
514-516 Riverside Dr. CEROW BUILDING	1899	1,2,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-1/2-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Storefront altered c. 1950's, intact pressed-metal cornice.</li> <li>. Door to upper floors.</li> <li>. Segmental arched windows with iron molded crowns.</li> <li>. Half-size attic windows.</li> <li>. Denticulated metal cornice with large end brackets.</li> </ul>
242 James St.	1905	9,10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Pressed-metal cornice with end brackets and finials.</li> <li>. Storefront and door to upper floors.</li> <li>. Segmental arched windows with stone sills on upper floors.</li> <li>. Bracketed pressed-metal main cornice.</li> </ul>

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Clayton Historic District

Continuation sheet Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY Item number 7. Description Page 7

ADDRESS	DATE	PHOTO NO.	DESCRIPTION
518 Riverside Dr.	1905	1,2,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, stone facade, Richardsonian Romanesque commercial bldg.</li> <li>. 1st floor altered late 1970's.</li> <li>. Upper floor access door.</li> <li>. Intact 1st floor cornice.</li> <li>. Segmental arched triple window on 2nd floor.</li> <li>. Flat stone lintels on upper floors.</li> <li>. Corbelled cornice.</li> <li>. Frieze windows, end brackets and smooth corbelled belt course.</li> </ul>
544 Riverside Dr.	c.1900-	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3-story, brick commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Suspended storefront canopy (roof altered early 1900's).</li> <li>. Two storefronts and double door to upper floors.</li> <li>. Upper floor windows grouped 4-1-4-1.</li> <li>. Four windows highlighted by 2-story corbelling and shallow cornice.</li> <li>. Pressed-metal main cornice.</li> </ul>
230-238 James St. McKINLEY BUILDING	1911	9,10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 2-story, brick commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Three storefronts, altered c. 1950's, two doors to upper floors and a cornice with brackets and pendants at street level.</li> <li>. Central raised parapet with denticulated and bracketed concrete cornice and "McKinley Building" inscription, flanked by lower wood cornices with matching dentils and brackets.</li> </ul>
220 James St.	c.1913	9,10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 1-story, clapboard commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Asymmetrical window and door openings with no pattern.</li> <li>. Lacking architectural detail.</li> </ul>
320 James St.	c.1913	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 1-story, brick Italianate commercial bldg.</li> <li>. Two storefronts altered c. 1930's.</li> <li>. Bracketed wood cornice.</li> <li>. Large end brackets.</li> </ul>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Clayton Historic District

Continuation sheet Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY

Item number 7. Description

Page 8

ADDRESS	DATE	PHOTO NO.	DESCRIPTION
246 James St. LYRIC THEATER	1913	10	. 1-story, concrete block commercial bldg. . Perma-stone storefront, vertical board siding and pent roof added c. 1960's.
300 James St.	1913	10	. 1-story, rusticated concrete block commercial bldg. . Segmental arched entry with keystone and transom. . Recessed door with sidelights. . Stepped parapet roof extending above the roofline.
525 Riverside Dr.	c.1920's	6	. 2-1/2-story, frame Italianate commercial bldg. with brick and stucco facade. . Storefront and door to upper floors, wood cornice with engaged pendants. . Main cornice with engaged pendants flanking triple attic story windows. . Contributing 1920's detached single-bay garage with gable roof.

INTRUSIONS

1. Gas Station S.W. corner of Riverside Drive and James Street (No number)	c.1932	8	. 1-story, metal panelled building. . Extensively altered. . Non-contributing
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# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1854-1920's **Builder/Architect** Various

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Clayton Historic District is architecturally and historically significant as one of the most intact, cohesive collections of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings in northern New York. Settled in 1822, Clayton prospered in the early nineteenth century as a St. Lawrence River port and a center of the lumbering, lumber rafting and shipbuilding industries. In the last half of the nineteenth century, as lumbering and shipbuilding declined, Clayton emerged as the mercantile center for both the surrounding agricultural region and the burgeoning Thousand Islands resort trade. Constructed between 1854 and the 1920's in response to the expansion of the mercantile economy and the need to rebuild after several fires, the historic district embodies Clayton's commercial growth and prosperity in this period. In scale, style and embellishment, the historic district provides a representative example of the typical main street of the period, few of which survive in the region. The district is especially notable for several intact cast-iron storefronts and a concentration of Italianate style buildings. Since the historic district has continued in use as part of the only commercial area in Clayton with little new construction since the 1920's, it has retained a high degree of integrity and cohesiveness.

The village of Clayton, originally called Cornelia, was laid out and offered for sale by James LeRay in 1822. LeRay's influence is still evident in the rectangular street pattern and in some streets, including James and John, which were named after members of his family. Although surrounding areas were settled and developed earlier, Clayton's favored location on the St. Lawrence River, the natural harbor of French Creek Bay and the completion, in 1824, of the Clayton-Watertown Road (now State Route 12 and James Street) contributed to its rapid growth.

By 1835 the village boasted six stores, three groceries, three taverns, a full array of shops and craftsmen, and 43 dwellings. By the late 1840's the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities of the St. Lawrence were already drawing summer visitors, via steamboat. By 1864, stores, shops and warehouses were spaced out along the entire length of Water Street (now Riverside Drive) and the north end of James Street. A concentration of stores and hotels, which served tourists and sportsmen, located near the steamboat landing in the northwest corner of the village.

In 1873, the arrival of the railroad dramatically increased the volume of tourists and shifted the local point of entry to the railroad station and steamboat dock at the east end of Riverside Drive. By the 1890's as many as eleven trains per day and hourly departure of regularly scheduled steamboats (in addition to special excursions) created a high level of activity in this area. The summer tourist population along the shore and on nearby islands equalled that of the 2,000 year round residents of the village.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 4.75±

Quadrangle name Clayton, NY

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	8	4	1	3	0	0	0	4	8	9	9	1	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

see attachd site map

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

NA

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

Contact  
name/title John Harwood  
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation date 5/27/85  
street & number Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 1 telephone 518-474-0479  
city or town Albany state New York

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Julia S. Stokes date Aug 7, 1985  
title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation date July, 1985

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Almond Byers Entered in the National Register date 9/12/85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clayton Historic District

Continuation sheet Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY Item number 8. Significance Page 2

For NPS use only

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Although the local supply of timber was becoming depleted, resulting in the decline of the lumbering and shipbuilding industries, area farms, cheese factories and small manufacturing concerns like the St. Lawrence River Skiff, Canoe and Steam Launch Company supported a year round population and generated trade which centered in the Clayton commercial district.

The existing character and configuration of the historic district was formed since the mid-nineteenth century, both by commercial prosperity and growth and by a series of fires which selectively destroyed parts of the commercial district.

The fire of 1853 leveled the stores and shops along the entire waterfront on the north-side of Riverside Drive. In 1854 Alden F. Barker, the most influential entrepreneur of this period, rebuilt his A.F. Barker General Store at 530-532 Riverside Drive. The building also housed the U.S. Custom House, on the second floor, and Barker's First National Bank of Clayton. The Barker Building survived the conflagration of 1856, which destroyed eight stores and a warehouse to the west, to become the earliest surviving building in the historic district. The attached buildings to the east, including 528 through 522 Riverside Drive, were built between about 1865 and 1891 to reflect both the style and details of the Barker Building.

The present bank at 538 Riverside Drive was built in 1884 to replace a smaller building which it had outgrown. The previous bank building was moved across the street and is now 527 Riverside Drive. Other buildings filled in between 1856 and 1910, providing a succession of dry goods, drug and grocery stores, a hardware store and two banks which served customers arriving by boat as well as from the street. Riverside Drive featured an oblong center median which was planted with lawn and trees and contained benches and statuary. This median, called the cucumber, was removed in the late 1950's to provide street parking.

On the south side of Riverside Drive, the Italianate style Simon G. Johnston residence (1880-1882, NR listed), the former Clayton Post Office building at 517-519 Riverside (c. 1887) and the Hambley Shoe Store at 537 Riverside (c. 1890) survived a fire in 1895 which devastated the remainder of the buildings in this block as well as the east side of James Street to Hugunin Street. The space left between 517 and 537 Riverside Drive was partially used when the former bank (c. 1876) was moved to 527 Riverside in the early 1900's. In the early 1920's, 525 Riverside Drive was constructed, reflecting the scale of 527 and adding to the continuity of the street line.

Along with the immediate reconstruction of stores on the east side of James Street in 1895, a third story was added to 537 Riverside. The attached buildings at 203 through 215 James (c. 1895) housed the Hub Billiard Parlor, Grappotte's Saloon, a second floor ice cream parlor and Anna Locklin's Millinery Shop. The Hubbard Hotel, to the south, was also rebuilt at this time but was replaced by a motel in the 1960's.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Clayton Historic District  
Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY Item number 8. Significance Page 3

The fire of 1887 destroyed the earlier commercial buildings on the west side of James Street, except the Walton House Hotel on the corner of Riverside, which was demolished in 1929-1930 and replaced by a non-contributing gas station. The earliest surviving commercial buildings on James Street, including 228, 306, 312 and 322-326, were built after the 1887 fire and survived another fire in 1905. They housed a variety of commercial establishments including jewelry, shoe and hardware stores, a livery stable, bakery, butcher and apartments. The fire of 1905 gutted the jewelry store at 228 James and levelled the buildings south of it to 306 James. Reconstruction of 228 and 242 (housing the print shop) began immediately, followed by the McKinley Building (320-328) in 1911. The Lyric Theater and Gillick's Garage, at 246 and 300 James respectively, were built in 1913 to introduce two innovations to Clayton, moving pictures and Model T Fords. The other one-story buildings at 320 and 220 James, which housed plumbers and a creamery, were built before 1914. The creamery building at 220 James is typical of the small vernacular wooden buildings which fit into the spaces between large and more permanent buildings in the district.

The gradual rebuilding and commercial expansion which occurred in this area resulted in a compact, substantially intact collection of buildings, which embodies the culmination of Clayton's mercantile expansion.

The Simon Johnston House and Gillick's Garage at 300 James Street represent the range of stylistic and historic development in the district. The Simon Johnston House (1880-1882), in its prominent location, high-style design and high level of embellishment, reflects the wealth and prominence of its original owner, the last of Clayton's shipbuilders, as well as the importance of shipbuilding in the development of the community. Gillick's Garage (c. 1913), with its concrete block construction and simple unadorned storefront, heralded the start of the automobile age in Clayton.

The concentration of Italianate style commercial buildings reflects the prosperity of the village during the late nineteenth century and lends stylistic continuity and cohesiveness to the district. The intact cast-iron storefronts on 530, 532 and 522 Riverside Drive are unique in Clayton and contribute to the character of its nineteenth-century streetscape. Although many storefronts have been altered, the architectural integrity of the upper stories, and particularly the decorative cast-iron and pressed-metal cornices and window crowns, is outstanding. In the scale, proportions, consistent streetlines and repetition of decorative detail, the district retains its dominant late nineteenth century character.

Clayton was developed by local businessmen and entrepreneurs. The most influential was Alden Farnsworth Barker, who constructed the Barker Building (1854) 530-532 Riverside Drive. In addition to establishing a successful general store, Barker founded several banks, including the Exchange Bank (1876), the Citizen Bank (1884) and the First National Bank of Clayton. He engaged in shipbuilding, between 1856 and 1873 producing three schooners and two steamboats, and founded the Thousand Islands Steamboat Company (1884). Perhaps most significantly, he organized the Clayton and Theresa Railroad Company in 1871, which provided railroad service to Clayton and contributed significantly to the growth of tourism.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Clayton Historic District

Continuation sheet Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY Item number 8. Significance Page 4

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Captain Simon G. Johnston, who built 507 and probably 517-519 Riverside Drive, was a shipbuilder. He constructed the Nightingale, the last ship built in Clayton in 1894. He also invested in the railroad and built the village waterworks.

Many of the early businessmen who built in the historic district, such as George H. McKinley (230-238 James), Charles A. Ellis (544 Riverside) and Solon H. Johnson (526 Riverside), were leaders in the community, holding a variety of local offices, serving as directors of the banks and participating in civic groups like the Odd Fellows Lodge and the Clayton Cornet Band.

Several properties have remained in the families of the original or nineteenth-century owners, including the Hungerford Hardware Store at 500 Riverside Drive, the Williams Building at 504-510 Riverside Drive, the Cerow Building at 514-516 Riverside Drive, and the A.E. Streets Building at 525 Riverside Drive.

The village of Clayton continues to fulfill its role as the commercial center of a farm, manufacturing and tourism based community. The people of Clayton demonstrate a keen appreciation of the history of the community and welcome recognition of their architectural heritage.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clayton Historic District

Clayton, Jefferson Co., Inc. **Item number** 9

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clayton Historic District, Clayton, Jefferson Co.,  
New York

Continuation sheet

Item number 11

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Page 1

Draft research and nomination prepared by:

JoAnn Dietz Beck  
Environmental Design & Research, P.C.  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, NY

315-685-3161

# ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

4 photo locations

544 538 530 528 526 522 518 514 504 500  
532 516 510

## RIVERSIDE DR.

537 527 525 517 607  
203 519  
209  
215

JOHN ST.

gas station ①

boundary line

220

228

230  
236

242

246

300

306

308

312

320

322-  
326

JAMES ST.

## HUGUNIN ST.

# CLAYTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCALE

0 50 100 200 FT. NORTH



from Village of Clayton Tax Map

Clayton, Jefferson Co, NY

boundary indicated by dotted line

Ref 85002368

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County  
NEW YORK

Working No.                       
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86  
Date Due: 9/12/85 9/28/85  
Action: ACCEPT 9-12-85  
Entered in the RETURN  
National Register REJECT  
Federal Agency:                     

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:    sample            request            appeal            NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria                       
Reviewer                       
Discipline                       
Date                       
           see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:            technical corrections cited below  
           substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?    yes    no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved   date <u>                    </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



ork N.A

ST

Dayton Dept. Store

STLOR'S

AMERICAN  
LEGION CLUB

Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: Riverside Drive, Northside  
~~532-500~~

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: Nov. 1984

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
Box 465  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: N.E.

Photo #: 1



Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: Streetscape 532-500 Riverside Drive, northside

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: Nov. 1984

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research

Box 465

Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: N.E.

Photo #: 2



Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: 532-544 Riverside Drive  
northside

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: Nov. 1984

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: N.W.

Photo#: 3



Clayton Historic District

Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: Backs of Buildings 500-532 Riverside Drive  
facing the St. Lawrence River

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: Nov. 1984

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: West

Photo #: 4



LEHIGH ST

LEHIGH REALTY

Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: 507-537 Riverside Drive  
southside

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: March 1985

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: S.W.

Photo #: 5



Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: 535-527 Riverside Drive

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: March 1985

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: S.W.

Photo #: 6



Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: 537 Riverside Drive  
203-215 James Street

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: Nov. 1984

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: S.W.

Photo #: 7



C-WAY MOTEL RESTAURANT

SMALL

ICE

Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: Gas Station southwest corner of Riverside  
Drive and James Street **not historic**

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: March 1985

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: S.W.

Photo #: 8



LIQUOR STORE

St. Anthony's  
1911-1912

SCHMIDT'S  
ADDRESS  
SPORTS WEAR  
LADIES' MISC.

CONROY'S

CONROY'S

Clayton Historic District  
Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: Eastside of James Street from 228 south

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: Jan. 1985

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

Direction of view: S.W.

Photo #: 9



Clayton Historic District

Jefferson County, N.Y.

View of: 300-200 James Street

Photo by: JoAnn Beck

Date: March 1985

Negative filed: Environmental Design & Research  
2-4 Fennell Street  
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152

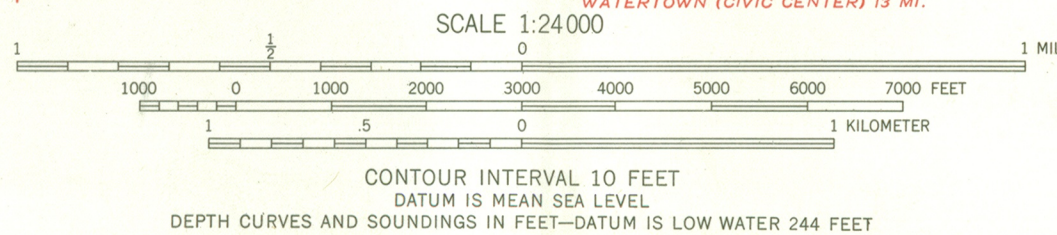
Direction of view: North

Photo #: 10

Clayton Historic District  
Clayton, Jefferson Co. N.Y.  
UTM References  
Zone 18 Clayton Quadrangle  
E 413000  
N 4899100



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, U. S. Lake Survey, and TVA  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958  
Hydrography compiled from U. S. Lake Survey charts 16  
and 17 (1956)  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,  
central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines  
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

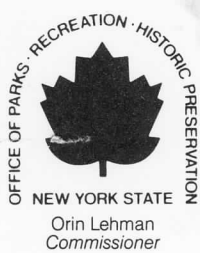


ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
State Route (circle with number)



CLAYTON, N. Y.  
NE 1/4 CLAYTON 15' QUADRANGLE  
N 4407.5 - W 7600 / 7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 1, Albany, New York 12238

518-474-0456

August 20, 1985

Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic  
Places  
Interagency Resources Division  
National Park Service  
1100 L Street NW, Room 6209  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Clayton Historic District  
Clayton, Jefferson County

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is a letter of objection to be filed with the nomination of the Clayton Historic District, Clayton, Jefferson County, New York, which was nominated in early August.

Sincerely,

*Larry E. Gobrecht / kl*

Larry E. Gobrecht  
National Register &  
Survey Coordinator  
Historic Preservation  
Field Services Bureau

LG:dg  
Enclosures

*J. Steiner*  
*upper room*

RECEIVED  
AUG 16 1985  
COMMISSIONER  
PARKS, REC. & HIS. PRES.

Aug, 14, 1985  
Edward L. Barlow  
312 James St.  
Clayton, N.Y.  
13624

Oria Leman  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau  
Agency Building #1  
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12238

Dear Sir;

I have been out of town recently. When I returned I found these notices had come in the mail. This is the reason why my response is tardy.

I would still like to object to the listing of my property in a historic district.

Please allow this letter to be considered as my position on the matter, even though it is late.

Thank you very much.

8/14/85  
*Nancy L. Hinert*  
NANCY L. HINERT  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Jefferson County  
Commission Expires March 30, 1985

Sincerely Yours,  
*Edward L. Barlow*  
Edward L. Barlow