

# YORKVILLE

*IN THE EARLY 1830'S A WILD UNTOUCHED LANDSCAPE OF PRAIRIE GRASS AND WILDFLOWERS STRETCHED AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE. WILDLIFE WAS ABUNDANT AND TRACES OF HUMAN PRESENCE SCARCE AS EARLY PIONEERS WERE JUST BEGINNING TO SETTLE THE AREA. NATURAL LIMESTONE OUTCROPPINGS LINED THE FOX RIVER VALLEY AND EARLY PIONEERS SKILLED IN MASONRY BEGAN TO IMPLEMENT THIS AS A BUILDING MATERIAL. BY 1836 RULIEF DURYEA HAD ESTABLISHED YORKVILLE NAMING IT AFTER HIS NATIVE STATE OF NEW YORK. OVER THE YEARS THE CITY BEGAN TO FLOURISH AND THE DOWNTOWN BECAME ALIVE WITH ACTIVITY; A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAME TO SHOP AND VISIT. IN 1845 THE COUNTY SEAT WAS MOVED TO OSWEGO BUT SHORTLY AFTER, IN 1862, IT WAS RETURNED TO YORKVILLE WITH THE REALIZATION THAT THIS WAS THE MORE SUITABLE LOCATION, CENTRAL TO THE ENTIRE COUNTY. THE KENDALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE WAS THEN BUILT IN 1864 AND THE SCHOOL IN 1887 MADE PREDOMINANTLY WITH NATIVE CLAY BRICKS FROM A LOCAL BRICKYARD AND NATIVE LIMESTONE FROM THE RIVER VALLEY.*

*TODAY, SOME OF THOSE ICONIC STRUCTURES STILL STAND. FOR EXAMPLE FROM THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN YORKVILLE, TALL ABOVE THE ROOFTOPS AND CITY BELOW, THE CUPOLA OF THE KENDALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXEMPLIFIES THE ITALIANATE ARCHITECTURE THAT ONCE DOMINATED THE UNITED STATES DURING THE MID TO LATE 1800'S. THE BRICK AND LIMESTONE FACADES AND ORNATELY DETAILED CORNICES AND BRACKETS ON THIS STRUCTURE AND OTHER BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE DOWNTOWN REVERBERATE THESE HISTORICAL ELEMENTS OF YORKVILLE'S PAST.*

*THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN (SHARED USE TRAIL PLAN AND DOWNTOWN STREETScape MASTER PLAN) ESTABLISHES AN IDENTIFIABLE THEME FOR THE YORKVILLE AREA, IMPROVING ITS AESTHETIC QUALITY WHILE PRESERVING THE CHARACTER AND HERITAGE OF THE CITY. FOR EXAMPLE IN THE DOWNTOWN ORNATE DETAILS OF STREETScape ELEMENTS WILL REFLECT THE UNIQUE HISTORICAL CHARACTER OF THE CITY. OLD-FASHIONED ACORN LIGHTING WILL RESONATE A BYGONE PERIOD. THE WELCOMING ENTRANCES INTO THE CITY, GATEWAYS TO THE DOWNTOWN AND SIGNAGE ALONG THE SHARED USE TRAILS WILL RESEMBLE THE ARCHITECTURE OF THESE ICONIC BUILDINGS FABRICATED OUT OF BRICK, LIMESTONE AND IRONWORK. AS EACH ELEMENT COMPLEMENTS ONE ANOTHER IT WILL STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY'S IDENTITY AND FURTHER CREATE A STRONG SENSE OF PLACE.*



## EXHIBIT H - THEME AND CHARACTER VISION

