

MASTER PLAN  
for  
GANNAGARO  
State Historic Site



New York State  
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Bureau of Historic Sites  
Peebles Island, Waterford, New York 12188

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B.A.K.

## I INTRODUCTION

### A. Significance

Gannagaro State Historic Site contains the archaeological remains of a major seventeenth-century Seneca village. The village core and associated burial grounds located on Boughton Hill were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. The Fort Hill portion, which was the site of a contemporary stronghold, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 as a significant locale in the itinerary of the Denonville expedition of 1687, an elaborate military campaign momentous in the history of French Canada and the northeastern United States.

According to tradition, the site is the location of important events in the founding of the League of the Iroquois. The grounds also have significance as the traditional burial place of the Mother of Nations, or Peace Queen, one of the three founders of the League, along with Hiawatha and the Peace Maker.

Gannagaro State Historic Site is the only site within the Bureau of Historic Sites to be devoted solely to the history and culture of the Iroquois.

### B. Purpose

This Master Plan has been written to guide the development of Gannagaro State Historic Site along a path which is acceptable to both the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Iroquois. Concern for the site's protection and consciousness of its spiritual and historical importance have been continuous among the Iroquois since its abandonment as a settlement in the seventeenth century. This was especially true among the Seneca and, particularly, the Tonawanda Band of Senecas. To benefit from this knowledge, OPRHP applied for, and received, a National Endowment for the Humanities Planning Grant in 1981 to hire Native American consultants to help plan the development of Gannagaro State Historic Site. The results of this planning effort are the Planning Proposals contained in Appendix B. The Master Plan represents BHS's attempt to accommodate the needs and desires of the Iroquois community in regard to the preservation and interpretation of the site.