They’re here because we are.
Mission
The Preservation League of New York State invests in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth, and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. We lead advocacy, economic development, and education programs all across the state.
Message from the Chairman

Sometimes we become so absorbed in the issues of today that we forget to allow ourselves to stop and reflect or even browse library shelves. Recently I came across a small, brown book with the provocative title Our Environment Can Be Saved by Nelson A. Rockefeller.

Written in 1970 while he was serving as the 49th governor of New York (1959-1973), his words were refreshing and relevant to many of the situations facing us today. As a primer on conservation and historic preservation problem-solving, it is no coincidence that his ideas were shaped by two very profound moments of 1963: the loss of Pennsylvania Station and the looming defacement of Storm King and its romantic viewshed in the lower Hudson Highlands. These events galvanized historic preservationists and conservationists in New York State: Scenic Hudson was founded in 1963, the sweeping National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was passed and in 1974 the Preservation League of New York State was formally established.

An advocate for state-owned public parks, private philanthropy in preservation, and a prime proponent of the protection of “Open Spaces”— both natural and historic sites — Governor Rockefeller inherited his father’s view that nature “was an ever-changing beauty.” He believed that nature should be honored and preserved at great cost, yet he also opined the need for conservationists and preservationists to join forces to save our environment.

One of his chapters is devoted entirely to noise pollution, which he named “The Quiet Issue.” In another, “Pure Waters,” Rockefeller outlined his 1965 legislation to clean up rivers, lakes, streams and off-shore waters. Receiving even more attention was the arts “in order to lift the level of human awareness and perception and to enhance the enjoyment of the world around us, we (must) look to the arts.” In 1960 he formed the influential New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), which was followed in 1966 with the New York State Council on Architecture “to encourage and stimulate interest in architecture and excellence in construction...and to assist in the restoration of buildings of historic interest.”

Jay Di Lorenzo
President

Message from the President

In September I had the pleasure of spending a weekend in the Adirondacks with a group of Preservation League Trustees as part of our annual series of preservation study tours. Our itinerary centered on the Adirondack Great Camps and in particular, the work of William West Durant, who created much of the Great Camp architecture that is so closely associated with the region.

Particularly meaningful on this tour was our visit to Great Camp Sagamore. Constructed between 1897 and 1899, it is considered one the most important Adirondack Great Camps, but it was facing an uncertain future in 1975, just one year after the League’s founding. At that time, the Forever Wild clause of the New York State Constitution disallowed repair of this historic campus of buildings in the Adirondack Preserve. Spearheaded by the Preservation League, a solution was negotiated whereby the League took title to the property and protected the Camp with an easement before transferring it to a sympathetic owner. However, it took a State Constitutional Amendment to keep the Camp and its integral outbuildings intact. In the early 1980s, after getting the amendment passed unanimously by two consecutive legislatures, the League mobilized a public education campaign across the state that brought a 63 percent voter approval to the ballot issue.

Great Camp Sagamore is here today because the League was there for Great Camp Sagamore.

Since then, the League’s programs have touched thousands of historic buildings, districts and landscapes that have survived in large part because of our advocacy and assistance.

In November, a more recent effort on behalf of a threatened historic building was rewarded when the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse was moved 1,000 yards to its new location in Ontario County. Quakers settled this area in 1789 and the meetinghouse was a crucible of major American reform movements including debates over freedom and equality for women, Seneca Indians, and African Americans. When it was threatened with demolition in 2007, a local group organized to transform the Meetinghouse into a public center for the study of equality and social justice. With the help of a loan from the Preservation League’s Endangered Properties Intervention Program, the building was stabilized and relocated to its new site.

The 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse is here today because the League was there for the Meetinghouse.

As you read this Annual Report, you will learn more about the difference the League makes every day in the future of New York’s historic resources.

Please remember that we can only be there for New York’s historic places because you are there for us.
Public Policy Program

The League is working to demonstrate even more clearly the key role that preservation plays in the issues most relevant to New Yorkers, including economic development, job creation, affordable housing, and smart, sustainable growth.

Developing a Position on Hydrofracking

The Preservation League of New York State has a nearly 40-year history of protecting New York’s diverse and rich heritage of historic buildings, communities, and cultural landscapes. As the statewide advocate for New York’s historic resources, the League has become increasingly concerned about the negative impacts that high-volume natural gas hydraulic fracturing could have on historic buildings, communities, and landscapes in the Marcellus and Utica shale regions of New York State.

The development and servicing of the industrial infrastructure required by hydrofracking poses a significant threat to historic structures, cultural resources, and heritage tourism in these areas. After careful research and lengthy discussion by both staff and board, the League submitted comments on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) on high-volume natural gas hydraulic fracturing.

The League contends that every drilling permit must comply with Section 14.09 of the State Historic Preservation Act and that historic resource survey and mitigation requirements must be included in any hydrofracking permitting review.

Studying the Use of the State Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program

Two years along in the expanded New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, the Preservation League continues to seek program improvements. Staff and consultants are documenting use of the credit for commercial historic properties as well as the separate and consultants are documenting use of the credit for commercial historic properties as well as the separate

Advocating for Land Banks

Legislation signed in 2011 by Governor Andrew Cuomo provides for the establishment of municipal land banks in New York State. Supported by the League and colleague organizations like Empire State Future, this legislation will help cities across New York State address the problem of vacant properties.

Many vacant, abandoned and tax delinquent properties that will be targeted by land banks in New York State may also be historic structures listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places, or locally designated by municipal ordinance. The League continues to seek program improvements. The credit was used almost exclusively in the New York City area, in upstate New York. This is significant shift from the previous decade, when Federal rehabilitation tax credits were used almost exclusively in the New York City area, and demonstrates the power of the state tax credit as a catalyst for private investment.

Supporting New York’s Parks and Historic Sites

The League has developed and distributed A Guide to Land Banking and Historic Preservation in New York State to help municipalities integrate historic preservation policies into their Land Bank applications to Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC).
Technical Services Program

The League is New York’s only statewide preservation organization dedicated to providing comprehensive and predominantly pro-bono services to those seeking to identify, preserve, protect, reuse, and promote historic resources as community assets. We have years of experience in administering grant programs; building the capacity of local groups; educating New Yorkers through workshops, presentations, and seminars; promoting creative solutions for endangered properties; advancing public policies on the local, state, and national levels; and offering a statewide voice for preservation in the media.

Growing the Network

The League’s Preservation Colleagues program, funded by the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, AIA New York State and design professionals.

Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings

The Preservation League launched the Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings program in 2011 to demonstrate that one could respect an old building’s original and often practical design features while enhancing its energy efficiency. Funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Preservation League created a peer-guided curriculum, organized and presented seven programs, and developed a project scope for an innovative research and demonstration project on insulation and moisture retention in historic buildings. Funding for this program provided the League with the opportunity to hire Amanda Lewkowicz, who worked as Preservation Program Coordinator through 2011.

Upper Floors Program

After eight years, the demand for the workshop Enhancing Main Streets: Making Upper Floors Work again remains strong. The League was asked to present the workshop for a fourth time at the Landmarks Society of Western New York’s annual “Regional Network” Conference in the spring. The Upper Floors workshop was also presented in Brockport in October as part of a Certified Local Government training grant, and as a standalone full-day workshops in Saranac Lake and Kingston. The League also discussed the Upper Floors program as an example of best practices for a community meeting held by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Sustainability and Historic Preservation Program in Concord, New Hampshire.

In Jamestown and Rochester, projects that had received financial support for upper floors reuse studies advanced. Jamestown’s 1897 Wellman Building and Rochester’s 560 West Main Street, both downtown anchor buildings, are being reborn as mixed-use commercial/residential properties. Finally, the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, the Village of Palmyra and the League embarked on a two-year partnership to produce an Upper Floors Guidebook designed for community leaders, building professionals and other stakeholders, the final product will encourage reinvestment in the state’s historic commercial cores.

Tax Credit Workshops

The League continued to facilitate the use of the New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit programs by coordinating many local and regional workshops, often partnering with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Workshop locations included Poughkeepsie, Hillsdale (Columbia County), Springfield (Orange County), and Hudson (Columbia County). The League also hosted three programs in Buffalo that targeted real estate professionals, homeowners, and building trade professionals, reaching over 120 people with information on using these tax credits.

Expanding Our Reach

The Preservation League not only offered its own programs but developed new audiences and deepened relationships with others by participating in conferences and seminars. Over 150 museum professionals gained a fuller understanding of the League’s services at two statewide events: the New York Cultural Heritage Network meeting at Colgate University and the Museums in Conversation conference held in Buffalo. The League presented on historic preservation and sustainability to over 100 Realtors at the Saratoga-Schenectady-Schodackie Association of Realtors conference in Saratoga Springs.
In April, the League, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Change Orange brought together experts in 20th century architecture to discuss the architectural legacy of Paul Rudolph in Orange County. This standing-room only event, held at the Orange County Citizen’s Foundation’s Seligmann Homestead, sparked future working group meetings among preservation advocates working to save the Paul Rudolph-designed Orange County Government Center.

Both of the League’s regional directors presented to graduate-level historic preservation students at their respective alma maters in 2011. Erin Tobin, the League’s regional director for technical and grant programs in Eastern New York addressed a class at the University of Pennsylvania, while Tania Werbisky, the League’s regional director for technical and grant programs in Western New York, addressed students and faculty at Cornell University. In addition, League President Jay DiLorenzo spoke to a class in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University.

National Preservation Conference

In October, more than 2,500 preservationists experienced the Buffalo-Niagara region’s world-class architecture, neighborhoods, industrial areas, and park system at the National Preservation Conference. The Preservation League was proud to work with the National Trust and local organizers in planning educational sessions, advising on a special New York Scholars program, moderating sessions on adaptive use of industrial architecture, and using the New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Staff was honored to present a three-minute success story on the League’s Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings Program at the conference’s Preservation Partners Luncheon.

Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards

The preservation and reuse of New York’s historic buildings is fundamental to the economic revitalization of our cities, towns, and villages. The restoration of historic neighborhoods, Main Streets, and underutilized buildings creates jobs, provides housing, promotes tourism, stimulates private investment, and conserves energy, resources, and open space. The League’s annual Awards program allows us to share preservation success stories that may one day serve as inspiration to others.

The 2011 Excellence Award recipients were: The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Interior, Albany County; The Franklin Building, Jefferson County; The Knox Building, the New York Public Library Exterior, and Pierpont Morgan’s 1906 Library Interior, all in New York County; 1844 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, Onondaga County; and Montour House, Schuyler County. Uncovering the Underground Railroad, Abolitionism and African American Life in Wayne County, New York: 1820-1880 by Judith Wellman and Marjory Allen Perez was honored as an outstanding publication. CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity in Syracuse was honored for organizational excellence, and Howard Kirshenbaum was honored for individual excellence for his contribution to historic preservation in the Adirondack Park.

The League is grateful to the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation for their continuing support of the awards program. The League also extends a special appreciation to the awards jury, chaired by David Shan and comprised of members of the League’s board of trustees and trustees council and to Arete Swartz Warren for her presentation of the awards.
Preserve New York Grants

Since 1993, Preserve New York grants have proven to be an effective catalyst for realizing community preservation goals and saving some of the Empire State’s most significant places. Preserve New York grants provide the funding to produce historic structure reports, historic landscape reports and cultural resource surveys. These documentation projects are brought into sharper focus with guidance from the League’s public policy and technical services staff.

The 2011 call for Preserve New York (PNY) grant applications emphasized projects that would advance the use of the New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program. Of the 15 projects selected for support, 10 directly link to tax credit use.

These survey and landmark designation projects hold the promise of positioning over 5,000 properties – homes, commercial rows and office blocks – for private investment.

To date, Preserve New York has provided over $1.6 million to 265 projects. The Preserve New York Grant program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

The organizations and municipalities receiving grants awards totaling $90,444 in 2011 were:

- Albany: A grant of $5,044 will fund a survey of the Summit Avenue neighborhood within the Delaware Avenue area of Albany, an early 20th century street car neighborhood characterized by duplex housing. Should this survey lead to a National Register nomination, property owners would qualify for the NYS Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

- Randolph: A grant of $4,000 will be applied toward the cost of a historic landscape report for the Fenton Mansion grounds which have served as a park since 1919. This landmark property and its house museum was originally called Walnut Grove and was the home of Reuben E. Fenton, who was elected to national and state leadership positions including Governor between 1865-1869.

- Elmira: A grant of $7,500 will be applied toward the cost of a historic landscape report for the Fenton Mansion.
Preservation Buffalo Niagara (PBN), Buffalo, Erie County

A grant of $7,500 will help complete a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the “Elmwood Historic District (West).” With its 1,600 properties built c.1890-1930, the area promises to be the largest historic district in Western New York when listed with hundreds of people becoming eligible for the state’s homeowner tax credit program.

Town of Crown Point, Essex County

A grant of $3,000 will help fund a National Register Historic District nomination for the village green of Crown Point and its surrounding buildings, all of which are eligible for the NYS Rehabilitation Tax Credit program. This area reflects the hamlet’s prosperity as a 19th century center of agriculture and iron manufacturing.

Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus, Brooklyn, Kings County

“The Gowanus Canal Corridor contains many architecturally significant buildings. Placement on the National Register will help preserve and protect those buildings and foster the growth of a vibrant industrial sector, and protect the remaining buildings to be conditioned for re-use and for new industry. This grant has made it possible to engage an architectural historian and an archeologist, who will document the neighborhood’s industrial built environment, furthering its preservation.”

Linda Mariano, Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus (PRGSG), Brooklyn

South Wedge Planning Committee, Rochester, Monroe County

An award of $3,800 will assist in the completion of a survey and one or more National Register historic districts in the South Wedge, a neighborhood that developed due to the expansion of several commercial nurseries and a growing German population between the 1880s and 1920s. The project will position between 245-400 mostly residential properties for state and federal tax credit benefits.

City of Amsterdam, Montgomery County

The $7,500 grant will help fund a historic structure report of Amsterdam City Hall, an 1869 mansion that was the home of John Sanford, one of Amsterdam’s leading industrialists, until he donated this property to Amsterdam in 1932. The report will guide stewardship, advance fundraising and help educate the public about the remarkably intact historic Sanford Mansion and its importance to the city’s cultural heritage.

Village of Fort Plain, Montgomery County

A $3,000 grant will fund a National Register Historic District nomination for the Village of Fort Plain, and results from a 2009 PNY survey grant. Its architecture reflects the legacy of the Erie Canal and late 19th century railroad development. The entire village is eligible for the NYS Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

Roscoe Rockland Chamber of Commerce, Roscoe, Sullivan County

A $6,000 grant for a survey of the area between Roscoe and Beavertail that will identify cultural resources along the Beavertail River corridor and assess their historic and architectural significance. This area includes downtown Roscoe, mill hamlets, historic farmsteads, and recreational resources.

Cracker Box Palace, Alton, Wayne County

A grant of $9,000 will supplement an Environmental Protection Fund award to complete several historic structure reports at Alasa Farms, a 627-acre National Register-listed property with 17 major buildings and structures including the c.1833-1834 Main and Deacon’s houses, rate surviving examples of Shaker architecture. Due to development pressures, fire damage and other threats, Alasa Farms was included in the 2010 Seven to Save list. Led by the Wayne County Planning Department, groups including the Genesee Land Trust, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and the US Department of Agriculture have worked together to preserve this remarkable property.

Warwick Historical Society, Warwick, Wyoming County

A National Register of Historic Places nomination project for downtown Warwick will be supported by a $5,500 PNY grant, the first made in this county. The 30 properties of the proposed district include two c.1865 churches and brick commercial rows constructed between c.1880-1930, which will become eligible for state and federal tax credit programs.

12/13
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This three-story, five-bay brick building, located in the heart of Fort Plain's downtown, previously served the community as the Rialto Theatre and an American Legion Post but was recently threatened with demolition. A plan is being developed to restore this building with street-level retail space, public gathering space, conference area and a café.

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Thomas J. Schwarz, who endowed the fund, is also a Preservation League Trustee. He serves as President of Purchase College, SUNY, and is a board member and alumnus of Hamilton College with great affection for upstate New York.

The grant recipients were:
• Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association for the Schoharie Valley Railroad Museum, Schoharie, Schoharie County: $15,000
• Zadock Pratt Museum, Prattsville, Greene County: $12,000
• Tioga County Historical Society, Owego, Tioga County: $13,000
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The Dutch Reformed Church, Prattsville

One building at a time …

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The Dutch Reformed Church, Prattsville
Fortifying the Preservation League's Work

Development Highlights

2011 was a year of triumphs for the Preservation League, and with your support the League will continue to lead New York’s statewide preservation movement in 2012.

From our Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings workshops to our robust Preserve New York grant cycle, to a record-breaking National Preservation Conference in Buffalo, the League’s presence has been felt — and valued — across New York State. With every passing day, preservation becomes the choice for more people looking to reinvest in their communities, and the League is there to ensure the success of these important projects.

The League was delighted to secure a grant of $25,000 to support the preparation of a website and a technical report as part of the Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings workshop series. This report will use materials presented at workshops, as well as independent research on the implications of energy conservation for historic buildings. The League is developing this program to serve as a national model. The grant was one of only ten selected for Preservation Technology and Training’s (NCPTT) 2011 funding year. The technology for enhancing the energy efficiency of historic buildings is improving all the time. This grant-funded work will help the League show property owners that the choices they make today can have a difference a decade makes with a reception marking the opening of Phase II of the High Line in New York City.

A proud moment for the League came as we responded swiftly in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Throughout the early autumn, the League was a source of information and inspiration for the ravaged communities and the people working so hard to rebuild them. Staff members visited the hardest-hit areas, connecting volunteers to projects and ensuring that people were aware of all available resources. The stories arising from this tragedy put a human face on preservation and reminded us how quickly some of our most precious historic assets can literally be swept away. Aiding in bringing these communities back to life and salvaging their histories was humbling, but also a testament to the League’s strength.

In October, the Preservation League presented its most prestigious tribute, the Pillar of New York Award, to two honorees whose commitment to historic preservation is reflected across New York State. Paul LeClerc, President Emeritus of the New York Public Library, was honored for his leadership of that and other significant institutions, guided by his belief that education and access to information are at the center of human empowerment and are essential to the development of human capital. The Leon Levy Foundation, along with its trustees Shelby White and Elizabeth Moynihan, was celebrated for the Foundation’s peerless support of Arts and Humanities; Understanding of the Ancient World; Preservation of Nature and Gardens; and Public Policy.

Also this year, New York Times bestselling author Steve Berry helped us make the case for preservation. In November, Berry, a master of thrillers with a historic twist, discussed his latest book, The Jefferson Key, at a reception to benefit the Preservation League of New York State and the Jay Heritage Center in Rye. Berry’s foundation, History Matters, raises funds for a wide variety of historic preservation projects around the country. In addition to events, our annual membership appeals and annual fund campaign serve as a reliable source of income, and are supported by people from across New York and beyond. This unrestricted support is the foundation for all of our programs. Whether you prefer to attend events or advance the work of the League through membership or donations, your generosity makes it possible for League staff to traverse the State offering assistance to local preservation groups, individuals, organizations, and municipalities.

The knowledge, expertise, and resources the League brings to bear can make the difference between a successful preservation project and the irreversible loss of our places of distinction. We hope you will continue to be there for us, so we can be there for them.
Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings

Structures built before World War II use traditional building practices to capture winter sun and summer cross breezes. The Preservation League is helping owners of older and historic properties maximize energy efficiency by enhancing these desirable design features with state-of-the-art technology.

Have you ever wondered if it was possible to take advantage of new developments in energy efficiency without sacrificing historic charm? The Preservation League assembled a team of experts to answer this question and many more in a series of workshops titled Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings — ECHB for short.

The technology for enhancing the energy efficiency is improving all the time — but League staff noticed that much of the research being done on insulation and weatherization focused on new construction. When it comes to historic buildings, the choices that contractors and property owners make now can extend the useful life of older buildings and pay dividends both now and in the future.

In January 2011, the Preservation League entered into a partnership with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to provide workshops throughout New York State to address compliance with the energy conservation code in existing and historic structures.

Could it attend the workshop in your area?

In June, 2011 the League received a grant of $25,000 from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) to support website development and the preparation of a report on the findings of the ECHB programs. The grant was one of only ten made in the United States during NCPTT’s 2011 funding year.

The NCPTT grant will enable the League to develop a technical report addressing additional energy savings opportunities appropriate to historic buildings. This report will use materials presented at workshops, as well as independent research on the implications of energy conservation for historic buildings.

“Just wanted to say how impressed I was with the (Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings) seminar. I have been attending seminars/workshops for many years and must say that I found yours to be the most professional... Nice job!”

Joe Catropa
Architect, Farmingdale workshop

“Just picked up lots of good information, as well as some interesting ideas to present to the Historical Society board... More importantly, I really think a few of my new architect friends left this session with not only a head full of important technical updates, but also an invigorated ‘preservation’ mindset that might cause them to think twice when it comes to historic property design work in the future.”

Leo McCarthy
Town Historian, Buffalo workshop

“Could it attend the workshop in your area?”

In June, 2011 the League received a grant of $25,000 from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) to support website development and the preparation of a report on the findings of the ECHB programs. The grant was one of only ten made in the United States during NCPTT’s 2011 funding year.

The NCPTT grant will enable the League to develop a technical report addressing additional energy savings opportunities appropriate to historic buildings. This report will use materials presented at workshops, as well as independent research on the implications of energy conservation for historic buildings.

During field sessions, participants in ECHB workshops visited historic buildings that provided “living labs” for an overview of high-tech tools used for analyzing the energy efficiency of older buildings.

“The potential to save energy in New York’s existing and historic buildings is huge, although energy measures must be designed and implemented with great care in order to minimize the potential of adverse impact on existing building materials. The League’s leading and creative efforts to bring energy code principles to practitioners, as well as undertake a breakthrough building science study on insulation, are exciting and likely to be nationally recognized. Congratulations on work well done!”

Marilyn E. Kaplan, RA, FAPT
Project Manager, Energy Efficiency Services
NYS Energy Research and Development Authority

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Leo McCarthy
Architect, Farmingdale workshop

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“The ECHB Buffalo workshop was held in the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site (above).”
Q: How did you come to live in Albany?
My husband and I purchased our house in July of 2010. We had recently moved to Albany from Boston. We love cities, and we wanted to live in an urban, walkable area with good access to public transportation. We also wanted to find a place that was within biking distance to the University at Albany. We were immediately drawn to the beauty of Albany's Washington Park and Center Square neighborhoods.

Q: Do you know anything about the history of your home?
The house was built in 1888 and was tenant-occupied until 1916. During this time it housed a musician (Eugene Coffin) and a dressmaker (Annie Edwards). From 1940 to 1960, the building was known as Lockrow's Book Store. Harmon Lockrow, the proprietor, lived on the upper floors. We still have the original deed of the house as well as business cards from the old bookstore.

Q: What kind of shape was it in when you bought it?
It was not in horrible shape but it still required a lot of work. The “bones” of the house were good, but previous renovations were done with cheap materials and were poorly executed. There was much more work to do than our original house inspection turned up. But we loved the feel of the house, with its big, square rooms. Because of the clever layout, it feels much bigger than it is.

Q: Tell us about the work you’ve undertaken so far.
On the exterior, we invested in a new roof. The existing roof was damaged and leaked. We did some repointing to the brick below our front door and replaced some rotting wood on the exterior. We also invested in new storm windows.

On the interior, we renovated our entire basement. We added a new kitchen on the first floor, renovated the bathrooms, sanded and varnished the hardwood floors (they were really in bad shape), and we added a few closets. This was a big undertaking with our budget constraints. Much of the work required new plumbing and electrical work. It all adds up very quickly!

Q: How did you learn about the New York State Homeowners Rehabilitation Tax Credit?
I heard about it through a neighbor who encouraged us to apply. She was very insightful about the program benefits. Owning a building in a historic district comes with challenges: there are constraints and layers of bureaucracy, along with differing views on what “looks historic.” But the Homeowners Rehabilitation Tax Credit has been a great help in achieving our objectives.

Q: What was your experience with the application process?
The process can appear daunting at first: the key to success is being organized. I would suggest talking to SHPO [the State Historic Preservation Office] first; they are a great resource for questions about the process, and they want to help you succeed. Get in touch before you begin the project so that you know exactly what kind of work will qualify for the credit. It is very important to photograph the existing conditions thoroughly and carefully. This is necessary for the approval process. Then, keep all the invoices from contractors and the various subcontractors, as well as all of your receipts for materials. It’s a long process but it can be very rewarding!

Fast Facts
• The NYS Historic Residential Properties Tax Credit Program will cover 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs of owner-occupied historic houses, up to a credit value of $50,000.
• The program requires that the building be individually listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places, or in a listed historic district.
• The building must also be located in a qualifying census tract.
• At least $5,000 must be spent on the project.
• At least 5% of the total cost of the project must be spent on the exterior of the building.
• The NYS Historic Commercial Properties Tax Credit will cover up to 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs up to a credit value of $5 million.

If you have questions about the program or want to find out if your home or business is eligible, visit http://nysparks.com/shpo/tax-credit-programs/
Financial Statement
Year Ended December 31, 2011

Support and Revenue
Corporate and Foundation Grants $301,060
Government Grants 383,169
Individual Contributions 184,684
Special Events 337,025
Total (less direct costs of fundraising events) (82,129)
Investment Income 118,996
Rental Income 1,500
Total Support and Revenue $1,244,305

Expenses
Program Services $831,445
Development and Fundraising 223,335
Management and General 149,177
Total Expenses $1,203,957

Excess of Expenses over Support and Revenue $40,348

Balance Sheet
December 31, 2011

Current Assets
Cash and Cash Equivalents $394,417
Investments 308,436
Grants and Accounts Receivable 65,936
Contributions Receivable 65,195
Other Current Assets 8,785
Total Current Assets $840,769

Assets Restricted and Designated as to Use 3,620,766
Property and Equipment, Net 127,487
Total Assets $4,589,022

Current Liabilities
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses $71,863
Deferred Revenue 52,338
Total Current Liabilities $124,201

Long Term Liabilities
Deferred Revenue 1,278,959
Total Current and Long Term Liabilities $1,403,160

Net Assets
Unrestricted $844,055
Unrestricted – Designated 685,063
Temporarily Restricted 268,444
Permanently Restricted 1,387,700
Total Net Assets 3,185,862

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $4,589,022

Contributors

The Preservation League of New York State gratefully acknowledges the many individuals, organizations, foundations, corporations, and government agencies that supported our work during 2011. Annual contributions and memberships ensure the League’s ability to continue to advance our shared preservation goals.

The following list reflects the total giving by members and contributors who donated $10 or more between January 1 and December 31, 2011.

Members of the Premier Leadership Society ($25,000 and above) are identified in italics. PLS members are individuals and foundations who made an unrestricted gift of $1,000 or more as a League member in the calendar year. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing, errors and omissions may occur. Please accept our apologies and bring any errors to our attention by calling (518) 462-5658 x11 so we can correct future listings.

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Foundation

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by New York State’s most historically and architecturally signifi

1995

Began supporting the League:

I missed.

off to our children.

it possible for us to restore our architectural heritage and hand it

Why I Support the Preservation League:

Began Supporting the League:

I have four, ages 10, 9, 8

“Goodnight

Mr. and Mrs. Paul LeClerc
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Corning Southside Neighborhood Association

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Central Avenue Business Improvement District

Ms. Peg Churchill

Streets and that I found what I call its original features to pay homage to this unique structure.

Began Supporting the League: 1995

Why I Support the Preservation League: Having grown up in Buffalo and now living in Manhattan, I have been surrounded by New York State’s most historically and architecturally signifi-

why I support the Preservation League to ensure these stories are told for generations to come.

1995

Began Supporting the League: 2006

Why I Support the Preservation League: Because without it, I could never do what I do. The League is advocacy is what makes it possible for us to restore our architectural heritage and hand it off to our children.

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Last Book I Read: working on several, including books on black history in New York State, mystery stories featuring Native American and British detectives

Began Supporting the League: 1970

Why I support the Preservation League: New York State has a real community of historic preservationists primarily because the Preservation League—through its publications, site visits, technical support, award programs, and funding opportunities—keeps us in touch with each other. It brings strength to all our local work because we know we belong to a network that cares. We could not do this without you!
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