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New York Preserves

Updates From the Preservation League of New York State

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[cryan\(at\)preservenys.org](mailto:cryan(at)preservenys.org)

Parks, Historic Sites Threatened by State Budget Cuts

The Preservation League reacted quickly to an announcement from the Governor and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation last week. OPRHP's plan includes the closure of 41 parks and 14 historic sites, and service reductions at 23 parks and 1 historic site.



"The Preservation League has long foreseen that ongoing cuts to the budget of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation would lead us to the brink of widespread closures to New York's state parks and historic sites. Today's announcement confirms our worst fears. For this reason, we, along with Parks & Trails New York, jointly nominated the New York State Park system to the [National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered list](#)," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "This is an extraordinary measure, but we consider the nomination -- and the national attention that would result if we are successful -- essential to securing the commitment of the Governor and Legislature to protect our state parks and historic sites from this budget crisis."

The 11 Most Endangered list is the National Trust's annual listing of historic places across America that are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. The 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2010 will be announced on May 19.

"New York State is proposing not just locking the door of many of the state's historic sites, but recalling collections of furniture, artifacts, and paintings to Albany, turning off heat and water, and abandoning these buildings to the storm of budget cuts. The consequence could be irreparable harm to buildings and materials that are central to our state and national history," said Daniel Mackay, Director of Public Policy for the Preservation League. "Closure puts these buildings and sites at great risk of damage from the elements or vandalism, and many of our treasured historic sites could be lost forever."

The Preservation League is gathering information on the impact of closing State historic sites, and is helping to promote a [Parks Advocacy Day](#) at the state Capitol on Wednesday, March 3.

League names 2 Buffalo sites to Seven to Save list



Coverage included an article in the [Buffalo News](#), a post on the [Fix Buffalo Now](#) blog, and [this report](#) on WIVB Channel 4.

At a news conference in Buffalo on Friday, the Preservation League of New York State named two of Buffalo's distinctive historic properties, 169 East Ferry and Willert Park/A.D. Price Courts, to the nonprofit group's annual list of the Empire State's most threatened historic resources, Seven to Save. These properties exemplify the potential for historic tax credits to revitalize neighborhoods and the struggle for equality in housing.

Click here to [download a PDF](#) of the news release.

Friends of Moynihan Station applaud Federal grant

When New York City's Moynihan Station was named to the Seven to Save list in 2008, the Preservation League expressed concern that the late "Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's vision for a grand new transportation center in Manhattan may go unfulfilled" because of unwieldy and complex real estate dealings.

Completed in 1913 and facing Eighth Avenue, the building was designed to complement Pennsylvania Station, the McKim, Mead and White masterpiece across the street which was demolished in 1963.



Known as the Farley Post Office, it has a monumental Corinthian colonnade at the top of a grand staircase with the famous line: *Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from swift completion of their appointed rounds.*

The Annex extension of the Farley Post Office, also designed by McKim, Mead and White, was built from 1932-1934. Designed and continuously used as a post office since its completion, this building retains a great deal of interior details.

"The League's listing of the Farley Post Office as a threatened historic property is our way of signaling to all involved that this building must be adapted using the highest preservation standards," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of New York State. "The Preservation League is joining with preservation and planning advocates to protect the public's interest in the development and permitting process. The complexities of the broader development project must not be used as an excuse to treat the Farley Post Office and its historic features with anything less than the utmost respect."

The League joined Friends of Moynihan Station, a broad alliance of leading civic and business organizations supporting investment in the long-planned project to build a new Amtrak train hall in the Farley Post Office building. Last month, an \$83.3 million federal grant for the new station, awarded as part of the federal TIGER discretionary grant program, will allow the State of New York to start building the first phase of the Moynihan Station.

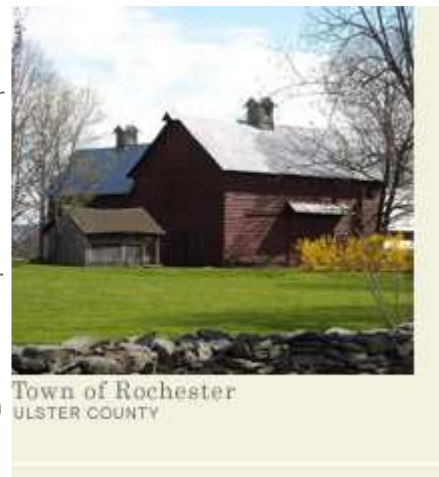
Click here to [download a PDF](#) of the news release.

Preserve New York - Call for Applications

Historic Preservation Grants Available in 2010

Applications are now available to eligible municipalities and not-for-profit organizations to compete for funds through Preserve New York, a grant program of the Preservation League of New York State and the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA).

A total of \$109,149 is available for historic structure reports, historic landscape reports and cultural resource surveys. Grants are likely to range between \$3,000 and \$15,000 each. The application deadline is May 17, 2010.



Examples of eligible projects include: historic structure reports for public buildings or historic sites; historic landscape reports for municipal parks; and cultural resource surveys of downtowns and residential neighborhoods.

In 2010, the Preservation League especially encourages projects that advance the preservation of neighborhoods that qualify for the NYS Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit; preserve architecture and landscapes of the recent past; and continue the use of historic municipal and other public buildings such as schools and libraries.

For Preserve New York Grant Program guidelines, visit the League's website at www.preservenys.org. Prospective applicants should contact the Preservation League to discuss their projects and to request an application form.

The Preservation League of New York State is a private, not-for-profit organization that works to protect and enhance the Empire State's historic buildings, landscapes and neighborhoods. The New York State Council on the Arts is the state's arts funding agency. The Preservation League and NYSCA have collaborated on this grant program annually since 1993.

Save the Dates!

Preservation League and others present Tax Credit Workshops, Upper Floors Workshops

The Preservation League is sponsoring or participating in a series of workshops this



spring to alert New Yorkers to strategies and tax incentives for neighborhood and Main Street revitalization.

Please follow the links in the descriptions to confirm date, time, location and other details.

Niagara Falls - Upper Floors Workshop

Thursday, March 11

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Niagara Falls Public Library, 1425 Main Street, Niagara Falls
Preservation Buffalo Niagara will be hosting this important workshop, presented by the Preservation League of New York State with support from the Empire State Development Corporation. Free. To register, call PBN at 716 852-3300 or email info@preservationbuffaloniagara.org with your name, address and daytime phone number.

Albany - Tax Credit Workshop

Thursday, March 11

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church, 405 Quail Street, Albany
NYS Assemblyman Jack McEneny will present this workshop, co-sponsored by Historic Albany Foundation and the Preservation League of NYS. Call Cara Macri at HAF to RSVP, 518-465-0876 x12 or email cmacri@historic-albany.org.

Glens Falls - Upper Floors Workshop

Friday, March 19

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Charles Wood Theater, 207 Glen Street, Glens Falls
Presented by the Preservation League, co-sponsored by Empire State Development Corporation, The Chronicle Newspaper, Charles Wood Theater. This seminar is free but seating is limited and available on a firstcome, first-served basis. Please register by mail or phone by Monday, March 15. Preservation League of NYS, 44 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206. For more information, call Shelley LaClair at the Preservation League, 518-462-5658 x.13 or email slaclair@preservenys.org.



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Cheers,
Colleen Ryan, Director of Communications

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