



FROM: Preservation League of New York State
44 Central Avenue
Albany NY 12206-3002
www.preservenys.org

CONTACTS: Colleen M. Ryan, Director of Communications
518.462.5658, ext. 17
Tania Werbizky
Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs, Central and Western New York
607-272-6510

Thomas Gray, Guilford Town Historian
607-895-6532, tgray002@stny.rr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVATION LEAGUE AWARDS PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT **Guilford Historical Society Secures \$2,000**

ALBANY, NY – 10/7/09 – The Preservation League of New York State will present a **\$2,000 grant** to the **Guilford Historical Society** on **Thursday, October 8** following the group’s annual dinner at the **Old Mill Restaurant**, 2032 State Highway 8 in Guilford, which begins at 6:00 p.m. The grant will be used toward a National Register nomination for Rockwells Mills, a community on the Unadilla River.

The hamlet of Rockwells Mills retains a stone former mill, worker’s housing and three Rockwell family residences constructed between 1849 and 1870 for the mill owners. The nomination will be completed by consultant Jessie Ravage of Cooperstown with the goal of historic district designation to provide a measure of protection and encouragement for sensitive rehabilitation for the buildings.

The Preserve New York Grant Program is a partnership program of the Preservation League and the New York State Council on the Arts. “Preserve New York has a strong track record of bolstering local preservation efforts and delivering a strong return on investment,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “In its 17-year history, Preserve New York has provided over \$1.4 million to 233 projects across the state, leveraging over \$20 million in additional project support and over \$500,000 in donated labor, services and materials.”

“Since the Guilford Historical Society was founded 10 years ago, we have been researching various hamlets in the township,” said Thomas Gray, Guilford Town Historian and a Trustee of the all-volunteer historical society. “Rockwells Mills retains the characteristics of the rural industrial hamlets that were once common in this region. If our nomination is successful,

the Rockwells Mills National Register Historic District will be the first historic district in the Town of Guilford. We are pleased that our grant application has received favorable consideration, and look forward to increasing community awareness of our town's history while at the same time encouraging heritage tourism."

"At its August, 2009 meeting, the Preserve New York grant program panel selected 16 projects in 15 counties around the state to share \$96,400 in funding," said Tania Werbizky, the League's Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs in central and western New York. "As always, the competition for these funds was intense. The Preservation League is delighted to help advance the historic preservation efforts of the Guilford Historical Society with this grant."

According to Anne Van Ingen, Director of the Architecture, Planning and Design Program and Capital Projects at the New York State Council on the Arts, "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. We are gratified that state funds made available for strategic grants through Preserve New York continue to leverage private investment, revitalize our historic neighborhoods and downtowns, and celebrate New York's incomparable architectural legacy."

Organizations and municipalities receiving grant awards in 2009 are: **Albany County:** Historic Albany Foundation; **Broome County:** Village of Whitney Point; **Cattaraugus County:** Village of Franklinville; **Chautauqua County:** Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corporation (CHRIC), Mayville; **Chemung County:** Historic Elmira; **Chenango County:** Guilford Historical Society, Guilford; **Columbia County:** Historic Hudson, Hudson; **Erie County:** Local Initiatives Support Corporation-Buffalo (Buffalo LISC); **Montgomery County:** Village of Fort Plain; **New York County:** Carnegie Hill Neighbors, New York City; **Otsego County:** Otsego 2000, Cooperstown; **Rockland County:** Town of Ramapo; **Saratoga County (2):** Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation and Village of Round Lake; **Steuben County:** Market Street Restoration Agency, (MSRA); **Ulster County:** Town of Rochester.

For more information on the Preserve New York Grant Program, please call 518-462-5658 or visit the League's website at www.preservenys.org.