



FROM: Preservation League of New York State  
44 Central Avenue  
Albany NY 12206-3002  
[www.preservenys.org](http://www.preservenys.org)

CONTACTS: Colleen M. Ryan, Director of Communications  
Preservation League of New York State  
518-462-5658 ext. 17; [cryan@preservenys.org](mailto:cryan@preservenys.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR OWNERS OF OLDER BUILDINGS**  
***Groups Present Workshops on Historic Properties Tax Credits***

ALBANY, May 24, 2010 – People in Western New York are invited to find out how they can save money while making repairs to their older businesses and homes.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Preservation League of New York State will present two free workshops in Jamestown to help homeowners and businesses take advantage of a tax credit for repairs to older buildings. Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, Preservation Buffalo Niagara, and the Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation Corp. (CHRIC) are co-sponsoring the workshops, which are expected to draw participants from a five-county area.

The workshops will be held on **Wednesday, June 2** at the Robert H. Jackson Center, 305 East Fourth Street in Jamestown. An afternoon workshop, from **2:30 – 4:30 p.m.**, will focus on commercial properties. An evening presentation, from **6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**, will address the needs of homeowners. During both workshops, staff from the State Historic Preservation Office will review the basic guidelines of the program and answer questions about the application process.

The workshop is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. **To RSVP, call 716-338-9809 or email [jrc@discoverjamestown.com](mailto:jrc@discoverjamestown.com) by June 1.** AIA Learning Units for these sessions are pending. These sessions have also been submitted to APA/AICP for CM credits.

Additional support for the workshops is being provided by the City of Jamestown, Clinton Brown Company Architecture / ReBuild, Empire State Development Corporation, WRFA-LP 107.9 FM, and Yots Law Firm P.C.

The **NYS Historic Commercial Properties Tax Credit** will cover up to 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs up to a **credit value of \$5 million**. The **New York State 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**.

*(more)*

“The Historic Preservation Tax Credit can be an effective tool in revitalizing the historic neighborhoods and commercial districts of upstate’s cities and villages,” said Carol Ash, Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. “And it’s a great tool for homeowners and businesses to save significant money on improvements to their properties.”

“This is the perfect time to finally fix that leaking roof, or repair drafty windows,” said Jay DiLorenzo, president of the Preservation League of New York State. “This tax credit can help homeowners provide safer and healthier homes for their families, and protect the investments of business owners for years to come.”

This program requires that the building be individually listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places, or in a listed historic district. Additionally, the building must be located in a qualifying census tract, and at least \$5,000 must be spent on the project.

“The Jamestown Renaissance Corporation is excited to be co-sponsoring the State Tax Credit Workshops,” Jason Stronz, the organization’s Director of Urban Design Plan, said. “In its efforts to support the city’s Urban Design Plan, the JRC is committed to revitalizing historically important and architecturally significant buildings in Jamestown’s downtown core. The JRC is also an advocate for building healthy neighborhoods throughout the city, as outlined in a neighborhood revitalization plan recently prepared for Jamestown by czbLLC. These workshops will benefit building owners and residents focused on the same goals.”

According to Henry McCartney, Executive Director of Preservation Buffalo Niagara, “These sessions will help get the word out about these new tax credits, which provide a great incentive for revitalizing historic buildings. We must let commercial and residential property owners know about these tax credits to help western New York take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity.”

“As CHRIC has become more involved in historic preservation projects around the county, I realized that the use of historic credits may tip developers to undertake preservation projects for eligible buildings they may own,” said John Murphy, the group’s Executive Director. “These credits offset the total development costs to rehabilitate historic properties, even for adaptive re-uses, and that’s why we are so pleased to be a co-sponsor of these workshops.”

To find out if a home is eligible, please go to <http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/tax-credit-programs> or contact Sloane Bullough at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at 518-237-8643, ext. 3252. Eligibility information will also be available at the workshops.

Similar tax credit workshops for communities in the Buffalo and Niagara region, also starting at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., will be held on **Thursday, June 3** at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, 25 Nottingham Court in Buffalo. For more information call 716-873-9644.