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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVATION LEAGUE AWARDS PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT **Village of Watkins Glen Secures \$3,269**

ALBANY, NY – 1/12/11 – The Preservation League of New York State will present a **\$3,269 grant** to the **Village of Watkins Glen** on **Thursday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.** at the **Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel, 2 N. Franklin Street, Watkins Glen.**

The grant will support the cost of completing a nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places for downtown Watkins Glen. The project, which will help to continue revitalization efforts in this Finger Lakes community, will result in some 30-40 late 19th to early 20th century buildings becoming eligible for New York State rehabilitation tax credit incentives for commercial and residential properties.

The work will be completed by the firm of Johnson-Schmidt and Associates of Corning and is the first Preserve New York funded project in Schuyler County.

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. “Since 1993, Preserve New York has provided over \$1.5 million in direct support to 250 projects across the state, leveraging over \$20 million in additional project support and over \$500,000 in donated labor, services and materials.”

Village of Watkins Glen Mayor Judith Phillips is excited by the opportunities that may result from a historic district nomination made possible by Preserve New York funding. “I believe that this will be a positive experience for the residents of Watkins Glen,” said Mayor Phillips. “We have the chance to celebrate some of the important buildings of our past and give the owners of these buildings the possibility to pursue historic preservation funding to renovate

and restore these properties. Assistance of this kind helps maintain the integrity of our core downtown area.”

The pursuit of a Historic District is a joint venture between the Village of Watkins Glen, the Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development (SCOPEd), and the Schuyler County Historical Society. All three entities committed funding to the project.

“At its August, 2010 meeting, the Preserve New York grant program panel selected 17 projects in 14 counties around the state to share \$109,149 in funding,” said Tania Werbizky, the League’s Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs in western New York. “As always, the competition for these funds was intense. The Preservation League is delighted to help advance the preservation efforts of the Village of Watkins Glen with this grant.”

According to Heather A. Hitchens, Executive Director of 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 2010 are: **Broome County (2)**: First Ward Action Council; Town of Vestal; **Chemung County**: City of Elmira; **Cortland County**: Cortland Downtown Partnership; **Erie County (2)**: Allentown Association; Nash House Museum; **Livingston County**: Livingston County Historical Society; Montgomery County: Montgomery County Department of History and Archives; **New York County**: Two Bridges Neighborhood Council; **Niagara County**: Oakwood Cemetery Association; **Onondaga County**: Preservation Association of Central New York; **Putnam County**: Manitoga; **Rensselaer County**: Pittstown Historical Society; **Schuyler County**: Village of Watkins Glen; **Ulster County**: Jewish Federation of Ulster County; **Westchester (2)**: Friends of Mozartina Musical Arts Conservatory, Inc.; City of Yonkers Department of Planning and Development.

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.