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PRESERVATION LEAGUE WORKSHOP: **UPPER FLOORS RE-USE KEY TO REVITALIZING MAIN STREETS**

ALBANY, NY – October 7, 2009 – In 2004, the Preservation League of New York State launched an ambitious pilot project of workshops and technical assistance to address an important aspect of Main Street revitalization: the reuse of vacant upper stories in downtown commercial buildings.

The League is bringing its workshop to Mt. Morris on **Thursday, October 29**, from **8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, at the **Genesee River Reception Center, 134 North Main Street**.

“We developed and offered a model workshop, *Enhancing Main Street: Making Upper Floors Work Again*, in six Western New York counties to demonstrate how upper floors can offer attractive housing options,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “Now, with the support of the Empire State Development Corporation, we are continuing to present this program around the state. By bringing together experts in the fields of historic preservation, project development, financing, and New York State building codes in one place at one time, we hope to address many questions facing building owners who are thinking about upper floor conversion possibilities.”

The Preservation League has found that the interest in downtown revitalization is very strong and growing in New York State. Through the Upper Floors program and by monitoring upper floors projects already underway, the Preservation League is building a case for reinvestment in the state’s historic commercial centers.

“Tools such as the enhanced Rehabilitation Tax Credit can help direct new investments to our older industrial cities to make them safer, healthier and more prosperous – places people want to live as well as work.” said DiLorenzo. “Each community faces unique challenges, but with programs like the Tax Credit and the generous sharing of best practices by experts at our

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Upper Floors workshops, the lights are coming back on above many Main Street retailers and offices across the New York.”

“The Preservation League is proud to partner with the Livingston County Development Corporation, Alliance for Business Growth, Empire State Development Corporation, and Wyoming County Business Center to acknowledge the leadership roles of local and state government, not-for-profit groups, the business community, and many others in encouraging downtown revitalization,” said Tania Werbizky, the League’s Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs for western New York. “We hope that this workshop will spur additional investment in the area’s historic districts and structures, enhance the quality of life in our neighborhoods, and improve the vitality of our business districts.”

Additional support for the workshop is provided by the Association of Village Boards of Livingston County, Livingston County Planning Department, Wyoming County Planning Department, The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation and New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

The cost of the presentation is \$20.00 and includes lunch and materials. Seating is limited, and registration is required by Thursday, October 22. Make checks payable to Livingston Co. Development Corp. and mail to: Alliance for Business Growth, 202 Holcomb Building, Geneseo, NY 14454.

For more information call 585-245-5048 or email alliance@geneseo.edu. No refunds can be offered for cancellations made after October 26, 2009.

For more information on the Preservation League of New York State, please call 518-462-5658 or visit the League’s website at www.preservenys.org.

By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.