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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Harmony Mills restoration in Cohoes to be honored

ALBANY, 8/13/2014 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the restoration of **Harmony Mill #3** in Cohoes, Albany County, to receive its prestigious Excellence in Preservation Award. This statewide awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York State’s irreplaceable architectural heritage.

“This is an exemplary preservation project: what was once a symbol of the decline of the rich architectural and industrial heritage of upstate New York is now a beacon of hope, providing high-quality, desirable rental housing,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “Preservation League staff has already cited this project as evidence that the recent New York State Building Code revisions have been genuinely helpful in fostering the re-use of historic buildings across the state.”

Contributing to the success of the project were the efforts of Cohoes Mayor John T. McDonald III; Uri Kaufman, Harmony Mills, LLC; Peter P. Seidner, Clover Architectural Group; Kevin Gleason, BBL Construction Services; Bert King, NY Urban Servicing Co., and William G. MacRostie, MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC.

Constructed soon after the Civil War, the Harmony Mills complex utilized the water flow from the Cohoes Falls to produce the power to operate the mills. After many years of success, the 20th century brought changes in power technology and labor practices, and the mills were closed down. Vacancy, neglect and a pervading sense of hopelessness had long been associated with the mills. The entire site which includes Mill #3 is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The present owner acquired the complex and began work to convert Mill #3 into

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an apartment complex, The Lofts at Harmony Mills.

“The Harmony Mills project has been used to illustrate how historic buildings can be renovated using the New York State Building Code,” said Peter Seidner of the Clover Group, Architects and Planners. “More than 300 code officials toured the site and asked questions as part of New York State Building Officials council code seminars, then brought what they had learned back to all parts of the state. The Preservation League’s award will bring even more attention to this project, and encourage investment in similar buildings.”

The award will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, May 18th** at **The Princeton Club of New York**, 15 West 43rd Street.

Other award winning projects include: The Reverend J. Edward Nash House, Buffalo, Erie County; 256-262 State Street, Carthage, Jefferson County; Weeksville Heritage Center, Brooklyn, Kings County; Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, Kings County; Historic Front Street, New York, New York County; 90 West Street, New York, New York County; and the MTA-Metro North Railroad Station Restoration, Yonkers, Westchester County. The Greene County Industrial Development Agency will be honored for organizational excellence, and Henry McCartney, former Executive Director of the Landmark Society of Western New York, of Rochester, Monroe County will be honored for individual excellence.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the restoration of the Harmony Mills in Cohoes the statewide recognition it deserves.”

The Preservation League Statewide Awards Program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.

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.

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