



**Preservation
League of NYS**

Central Technical High School and NYS Barge Canal System Designated Seven to Save Sites

This biennial list from the Preservation League highlights the most at-risk historic places in New York State

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Albany, NY, 02/05/2020 — Since 1999, the Preservation League has highlighted New York's threatened historic sites through the Seven to Save list, which provides enhanced services from the League to bolster visibility and build support for preservation. Through partnerships with groups and individuals, threats to dozens of at-risk buildings, landscapes, downtowns, and neighborhoods have been reduced, and in many cases, eliminated by the Preservation League's listing and subsequent actions. Press conferences, tours, grants, and new legislation are among the strategies the Preservation League uses to secure the future of at-risk historic places. The League also collaborates with advocates, elected officials and other stakeholders to craft preservation strategies and put these plans to work.

"These Seven to Save selections bring attention to fascinating diverse aspects of The Empire State's rich, eclectic built history," said **Preservation League Seven to Save Committee Chair Caroline Rob Zaleski**. "Each threatened site represents a particular approach to engineering and architecture, as well as specific public purpose and sociology."

"Our 2020-21 Seven to Save list helps tell the story of the many people who made our state unique," said **Preservation League President Jay DiLorenzo**. "A sacred burial ground, a vulnerable lighthouse, a reimagined high school, a susceptible beachside enclave, an iconic canal system, a para-architectural installation, an imperiled research center; each site speaks to what makes our state special."

The Preservation League announces two of our Seven to Save sites are in Central New York:

- **New York State Barge Canal System** | Multiple Counties
Threat: Development pressure, lack of public awareness, loss of visual/architectural integrity
The NYS Barge Canal System spans 524 miles and includes the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. It is an authentic end-to-end transportation corridor that has continuously operated since its construction, connecting residents and visitors throughout New York State. Due to this rich history, the NYS Canal System is listed as a National Historic Landmark District, this country's highest level of historic



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designation. As the Erie Canal celebrates its bicentennial, New York State embarked on an initiative to Reimagine the Canals. As part of this initiative, a recently released report recommends changes to the Erie Canal section of the NYS Canal System, without fully recognizing the system's strengths and historic integrity. We believe that the best future for our NYS Canal System lies in capitalizing on its authenticity as the oldest, continuously operating canal system in the nation. The League seeks to work with all stakeholders to welcome additional new uses for the NYS Canal System, while improving amenities for canal travelers and strengthening local, regional, and international partnerships to promote recreational and commercial uses. This Seven to Save designation highlights the need for New York State to prioritize stewardship of the NYS Canal System as an intact, fully navigable international waterway for present and future generations.

"Our two centuries of canal heritage is one of our State's most precious resources. The authenticity of the Erie Canal, its channels, structures and vessels, has made it an internationally recognized icon of New York State," said **Dan Wiles, President of the Canal Society of NYS**. "It is a non-renewable resource and even well-intentioned changes should be considered with the utmost caution. As one of the nation's greatest public works, our Erie Canal belongs to the people of the State of New York. Individually and through our representatives, we share a responsibility for its care and protection. Being honored with the League's Seven to Save recognition is an important contribution to that effort."

- **Central Technical High School** | Syracuse, Onondaga County

Threat: Deterioration, development pressure, lack of public awareness, loss of visual/architectural integrity, vacancy

Central High School (now known as Central Tech) was designed by architect Archimedes Russell and constructed in downtown Syracuse between 1900 and 1903. Historically, the building was used as a public school and its 2000-seat Lincoln Auditorium was the original home of the Syracuse Symphony. The building was sold for redevelopment in the 1980s, but after the proposed venture failed it returned to the city and has sat vacant ever since. City officials, legislators, and local stakeholders now propose to rehabilitate the former high school building into a STEAM-focused school that will attract students from both the surrounding neighborhood and other areas in the region. This Seven to Save designation will bring enhanced visibility, support, and advocacy assistance as city officials seek to rehabilitate the structure.

"The addition of Central Tech to the 2020-21 Preservation League Seven to Save list is a testament to our community's collective efforts to restore one of our most historically significant buildings," said **Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh**. "Thanks to the advocacy of the Preservation League and the continued support of Governor Cuomo and our State and local representatives, we are one step closer to realizing our dream of creating a state of the art regional science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) high school and workforce training center in the heart of our city."



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“More than just a brick and mortar asset, Central Tech represents a shared vision in our city and county for a brighter future for this community, said **Robert Simpson, President of CenterState CEO**. “This architectural treasure has ties to our past but, more importantly, represents significant potential as it will soon become a STEAM school to educate and train our community’s youth and workforce for the economy of tomorrow. We are grateful to the Preservation League for Central Tech’s Seven to Save designation, and for supporting our efforts to recognize and advance new opportunities for this building and our city.”

The 2020-21 Seven to Save List also includes:

- **Hudson-Athens Lighthouse** | Hudson River, Greene County
Threat: Deterioration, lack of public awareness, loss of visual/architectural integrity
- **Richard Lippold’s *Orpheus and Apollo*** | New York County
Threat: Development pressure, lack of public awareness
- **Parrott Hall** | Geneva, Ontario County
Threat: Demolition, deterioration, loss of visual/architectural integrity, vacancy
- **Elmhurst African American Burial Ground** | Elmhurst, Queens County
Threat: Development pressure, lack of public awareness
- **Sag Harbor Hills, Azurest & Ninevah Subdivisions (SANS)** | Sag Harbor, Suffolk County
Threat: Demolition, deterioration, development pressure, lack of public awareness, loss of visual/architectural integrity, vacancy

More information about these historic sites and the Seven to Save program can be found on our website: <https://www.preservenys.org/seven-to-save>

Interviews with leaders from the Preservation League, the City of Syracuse, and Canal Society of NYS are available by request.

About the Preservation League of New York State

Since its founding in 1974, the Preservation League has built a reputation for action and effectiveness. Our goal has been to preserve our historic buildings, districts and landscapes and to build a better New York, one community at a time. The Preservation League of New York State invests in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. We lead advocacy, economic development, and education programs across the state.

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