



Preservation League of NYS

NYS Barge Canal System and Parrott Hall 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 the Finger Lakes Region:

- **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



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listed as a National Historic Landmark District, this country's highest level of historic 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."

- **Parrott Hall** | Geneva, Ontario County

Threat: Demolition, deterioration, loss of visual/architectural integrity, vacancy
National Register-listed Parrott Hall was constructed in the 1850s as the home of Nehemiah and Louisa A. Denton. In 1882, New York State bought the house and converted it into the first NYS Agricultural Experiment Station. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation acquired the building in 1974 to create a state historic site celebrating our state's agricultural legacy. After decades of vacancy, Parrott Hall has areas of deterioration and needs capital investment, while it remains in remarkably good condition. In early 2018, the Preservation League joined with local and regional partners to form the Parrott Hall Coalition, which includes the Landmark Society of Western New York, Friends of Parrott Hall, City of Geneva, to advocate and fundraise for this important building. This Seven to Save designation will call attention to the building's statewide significance as a key part of New York's agricultural heritage.

"The Friends of Parrott Hall are thrilled to hear of Parrott Hall's recognition on the Preservation League's Seven to Save list," said **Bruce Reisch, Chairman, Friends of Parrott Hall**. "This is an unparalleled opportunity to raise awareness of our historic treasure, and we look forward to continuing efforts to restore Parrott Hall with the help of the League, NYS Parks and the rest of our Coalition."



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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
- **Central Technical High School** | Syracuse, Onondaga County
Threat: Deterioration, development pressure, lack of public awareness, 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, Friends of Parrott Hall, 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.

Connect with us at [preservenys.org](https://www.preservenys.org), facebook.com/preservenys, twitter.com/preservenys, and instagram.com/preservenys.

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