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Preservation League of New York State Provides Funding for Purchase of Kimlin Cider Mill in Poughkeepsie

\$140,000 loan to Cider Mill Friends will protect early 20th century landmark

ALBANY, NY – February 20, 2008 – The Preservation League of New York State recently disbursed the first loan from its Endangered Properties Intervention Program (EPIP) to a Hudson Valley group seeking to protect and restore a piece of Dutchess County’s agricultural history.

The League’s EPIP program was established with state funds to foster the revitalization and protection of historic resources and neighborhoods throughout New York. The loan will help support the purchase of the Kimlin Cider Mill and 1.8 acres of surrounding buffer land in the town of Poughkeepsie by the not-for-profit Cider Mill Friends of Open Space and Historic Preservation, Inc.

Situated on approximately two acres of land in the midst of a residential subdivision on the southern outskirts of the city of Poughkeepsie, the Cider Mill is the last vestige of what was once a larger agricultural property owned by the Kimlin Family.

“The Mill is a distinctive 20th century commercial and social landmark, essentially intact to the period of 1925-1935 when the owner, Ralph R. Kimlin, expanded an old barn into a cider mill and public attraction,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of New York State. “Mr. Kimlin sought vigorously to protect the building and the traditional farm life that was fast disappearing around him, and since 2001, the Cider Mill Friends have continued the fight to acquire and protect the property. The Preservation League is delighted to support their efforts.”

The Cider Mill was once popular with local residents, school children, and students from nearby Vassar College, who would venture there for fresh-pressed cider and donuts, but has been uninhabited since 1990. Long-term plans for the Mill and surrounding 1.8 acres are to provide

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the public with direct access to a restored cider mill, a native landscape, rural history, agriculture, and low-intensity passive recreation.

According to Cider Mill Friends, the Mill is the last of its kind in the area, housed in a rambling frame structure with exuberant decorative features in wood and stone. The Mill has been listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and was recently designated as a Town of Poughkeepsie Historic Landmark.

“Now that we own the property, we are looking forward to beginning restoration of the structure and conservation of the grounds,” said Lisa Weiss, President of Cider Mill Friends. “We wish to thank those who helped us realize this important step, including Dutchess County Legislator Rob Rolison, Assembly Member Joel Miller, Senator Steven Saland, Town Historian Jean Murphy, the Town of Poughkeepsie Historic Preservation Commission, the Town of Poughkeepsie Board, Dutchess County Planning Commissioner Roger Akeley, Executive Director of Dutchess Land Conservancy Becky Thornton, Ron Rader of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Preservation League of New York State. We also extend our thanks to our private financial partners for their generosity and faith; attorney Michael Englert; attorney Andrew Otis of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle; Neil Larson of Larson Fisher Associates and our numerous community supporters.”

The Cider Mill Friends will be hosting work days and fundraising events for the Mill’s restoration. Additional information is available on the group’s website at www.cidermillfriends.com.

“The Endangered Properties Intervention Program allows the Preservation League to intervene directly when historic buildings are threatened with disinvestment, neglect, and demolition,” said DiLorenzo. “The Preservation League is proud to partner with the Cider Mill Friends, and to facilitate the purchase and rehabilitation of this threatened historic structure by sympathetic owners. We look forward to returning to Poughkeepsie and seeing the progress on the site. We are certain that the results will be an inspiration to others.”

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.