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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Hotel Kirkland in Kingston to be honored

ALBANY, NY – May 1, 2008 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the **Hotel Kirkland** in Kingston, Ulster County, to receive its prestigious Excellence in Historic 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.

“The Hotel Kirkland is an exemplary preservation project,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “What was once a symbol of decline at the gateway to Kingston’s Stockade National Historic District is now a beacon of hope, providing mixed-use support to the heritage tourism and business communities, as well as desirable rental housing. Further, the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system ensures that this important historic structure will have a sustainable future.”

Contributing to the success of this effort were Kingston Mayor James M. Sottile; the Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO); architect A.J. Coppola AIA of Newburgh; and Jon Behrends, Precision Contractor of Dutchess. The project leveraged permanent and construction funding from 17 different sources.

Built in 1899, the four-story English Tudor revival building constructed as a hotel with dining and banquet facilities. The restaurant was known as the Dutch Rathskellar, and in its heyday in the mid-20th century, it was an important social landmark and legendary gathering and meeting place. Despite its status as a community institution, the building remained vacant for over three decades, and weather and vandalism took its toll. In early 2001, the Hotel Kirkland was nearly razed to clear the site for a planned parking garage.

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“In 2002, the City of Kingston approached RUPCO about the historic rehabilitation of the Hotel Kirkland,” said Kevin O’Connor, executive director of RUPCO. “Now complete, the Kirkland is a mixed-use project featuring a restaurant with the largest dining room in the City of Kingston, state of the art office spaces for small businesses, and seven beautiful apartments, five of which are affordable units. The entire building is now handicapped accessible.”

According to Kingston Mayor James M. Sottile, “Kingston has a proud heritage dating back to 1609, and the Kirkland is yet another historic jewel that has been brought back by the Rural Ulster Preservation Company.”

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 15th** at the historic **Park Avenue Armory**, 643 Park Avenue.

The complete list of award winners is: Webb Lofts in Buffalo, Erie County; MacNaughton House Stabilization in Newcomb, Essex County; U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, Kings County; Downtown Revitalization Program, Canajoharie, Montgomery County; Eldridge Street Synagogue, Lower East Side, New York County; Proctors, Schenectady, Schenectady County; Hotel Kirkland, Kingston, Ulster County; Model Development Block, New Rochelle, Westchester County. The Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors will be honored for organizational excellence, and Trude Brown Fitelson of Rochester will be honored for individual excellence. *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City’s Landmarks* by Anthony C. Wood (Routledge, 2007) will also receive a special citation.

“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, adaptive reuse and expansion of the Hotel Kirkland in Kingston the statewide recognition it deserves.”

The Preservation League’s Excellence in Historic Preservation 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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