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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Webb Lofts in Buffalo to be honored

ALBANY, NY – May 1, 2008 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the **Webb Lofts** in Buffalo 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.

“This formerly-grand 19th century commercial building would likely have been demolished but for the timely intervention of the architects and the vision of the developer,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “Their careful renovation of the remaining historic fabric, along with a complete replacement of the ruined flooring system, has returned this building to useful service – to the benefit of neighborhood residents and the educational community.”

The following Buffalo firms contributed to the success of this effort: Carmina Wood Morris, P.C, Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design; Signature Development, Rocco Termini, President; Webb of Buffalo, LLC, Building Owners, David Burke and Thomas Adymy; Burke Homes, General Contractor; and Siracuse Engineers, Structural Engineering Consultant.

The circa 1888 Webb Building (originally the Richmond Block) is a five-story masonry building described by Kenneth Markunas of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation as “... the best surviving local example of commercial Richardsonian Romanesque Revival structures and one of a handful of remaining cast iron storefronts in Buffalo.” Despite this distinction, the building stood neglected for more than two decades.

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“Lights are now shining onto Pearl Street from apartments in this once-dark building, and developmentally disadvantaged pre-schoolers are making progress at the Vincennes Academy on the first two floors,” said Jonathan Morris, Principal-in-Charge at Carmina Wood Morris. “We are pleased to receive this recognition from the Preservation League for our work at the Webb Lofts, and hope this project will serve as an inspiration to others.”

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 Webb Lofts project 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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