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The Landmark Society Awards Grants to Fund Improvement Initiatives For Historic Buildings and Resources

Grants earmarked for Five to Revive site Former Trinity Episcopal Church and four other sites

(Jan. 13, 2015) A grant from The Landmark Society of Western New York will help to advance the revitalization of the Former Trinity Episcopal Church in Seneca Falls, one of the 2014 Five to Revive historic sites determined by The Landmark Society to be in need of targeted revitalization. The Preservation Grant Fund provides funds for preliminary design and planning studies to help make positive improvements to at-risk buildings. Awards have also been earmarked for four other sites. The complete list of grants includes:

- A \$3,200 grant to the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation on behalf of Seneca Falls Historic Preservation Association for conditions assessment & architectural drawings of the Former Trinity Episcopal Church, 10-14 Bayard St, Seneca Falls.
- A \$2000 grant for a condition report for the Macedon Academy, 1185 Macedon Center Road, Macedon, NY – home of the Macedon Historical Society and Museum
- A \$2000 grant to assist in funding a condition report on the roof of the Grace United Methodist Church, 121 Driving Park Avenue in Rochester.
- A \$2000 grant for condition report of the Salem United Church of Christ, 60 Bittner St. in Rochester.
- An \$1800 grant for condition report of the Wiley Schoolhouse, 893 Wiley Rd., Savannah , NY

The Landmark Society's grant committee considers applications quarterly or as funding is available. The program's goal is to help kickstart preservation projects that can have a positive impact on their surrounding communities. "Our efforts are focused on



sustaining and enhancing the cultural and economic vitality of Western New York by bringing new life to historic buildings and resources and ensuring they are present and contributing for generations to come,” said Caitlin Meives, Landmark Society Preservation Planner.

Often these grants can jump-start revitalization efforts as in the Seneca Falls site. “The former Trinity Church has sat unused for years. With this grant from The Landmark Society, we can explore realistic options for reuse and begin to move this important building forward to a brighter future,” said Allison Stokes, Founding Director of the Women's Interfaith Institute, who is a member of the committee that has been working to save the historic Trinity Church from demolition.

The same is true in Macedon. “The Macedon Historical Society will use the funds granted to us by the Landmark Society for an architectural survey which will enable us to prioritize the needs for the restoration of the building,” said Kathleen Murphy, supervisor of Buildings and Grounds. “We will be requesting recognition by the National Register of Historic Places as this process moves forward. Many thanks to the Landmark Society for their ongoing help and support.” The Greek Revival style Academy was built in 1853 and continued as a private school until 1902. This significant town asset is still usable, but showing signs of age and needs some help with restoration/preservation.

Others awarded the grant have similar goals. The same congregation of Methodists has been meeting at Grace United Methodist Church since 1907. In preparation for its 110th year they are undertaking numerous efforts to rehabilitate the building. They will be working with a building envelope engineer to study and develop documents to bid for roofing, cornices and masonry restoration.

Salem United Church of Christ was founded in 1873 as Salem German Church and today is the only UCC church in the city of Rochester. The grant will allow them to prioritize their restoration projects. Addressing the causes rather than just the effects will reduce future damage and allow limited funds to be used for restoration rather than chasing repairs.

Wiley Schoolhouse, a one-room schoolhouse built in 1874, has been used as a teaching center for local history classes with the local school district. Guided tours have also taken place over the years. With some needed repairs and maintenance, it could continue to be used for educational purposes.

Initial funding for the Preservation Grant Fund was made possible by a generous bequest from Elizabeth (Libby) Stewart. Stewart was a longtime Landmark Society staff member who was dedicated to the revitalization of neighborhoods and historic



structures. Generous donations to The Landmark Society provide ongoing funding. This last round of funding was the most competitive to date, according to Meives, more than \$23,000 in funds were requested.

About The Landmark Society: *The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc. is one of the oldest and most active preservation organizations in America, serving nine Western New York counties. Formed in 1937, The Landmark Society continues to protect the unique architectural heritage of our region and promote preservation and planning principles that foster healthy and sustainable communities. For additional information about The Landmark Society, visit www.landmarksociety.org. The Landmark Society is supported in part by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*