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

Grants earmarked for vacant Main Street Church and U.S. Customs House

(Dec.11, 2012) The Landmark Society of Western New York announces the latest recipients of grants that will provide funding assistance to help save historic resources. The Preservation Grant Program offers funds earmarked for preliminary design and planning studies to help make positive improvements to at-risk buildings.

Recipients

- The Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood Association is receiving a \$1500 grant to assist in funding an analysis and report by a structural engineer for the vacant and at-risk church building at 660 West Main Street in Rochester. The building owner must give his permission before the Association can hire an engineer.
- The Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society is receiving a \$1700 grant to fund measured drawings for the historic U.S. Custom House at 10 Latta Road in Rochester.

Both grants are for projects that epitomize the mission of The Landmark Society to sustain and enhance 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.

“We strongly support the Neighborhood Association’s efforts to preserve this important historic church building,” said Wayne Goodman, Executive Director. “Before demolishing an irreplaceable asset, reuse potential should be fully considered and evaluated. Adapting and rehabbing the former church to a new use will encourage the revitalization that is occurring on West Main in the Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood to spread west toward 660 W Main and the Bulls Head area.”

The organization also supports the Lighthouse Society's efforts to preserve and interpret America's oldest surviving lighthouse on Lake Ontario. "We are delighted to assist the efforts to rehabilitate the former U.S. Custom House to a new use and to interpret the unique history of the building, the Lighthouse, the riverfront, and the lakeshore as a port of entry to the United States," said Caitlin Meives, Landmark Society Preservation Planner.

The grant program is available to fund pre-construction/design study tasks such as code studies, conceptual designs, existing condition documentation and project cost estimates. The Landmark Society will be able to assist projects at their inception and help navigate the funding recipients through the intricacies of making improvements to historic sites.

The first grant was awarded to the City of Rochester to fund architectural services for 54.5 Madison St. in the Susan B. Anthony Preservation District. Funding was used to develop a floor plan, elevations and construction documents. The outcome allowed the City of Rochester the needed resources to obtain cost estimates for restoration work. Plans are completed and rehab work on the early 20th century cottage is expected to take place in 2013.

The inaugural year funding 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. The Landmark Society plans to make 3-5 grants between \$2,500 and \$3,500 this year.

For more information or to apply for a grant, visit The Landmark Society website at www.landmarksociety.org

About The Landmark Society: In its 75th year, 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, livable, and sustainable communities. The Landmark Society is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.