

Warner Castle

The Landmark Society is in the final stages of negotiating an operating agreement with the County of Monroe to make Warner Castle the Landmark Society's new headquarters.

Built in 1854 by Horatio Gates Warner and modeled after the ancestral castle of the Scottish Clan Douglas, Warner Castle is constructed of locally quarried limestone. The building features iconic crenelated battlements on the roofline.

Located in Rochester's Olmsted-designed Highland Park, the Castle remained in private hands until 1951, when it was purchased by the city of Rochester, and until 1964 served as the office for the Monroe County Parks Department.

The Rochester Civic Garden Center first occupied the property in 1964, calling the Castle "home" until 2018, when the Garden Center made the difficult decision to dissolve.

With no identified use or future steward, Monroe County approached The Landmark Society with a suggestion to consider relocating our offices to the location. With the building in need of significant rehabilitation, a unique partnership ensued, whereby Monroe County will be investing in exterior repairs, including substantial masonry and roofing needs. The Landmark Society will be undertaking interior work, estimated to cost approximately \$200,000.

Traditional rent payments will be offset by our initial investment in the building, along with offerings of in-kind preservation services. In the future, we will be calling on our supporters to help fund a portion of this interior fit out cost, while we anticipate funding the remainder of the costs through the sale of our current headquarters.

The Landmark Society anticipates selling the Hoyt-Potter House, which has been The Landmark Society's location in Corn Hill for over twenty-five years. The saving of the Hoyt-Potter House from assured demolition in the early 1990's was a monumental victory for preservation. While it will be difficult moving from Corn Hill, we will take care to find the building's next steward, protecting the building with protective covenants at the time of any sale.

Once an operating agreement is finalized with Monroe County, we further anticipate offering office space to the Highland Park Conservancy and the Rochester chapter of AIA (American Institute of Architects).

The Landmark Society hopes to begin interior work in December, with a hopeful move-in date in May.