



## LANDMARK SOCIETY

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**Contact:**

Cynthia Howk

[chowk@landmarksociety.org](mailto:chowk@landmarksociety.org)

(585)546-7029 x24

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The Landmark Society Kicks off 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
at 2011 Annual Meeting: Preservation Awards Announced**

(Nov 21, 2011) The Landmark Society of Western New York kicked off the celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> year at its 2011 Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 20 in the historic Rochester Academy of Medicine, headquartered in the Lyon family's Jacobean Revival mansion at 1441 East Avenue in the City's East Avenue Preservation District.

"It's About Now!" is the theme of the year-long celebration. "Our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a time to celebrate our past accomplishments," said Wayne Goodman, Executive Director. "But it is also a time to reinvigorate our commitment to preservation and to the communities we serve in Western New York." Goodman announced several initiatives planned for 2012 including partnerships with local government and the real estate community in projects that involve preservation.

Founded in 1937, the organization is one of the nation's oldest preservation organizations and has consistently been one of America's most respected and most active. "This milestone is an absolutely remarkable achievement," said Goodman who is in his first year as Executive Director. "It reflects the commitment of dedicated staff, volunteers and community support over the years to protect the unique architectural heritage of our region and promote preservation and planning practices that foster healthy, livable, and sustainable communities."

A highly anticipated highlight of the Annual Meeting is the presentation of the 2011 Preservation Awards, given to individuals and organizations in our nine-county area who have made outstanding efforts in the preservation of their homes, historic properties, and landscapes.

The 12 winners include:

***Barber Conable Award***

**Eastman Theatre**

425 East Main Street, City of Rochester.

LANDMARK SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.

133 SOUTH FITZHUGH STREET / ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14608-2204 / 585-546-7029/FAX: 585-546-4788  
[www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org) [mail@landmarksociety.org](mailto:mail@landmarksociety.org)

The Barber Conable Award recognizes a large-scale rehabilitation of an historic building in our region completed within the past two years. This includes buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places and projects utilizing the Federal Investment Tax Credit Program.

This year's recipient of our major preservation award is the Eastman Theatre. Originally constructed in 1922 for the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music, this magnificent Italian Renaissance Revival building has served as the city's major concert hall for over nine decades. Over the past several years, the original vision of philanthropist George Eastman has been realized with the sympathetic rehabilitation of the historic concert hall and the addition of the new East Wing. This nearly \$50 million project, designed by the Rochester firm of Chaintreuil, Jensen and Stark LLP, rehabilitated the large concert hall, adding structural and acoustical improvements without compromising the historic design. At the same time, the new East Wing was designed to complement the original building, while adding much-needed rehearsal, performance, and recording space.

### ***Award of Merit***

#### **Waterloo Library and Fatzinger Hall**

31 E. Williams St., Village of Waterloo, Seneca County

The Award of Merit is for the sympathetic rehabilitation of an historic building in our 9-county region completed within the past two years.

#### **Waterloo Library and Fatzinger Hall**

Built in 1883 and one of the oldest library buildings in the state, the Waterloo Library is a rare surviving example of high style, rural, educational design in western New York. This elegant and unique Queen Anne building was designed by Nichols and Brown of Albany as a library with a second-floor performance hall and is still used today. It is highlighted by a wealth of exceptional interior and exterior features, including a slate roof, decorative wrought iron cresting, and beautiful stained glass windows.. Funded in part by a grant from New York State, the multi-year restoration of this National Register building was coordinated by Bero Architecture PLLC of Rochester and Crawford and Stearns of Syracuse.

### ***Stewardship Award***

#### **A.D.Oliver Middle School**

40 Allen Street, Village of Brockport, Monroe County

The Stewardship Award recognizes an organization or municipality that has provided continued care of and commitment to the preservation of an architecturally and/or historically significant property in our 9-county region over a period of years.

Listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places, this handsome 1934 building was designed as the new high school for the first school system to be centralized in Monroe County, consolidating 19 separate school districts into the new Brockport Central School system. Rochester architect Harwood Dryer took his inspiration for this landmark building from London's Hampton Court Palace and incorporated towers, decorative plaster, embossed brick work, stained glass, and light fixtures that reflect the medieval décor found in that historic building. In 1967, it became a middle school, and a recent rehabilitation included the restoration of its signature slate roof.

### ***Historic Landscape Award***

#### **Barber-Mulligan Farm**

Barber and Mulligan Roads, Towns of Rush and Avon, Monroe & Livingston Counties

The Historic Landscape Award recognizes and encourages the preservation, restoration and stewardship of historically significant landscapes in our 9-county region.

The Barber-Mulligan Farm represents nearly two hundred years of continuous agricultural activity by its two owners, the Barbers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the Mulligans, who purchased this property in the 1920s. Listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places, this remarkable farmstead includes a historic 1852 Greek Revival and mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century cobblestone residences, a rare collection of Greek Revival and later 19<sup>th</sup>-century outbuildings, a brick smokehouse, cultivated fields, orchard, and pastures, in addition to a contemporary milking parlor and barn for their herd of 1,500 dairy cows. Today, it continues as a working farm, managed by the third generation of the Mulligan family, who have preserved the historic landscape and vistas of this important landmark property.

### ***Historic Home Award***

The Historic Home Award is given to owners of private residences for their continued care of and commitment to the preservation of an architecturally significant house over a minimum of seven years.

#### **142 Park Road, the "Mushroom House"**

Town of Perinton, Monroe County

Owners: Steve and Christine Whitman

One of the youngest, officially designated landmarks in the U.S., this unique residence was built in 1969 for the Antell family. Rochester architect James Johnson designed this signature house to reflect the Queen Anne's lace flowers located in its wooded setting adjacent to Powder Mills Park. The distinctive "pods" of the design, however, have come to be known, instead, for their resemblance to mushrooms, thus giving the house its well-known nickname. The current owners, cousins of the Antells, added a spacious addition to the house in 2002, using both the original architect and the original ceramic artist, Marge Antell, to enhance an already remarkable building.

### **43 East Main Street**

Village of LeRoy, Genesee County

Owners: David and Kate Walsh

Located in the picturesque village of LeRoy, this handsome 19<sup>th</sup>-century residence is situated in a neighborhood of distinctive houses that reflects that heyday of rural communities, when local businessmen built homes along village Main Streets that demonstrated their success through the popular architecture of the time. Owners David and Kate Walsh have spent nearly two decades doing meticulous research about the history and architectural design of their home, which combines both Greek Revival and Italianate features. A faculty member of the University of Rochester, Mr. Walsh has applied his training and experience as an artist to the careful period restoration of the interior finishes and details of this historic house.

### ***Special Achievement Award***

#### **John Bero**

The Special Achievement Award recognizes accomplishments that have occurred over a lengthy period of time.

A native of Maine and graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, John Bero established his architectural practice in Rochester in 1976. Over the next four decades, his firm became the pre-eminent architectural practice to specialize in the care and rehabilitation of historic buildings in the Rochester/Genesee Valley region. His numerous rehabilitation projects have included buildings of all types, size, and construction, from modest 19<sup>th</sup>-century houses to large historic churches. John's approach to any project includes thorough research, attention to detail, and well-thought-out solutions. Recognized throughout the state for his exceptional work in the field of historic preservation, John has worked on projects that have been recognized by The Landmark Society, the Preservation League of New York State, the Sacred Sites Fund of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

### ***Special Citations***

A Special Citation provides recognition for projects that do not fit into other categories or recognizes outstanding individual or group accomplishments in the field of historic preservation.

#### **Maplewood Branch YMCA**

25 Driving Park Avenue, City of Rochester

#### **The Sacred Sites Program**

New York Landmarks Conservancy, New York, NY

## **Maplewood Branch YMCA**

A major anchor in the City's Maplewood neighborhood since 1916, the Maplewood Branch YMCA was designed by Claude Bragdon, Rochester's most innovative, early 20<sup>th</sup>-century architect. Its distinctive glazed ceramic tiles highlight a highly visible building that provides a broad range of community programs and services to the many residents of this northwest section of the city. The recent expansion and renovation of the complex has added much-needed space to this popular facility. At the same time, it has retained the historic building, a major landmark in the Maplewood Historic District, one of the city's largest areas listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

## **The Sacred Sites Program**

One of the first programs in the country to assist landmark religious properties, this fund has provided loans, grants, and technical assistance to over 660 religious institutions of all major denominations across New York State. Their \$6.7 in grants have leveraged overall projects totaling \$497 million. Now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the program also publishes *Common Bond*, a technical journal and hosts regular workshops to help congregations with everything from energy conservation to fundraising. f Sacred Sites grant recipients in our region include St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, St. Luke's and St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church, and the former Leopold Street Shul in Rochester, the First Presbyterian churches in Batavia and East Avon, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bloomfield, and Epworth Hall at Silver Lake Institute in Perry, Wyoming County.

## ***Paul Malo Award for Community Preservation Advocacy***

### **Peter Evans,**

Wayne County Municipal Historian

The Paul Malo Award recognizes an individual in our 9-county area whose work in the field of historic preservation advocacy has been of exceptional merit.

For someone who's is officially retired, Peter Evans has a schedule that would exhaust just about any other person. This former Kodak engineer and longtime resident of the picturesque hamlet of Pultneyville is an "energizer bunny" of ideas, initiatives, and successfully completed projects. When he discovered that the Wayne County Historian's position was open, he stepped forward and volunteered to fill that interesting job. This resulted in new directions and a much higher visibility for a government role that is more often "behind the scenes" in most communities. With his personal interest in historic preservation, he brought a new focus on that topic and its benefits to Wayne County residents and municipalities. Among his initiatives is the "Wayne County History Network," monthly lunch meetings of town and village historians, along with the officers from the local historical societies. This important networking opportunity offers educational programs about timely topics such as fundraising, , historic preservation , conservation of historic artifacts, and public relations. Held at different sites throughout the county, these meetings introduce this

group to the various historic buildings and museums in each community. Peter has also expanded the county historian's web site, with information relating to local history, archives, preservation planning, and grants. He has been an outstanding advocate for historic preservation, with projects ranging from the preservation of Alasa Farm near Sodus Bay to the rehabilitation of the Hotchkiss Building in Lyons. He was a major organizer for our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Preservation Conference last year in Palmyra, working with his extensive local contacts to seek support for this program, as well as encouraging municipal historians, museum volunteers, local residents and preservation advocates in Wayne County to attend this important event.

### ***Craftsman Award***

#### **Parsons Pipe Organ Builders**

Canandaigua, New York

The Craftsman Award recognizes the accomplishments of those whose talents such as carpentry, masonry, stained glass, plasterwork or decorative painting, have contributed to the rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources in our 9-county area.

Established in 1921, Parsons Pipe Organ Builders is now operated by the third generation of the Parsons family. Nationally recognized for its expertise in the restoration of organs, as well as the design and construction of new pipe organs, this is the only such company in our region who maintains, designs, restores, and builds that "King of Instruments," the pipe organ. President Ric Parsons, his brother Cal, son Matt, and wife Ellen operate this multi-generational business, whose recent projects include a newly designed , Baroque-style, pipe organ for the Anabel Taylor chapel at Cornell University and the restoration and reconstruction of the historic Skinner Co. pipe organ at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester.

***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 discover, protect, and revitalize the architectural and related cultural heritage of the Rochester region, and to educate and inform our community about that heritage. For additional information about The Landmark Society, visit [www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org).*