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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LANDMARK SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2017 FIVE TO REVIVE:

LIST FEATURES PRESERVATION PRIORITIES IN WESTERN NY

Sites included from Rochester, Manchester, Greece, Lima, and throughout Western New York

(ROCHESTER, NY, October 18, 2017) The Landmark Society of Western New York today announced its 2017 Five to Revive – a list that identifies opportunities for targeted, strategic revitalization. The announcement was made at the Landmark Society headquarters on South Fitzhugh St. in Rochester. The list includes:

- **Elim Bible Institute**, Village of Lima, Livingston County
- **Lehigh Valley Railroad Roundhouse**, Village of Manchester, Ontario County
- **Hotel DeMay**, Town of Greece, Monroe County
- **Tent City**, 280 Lyell Avenue, City of Rochester, Monroe County
- **The Front Porch**, throughout western New York

“This the fifth year that The Landmark Society of Western New York is announcing the Five to Revive list to draw attention to key priorities for revitalization in western New York,” said Wayne Goodman, Executive Director.

“The Five to Revive initiative is proving to be very successful and continues to demonstrate that preservation and adaptive reuse are key strategies for revitalization in western New York,” said Tom Castelein, President, Landmark Society Board, who also chairs the Five to Revive initiative.

The 2017 Five to Revive list represents a diverse selection of buildings, landscapes and preservation issues in western New York.

Significant Progress

“Each year, the Landmark Society works closely on these priorities with owners, municipal officials, and developers to facilitate investment and foster rehabilitation,” said Goodman. The ultimate goal is to return these important historic resources to a place of prominence in their respective communities, as economic and social assets that spark even more investment and revitalization.

“Being part of the list gives these properties more visibility and, as a result, may expand their funding options,” said Castelein. “Placement on this list draws the focused attention of government officials, developers, and preservation advocates and, in many cases, unlocks resources to effectively preserve our heritage and promote economic development.”

Background on 2017 Five to Revive sites

The heart of preservation is community revitalization. In 2013, The Landmark Society launched the *Five to Revive* program, a list that calls attention to properties or issues in western New York that are in need of investment. Whether buildings, landscapes, or structures, they are significant historic resources whose rehabilitations can become catalytic projects for the neighborhoods and communities that surround them.

The 2017 Five to Revive represents a diverse selection that includes urban, industrial, institutional, and domestic resources. Although their future is uncertain, each has potential to spark positive change and enhance our communities and our lives.

Elim Bible Institute

Village of Lima, Livingston County

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this historic educational institution is located on a picturesque, hilltop campus in the village of Lima. It was originally established by the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1832 as Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, a primary seat of learning in western New York. In 1951, the seminary closed and Elim Bible Institute acquired the property, which continues to be used for its educational programs.

Distinguished by its massive, Greek Revival portico, College Hall (1851) is the centerpiece of the historic campus and unique in the region. This large building is in need of significant and costly repairs, presenting a major challenge to a small institution with limited funding. With its scenic setting and impressive historic buildings, the Elim campus and its buildings have potential for varied uses and investment that could help the campus remain a fixture in the community.



Image caption: Courtesy of Dan Dangler, www.dandanglerphotography.com

Lehigh Valley Railroad Roundhouse *Village of Manchester, Ontario County*

The former Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR) Roundhouse site is located in a light industrial/residential area of the Village of Manchester. Constructed in 1916 to replace a previous roundhouse, this large horseshoe-shaped building, with a footprint of approximately 44,000 square feet, was once used by the railroad to service locomotives. By the mid-20th century, diesel locomotives had largely replaced steam engines and operations at the Roundhouse ceased in 1970. The property has sat unused in property tax default for more than 20 years. Local officials with the County, Town, and Village have identified this site and the Roundhouse as a key development opportunity. As one of the few remaining railroad roundhouse structures in the entire northeast, the LVRR Roundhouse is a highly significant and rare building type, with potential for future redevelopment.



Image caption: Courtesy of Dan Dangler, www.dandanglerphotography.com

Hotel DeMay *Town of Greece, Monroe County*

The Historic Hotel DeMay is the only surviving historic hotel building in the town of Greece. Constructed in 1909, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. An icon in the hamlet of North Greece, the Hotel DeMay has served as a community gathering place and tavern/entertainment establishment for local residents for nearly a century. The property has been vacant since 2000. Today, this important community icon faces the threat of demolition to make way for a gas station and convenience store. Save the DeMay, a grassroots group, formed in February, 2017 to advocate for the reuse of the building. One of few remaining structures that represent the history of the hamlet of North Greece, the Hotel DeMay may have the potential to once again contribute to the economy and culture of Greece.



Image caption: Courtesy of Dan Dangler, www.dandanglerphotography.com

Tent City, 280 Lyell Avenue

City of Rochester, Monroe County

A major visual landmark in the Lyell Avenue commercial corridor, this large industrial building was originally built as the Hubbard, Eldredge and Miller Chair Factory at the turn of the 20th century. Located on the corner of Lyell and Dewey avenues, the five-story, brick building was situated along the east bank of the Erie Canal, in a thriving industrial district that included other enterprises such as a foundry, barrel works, luggage manufacturer, and lumber mill. The 1920 removal of the canal and subsequent evolution of the surrounding neighborhood resulted in new opportunities for this building. From 1959 through 1999, it was the headquarters of Tent City, a signature retail business that focused on outdoor clothing and gear.

Vacant for over a decade, this prominent industrial building would be an excellent candidate for revitalization. Local residents, business owners, and supporters of the Little Italy Historic District have identified the Tent City property as a strategic opportunity for redevelopment in this historic commercial corridor.



Image caption: Courtesy of Richard Margolis, RochesterLandmarks.com

The Front Porch

Throughout western New York

Front Porches are often overlooked as a component of our historic neighborhoods but are integral to both their appearance and their function. No matter the architectural style of the home, a historic porch is an essential part of that design, adding notes of grace, elegance, or even quirkiness. The size, location, style, and architectural detailing of the porch tell a story about the history of the home.

Porches are also an extension of a home's enclosed living spaces. They create a zone between the private world of the home and the larger public realm of the community. They invite approach and interaction. Social activity enlivens a streetscape when it is moved to the semi-public space of a porch. Occupied porches put the eyes and ears of the neighborhood on the street, increasing safety for homeowners and pedestrians.

The contributions porches make to the built environment are clear. However, porches are especially vulnerable to the deteriorating forces of rain, wind, and snow. Porch maintenance and repair is often deferred; floor framing rots, details fall off, and railings sag. When these issues can no longer be ignored, repairs can sometimes do as much, or more, harm. Common remedies include applying a simplistic deck-style railing, replacing classically detailed columns with 4x4 posts, or the extreme of stripping the porch off entirely. These actions not only destroy the original character of the individual house, but they are also disruptive to quality of the streetscape and the neighborhood.

Whether located in a city, suburb, village or rural town, the front porch is a defining feature of most historic homes. They require special attention to maintain and repair. It is critical for the long term preservation of our historic homes and the viability of our communities that porches are treated with sensitivity and awareness of their role and importance.



Image caption: Courtesy of Dan Dangler, www.dandanglerphotography.com

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.*