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

Grants earmarked for buildings in Victor, Lima and Town of Burns

(March 4, 2013) 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.

Latest recipients include:

- The Victor Historical Society is receiving \$1000 to assist in funding Phase I of a conditions report for the historic Valentown Hall in Victor.
- Elim Bible Institute is receiving \$1500 to fund a conditions report targeting the roof and associated issues as a first step towards future repairs and upgrades to College Hall and Elim Bible Institute's other historic buildings in Lima.
- The Town of Burns will receive \$3000 to fund an architectural/feasibility study of the former Kingston Hotel in the village of Canaseraga.

These 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 that they are present and contributing for generations to come.

"We strongly support the work being done in Victor, Lima and the Town of Burns to preserve historic buildings," said Wayne Goodman, Executive Director. "Our mission is to offer our assistance, expertise and resources whenever appropriate throughout Western New York."

The grant for Valentown Hall reflects The Landmark Society's commitment to supporting allied organizations that are working to preserve and interpret Western New York's unique architectural

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heritage. “The Landmark Society’s support to assess the condition of Valentown Hall will play a key role in assisting us to restore our 19th century shopping mall and make it a vibrant destination to learn the story of our mercantile heritage,” said Kathryn White, President of the Victor Historical Society.

The Landmark Society’s grant to Elim Bible Institute will help historic buildings remain an integral part of programming. “The Landmark Society’s grant will help kick-start Elim’s ability to preserve and restore the historic buildings we have been entrusted with,” said Jeremiah Miller, Dean of Administration at Elim. “We will use the funds to obtain a condition assessment, which is a crucial first step that opens the door for the preservation work we are so eager to begin.”

The third grant funding a professional study of the Kingston Hotel, an important anchor building in Canaseraga, will be a critical first step in enhancing the community’s historic building stock. Ultimately rehabilitation of this building could spark further investment in the village. “This grant is the beginning of a big change that is long overdue,” said Lauren Oliver, Town of Burns Supervisor. “It has the possibility to create excitement and give hope to the residents of our community which is needed for the survival of small towns like ours.”

Initial funding for the grants 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. To date The Landmark Society has awarded more than \$10,000 in grants including grants to the City of Rochester for a home on Madison St.; the Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood Association for the church building at 660 West Main Street and the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society. 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.*