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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**LANDMARK SOCIETY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR
HIGHLIGHTS BRIGHTON NEIGHBORHOOD- A TOUR OF SURPRISES**

ROCHESTER, NY May 28, 2012 — Homeowners on Grosvenor Road, Pelham Road, Council Rock Avenue and Highland Avenue are opening their doors to the public on Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the Landmark Society of Western New York 42nd Annual House & Garden Tour.

There are 11 places to visit on the 2012 tour, part of the Landmark Society's 75th anniversary celebration. Included are six private homes that have never been open for a Landmark Society tour and three that have not been seen in 6 or more years. The Stone-Tolan House Historic Site, and the Baptist Temple Church are also part of the tour. The streets are in close proximity, and many tour goers will enjoy parking their car once to enjoy the neighborhood on foot.

Tickets are limited, to ensure a good experience for everyone. Ticket booklets are \$22 in advance - \$18 for Landmark Members directly from The Landmark Society only. If available, tickets the days of the tour will be \$25 only at tour headquarters at Baptist Temple Church, 1101 Clover Street.

The tour is self guided, with hosts at each property. One ticket admits you to each property one time; they may be visited either day in any order, at your convenience. Tickets are available through the Landmark Society website at www.landmarksociety.org, from Parkleigh at Park Avenue and Goodman Street, or by calling 546-7029 extension 11.

This Brighton neighborhood was established by real estate developer Houston Barnard, who began purchasing and subdividing the area into fine residential neighborhoods, starting around 1918. A past Landmark Society tour visited the Houston Barnard Tract (Ambassador Drive, Sandringham, etc.) The current tour is in the "Houston Barnard Subdivision." Barnard enforced the same restrictions here as he did in the main tract, to ensure high quality. He set a high minimum for house prices, laid out large lots, did not allow more than one outbuilding per site, and forbade apartment construction.

LANDMARK SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.

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Barnard did not, however, restrict architectural design or insist on uniformity. The result is a charming diversity in styles, and our tour selections well represent that diversity. The houses are designed by many different architects, including prominent designers Ward Wellington and Leander McCord.

“This is a tour of surprises, sure to delight!” said Cindy Boyer, Landmark Society Director of Public Programs.

Some of the unexpected delights are:

- A wood shingled house, a well kept but rather unassuming exterior; within elegantly designed formal rooms boasting the signature details of its prominent architect.
- A Craftsman-influenced house with massive exterior stucco piers: inside an impressive 3 story wooden staircase with a den hiding behind it.
- A Tudor Revival showcasing unusual imported Italian marble fireplace and interior fountain.
- A house that turns its rather modest side profile to the street, only to reveal a substantial house footprint as you walk onto the property, one of the largest houses in the area.
- A house with “Zenitherm” walls in one of the sun porches.

Gardens are also lush in this neighborhood. Tour-goers will enjoy seeing gardens designed by master gardeners, unusual outdoor sculpture displays, a Japanese influenced site, and one of the earliest residential swimming pools in the county.

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 and sustainable communities. For additional information about The Landmark Society, visit www.landmarksociety.org.*