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Landmark Society Preservation Grant Program will Fund Improvements To Historic Buildings and Resources

(Oct 17, 2012) A new grant program administered by The Landmark Society of Western New York will provide funding assistance to help save historic resources. The Preservation Grant Program will offer funds earmarked for preliminary design and planning tasks to help make positive improvements to at-risk buildings.

“The Landmark Society seeks to sustain and enhance the cultural and economic vitality of Western New York by bringing new life to historic buildings and resources and ensuring they are present and contributing for generations to come,” said Wayne Goodman, Executive Director.

The program will fund pre-construction/design study tasks such as code studies, conceptual designs, existing condition documentation and project cost estimates. The Landmark Society will be able to assist projects at their inception and help navigate the funding recipients through the intricacies of making improvements to historic sites.

The first grant was awarded to the City of Rochester to fund architectural services for 54.5 Madison St. in the Susan B. Anthony Preservation District. Funding was used to develop a floor plan, elevations and construction documents. The outcome allowed the City of Rochester the needed resources to obtain cost estimates for restoration work. Subsequently rehab work on the Greek Revival colonial home will begin this fall.

“It is a priority of the City to save and restore historic buildings, especially in neighborhoods such as Susan B. Anthony,” said Mayor Thomas S. Richards, “This work can be extremely challenging -- especially in cases where long-term vacancies have led to substantial damage. This grant from the Landmark Society will help us greatly and we believe their program will boost the efforts of saving additional buildings in the future.”

The inaugural year funding 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. The Landmark Society plans to make 3-5 grants between \$2,500 and \$3,500 this year.

For more information or to apply for a grant, visit The Landmark Society website at 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.

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