



Project PRESERVATION

5 to Revive

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The Landmark Society of Western New York is a preservation organization. It is not-for-profit organization that is focused on preserving, interpreting and fostering the interest in architectural, historical and cultural heritage in Western New York Counties.¹

Their newest revitalization project is called Five to Revive. In honor of their 75th anniversary, The Landmark Society will announce five new landmarks each year in Western New York that they will assist in the process of finding funding. Each landmark is either a building, landscape or structure. These renovations can help the surrounding neighborhoods and communities grow.¹

We sat down and talked with Caitlin Meives, Preservation Planner, and Larry Francer, Associate Director of Preservation from The Landmark Society. They were both eager to discuss the organization and all of the details for the Five to Revive project.

What will the structures be used as?

The Eastman Dental Dispensary and the Pulaski Library, plan on being transformed into affordable housing for the local communities. The Holley High School hopes to become affordable senior housing. The property is currently

in limbo because there is no one left to inherit the property. Currently, the Landmark Society is trying to find interested developers in the property. The Samson Theater is owned by a private theater company and has been fully funded. A master plan is in the works for it to be restored into a new theater. The Olmstead Bridge is looking to be rehabbed and updated. The bridge is owned by the New York State of Department of Transportation, so we are currently working with them trying to find future funding.

How long will it take to renovate the property?

It depends on how long it takes to fund and find grants for the individual projects. A project can take longer than a year to fund because a project cannot be completed unless the finances are available.

How much of the actual building will be preserved and will both the interior and exterior be the same?

The most important features of each building or landscape will be preserved. Each landmark will have the feeling of what it used to be and the original architecture. The Pulaski Library is being remodeled currently and it was important to the builders that you still get the feeling of a library when you are inside, most of the building interior and exterior is being preserved.

What does this renovation do for the Rochester community?

These renovation projects will cause a catalysis for financial advancement. Based on where each property is located it can improve the area because a vacant building is often cause for trouble. With the rehab of a building it can spark additional interest or investment in the community, which can lead to a greater sense of community pride, investment in properties and new jobs in the area.

What can the public do to get involved?

To get involved the public can donate to the Landmark Society of Western New York. They can even choose where exactly their donations go. Community members can also suggest or show interest in properties that they would like to see be rehabbed.

The Landmark Society of Western New York. 2013. Five to Revive. <http://landmarksociety.org/programs/five-to-revive/>