



## Landmarks Society uses radar to restore history

By **REBECCA CRONISER**

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UTICA — Fourteen years after the house at 2 Rutger Park was demolished, the Landmarks Society is trying to figure out just exactly where the building once stood with the help of ground penetrating radar.

Landmarks Society trustee Mary Lyon Bradley said the group has no plans to rebuild the home at his time, but wants to identify it.

“We want to give it an identity, maybe with a garden and stone work to show the original footprint, and some text with the history of the home so it will somehow come alive,” Bradley said. “Not having anything here leaves a hole in this complex.”

The Landmarks Society had hoped the technology would help them find the foundation of the home to outline its original footprint. But after two hours of scanning the ground, the picture of the foundation was not real clear.

“I’m identifying anomalies in the ground,” said Donald Trojak, of Ryan-Biggs Associates in Troy.

He found what he believes to be the east and west sides of the house, but the front and back were not clear.

Some anomalies were found at what would have been the front of the house that could have depicted where a porch had once stood, Trojak said.

“You don’t know what the anomalies are until you dig there,” he said.

Landmarks Society President Michael Bosak said even though all the information is not clear, the readings gave the group a starting point.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” Bosak said. “But it’s something.”

The house was demolished May 26, 1994, after falling into disrepair. It was one of five architecturally important homes on Rutger Park, designed by 19th-century architects Alexander Davis and Andrew Downing. The home originally was built in 1852 for Utica attorney John Jones.

Together, the homes of Rutger Park form what historians say is a residential cluster of 19th-century American architecture, all recognized in the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Landmarks Society purchased the land in June where the former house had stood as well as the houses at 1 and 3 Rutger Park surrounding the vacant lot.

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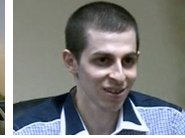
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