



LANDMARKS

Preservationist

www.uticalandmarks.org

ALL ABOARD FOR DOLGEVILLE OCTOBER 14!

A relaxing, enjoyable fall day is in store for Landmarks members and friends as the Society travels to the historic village of Dolgeville for its annual fall bus tour on Saturday, October 14.

several mansions and a converted mill.

The bus will depart from the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute parking lot at 8 a.m. sharp. Participants should arrive by 7:30 a.m. and park their cars in The Community Foundation parking lot (across the street) at 1222 State Street. The bus will return to Utica by 6 p.m.

The cost of trip — \$50 for Landmarks members and \$55 for non-members — includes lunch, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Dolgeville-Manheim Historical Society.

The bus fills quickly and seating is limited. Call 797-3248 for more information or reservations. Make checks payable to Landmarks Society of Greater Utica and mail to: Landmarks Society of Greater Utica, 1124 State Street, Utica, NY 13502.



• *The Dolgeville Mill.*

The Dolgeville Experience will include the opportunity to savor scenic routes as the bus treks to



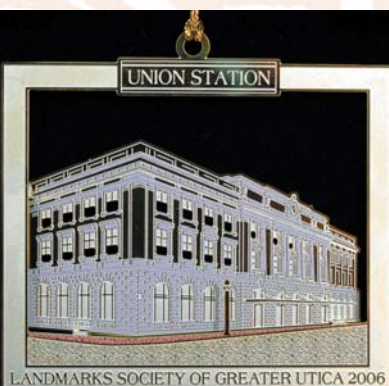
Reception November 2 at Lupino's Trackside Restaurant

2006 COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENT

FEATURES UNION STATION

Utica's majestic Union Station is the subject of Landmarks' 2006 commemorative ornament, which will be unveiled and offered for the first time at a special reception on Thursday, November 2 at 5 p.m. at Lupino's Trackside Restaurant, 401 Main Street, Utica. The cost of the ornament will be \$20 plus tax. Following the reception, it will be available

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Log On to LANDMARKS' NEW WEB SITE!

The Landmarks Society's informative Web site — www.uticalandmarks.org — is now better than ever, featuring a new design, updated information and expanded sections. The site was developed and is hosted by a Utica company, The Pulse.net. On the new site you can:

- Learn more about what the Landmarks Society is and what it does.
- Review our annual endangered buildings lists and nominate a structure for possible inclusion on next year's list.
- Read the latest news on Landmarks' work and upcoming events.
- Check out past issues of the *Landmarks Preservationist* newsletter.
- View vintage postcards of Utica's historic treasures, images of the area's "lost landmarks" that are no longer here for us to enjoy, and "before and after" photos of members' renovation projects.
- See what Utica's Scenic & Historic District is all about.
- Purchase items from our gift shop, including commemorative ornaments, publications and the Utica streetscape print by David R.C. Oster.
- Renew your membership.

Visit the new www.uticalandmarks.org today!

LANDMARKS REPORTS ON “POWERLINE ISSUE,” RUTGER PARK



BY PRESIDENT MICHAEL S. RIZZO

On June 26, 2006, the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica became an active party to the New York Regional Interconnection (NYRI) Article VII proceeding — what most of us refer to as “the powerline issue.”

Landmarks is fully engaged and has asked the New York State Historic Preservation Office to keep us involved with analysis, determination and review of National Register Listed and Eligible Properties along the proposed route. We have also reached out to them with a request for funds to update Utica’s windshield survey of historically significant and architectural significant properties. Finally, Landmarks has retained counsel for when legal assistance is required.

As an active party, we have reviewed the application filed by NYRI and are concerned that all available data was not disclosed at the time of submission with regard to listed or eligible-for-listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), state and local lists. The application only listed 66 properties determined eligible for listing on the NRHP along the proposed 200-mile route. This number is extremely low because the search was limited to one-half mile. This is unacceptable, as a 3-mile data search is required. Landmarks is awaiting a ruling from the Administrative Law Judges on this issue. One could construe the motive for reducing the data search area must be to limit the properties that are listed within the City of Utica.

Stay Informed, Get Involved

For example, when reviewing NYRI’s application and *TABLE 4.9.2.1-1 National Register Listed and Eligible Properties along the Proposed Route* the inventory list has not one building property listed within the City of Utica as eligible for listing on the NRHP, state and local lists. Landmarks knows this to be false.

On August 8, 2006 we informed the New York State Historic Preservation Office that Landmarks must be involved with analysis, determination and review of National Register Listed and Eligible Properties along the Proposed Route. We have requested if or when the inventory list is developed and reviewed, that Landmarks and Utica’s Scenic and Historic Commission become fully involved partners with the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

As an active party, Landmarks is served with copies of all documents from all sides. We encourage everyone to stay informed and get involved. Landmarks has compiled a complete document file of the proceedings thus far, which is available for members to review. Contact me via e-mail at Michaelsrizzo@aol.com to arrange to view the documents.

Rutger Park Report

It is Landmarks’ understanding that an “agreement” or “ruling” to the fate of the deteriorating Rutger Park properties is forthcoming by mid-September. Landmarks continues to advocate ownership change and emergency stabilization measures that require the installation of new roofs before winter. Landmarks will keep you updated.

2006 ORNAMENT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through the Society’s Web site — www.uticalandmarks.org — and at several retail outlets in the area, including Danella Photographic, McHarris Gifts (Clinton), Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute Gift Shop and Shoppes at the Finish Line.

Union Station

This magnificent Renaissance Revival (Beaux-Arts style) structure, designed by Allen H. Stem and Alfred Fellheimer, cost \$1,000,000 to build in 1914. The adjacent and affiliated freight-yards, begun in 1911, were at one time the largest passenger and freight yards east of the Mississippi River, with a storage capacity of over 1,000 cars. The desire of some public officials to demolish the station in the mid-1970s for the purpose of building a new one was derailed through the unyielding efforts of the Landmarks Society, other government officials and the general public. Today, 92 years after Union Station opened, it handles significant passenger train and bus traffic as an important transportation hub, and houses several Oneida County offices.

Previous Years’ Ornaments Still Available

A limited number of previous years’ ornaments are still available. Call the Landmarks office at 732-7376 for details:

- 2005 — F.X. Matt Brewery
\$20 plus tax
- 2004 — Utica Public Library
\$20 plus tax
- 2003 — Stanley Theater
\$20 plus tax
- 2002 — SBU Bank
\$25 plus tax
- 2001 — Hotel Utica
\$25 plus tax
- 2000 — Old Main
\$25 plus tax

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PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS WELCOME NEWS FOR OWNERS OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OCTOBER 5

The Landmarks Society's annual business meeting — featuring the election of Officers and Trustees, budget approval, etc. — will take place Thursday, October 5 at 6 p.m. at Hotel Utica. There is no cost for this event, which is open to all members. Please plan on joining us.

COMING SOON!

Landmarks is planning a special presentation and benefit with W. Richard Wheeler, author of "A Neat Plain Modern Style: Philip Hooker and His Contemporaries, 1790–1840," and a colleague with published works on A.J. Davis and the importance of Rutger Park. Look for an announcement this fall!

The New York State Legislature recently approved a much-needed incentive that will encourage new investment in the reuse of historic buildings in urban and rural communities throughout the state. The measure provides for a State Income Tax credit for the rehabilitation costs of historic commercial and residential structures.

Under this legislation, State and National Register-listed owner-occupied residential structures in distressed areas are eligible for a New York State Income Tax credit covering 20 percent

of exterior rehabilitation costs, up to a credit value of \$25,000. Approximately 11,000 historic residential structures are qualified statewide, primarily in urban neighborhoods.

The bill also includes incentives for historic commercial properties. National Register-listed or -eligible commercial properties that qualify for the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit would qualify for an additional New York State Income Tax Credit, covering 30 percent of rehabilitation costs, up to a credit value of \$100,000.

Learn More About the TAX CREDIT PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 16

Information on the tax credit program to assist owners with the cost of improvements to their historic properties will be presented by David Trevisani of the National Development Council at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 16 at the Oneida County Historical Society, 1608 Genesee Street, Utica.

Trevisani, who also serves as Vice President of the Landmarks Society, will cover building eligibility, applying for the tax credit, how the tax credit works, the need to use a lawyer and CPA vs. doing it yourself, and more.

LANDMARKS SOCIETY FEATURED IN NEW YORK TIMES

The Landmarks Society's declaration of Utica as an endangered city received notable coverage in the July 14, 2006 edition of the New York Times.

The article cited structures that have been lost over the years, such as Mr. Lamp and its recent

fate, and included quotes from Landmarks President Michael Rizzo and Endangered Buildings Committee Chairman Michael Bosak.

The feature is available in the "News" section of Landmarks' Website—www.uticalandmarks.org.

LANDMARKS TAKES PART IN PRESERVATION LEAGUE COLLEAGUES MEETING

Landmarks Society Trustee Pamela Jardieu was among the attendees at The Preservation League of New York State's annual Preservation Colleagues Meeting in June at The Rensselaerville Institute Conference Center.

Twenty-two staff members, volunteers and Board members from twelve participating organizations attended the meeting, as well as a representative from the New York State Council on the Arts.

"It was exciting and beneficial to meet with representatives of other groups whose mission is similar to that of Landmarks," Jardieu said. "We had a lively exchange of ideas and all learned a great deal."

The Landmarks Society was named a Preservation Colleague in spring 2006 for its efforts to promote the appreciation, preservation and restoration of irreplaceable local properties and districts.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

Anna D'Ambrosio
Pierre J. Bedard
Boyd Bissell
David and Holly Chanatry
Richard DeGroot
Kathleen Ellsworth
Paula Jardieu and Jeff Avalier
Ms. Phyllis Leahy
Sheila and Theodore Orlin
Debra Richardson
Vincent Rossi
Charles and Elizabeth Schultz
David Shapiro and
Mary L. Pfeifer-Shapiro
Ron Thiele
Dwight and Mary Vicks

LANDMARKS' 2006 "WALKS AND TALKS" A ROUSING SUCCESS!

BY MICHAEL BOSAK
CHAIRMAN—
ENDANGERED
BUILDINGS
COMMITTEE

The 10th season of The Landmarks Society —Utica Monday Nite *Walks and Talks* was an unparalleled success, literally smashing all previous attendance records in its first three weeks!

This was entirely due to the two scheduled open house tours of the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center's (MVPC) "Old Main" building off of Court Street. Over 900 people were genuinely elated to have the opportunity to experience the rare chance to see a portion of the first floor interior restoration work during the two June tours.

The New York State Office of Mental Health completed the

work in 2005 to prepare the facility for reception of mental health records from all over the state. Words cannot adequately express Landmarks' most sincere gratitude to MVPC Executive Director Maureen Ruben, Christopher Powers, Chief Michael Loftus, Jeff Greene, Karen Nicholson and a myriad of other volunteers and staff for making this event such an unparalleled and overwhelming success. Thank you also to the many Landmarks Society volunteers who generously donated their time and effort to make this a truly "Landmark" event.

CONTINUING THE TRADITION

Bart Rasmus gave a fine, informative and surprising tour of the blocks west of Oneida Square. The Adam Bowman

House tour hosted by Marion and Barry Goodwin was fascinating and much appreciated. The Fort Schuyler Club again proved to be a popular event hosted by Mary Lyons Bradley and Virginia Kelly. Attendees were thrilled to be permitted within the gates of the Genesee Court Apartments for an up close and personal look at this urban jewel. We were also pleased to experience two of our 2005 Award of Merit buildings on one tour — the Globe Mill Annex building and Sickenberger Lane! And the list goes on...

The popularity of the "On The Move" series that began last year also increased notably, with over 60 people delighting at the treasures revealed on the Newport stone house tour — despite the very hot, oppressively muggy night. It has become a decidedly spectacular way for individuals to get to appreciate those communities that are within or just on the fringes of the Greater Utica Area.

We would like to thank all of our presenters, hosts, coordinators, and, of course, our attendees for making the tenth season of Landmarks' "Walks and Talks" such a great time and such great success!



► Providing Landmarks information to visitors were Membership Chair Susan McCulley, Program Committee Chair Michelle Klosek and Trustee Mary Lyons Bradley.



► The throng of visitors was eager to tour "Old Main."



► Guests were fascinated by the chance to see the interior of "Old Main" as they walked its halls for the first time.



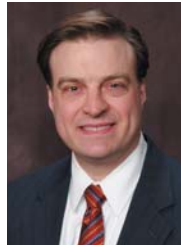
► Barry and Marion Goodwin conducted tours of the Adam Bowman House on Riverside Drive in North Utica.

DILORENZO TO KEYNOTE LANDMARKS' NOVEMBER 16 BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY

Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of New York State, will be the keynote speaker at Landmarks' 32nd annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 16 at the Fort Schuyler Club, 254 Genesee Street, Utica.

The evening, which is open to the public, will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m. A sit-down dinner will be served at 7 p.m., followed by the program. In addition to DiLorenzo's presentation, Landmarks' annual awards of recogni-

tion for historic preservation/restoration will be presented to CONMED, Sears Oil Co. and homeowner Pat Anderson (see profile of



▶ Jay DiLorenzo

Pat's bungalow on page 6).

The cost of the banquet is \$50 for Landmarks members and \$65 for non-members. More information will be forthcoming as the event approaches.

LOST LANDMARKS: UTICA'S CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Landmarks continues its look at Utica's changing landscape by spotlighting the structures and streetscapes that have been altered over the years. With approximately 40 percent of Utica's 19th-century buildings lost, Landmarks' work to preserve the structures that remain is more important than ever.

Downtown Utica's "Busy Corner"

The "Busy Corner" was so named because it was the convergence of the major north-south and east-west trolley lines. These

lines were the primary means of transportation to and from the edges of the city and beyond into the suburbs and more rural areas. Anyone coming into or leaving downtown would use the "Busy Corner" as their station. Later, when the trolleys gave way to motorized buses, the "Busy Corner" was still an important access point as the bus routes generally mimicked the earlier trolley lines. Over the years, many buildings in this scene were lost to fires or demolition. The Boston Store building (left) was refaced and "modernized" in the 1940s.



▶ An eastward look at the "Busy Corner" today.

ALLEN TO SPEAK AT RECORDS CENTER SEPTEMBER 17

Landmarks members are invited to a special presentation by Oneida County Clerk Richard Allen on Sunday, September 17 at the Regional Records Center at 4608 State Route 233 in Westmoreland.

Allen's talk, which begins at 2 p.m., will cover several topics of interest, including background on the Records Center; naturalization and immigration; applying for a passport; searching genealogical and naturalization information in Oneida County; making trips to the Department of Motor Vehicles go smoothly and more.

It is recommended that you bring your own chairs to assure adequate seating.

JOIN US FOR A VICTORIAN HOLIDAY TEA DECEMBER 2

The refined splendor of the Victorian Era will serve as the perfect backdrop as the Landmarks Society hosts a Victorian Holiday Tea at the Rosemont Inn Bed & Breakfast on Saturday, December 2 from 1-4 p.m.



The afternoon will include a sumptuous variety of finger foods, dessert items and teas. The cost is \$20 for members and \$22 for non-members.

Located at 1423 Genesee Street in Utica, the Rosemont is a striking brick Italian Victorian home, constructed by Ambrose G. Howard in the 1860s and currently operated as a seven-room bed and breakfast by Rita and Bob Sleys.

Call 732-7376 for more information.

CELEBRATE "ALL HALLOW'S EVE" ON OCTOBER 22

The first new moon of autumn on Sunday, October 22 will signal the return of the Landmarks Society's annual Halloween Party!

This year's "ghoulish glee" will begin at 6 p.m. at the Stiefvater Room, 618 Varick Street, Utica. Open to Landmarks members and non-members alike, the evening will feature a variety of appetizers and refreshments, including New York State Wine Tasting by Eber Brothers Liquor. The Mohawk Valley Ghost Hunters will also be on hand, searching the Stiefvater Room for spirits (of the ghostly variety)!

Cost for the event is \$15 per person. More information is available online at www.uticalandmarks.org or by calling the Landmarks office at 732-7376.

In this issue of the Preservationist we continue our "Before and After" series spotlighting restoration projects undertaken by our members. To have your restoration project included in a future newsletter, please send the information, along with "before and after" photos, to: Preservationist Editor, REM Communications, 1 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413.



LANDMARKS
Preservationist



"BEFORE AND AFTER" ON HIGBY ROAD

In 1984, Landmarks Society member Pat Anderson purchased the property at 22 Higby Road in Utica — a circa 1915 bungalow obtained at a city auction. Because of the legal difficulties attached to the property, she did not acquire a clear title until 1993, nine years after she bought the house.

During that time she spent countless hours putting in "sweat equity," cleaning out the ankle-deep trash strewn throughout the house, finding (and restoring) the hardwood floor in the kitchen buried under black tar and linoleum, and restoring the woodwork in the dining and living rooms to the original finish. Other work included hanging sheet rock throughout the house, replacing the plumbing and electrical systems, exterior masonry, extensive landscaping and more.

Today, she points out, the home has all the hallmarks of the Arts & Crafts style — beautiful woodwork, box beam ceiling, hardwood floors, built-in bookcases, china cabinet and window seats, large windows, spacious interiors, fireplace and sweeping fieldstone front porch.



It's not difficult to know which are the "before" photos and which are the "after." "Being the caretaker of this beautiful home is a joy and a privilege," said homeowner Pat Anderson. Landmarks members might remember the September 2003 walking



tour of South Utica during which Pat graciously invited us into her home to get a firsthand look at this Craftsman-style treasure.

The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica was chartered by the State of New York on October 25, 1974, as a nonprofit educational corporation to preserve historic buildings and districts in the Utica area.

Offices: 1124 State Street, Utica, New York 13502

Telephone: 315-732-7376 • Web site: www.uticalandmarks.org



Landmarks Society
Of Greater Utica

1124 State Street
Utica, NY 13502

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Join Us! To join Landmarks, complete and mail this application to: Landmarks Society of Greater Utica; 1124 State Street; Utica, NY 13502

Checks should be made payable to the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please choose one)

- Individual \$25.00
- Couple or Household \$40.00
- Patron \$100.00
- Associate \$250.00
- Supporter \$500.00
- Preservationist \$1,000.00

Reminder: All Landmarks Society memberships expire in December and must be renewed in January, with the exception of first-time memberships commenced in the fall.