

The background image shows the interior of a grand, historic building, likely the New York State Capitol. It features a wide, ornate staircase with dark stone steps and a highly decorative metal railing. The architecture is characterized by large, arched windows, intricate carvings, and several large, glowing chandeliers that cast a warm, golden light throughout the space. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and elegance.

New York State Historic Preservation Plan 2015–2020

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Commissioner Rose Harvey

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Hello New Yorkers!

Our relationships with family, friends and colleagues are shaped by our environment—our homes, our places of work and those places where we learn and relax play incredibly important roles in our daily lives. Every community is a combination of its parts—a streetscape, a park, a farm—and our perception of the totality of them creates our sense of place.



Constructed to guide ships traveling through a narrow stretch of the St. Lawrence River, the **Rock Island Lighthouse** was built in 1847, replaced in the 1880s and later relocated to the water's edge. The station closed in the 1950s after more than a century of service. In the 1970s, the property was transferred to the Thousand Islands State Parks Region and for many years was looked after by local volunteers. With federal transportation grant funding, the park region rehabilitated the complex, returning the landmark to its former glory and making it accessible to the public as Rock Island Lighthouse State Park.

If that streetscape, that park or that farm is destroyed, we forever sever our connection to a part of the community that may have had a special meaning to us, diminishing our sense of place and the opportunity for that part of the community to enrich the lives of future generations.

Historic preservation is a collaborative effort that requires a balanced view—one that allows for inevitable changes within our built environment without significant loss of our historic and cultural places. It also requires a commitment to preserving our heritage for the greater public good. Over the past several years, historic preservation has come a long way in the state. Thanks to the leadership of Governor Andrew Cuomo and a variety of his initiatives, such as expanded state preservation tax credits, Path Through History tourism promotion and the New York Works capital program, the preservation and revitalization of our historic and cultural resources is increasingly playing a central role in improving the quality of our communities as well as contributing to economic growth and job creation.

This plan has been developed with these benefits in mind. Its goals and objectives offer strategies for strengthening preservation efforts across the state, it promotes the expansion of preservation activities at the local level among municipal officials and private enterprise, and it strives to instill “pride of place” among all New Yorkers. The plan also provides an

overview of New York’s historic and cultural resources and includes a range of projects and properties that not only relate to the goals and objectives, but will also, we hope, inspire local residents to forge a personal connection with their communities.

The preparation of this plan coincides with a significant milestone in the history of the historic preservation movement in America. 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established preservation policy for the country as well as creating the network of State Historic Preservation Offices to carry out the provisions of the act on behalf of the National Park Service. New York has long been a historic preservation leader and the 50th anniversary provides a great opportunity to celebrate its history and culture as well as its preservation successes.

I invite you to review this plan and become involved in preserving and revitalizing historic and cultural places in your community. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Harvey".

Rose Harvey
State Historic Preservation Officer
Commissioner, New York State Office of
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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Front Cover: Great Western Staircase, New York State Capitol. Back Cover: Ceiling mural detail, Governor’s Reception Room, New York State Capitol. Courtesy State Commission on the Restoration of the Capitol, New York State Office of General Services.

This plan has been financed with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and administered by the New York State Historic Preservation Office. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior.

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Located next to Mills-Norrie State Park in Staatsburg, the former **Staatsburg Union Free School** has been converted into the energy-efficient headquarters for the Taconic region of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It was the first public building in New York State to win LEED Platinum status for a major renovation project. The building features a geothermal heat pump system, electricity-generating solar panels, energy-efficient windows, innovative insulation and efficient lighting.

I. Introduction

New York's historic preservation movement has made substantial progress and the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act offers the perfect opportunity to recognize its development and growth. This special anniversary plan publication not only helps to commemorate the preservation movement in New York, but also highlights the increasingly important role that it plays in revitalizing communities across the state.

This advancement is especially noteworthy because it has been accomplished despite significant challenges, including: economic decline and population shifts; technological advances that often disengage New Yorkers, especially young New Yorkers, from the state's history and culture; and the deterioration and/or loss of our historic built environment due to lack of funding and the unpredictable forces of nature.

The Division for Historic Preservation (DHP), which includes the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), prepares a statewide preservation plan every five years that provides direction

for the entire state. Through this planning process, New York engages the public in assessing the state's preservation progress, needs and opportunities. It also offers a vehicle for furthering the integration of its historic and cultural resources into local planning and community development, while instilling civic pride in New York's past.

The plan guides preservation efforts at the local, regional and state levels. It serves as a blueprint for identifying and preserving New York's historic and cultural resources and can be periodically updated to address current needs, issues and opportunities. The



The property at 857 Manhattan Avenue in Brooklyn was built in 1887 as offices and community meeting space. Through the years, the local landmark lost its tower and distinctive decoration. During its rehabilitation, the building's exterior was returned to its original appearance and its interior was updated for commercial use. The project combined private and public funds, including preservation tax credits. The landmark's restoration promises to expand revitalization efforts in the surrounding area.



Preservation Through The Years

From the protection of places important in our history to the creation of groundbreaking legislation, this timeline provides a snapshot of New York's preservation progress through the years. In partnership with communities across the state, New York will continue its significant progress in safeguarding and revitalizing its extraordinary heritage throughout the next 50 years.



1850

New York State acquired Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh—the nation's first publicly owned historic site.

The **Babcock Shattuck House** in Syracuse was built in the 1890s and later became the post of Jewish War Veterans; it remained the post until 1989. The City of Syracuse auctioned the abandoned house in 1996 and a developer proposed to demolish it for new construction. The demolition was denied and the University Neighborhood Preservation Association, a nonprofit community redevelopment organization, bought the house to protect it. A state preservation grant and preservation tax credits helped the association to rehabilitate the house for residential use, transforming an eyesore into a neighborhood asset.

plan details resources that have the potential to support preservation and community development efforts. It highlights successful preservation activities accomplished over the past five years that demonstrate best practices and educate the public about the benefits of preservation.

This plan aims to further preservation activities by engaging existing colleagues as well as new audiences and outlines a broad set of goals and objectives combined with specific strategies that can be tailored to a wide range of people, places and circumstances; these include:

Expand preservation efforts across the state by:

- » Strengthening the practice of preservation
- » Enhancing collaboration to advance preservation
- » Training New Yorkers in preservation trades, skills and crafts
- » Showcasing preservation contributions



Promote preservation at the local and regional level by:

- » Integrating preservation into local and regional decision making
- » Building support for preservation among local officials and developers

Cultivate pride of place by:

- » Expanding and diversifying participation in preservation
- » Engaging New Yorkers in historic sites and museums
- » Capitalizing on heritage tourism opportunities

For more information about these goals and objectives as well as strategies, see Section V.



1963

Pennsylvania Railroad Station in New York City was demolished to make way for Madison Square Garden—a loss so devastating that it launched the modern historic preservation movement.



1964

The Friends of Hyde Hall was established to rescue the Clarke's nineteenth century mansion overlooking Otsego Lake and became New York's first state historic site nonprofit friends group.

II. A Look Back and Forward

The 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act provides a great opportunity to reflect on the preservation movement's progress since its formal inception in 1966. The field has emerged from a perceived elitist hobby to a generally accepted, if not always respected, planning tool. If the preservation movement is not fully "mainstreamed" in and of itself, it is at least recognized by many as a tool that promotes mainstream values such as economic vitality, quality of community

life, sustainability and energy efficiency. Throughout this plan, we will be celebrating the progress made over the past five decades and building upon the knowledge gained through these years to inform our next steps.

Over the past fifty years the preservation world has changed dramatically. This transformation is exemplified by the expansion in the types of resources that are recognized as significant for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. We have moved from a focus on listing aesthetically-important landmarks and those representing seminal events in the history of our state and nation to historic districts and cultural landscapes, vernacular architecture, properties associated

with social history and diverse cultural groups, mid-twentieth-century resources, and various types of structures, including recreational facilities, roadside architecture and resources representing the space age.

As the definition of what is considered historic has expanded, so has the general acceptance of historic preservation as an economically, culturally and environmentally beneficial discipline intrinsic to good community planning. Although respect for protection of the built environment is by no means as universal as for that of the natural environment, the combined carrot (tax credits/grants/heritage tourism) and stick (environmental review) approach over the years has led to a welcome acceptance of the preservation movement by many decision makers.

However, each passing decade has brought fresh challenges. The onslaughts of urban renewal and massive highway expansion that galvanized the preservation movement and were catalysts for the National Historic Preservation Act are long past. More recently, cell towers dotting the landscape were followed by large-scale wind farms. The demographic shift out of cities and into the suburbs seems to be reversing somewhat, but cultural and lifestyle changes are resulting in the abandonment of older resources,



The Space Shuttle Enterprise is listed on the State and National Registers for its importance in the development of the U.S. Space Shuttle Program. Built for NASA in the mid-1970s, the shuttle was the only full-scale prototype of the orbiter fleet and helped to prove the shuttle's flight worthiness; it was later used during the investigations and modifications following the Challenger and Columbia accidents. The Enterprise is now on display at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City.



1965

Following the loss of Penn Station, New York City adopted a pioneering preservation law, creating the New York City Landmarks Commission. In 1978 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law in *Penn Central Transportation Co., et al. v. New York City, et al.*, stopping the company from altering Grand Central Terminal.

1966

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was enacted, establishing preservation policy for the nation and creating a network of State Historic Preservation Offices to carry out the provisions of the act on behalf of the National Park Service.

The New York State Historic Trust, which was placed under the Division of Parks in the State Conservation Department, was created to oversee the state historic sites, establish New York's State Historic Preservation Office and develop statewide preservation programs.



The former **Holy Rosary Church** complex in Rochester has been rejuvenated as an affordable housing complex. The rehabilitation project utilized public and private funding as well as preservation tax credits. The rectory, convent and school now house apartments and the former church sanctuary serves as a community center. The revitalized complex demonstrates that vacant religious properties can be reinvigorated for contemporary use.

particularly religious properties, that were once central to community life. Development pressures and suburban sprawl upstate have resulted in the loss of rural landscapes and agricultural resources. Loss of industrial buildings is common everywhere, and the lengthy recession encouraged municipal leaders to accept any and all development, regardless of impacts. These changes in human patterns and development are small

compared to the threats of climate change, especially severe in New York State, where virtually all historic communities are in close proximity to the increasingly real threat of flooding. Throughout the course of these changes and even as preservation becomes more institutionalized with community leaders, planners, developers and the tourism industry, we must remain flexible. By embracing new approaches and expanding the conversation, we can better engage young people and under-represented communities to retain a complete picture of New York's heritage.

Set against this larger background of fifty years of change, the past five years have been marked by significant progress and response to a variety of factors:

» The economic downturn prompted the state legislature and Governor Cuomo to expand and extend the New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program. The efforts of the Preservation League of New York State were crucial in promoting program improvements, including an extension to 2019, an increased cap on project expenditures, 800 newly qualified census tracts and a refundable credit for commercial projects beginning in 2015. New York's recent use of the federal credits has broken national records. Between 2012 and 2014 New York's projects represented

more than \$2.5 billion dollars in private investment. The matching state commercial credit greatly increased the use of the federal credit, especially upstate. The residential component of the state program has resulted in tens of millions of dollars spent to rehabilitate thousands of homes.

» The State and National Registers of Historic Places program is particularly strong. There are over 6,000 listings including more than 120,000 properties in New York and the rate of nominations remains constant at approximately 100 listings per year—in large part, this is in response to a high demand from developers and residents interested in preservation tax credits. Commercial preservation tax credits has been a standard reason for owner interest in registers listing, but the homeowner tax credit has been the impetus for adding thousands of residential buildings to the registers. New York also continues to forge new paths with innovative nominations, such as: the Cherry Grove Community House and Theater on Fire Island, an important site in gay and lesbian history; the New York State Barge Canal Historic District, a nationally significant work of twentieth century engineering and construction; and the first two non-Native American Traditional Cultural Properties in



1969

On July 7, the Montauk Point Lighthouse became the first property in New York to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Federally-funded historic preservation grants-in-aid program was launched for survey and planning activities as well as acquisition and preservation projects, awarding more than \$1 million each year. While the federal Historic Preservation Fund continues to support the State Historic Preservation Office, the grant program was discontinued in the early 1980s.

1970

The State Conservation Department became the State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Division of Parks, including the New York State Historic Trust, was transferred to the Executive Department and named the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation.



In 1999, **Stonewall** in New York City became the first site in the country to be listed on the National Register for its association with the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. In 2013, **Cherry Grove Community House and Theater** on Fire Island was the third gay and lesbian site in the country to be listed for its role in shaping what evolved into a community known as “America’s First Gay and Lesbian Town.” The landmark was established in the mid-twentieth century by the Cherry Grove Property Owners Association, which influenced the community’s development and facilitated what can be described as the first “gay theater” produced by gay people for gay and straight audiences in the United States.

the country—the Grotto of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Staten Island and the Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden in Queens.

» To preserve New York’s diverse cultural resources and with support from the National Park Service’s underrepresented properties

grant program, the SHPO is overseeing a survey of properties associated with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) heritage in New York City’s five boroughs. The LGBT community is among the least represented in national, state and local historic designation programs. Only three of the 87,000 National Register nominations in the country have been listed for their association with LGBT history, and two of those are in New York. The SHPO is also assisting the nonprofit City Lore organization through its Place Matters program in developing a survey proposal for New York City’s casitas—Puerto Rican cultural centers, a distinctive and once-ubiquitous property type. The survey will include a historic context statement on the Puerto Rican immigrant experience in New York City and the casitas property type.

» The need for traditional preservation crafts training was identified during the planning process and in the previous plan. As sustainable building practices and preservation gain momentum, the number of older properties needing rehabilitation increases. The SHPO and local preservation organizations are frequently contacted with requests for qualified construction workers, and the number of skilled craftspeople able to work on historic buildings has not kept pace with the need. Significant progress

is being made in this area through a collaboration between the SHPO and the Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. This partnership is establishing a historic preservation trades and technology program to train craftspeople in the greater Capital District. The initial courses are scheduled for 2016 and the program will be a pilot for other community colleges.

» A new statewide perspective under Governor Cuomo emphasizes local and regional decision-making through the creation of Regional Economic Development Councils that review and approve state grant proposals. This plan’s goals to strengthen regional and local preservation efforts promise to further the councils’ mission. The Governor’s Path Through History tourism initiative links sites and regions with easily recognizable signage and through an interactive website that allows people to plan trips to New York’s historic and cultural attractions. Prominently featured are New York’s state parks and state historic sites, which are receiving a much needed infusion of capital, expected to total \$900 million by 2020.

» New York’s Certified Local Government (CLG) program has rapidly expanded and the SHPO is examining ways to enhance community assistance, including



1971

The Preservation League of New York State was established, becoming New York’s statewide nonprofit preservation advocacy organization and offering programs to advance preservation efforts.

1972

The New York State Historic Trust became the Division for Historic Preservation.

The New York State Board for Historic Preservation was created to advise the State Historic Preservation Office on statewide preservation efforts and review properties being nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



1974

The Bureau of Historic Sites was established within the Division for Historic Preservation to provide assistance to state historic sites, including conservation, collections management, archaeology and interpretation.



In an effort to promote the redevelopment of former manufacturing facilities in the Southern Tier, in 2011 the **Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development** undertook a comprehensive historic resources survey of underused industrial properties in the county that may be eligible for listing on the State and National Registers and, as a result, eligible for preservation tax credits.

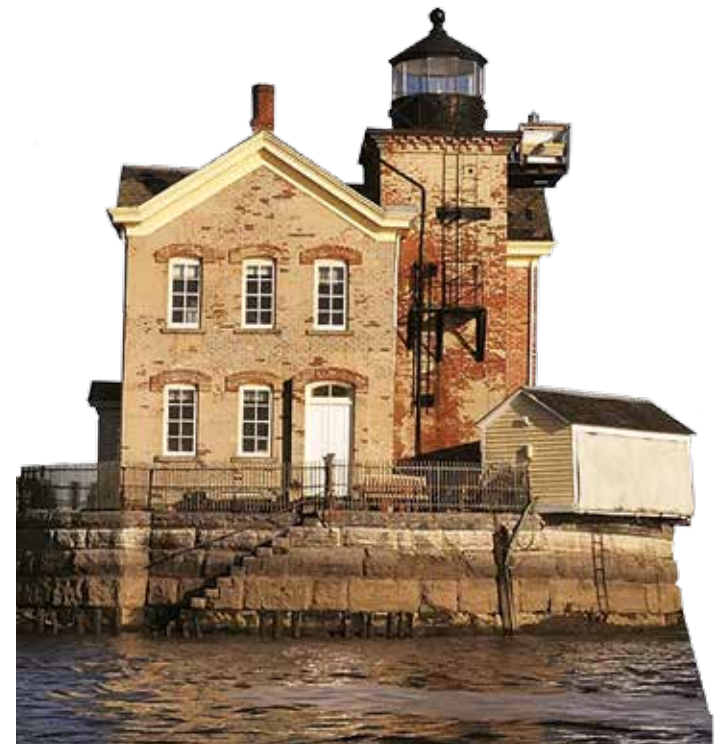
strengthening staff support, improving CLG performance, and producing an informational guide and newsletters. With CLG grant funding, the SHPO has worked with communities to progress State and National Register historic district nominations to make local property owners eligible for preservation tax credits. Perhaps the biggest news in 2014 was the creation of a new model local preservation law, which addresses concerns identified by

communities and makes certain processes easier to understand among municipal officials and local residents. Additionally, over the past five years more than \$600,000 in CLG grants have been awarded to communities for historic resources surveys, National Register nominations, design guidelines, local preservation commission training, publications, local preservation plans and public education projects.

» The launch of the Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) offers a significant step forward in the division's ability to maintain and share information. The new Geographic Information System (GIS)-based system allows the public more access to the SHPO's records, remote entry of inventory data and paperless environmental review. The system was funded in large part with federal transportation enhancement dollars and has been years in the making, both in development of the system and in the transfer of a large amount of existing data. Information will constantly be added, updated and mapped in the system, providing a valuable tool for local, regional and statewide planning activities.

» Compliance with both state and federal preservation laws was a primary focus over the past five years due first to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

Recovery from Hurricane Sandy is being aided by federal assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund under the Hurricane Sandy Relief Assistance for Historic Properties program. Eligible activities include preservation, planning and technical assistance as well as developing strategies to make vulnerable communities and historic resources more resistant to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Grants awarded under this program, which is being administered by the SHPO, included \$175,000 for repairs to the **Saugerties Lighthouse**, including the stabilization of the property's stone sea wall, supply dock and concrete pier.



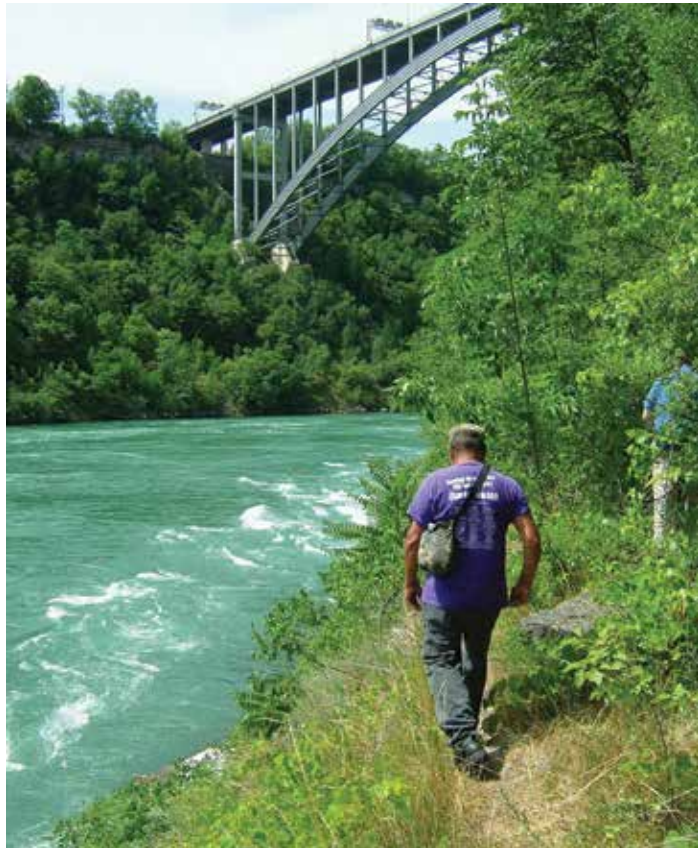
1975

The Bureau of Historic Sites moved to the former Cluett, Peabody and Company textile factory on Peebles Island in Waterford. The rehabilitated factory is now home to the Division for Historic Preservation.



1976

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 created provisions to encourage the rehabilitation of income-producing properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, permitting taxpayers to amortize rehabilitation expenditures over a period of sixty months instead of over the life of the improvements. The Sibley House in Rochester was the first certified tax credit project in the country.



The Lower Niagara River Spear Fishing Docks Historic District, which is listed on the State and National Registers, is significant for its association with Iroquoian spear fishing along the east shore of the Niagara River from the early nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. The district, which is the site of an important traditional Iroquoian cultural activity, includes the remains of the stone docks as well as remnants of footpaths and camping areas.

and then a series of natural disasters, including Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Sandy. The SHPO created an online application system to expedite ARRA projects, but streamlining reviews for natural disasters became even more critical. The SHPO worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the New York State Emergency Management Office to establish procedures to make exempt emergency response from review and to expedite recovery reviews while protecting valuable resources.

» The SHPO continues to refine its methods of determining archeologically sensitive areas in order to streamline reviews while protecting archeological sites. For example, the SHPO is working with the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to develop a more efficient review process for above and below ground resources. The SHPO plans to create a predictive model to better identify and protect sensitive archeological areas in association with environmental review. The model would be integrated into CRIS, providing archeological information to communities, governments, property owners and project sponsors for planning and development activities.

» Collaboration with New York's Native American tribes continues to grow. In cooperation with New York's Native American

community, the SHPO has been working on environmental review consultation guidelines for Indian Nations. When adopted, the guidelines will set forth a protocol for incorporating the knowledge and concerns of Indian Nations into the SHPO's review processes as well as the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

» As an outgrowth of the previous plan, the Division for Historic Preservation, which includes both the programs administered by the SHPO and support services to the state historic sites owned and operated by OPRHP, was reorganized to form an interconnected three-bureau organization that can draw on the talents and expertise of all staff. This has paved the way for a broader strategy to engage New Yorkers in historic preservation at historic sites and museums. Completed in 2012, the New York State Historic Site Assessment outlines a path to strengthen the state historic site system by viewing it as a whole, while better integrating individual sites into their respective communities and promoting education and preservation initiatives.

The new organizational structure also helped to progress other plan goals, including:

» More identification of historic resources on the local level by creating a specific



1976

The United States Bicentennial paid tribute to the historical events leading up to the creation of the United States of America as an independent republic. The Bicentennial inspired preservation activities in communities across the country during and after the celebrations.

1978

The Revenue Act of 1978 expanded incentives for historic rehabilitation projects, including a 10% investment tax credit for rehabilitation expenditures on commercial buildings that had been in use for at least twenty years.



1979

The New York State Commission on the Restoration of the Capitol was established to oversee the landmark's comprehensive restoration.

SHPO unit devoted to survey. This new emphasis resulted in revisions to the survey standards, a survey of mid-twentieth-century modern schools in New York City, a context statement for public libraries in New York State from 1945-1975, and a “Preservation Ready” survey in Buffalo, specifically targeted to the development community by making it easier to identify preservation tax credit-eligible properties.

» Increased education through a new outreach unit and partnerships that resulted in various activities, such as: “Preservation Works” portfolios, highlighting successful projects that demonstrate the positive economic benefits and job creation resulting from preservation efforts; updated program handouts on the SHPO website; an Upper Floor Development Feasibility Study and Workshop, developed in coordination with the Preservation League of New York State and municipal officials; a power point-based training curriculum entitled “Preservation 101: Understanding the Basics;” and efforts to re-brand the state historic sites through new printed materials and “gateway” exhibits that highlight the system at our most visited state parks and state historic sites.

The plan’s goals focus on expanding preservation services, supporting local preservation efforts and cultivating pride of place. The latter goal, while not entirely

new, may best reflect a new twist on an old challenge going forward from the 50th anniversary. The preservation movement started out because people felt a strong emotional connection to historic properties, but the field’s increasing emphasis on economic and environmental benefits to promote preservation to decision-makers may have ironically led us to de-emphasize a crucial part of the mission. To save the places that matter, there is a strong need to make real contact with the people for whom they matter. We need to again tell the stories and connect people to their heritage in real ways, especially the diverse groups that increasingly make up

One of the videos being produced by the SHPO to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act includes a group of people who have personal stories to tell about Buffalo’s Elmwood Village neighborhood, which boasts scenic parks and parkways, distinguished residential architecture and a lively commercial strip.

our population and youth, who will carry this vision forward. To help to reenergize these connections, the SHPO is producing a series of short videos that highlight personal stories about historic places across the state. Each video will capture different perspectives and personal memories of a particular historic property, neighborhood or community. The series will be unveiled in 2016 as part of 50th anniversary celebrations.



1980

The New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 was created, establishing historic preservation as state policy, creating the State Register of Historic Places and expanding historic preservation environmental review to include undertakings by state agencies.



The federal Certified Local Government program was established to foster partnerships between State Historic Preservation Offices and municipalities, offering training opportunities, technical assistance and grants that support local preservation activities.

1981

The Economic Recovery Act of 1981 created a three-tier investment credit for rehabilitation expenditures, including 15% for non-residential buildings at least thirty years old, 20% for non-residential buildings at least forty years old, and 25% for certified historic structures.

The agency’s name was expanded to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

III. New York's Historic and Cultural Places

Overview

New York's rich heritage and culture is brilliantly reflected in its buildings, landscapes, neighborhoods, sites, artifacts and people. The incredibly diverse mosaic of historic and cultural properties helps to define New York's distinctive identity as well as establish its special quality, character and sense of place. The state's built environment is the result of centuries of human occupation and adaptation. While change is inevitable and each generation will make contributions over time, the mission of historic preservation is to promote the identification, protection and revitalization of properties and places that ensure a sense of connection to our past and that have the potential to enrich our lives.

From early prehistoric communities to post-World War II suburbs, a remarkably large and varied array of properties associated with every aspect of New York's history can be found in every area of the state. Collectively, millions of resources are believed to be associated with New York's full range of

history, from its earliest habitation through all of the state's subsequent phases of growth and development, including, but not limited to, archeological sites, landscapes, traditional cultural properties, burial grounds and cemeteries, transportation resources, engineering landmarks, commercial and residential properties, farmsteads, houses of worship, schools, civic buildings and industrial complexes. This remarkably rich and multi-layered built environment recalls New York's deep and diverse heritage, which includes extraordinarily high numbers and largely intact concentrations of historic and cultural places in hundreds of localities across the state.

While New York's historic built environment records almost 400 years of non-native development, its

The Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown State and National Registers Multiple Property Documentation Project has helped to document historic farmsteads in rural Rensselaer County, including agricultural buildings and working landscapes. The project, which was supported by the Preservation League of New York State, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the Pittstown Historical Society, the Persistence Foundation and the Rensselaer County Legislature, has resulted in the listing of a group of Pittstown farmsteads on the State and National Registers.

archeological resources represent 12,000 years of human activity. From temporary Native American fishing encampments to twentieth-century Cold War military installations, prehistoric and historic archeological sites can be found around the state. Many of the most prominent archeological sites are associated with European exploration and early conflicts. New York also contains thousands of cultural landscapes, village sites and industrial complexes that help to increase our understanding of the state's development during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Examination of these



1982

The Urban Cultural Park program was created, establishing a state-local partnership aimed at preserving places that have special significance to New York State, such as the Burden Iron Works site in Troy. The program was amended in 1994 to include regional heritage areas and renamed New York State Heritage Areas. There are numerous state heritage areas across New York.



1986

The Tax Reform Act of 1986, which helped to shape the current preservation tax incentives, replaced the three-tier credit with a two-tier credit for rehabilitation expenditures, including 20% for certified historic structures and 10% for non-certified structures placed in service before 1936. The Prudential Building in downtown Buffalo was an early tax credit project.

sites has led to a greater understanding of technological advances as well as providing new insights into the lifestyles and working conditions of previous generations. New York also retains a large number of maritime archeological sites, such as the remains of early waterfronts, docks and shipwrecks. The identification, recognition and interpretation of these archeological resources will help to ensure their long-term protection.

Our understanding of New York's history is continually changing as we reevaluate our knowledge of the past and as the built environment is adapted to meet the needs of each generation. As identification efforts expand, public access to the statewide historic and cultural resources inventory will substantially improve through the SHPO's Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), which is quickly becoming a valuable tool in local, regional and statewide planning efforts.

Preservation Strategies

Official recognition is the key to integrating historic and cultural places into federal, state, regional and especially local planning and protection activities. At the local level, municipalities can enact preservation legislation, which typically establishes a process to designate historic places and review projects affecting them. Hundreds

The SHPO provided technical assistance when the buried remnants of a historic ship were uncovered during construction at the **World Trade Center** site in New York City. Through the environmental review process, the ship remains were documented in situ, expeditiously excavated and removed, and stored pending further study and possible preservation.

of municipalities across the state have enacted local preservation legislation, and many of these are Certified Local Governments. Many municipalities have not enacted local preservation laws for a variety of reasons. For these communities, we must redouble our efforts to raise awareness of the benefits of preservation among decision makers.

At the federal and state levels, the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places are the official lists of buildings, structures, districts, landscapes and objects significant in state and national history. Registers listing supports local preservation efforts and provides access to incentives, such as tax credits and grants. Registered properties and properties determined eligible for registers listing receive a measure of



protection from the effects of federal or state actions through a notice, review and consultation process. For decades, according to National Park Service statistics, New York has consistently led the nation in the number of nominations to the National Register, and its nominations are highly-regarded, helping to set national standards and address some precedent-setting issues, such as documenting sites associated with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender history and

The New York State Environmental Quality Bond Act (EQBA) of 1986 was established to provide funding for environmental, recreation and preservation projects. Under the program, historic properties owned by municipalities and nonprofit organizations were eligible for funding for acquisition, repair and restoration.



1987

The federal Abandoned Shipwrecks Act was established to protect historic shipwrecks by transferring the title of the wrecks to the state whose waters they lie in. Later, the State Department of Environmental Conservation created New York State Submerged Heritage Preserves to safeguard historic shipwrecks and open them to divers.



The New York State Barge Canal Historic District, which is listed on the State and National Registers, documents and recognizes the extensive system of waterways that were constructed across the state between 1905 and 1918. The Barge Canal was the twentieth century successor to the network of canals that New York State built during the nineteenth century, including the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and the Cayuga-Seneca Canals.

non-native traditional cultural heritage. The highest level of recognition is National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation, which recognizes properties of exceptional value in representing important themes in the history of the nation. New York also leads the country in the number of NHL designations—there are over 2,500 NHLs nationwide with more than 260 NHLs in New York.



Heritage Areas and Attractions

New York is a pioneer in the creation of heritage areas for the purposes of identifying, preserving and promoting the state's history and culture. Twenty state heritage areas and four national heritage areas have been identified across the state, helping to interpret major themes in state history, such as Native American culture, colonization, military history, industrialization, transportation, agriculture, recreation, invention, architecture, engineering, social reform, African American culture, immigration, landscape and maritime history. New York is also home to hundreds of historic sites, museums and cultural centers operated by

nonprofit organizations that interpret many aspects of state history. With the help of the Path Through History program, these important visitor attractions and educational resources have been systematically identified and many have been incorporated into regional tourism initiatives.

State Parks and Historic Sites

New York State has a proud tradition of preserving scenic and historic places for the public's benefit, education and enjoyment. Niagara Reservation, New York's first state park, was created in 1885 to protect it from development. Later, the

1987

The federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) was authorized and included a Transportation Enhancements Program, which provided funding for environmental and historic preservation projects along transportation corridors. The act was reauthorized in 1998 as the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century (TEA 21). In 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was established, providing increased funding for highways and public transportation as well as transportation enhancements. In 2012, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) replaced transportation enhancement activities with the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).



1992

The Martin House Restoration Corporation was established to oversee the restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Darwin Martin house in Buffalo.

establishment of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission in 1900 to protect the endangered Palisades escarpment provided the model for the development of the state park system. The commission's guiding principles—providing recreation, connecting urban patrons with parks and linking recreational and transportation planning—became the foundation of the state park program. The system grew in stages throughout the twentieth century and now includes more than 170 parks and thirty-five historic sites serving 60 million visitors each year. Many of the state parks contain high concentrations of historic properties, including scenic roadways, recreational facilities and landscapes.

Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh, where General George Washington brought the Revolutionary War to a close, was acquired by New York State in 1850 and was the first publicly owned historic site in the country. Its acquisition was the genesis of the state historic site system, which grew incrementally over the years but always with the intent to preserve important places in state history. From military sites and great estates to engineering landmarks and the homes of prominent people, the sites are educational and leisure-time assets, providing experiences that enlighten and

enrich visitors. These properties are also community anchors that stabilize neighborhoods and promote investment and economic development in their localities. The system as a whole has the capacity to tell the broad story of New York's history, with the individual sites adding their voices to the larger narrative.

While New York has one of the finest state park and historic site systems in the country, it has been gradually eroded by decades of neglect and decay. Fortunately, Governor Cuomo's multi-year NY Parks 2020 plan, with support from the state legislature, is helping to advance hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of repair and improvement projects at hundreds of state parks and historic sites.

Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park offers breathtaking views of the Hudson River. Opened in 2009, the linear walkway and bikeway, which links the city of Poughkeepsie with the town of Highland, rescued and revitalized the nineteenth-century Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge, which had been abandoned in the 1970s. The bridge spans more than one mile and soars 200 feet above the river.



1993

The state Environmental Protection Act was created, making municipalities and nonprofit organizations eligible to apply for grants for the acquisition, improvement and preservation of parks, historic properties, and resources in state heritage areas under the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).



The Preservation League of New York State published *The National Register of Historic Places in New York State*, a book that celebrated and highlighted the thousands of properties and places that had been listed on the National Register in the state over the past twenty five years.

1995

The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEORA) was established, requiring environmental impact assessments for projects proposed by state agencies and local governments and all discretionary approvals from a state agency or local government.

IV. The Planning Process

The statewide preservation planning process focused initially on gathering information from colleagues and the public as well as Division for Historic Preservation staff who work with communities on a daily basis. The feedback led to the development of goals, objectives and strategies that are intended to address local, regional and statewide preservation and community improvement needs while drawing upon an array of current and potential partners in combination with available and proposed incentives. The process was coordinated by a committee represented by various DHP units. The committee began by evaluating progress since the completion of the previous preservation plan and developed a public participation strategy.

Public Participation

Public participation was purposefully designed to build upon the information obtained during the previous planning process, which was based on extensive public input received during regional meetings, conference workshops and individual interviews. The strategy for this plan included an online survey, individual interviews and the involvement of the New York State Board for Historic

Preservation. The plan's goals and objectives were developed following analysis and discussion of the information.

Online Survey

With more than 860 responses, the online survey was an important component of the planning process, providing an efficient way to reach out to the public. The survey link was posted on various websites and emailed to colleagues, including preservation organizations, educators and CLGs. While responders represented various fields, most of them believed that preservation strengthens communities, funding is needed to provide incentive for preservation efforts and historic and cultural resources are tourism assets. While the SHPO made an effort to reach out to all age groups, the majority of responders were over the age of 50. The findings indicate that we are serving our current audience well, but we have been largely unsuccessful in reaching new audiences. Chief among these new audiences are young adults, who composed less than 5 percent of the responders.

Of all responders, just over 5 percent reported that their community is not actively engaged in preservation activity, providing further evidence that the survey sample set was weighed towards people already engaged in preservation. A smaller number of comments

demonstrated a lack of understanding of the role preservation plays in communities, such as "Preservation is blocking progress and running down Buffalo. There is a need for more demolition and building new, modern structures to erase the industrial past. Why spend taxpayer dollars to preserve buildings that were abandoned by footloose capitalists?" Comments like these, while rare among the survey responses, still reflect a fundamental lack of understanding of the tangible benefits of preservation.

Individual Interviews

The committee also conducted interviews with more than thirty individuals from various communities and age groups as well as organizations and professions. The questions were designed to elicit more detailed information about the state of preservation in New York. While it is difficult to summarize the wide-ranging comments, the specifics tended to mirror the trends that were identified in the online survey:

» Most responders indicated that preservation has advanced and that there was a greater awareness of its value as a tool for community revitalization, local planning and education.



1996

The New York State Farmer's Protection and Farm Preservation Act was created, providing a 25% tax credit for the rehabilitation of income-producing farm buildings built or placed in service before 1935.



The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area became New York's first federally-designated heritage area; there are now four, including the Hudson Valley, Erie Canalway, Champlain Valley and Niagara Falls.



- » Setbacks included lack of funding and incentives, insufficient quantifiable data to promote the benefits of preservation and worsening of urban blight.
- » Responses to the question about threatened historic resources covered almost every resource type—from rural landscapes and downtown commercial areas to industrial buildings and religious structures.
- » Responses regarding preservation needs covered a wide range, including: more funding and incentives accessible to more people; more training, education and marketing; more promotion of preservation successes; archeological context development and outreach; better enforcement of local preservation ordinances; and promotion of compatible energy efficiency measures.
- » Community preservation needs included incorporating preservation into local planning, strengthening local preservation commissions, funding for preservation on the municipal level, training local municipal officials in preservation practices and promoting preservation as an economic development tool.
- » Some individuals expressed the need to use technology to increase accessibility to historic and cultural resource information and to increase efficiency in various preservation program areas—the new Cultural Resource

Information System (CRIS) will help to address these issues.

- » Other technology-related responses focused on the increased use of websites and social media for better preservation training and marketing opportunities.
- » While disaster preparedness did not rate high in the online survey, training and guidelines as well as new building technologies related to disaster preparedness were brought forward in the interviews.

New York State Board for Historic Preservation

The New York State Board for Historic Preservation played an important role during the planning process. Board members participated in several planning sessions and their comments echoed many of the responses received during the online survey and interviews. There was general agreement that historic and cultural resources must be integrated into local planning and development. They also reiterated the need to raise preservation awareness, improve communication to and among localities, improve historic and cultural resources identification activities, and strengthen promotion of New York's history and culture.



Constructed in 1959, the former **Central Trust Building** in downtown Rochester incorporates the distinctive features of mid-twentieth-century modern office building design, including its streamlined rectangular form, continuous bands of windows and lack of decorative detail. The building's rehabilitation, which combined private and public funds, including preservation tax credits, converted the vacant building into a contemporary commercial and residential complex that includes office space on the first floor and apartments above.

1997

The Guide to the Survey of Historic Resources Associated with African Americans in New York State was developed to help individuals and communities to identify historic places associated with African American heritage in New York. The Weeksville Heritage Center interprets Brooklyn's nineteenth century African American history.

New York's real property law was amended to create the "Ithaca" bill, giving authority to municipalities to offer a five-year freeze on assessment increases after a historic property is rehabilitated, followed by a phased increase over the next five years.



The state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs launched the New York State Battle Flags preservation project to safeguard the state's large collection of historic military flags.

V. 2015–2020 Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The goals, objectives and strategies are intended to guide statewide preservation efforts over the next five years. They are flexible in order to allow individuals, organizations and communities to tailor the activities to their area's resources and needs. The goals will also focus DHP programs and services to address current preservation issues and needs through the SHPO's annual work programs. We encourage New Yorkers to adopt, pursue or modify one or more of the following goals and apply them to preservation efforts in their local community.



Goal 1: Expand Historic Preservation Efforts Across New York State

Objective: Strengthen the Practice of Historic Preservation

Strategies:

- » Advance the identification of historic and cultural properties, including threatened, under-represented and archeological resources
- » Promote the use of CRIS and other emerging technologies to better manage historic preservation information, enhance disaster preparedness and integrate historic and cultural resources into community planning activities
- » Make survey data widely available
- » Connect communities to sources of funding to support historic resources surveys
- » Motivate individuals and communities to nominate properties to the State and

The Textile Factory Buildings of Troy State and National Registers Multiple Property Documentation Form has helped to document historic textile factories in the city. These large-scale manufacturing facilities form a cohesive collection of buildings that chronicle the development of Troy's textile industry, which was dominated by cuff and collar manufacturing from 1880 to 1920. This project has resulted in the listing of several factory buildings on the State and National Registers, helping to make these properties eligible for preservation tax credits.

National Registers of Historic Places and urge municipalities to designate them locally

- » Keep New York at the forefront of national preservation programs and policies, such as innovative National Register listings and expanded use of the federal historic rehabilitation tax incentives
- » Refine archeological sensitivity methods

Objective: Enhance Collaboration to Advance Historic Preservation

Strategies:

- » Strengthen existing partnerships and engage new partners
- » Create opportunities to share information about historic preservation best practices and tools
- » Coordinate/train state agency preservation officers
- » Improve preservation-related and community improvement websites and create links among them
- » Create a coordinated communication network among historic site and museum colleagues as well as historic preservation professionals
- » Increase historic preservation awareness and collaboration among agencies and organizations that advance a variety of community improvement



1997

Seneca Falls celebrated the 150th anniversary of the first women's rights convention. The Elizabeth Cady Stanton House in one of the community's most prominent landmarks.



1999

The federal Save America's Treasures grant program was established to preserve significant historic places and objects, such as the Louis Armstrong House in Queens. Although the program is now inactive, existing grants are administered by the National Park Service in partnership with various public and private entities.



activities across the state, such as the New York Conference of Mayors, New York Association of Towns, New York Planning Federation and the Association of Public Historians of New York

» Enhance collaboration with Native American nations by formalizing a protocol relating to environmental reviews under Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980

Objective: Train New Yorkers in Historic Preservation Trades, Skills and Crafts

Strategies:

- » Cultivate the historic preservation and traditional trades workforce to meet the needs of communities and those involved in the rehabilitation of older buildings
- » Develop and establish historic preservation and traditional trades programs

within community colleges and other educational institutions to provide training and workforce development

- » Develop and disseminate technical information on best practices and sustainability

Objective: Showcase the Contributions of Historic Preservation

Strategies:

- » Highlight preservation successes
- » Honor those who have made outstanding contributions
- » Identify and share best local and regional historic preservation planning practices, models and pilots, such as Buffalo successes, etc.
- » Promote the mutual objectives of historic preservation and sustainability
- » Celebrate of the 50th anniversary (2016) of the National Historic Preservation Act



The Battery Park City Authority rehabilitated **City Pier A**, the oldest surviving pier in New York City. The pier was originally constructed in the mid-1880s to house the city's Department of Docks and the police department's harbor force. The project included foundation, exterior and interior repairs combined with new floors, an elevator and staircase, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. Through a lease agreement and with the help of preservation tax credits, the building has been renovated for use as a restaurant. The pier's riverfront deck is a public promenade with spectacular views.

2001

Stonewall in New York City became the first site in the country to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the gay and lesbian civil rights movement.

The New York State Barn Restoration and Preservation Program was established, offering preservation grant assistance to owners of historic farm buildings in need. By the time the program ended in 2007, more than 550 grants were awarded, totaling about \$12 million.



The State Historic Preservation Office worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and State Emergency Management Office following the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center to assess the condition of historic properties in the impact zone and develop treatment strategies.

Goal 2: Promote Historic Preservation at Local and Regional Levels

Objective: Integrate Historic Preservation into Local and Regional Decision Making

Strategies:

- » Promote CRIS as a local planning tool
- » Use legislative and policy tools as well as education and outreach to protect and enhance historic and cultural resources, particularly local landmark legislation
- » Integrate historic preservation into local and regional planning, community/economic development, business improvement and tourism
- » Generate data that demonstrates the benefits of historic preservation
- » Enhance the Certified Local Government (CLG) program; such as using CLG funding for planning as well as survey and designation efforts
- » Increase the availability of training for preservation commissions, design review boards, planning staff, community/economic development staff, building and code enforcement staff, etc.
- » Engage and assist municipal historians in community preservation activities

Objective: Build Support for Historic Preservation Among Officials and Developers

Strategies:

- » Raise awareness of the benefits of historic preservation among decision makers
- » Advocate with lawmakers for increased historic preservation funding and policies that support preservation activities
- » Collaborate with environmental and open space protection organizations
- » Increase awareness of historic preservation's economic benefits among NYS's Regional Economic Development Councils
- » Encourage New Yorkers to become involved in state and national preservation advocacy efforts

The SHPO is assisting the nonprofit City Lore organization through its Place Matters program in developing a survey proposal for New York City's *casitas*—Puerto Rican cultural centers, a distinctive and once-ubiquitous property type. The survey will include a historic context statement on the Puerto Rican immigrant experience in New York City and the *casitas* property type.



2001

The Heritage New York program was established to promote heritage tourism and economic development through thematic history trails, including the Revolutionary War, Underground Railroad and women's history.



2002

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor was established at New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site. The hall, which pays tribute to all those wounded or lost in combat while serving in the United States military, was created to collect, preserve and share the personal stories of Purple Heart recipients.



Goal 3: Cultivate Pride of Place

Objective: Broaden and Diversify Participation in Historic Preservation

Strategies:

- » Use workshops, webinars, publications, social media, etc. to increase public awareness and appreciation of historic preservation in its local communities
- » Share stories of people relating personally to historic places
- » Foster an appreciation of history and historic preservation among younger audiences
- » Increase participation in historic preservation among diverse and underrepresented populations
- » Create multilingual publications

Objective: Engage New Yorkers in Historic Preservation at Historic Sites and Museums

Strategies:

- » Establish a pilot program at a state-owned historic site to provide historic preservation assistance to local communities and regions—and measure its success
- » Incorporate conversations about the importance of historic preservation into interpretive initiatives at historic sites and museums, including information about how



local community actions have helped to preserve significant historic properties, and draw parallels to contemporary issues

- » Engage school children in programs at historic sites

Objective: Capitalize on Heritage Tourism Opportunities and Develop New Tourism Friendly Products

Strategies:

- » Promote historic sites and museums as tourism assets as well as economic engines
- » Increase marketing of specific themed tours to niche tour providers
- » Develop seminars and behind-the-scenes tours of historic properties and market them to key target audiences such as lifelong learners

A cell phone tour at John Brown Farm State Historic Site in Lake Placid traces the life of one of the country's most controversial anti-slavery crusaders, including his childhood, family, business ventures and raid on Harpers Ferry. In addition to chronicling the life and times of John Brown, the tour encourages visitors to explore the 270-acre property, including the family's nineteenth century farmhouse, scenic grounds and John Brown's grave.

- » Draw on vast knowledge of historic districts to create community-based tours for local audiences and make them available as audio podcasts
- » Work with partners to promote stronger thematic heritage tourism strategies and connections (I Love NY, Partners for Albany Stories, Road Scholars, Path through History, etc.)

2003

The federal Preserve America initiative was launched, reaffirming preservation as public policy and directing federal agencies to protect and use historic properties under their jurisdiction. While the Preserve America grant program was eliminated in 2010-11, the community initiative remains active through the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.



2004

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority celebrated the centennial of New York City's subway system with a survey of its historic resources, nominations of properties for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and rehabilitation projects.



2005

The Trans World Airlines Flight Center at JFK International Airport in Queens was listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

VI. Working Together

New Yorkers are proud of their rich heritage and value the diverse range of properties that make up the historic fabric of this great state. These places are the focus of state and local pride and identity and are valuable assets that contribute to improving and reinvigorating our communities in significant and sustainable ways. This plan has been prepared to help all New Yorkers identify, preserve, enhance and promote the state's historic and cultural properties as well as achieve the social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits



Project partners celebrate the rehabilitation of the **Rochester Free Academy** for commercial and residential use. The multi-million dollar project, which utilized preservation tax credits, has returned one of downtown Rochester's architectural gems to active use and promises to stimulate further local redevelopment efforts.

associated with historic preservation. It is based on the premise that preservation is in New York's best interests; it is a powerful yet underutilized community revitalization strategy that should be an integral part of the state's development and growth.

Although the plan has been prepared by the SHPO and will guide much of the office's work over the next five years, it was developed with extensive public input, including individuals and organizations that have experience in planning, community development, historic preservation, landscape, architecture, education, archeology and New York State history. In response to these comments, the plan's goals, objectives and strategies offer a flexible blueprint for expanding preservation efforts across the state. In addition to information and guidance that can be used and adapted to a variety of community interests and needs, the plan includes examples that demonstrate that historic properties are adaptable, renewal resources that offer cost-effective and environment friendly community development options.

As we heard during the planning process, partnerships are the key to ensuring that our historic and cultural properties are safeguarded and maximized for the benefit of our communities and our quality of life.

We hope that this plan will inspire successful preservation collaborations across the state. All New Yorkers have the opportunity to realize the benefits of historic preservation and to support these efforts in whatever way that is appropriate for them, such as:

- » Visit a historic site and/or learn about the history of your community
- » Join a preservation organization and/or volunteer at a historic site
- » Encourage your community to identify local historic properties and get involved in local land use planning
- » Enact a local preservation law
- » Explore creative uses for underused historic resources in your community
- » Support local businesses and events in historic areas—they make important contributions to the quality of community life as well as support economic development and job creation

We invite everyone to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act and we encourage all New Yorkers to go out and discover the state's diverse history and culture as well as get involved in recognizing and preserving their community's heritage, distinctive character and sense of place.

2006

New York State's historic preservation tax credit program was established, offering owners of commercial properties located in distressed census tracts and qualified for the federal tax credit a state income tax credit equal to 20% of rehabilitation costs. Owner-occupied residential properties that are listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and located in distressed census tracts are eligible for a state tax credit equal to 20% of rehabilitation costs. The credit was enhanced in 2009 with the addition of 800 new census tracts.



An illustrated history of New York State's armories, *New York's Historic Armories, An Illustrated History*, was published through a partnership between the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

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PlaceEconomics. *Population Change in Historic Neighborhoods*. Supplement. Washington: Place Economics, 2012.

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White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities. "Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative: 1st Annual Report." Annual Report. Washington, 2013.



The Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region promotes and encourages knowledge and understanding of the Underground Railroad movement and its genesis and legacy in the Capital District and New York State. The organization conducts primary research and offers a variety of education opportunities, including walking tours, an annual conference and community outreach programs. The organization also owns the nineteenth century residence of Stephen and Harriett Myers, African American leaders in Albany's Underground Railroad movement. The property is in the process of being rehabilitated and has become a venue for public programs and special events.

2009

The Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial celebrated the voyages of discovery by Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain as well as Robert Fulton's steamship journey up the Hudson River.



The abandoned nineteenth century Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge was transformed into Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park, a walk and bike way that offers spectacular views of the Hudson River Valley.



2011

Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee left a path of destruction across New York and the State Historic Preservation Office worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) to streamline environmental reviews for communities impacted by the storms.

VIII. Preservation Contacts

The following represents a partial list of agencies and organizations that offer historic preservation, heritage development and community improvement programs, services and/or assistance in New York State.

National/Federal

- » Advisory Council on Historic Preservation achp.gov
 - Preserve America Program preserveamerica.gov
- » National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers ncshpo.org
- » National Alliance of Preservation Commissions napcommissions.org
- » National Heritage Areas in New York State
 - Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area hudsonrivervalley.com
 - Erie Canalway Corridor National Heritage Area eriecanalway.org
 - Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership champlainvalleynhp.org
 - Niagara Falls National Heritage Area discoverniagara.org
- » National Preservation Institute npi.org
- » National Trust for Historic Preservation preservationnation.org
- » Preservation Action preservationaction.org
- » National Park Service nps.gov
 - American Battlefield Protection Program nps.gov/abpp
 - Archeology nps.gov/archeology
 - Cultural Resource Diversity Program nps.gov/crdi
 - Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm
 - Heritage Documentation Programs nps.gov/hdp
 - Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) nps.gov/hdp/habs/index.htm
 - Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) nps.gov/hdp/haer/index.htm
 - Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) nps.gov/hdp/hals/index.htm
 - Cultural Resources Geographic Information System nps.gov/hdp/crgis/index.htm
 - Certified Local Government Program nps.gov/clg
 - Historic Preservation Planning nps.gov/preservation-planning/
 - Maritime Heritage Program nps.gov/maritime/
 - National Center for Preservation Technology & Training ncptt.nps.gov/
 - National Historic Landmark Program nps.gov/nhl/
 - National Register of Historic Places nps.gov/nr/
 - National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program nps.gov/subjects/ugrr/index.htm
 - Teaching with Historic Places nps.gov/nr/twhp/about.htm
 - Technical Preservation Services for Historic Buildings nps.gov/tps/about.htm
 - Tribal Preservation Program nps.gov/tribes/Tribal_Historic_Preservation_Officers_Program.htm

New York State

- » Hudson River Valley Greenway hudsongreenway.ny.gov
- » I Love NY iloveny.com
- » List of all New York State Agencies nysegov.com
- » New York State Archive Trust nysarchivetrust.org/aptindex.shtml
- » New York State Canal Corporation canals.ny.gov
- » New York State Council on the Arts nysca.org
- » New York State Department of Education
 - New York State Museum nysm.nysed.gov
 - New York State Historian nysm.nysed.gov/services/srvstate.html
 - New York State Archaeologist nysm.nysed.gov/research/anthropology/crsp/
 - New York State Archive archives.nysed.gov/a/about/index.shtml
- » New York State Department of State
 - Local Waterfront Revitalization Program dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/lwrp.html
 - Division of Local Government Services dos.ny.gov/lg/
 - Regional Planning Agencies in New York State dos.ny.gov/lg/planning_agencies.html
- » New York State Homes and Community Renewal nyshcr.org
- » New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation nysparks.com
 - State Historic Preservation Office nysparks.com/shpo/
 - Bureau of Historic Sites nysparks.com/historic-preservation/bhs/
 - New York State Historic Sites nysparks.com/historic-sites/



Built in 1944, the USS SLATER is a CANNON class destroyer escort that served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Decommissioned in 1947, the Slater was transferred to the Greek Navy in 1951, deactivated in 1991 and threatened with disposal. Fortunately, the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association, a nationwide organization dedicated to recognizing the importance of destroyer escorts and those who served on them, came to the ship's rescue. The Greek Navy donated the ship to the association, which raised money to bring it to New York and established the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum. The vessel was moved to Albany in 1997. With the help of private support, volunteers and public funds, including state preservation grants, the Slater underwent a comprehensive rehabilitation. The Slater offers interpretive programs and guided tours, drawing thousands of visitors to the riverfront each year.

- » Path Through History paththroughhistory.ny.gov
- » Preservation League of New York State preservenys.org



2012

Hurricane Sandy hit New York City and Long Island, and the State Historic Preservation Office worked with FEMA and SEMO to make emergency response exempt from historic preservation environmental reviews and expedite recovery reviews.



Path Through History

Governor Cuomo launched Path Through History initiative to highlight the state's history and culture while bolstering tourism and economic development. Program components include distinctive signage and an interactive website.



Regional/Local Historic Preservation Organizations

- » Adirondack Architectural Heritage aarch.org
- » Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy bfloparks.org
- » Friends of Historic Herkimer County geocities.ws/friendsofhistoricherkimercounty
- » Friends of Historic Kingston fohk.org
- » Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts friends-ues.org
- » Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation gvshp.org
- » Heritage Foundation of Oswego, Inc. oswegocountyheritage.org
- » Historic Albany Foundation historic-albany.org
- » Historic Districts Council hdc.org
- » Historic Elmira historicelmira.org
- » Historic Essex essexny.org
- » Historic Hudson, Inc. historichudson.org
- » Historic Ithaca, Inc. historicithaca.org
- » Historic Saranac Lake historicsaranaclake.org
- » Hudson River Heritage hudsonriverheritage.org
- » Landmarks Society of Greater Utica uticalandmarks.org
- » Landmark Society of Western New York landmarkociety.org
- » Landmark West landmarkwest.org
- » Market Street Restoration Agency gafferdistrict.com/market-street-restoration.html
- » The Municipal Art Society of New York mas.org
- » Newburgh Preservation Association newburghdrc.org

- » New-York Historical Society nyhistory.org
- » New York Landmarks Conservancy nylandmarks.org
- » Otsego 2000 otsego2000.org
- » Preservation Association of Central New York pacny.net
- » Preservation Association of the Southern Tier pastny.org
- » Preservation Buffalo Niagara preservationbuffaloniagara.org
- » Preservation League of Staten Island preservationleagueofstatenisland.org
- » Roslyn Landmark Society roslynlandmarks.org
- » Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation saratogapreservation.org
- » Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities splia.org
- » Troy Architectural Program, Inc. tapinc.org

Archeology

- » Archaeology for the Public saa.org/public/home/home.html
- » Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology cneha.org
- » New York State Archaeological Association nysarchaeology.org/nysaa/
- » New York Archaeological Council nyarchaeology.org
- » NYC Heritage nycheritage.com
- » Professional Archaeologists of New York City panycarchaeology.org
- » Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University paf.binghamton.edu

- » Society for American Archaeology saa.org
- » Society for Historical Archaeology sha.org
- » Society for Industrial Archaeology sia-web.org
- » The Archaeological Conservancy archaeologicalconservancy.org

Architecture, Building Conservation and Landscape Architecture

- » American Society of Landscape Architects asla.org
 - Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network asla.org/PPNIndividualHome.aspx?id=4246
- » American Institute of Architects aia.org
 - Historic Resources Committee aia.org/hrc_default
- » Association for Preservation Technology apti.org
 - Northeast Chapter aptne.org
- » Friends of Terra Cotta preserve.org/fotc
- » League of Historic American Theaters lhat.org
- » Society of Architectural Historians sah.org
 - New York Metropolitan Chapter c/o NYU Department of Fine Arts, Silver Center, Room 303, New York, NY 10003
 - Turpin Bannister Chapter (Upstate NY) Ned Pratt, 433 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206
- » Society for the Preservation of Old Mills spoom.org

History, Historical Societies and Museums

- » American Association for State and Local History aaslh.org
- » Association of Public Historians of New York State aphnys.org
- » Center for Applied Historical Research (SUNY Albany) albany.edu/cahr
- » Greater Hudson Heritage Network greaterhudson.org
- » Historic House Trust (New York City) historichousetrust.org
- » Museum Association of New York manyonline.org
- » New York History Blog newyorkhistoryblog.org
- » New York State Historical Association nysha.org

Planning

- » American Planning Association planning.org
 - Urban Design & Preservation Division planning.org/divisions/urbandesign/index.htm
 - New York Metro Chapter nyplanning.org
 - New York Upstate Chapter nyupstateplanning.org
- » Association of Towns of New York State nytowns.org
- » New York Conference of Mayors nycom.org
- » New York Planning Federation nypf.org
- » New York State Association of Counties nysac.org

2013

The New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit was extended until December 31, 2019 with various improvements, including a rebate provision for income-producing properties.



2015

The SHPO launched the Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), an advanced Geographic Information System that allows more access to the State Historic Preservation Office's digitized historic and cultural resource databases as well as remote entry of resource information and paperless environmental review.

2016

In partnership with the SHPO, the new traditional building trades program is launched at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, offering courses that train craftspeople in various preservation skills.

IX. New York State Historic Preservation Office Overview

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established historic preservation policy for the nation and established a partnership between the federal and state governments whereby a network of State Historic Preservation Offices was created to carry out the policy and provisions of the act on behalf the National Park Service. New York has a parallel law—the State Historic Preservation Act of 1980. In administering these laws, New York’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) provides programs and services to help communities to achieve the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits associated with historic preservation.

The **State and National Registers of Historic Places** are the official lists of properties significant in the history and culture of the state and the nation. Listing helps to raise a community’s appreciation of its past, enhances preservation activities and provides access to incentives, such as tax credits and grants. The SHPO assists sponsors to develop registers nominations, which are reviewed and recommended for listing by the New York State Board for Historic Preservation. The State Historic Preservation Officer, who is also the commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, approves nominations and confers State Register status. Nominations



are sent to the National Park Service for final review and listing on the National Register. Each year the SHPO submits about one hundred nominations, some of which may include entire neighborhoods and hundreds of properties.

The **statewide historic resources survey** program provides a comprehensive approach to identifying historic and cultural resources, helping communities recognize the importance of these properties so that they can be incorporated into local planning and development efforts. The SHPO provides guidance on research, documentation and evaluation. Each year the SHPO adds thousands of properties to the inventory, including neighborhoods that may be eligible for listing and able to benefit from preservation incentive programs.

Over the past few years, the SHPO has helped Buffalo list some of the city’s largest neighborhoods on the State and National Registers. The nominations, which include thousands of properties, were initiated by sponsors who were interested in making the preservation tax credits available to as many residents as possible. Hundreds of homes have been rehabilitated using historic homeowner tax credits, totaling millions of dollars in project expenditures. The listings include the Allentown Historic District Expansion, University Park Historic District, Elmwood Historic District West, Hamlin Park Historic District, and a survey in the Black Rock neighborhood identified hundreds of historic properties and led to several registers listings.

The **federal historic preservation tax credit program** offers owners of historic commercial properties a federal income tax credit equal to 20 percent of the rehabilitation cost. To be eligible, properties must be income producing, listed on the National Register and the proposed work must meet the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic*

Properties. The **state historic preservation tax credit program** offers owners of properties that are located in eligible census tracts and qualify for the federal credit a state income tax credit equal to 20 percent of the rehabilitation costs, up to \$5 million in credits. Additionally, owner-occupied residential properties that are listed on the registers and located in eligible census tracts are eligible for a state tax credit equal to 20 percent of the rehabilitation costs, up to \$50,000 in credits. Each year the SHPO reviews hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of preservation tax credit projects.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act, state and federal agencies that fund, license or approve projects in New York must consult with the SHPO to determine if historic or cultural properties are involved and whether they will be affected by the proposed activity. **Historic preservation environmental review** ensures that properties that are listed or eligible for listing on the State and National Registers are considered and that adverse impacts are avoided, minimized or mitigated during the project planning process. Each year the SHPO reviews thousands of projects for their impacts on historic and cultural resources, including sensitive archeological areas.

Archeology is a key component of historic preservation environmental review. The SHPO works with public agencies and local communities, providing archeological guidance, such as how to identify and investigate archeological sites and how to access cultural resource information. With the help of the research and documentation

contained in cultural resource reports, the SHPO's archeological staff develops strategies to streamline environmental review for archeologically sensitive areas in consultation with federal and state agencies.

New York's **Certified Local Government (CLG)** program helps communities establish and maintain local preservation programs as part of their governmental functions. A village, city, town or county begins the certification process by requesting that the SHPO review its local preservation law and procedures. If it is determined that the local legislation meets state and federal standards, the municipality is certified and becomes part of the statewide CLG network, which receives support from the SHPO through technical assistance, grants and information sharing. The growth of the CLG program in New York has helped to not only increase the number of municipalities involved in advancing preservation at the local level, but has also expanded the inclusion of historic and cultural resources in local planning initiatives. The SHPO's new Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) promises to further community preservation efforts by offering the public online access to the SHPO's historic and cultural resource databases as well as information about SHPO programs, including application forms, guidelines and project status information.

The SHPO helps to administer the **historic preservation grant program** funded under the state Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), providing technical assistance to municipal and nonprofit project sponsors on the acquisition, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction or archeological interpretation



Built in the 1930s and located in the Riverhead Main Street Historic District, which is listed on the State and National Registers, the **Suffolk Theater** was one of the area's most popular entertainment centers and became an important anchor in the community's central business district. The theater's rehabilitation, which utilized preservation tax credits, included repairs to the building's exterior and interior as well as restoration of many original features, such as wall coverings, period lighting and the lobby's mural. The project has transformed the abandoned landmark into a performing arts center, infusing new life into downtown Riverhead.

of historic places. To be eligible, properties must be listed on the State or National Registers at the time of grant award.

These programs and services bring the SHPO into contact with a wide range of resources and constituents, including government agencies, nonprofit organizations, developers, architects, homeowners, preservationists and Native American tribal communities. This gives us a broad perspective on past and current trends and allows us to develop strategies to address the short- and long-term preservation needs of the state.



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation

nysparks.com/shpo