

MINUTES

199th MEETING

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

June 11, 2025

**Meeting held at
New York State Museum
Albany, New York**

Virtual option for the public via WebEx webinar
[199th Meeting of the NYS Board for Historic Preservation | June 11th, 2025](#)

The meeting was held in person at the Huxley Theater of the New York State Museum, Albany, Albany County, New York.

The following people attended the meeting (*denotes remote participation via WebEx):

SRB Members

Wint Aldrich
Carol Clark
Molly Garfinkel
Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi
Erika Krieger
Heather Mabee
Peter Reuben
Gretchen Sorin

OPRHP Staff

Melissa Baer*
Daniel Boggs
Travis Bowman
Chris Brazee
Olivia Brazee*
Beth Cumming*
Erin Czernecki
Sara Evenson
Megan Eves
Stella Fairall*
Johnathan Farris
Campbell Higle
Olivia Holland
Jeff Iovannone
Leslie Krupa
Aine Leader-Nagy
Kathleen LaFrank
Daniel Mackay
Julie Maresco
Dan McEneny
Sara McIvor*
Mariana Montes-Staines*
Theresa Moriarty*
Cordell Reaves
Robyn Sedgwick*
Sydney Snyder*
Chelsea Towers

Guests

Kendal Anderson*
Virginia Bartos*
Bragg family*
China Clark
Amanda Davis, NYC LGBT Historic Sites*
Steven Engelhart*
Nancy Golden*
Julie Greene, Town of Southampton*
Diana Howard*
Charles Houghton*
Bailey Jamison*
Howard Kirschenbaum*
Ken Lustbader, NYC LGBT Historic Sites*
Camille MacLean, NYCHA*
Timothy Minnick*
Ruth Pierpont*
Wendy Prellwitz*
Andrew Roblee*
Jay Schockley, NYC LGBT Historic Sites*
Jared Stahler*
Amy G. Stenard*
Isabel Stern*
Katherine Stern*
Kathryn Szoka, Steinbeck House*
Jennifer Walkowski
Caitlin Watson*
The David Wojnarowicz Foundation*

Board member Carol Clark greeted attendees and said that she is chairing today's meeting on behalf of Chair Doug Perrelli, who was unable to attend. The meeting began at 10:35 a.m. with a presentation on the recently published book on the Sullivan-Clinton campaign of 1779 by Travis Bowman.

Presentation:

Clearing Iroquoia: New York's Land Grab in the 1779 Campaigns of the American Revolution

Travis Bowman, Program Coordinator, Office of Collections, DHP, Bureau of Historic Sites

Discussion: Daniel said that Travis's book is deeply researched. He noted that there is an existing commemorative Sullivan Trail across Pennsylvania and New York that came into being in the 1920s at the 150th celebration of the American Revolution. That trail, which stretches across Pennsylvania through the Finger Lakes and out to Fort Niagara, is deeply in need of reinterpretation. Daniel added that we may be making

commitments using the funding we received in support of the semi-quincentennial commission to better contextualize this history. This is a story that we need to tell far more effectively than is currently interpreted on the New York landscape.

Roll Call

Carol Clark conducted the roll call of SRB members. The following board members were present:

- Carol Clark, Recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Preservation Alumni of Columbia University; Adjunct Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia University, Pratt Institute, and NYU, and a former Deputy Commissioner at State Parks. Member of the SRB for the past six years.
- Gretchen Sorin: Director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies.
- Wint Aldrich: Former Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation at State Parks; fills the position of historian on the board
- Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi: Representing New York State Council on the Arts.
- Molly Garfinkel: Co-Director of City Lore's Place Matters program; architectural historian
- Heather Mabee: Chair of the Saratoga-Capital District Regional State Parks Commission, representing Bryan Erwin from the State Council of Parks
- Erika Krieger: Architect, New York State Department of State, representing the Secretary of State
- Peter Reuben: Director of the Department of Environmental Conservation's Office of Indian Nation Affairs; representing DEC's commissioner

Absent members: Jay DiLorenzo, Wayne Goodman, Jennifer Lemak, Doug Perrelli.

There being eight members present, a quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Past Minutes

Carol asked board members if they had any comments or questions regarding the minutes from the March 2025 State Review Board meeting. There were none. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Motion to approve: Heather Mabee

Second: Erika Krieger

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

National Register Nomination Reviews

Survey/National Register & Part 1 Tax Credit Staff

Nomination 1: The Moorings, Tupper Lake, Franklin County

Leslie Krupa

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1918-1965

Discussion: Heather mentioned that she had met the architect of this property, William Distin, when she was a child, and she has been to many of his camps in the Adirondacks. She thinks that it is wonderful that he's being recognized for his amazing work as an architect in the Adirondacks. Wint noted that this is the third landmark property owned and occupied by Howard Kirschenbaum, who is to be commended for his preservation work. He is among the top preservationists in the region.

Motion to approve: Heather Mabee

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 2: Snell-Gillett House, Theresa, Jefferson County

Leslie Krupa

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: ca. 1880-ca. 1893

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Heather Mabee

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 3: Mohican Point, Bolton Landing, Warren County

Leslie Krupa

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: ca. 1850-1959

Leslie said that this property has been in the Bixby family since it was established 125 years ago.

Discussion: Nancy M. Golden, William Bixby's great-granddaughter, helped prepare the nomination and thanked the board for their consideration of Mohican Point for the National Register. She said that the listing would mean a great deal to the entire family. She thanked Leslie for her work on the nomination. She said that she continues to go to this lake property every summer as she did as a child, adding that there would often be three generations, with her grandmother and her brothers, and cousins from all over the country. Listing on the National Register will be good for Bolton Landing and good for Lake George, as this is a very special place.

Motion to approve: Molly Garfinkel

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 4: Bleecker District No 3 School, Bleecker, Fulton County

Erin Czernecki

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Education

Period of Significance: 1873-1956

Erin said that this honorary nomination was written by Steven Engelhart with a Paul Bruhn Rural Revitalization Grant from the National Park Service.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger

Second: Molly Garfinkel

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 5: Cluett, Peabody & Co. Factory and Power-Boiler House Complex (Textile Factory Buildings in Troy, 1880-1920, MPDF), Troy, Rensselaer County

Kath LaFrank

Individual Nomination/Commercial tax credit

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Industry

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1903-1965

Kath noted that this nomination is the final component of the “Textile Factory Buildings in Troy” MPDF, which included nine buildings associated with the collar and cuff industry in Troy. The MPDF was written by Bill Krattinger and completed in 2014, and over the last decade, we’ve slowly listed all of the resources identified with this context.

She added that this tax credit project has an approved Part 1 and Part 2. It is currently the home of Troy City Hall.

Discussion: Wint asked if this complex is contemporary with the Peebles Island buildings. Dan said that they are of the same era.

Motion to approve: Molly Garfinkel

Second: Heather Mabee

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 6: Louis N. Jaffe Art Theater Building (formerly Yiddish Art Theater), New York, New York County

Kath LaFrank

Individual Nomination/Underrepresented Communities Grant from NPS

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Social History/LGBT; Performing Arts

B: Art - Jackie Curtis, Peter Hujar and David Wojnarowicz

Criterion Consideration G: less than 50 years

Period of Significance: 1926-1992

Kath said that this nomination was prepared with an Underrepresented Communities grant from the National Park Service and sponsored by the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project. The draft was prepared by Amanda Davis and Jay Shockley. It presents important and still relevant themes in a very moving and meaningful way. Kath added that she was honored to present it to the board during Pride Month. We received letters of support from the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and Assembly Member Deborah Glick.

Discussion: Amanda Davis of the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project thanked Kath for her presentation and the SRB for their continued support. She added that NYS continues to be a leader in producing LGBTQ nominations across the country. She was struck by the different layers of LGBTQ history represented by this building from the post-World War II period up to the AIDS crisis. Hujar and Wojnarowicz, in particular, and their relationship with that space and what it meant to them, and how their influence

reverberated into the neighborhood in their time here, represent an era of the East Village that was largely lost because of AIDS and gentrification. Amanda also thanked Jane Beck and the folks at the David Wojnarowicz Foundation who knew Wojnarowicz and Peter Hujar and who knew the space, and who helped flesh out what the space was like in that period.

Jay Shockley added that the NYC LGBT History Project is celebrating 10 years and they now have 500 sites on their website and this building is the single most complex building they've ever researched. It has layer after layer after layer of LGBT history.

Ken Lustbader, also of the NYC LGBT History Project, thanked Kath and the colleagues at the State Historic Preservation Office who have been amazing emotional and professional boosters over the past 10 years and making New York State the leader in the documentation of LGBTQ site-based history. Ken said that he believes that someone from the David Wojnarowicz Foundation is joining the meeting today. He added that the Peter Hujar estate and foundation are supportive of the nomination as well as Jackie Curtis's cousin, who has written a book about Curtis and her influence in the American theater and New York City culture.

Gretchen said that this nomination was one of the most refreshing applications as it was a departure from the fancy people, fancy houses, and fancy architects that are the vast majority of what's on the National Register. She thought that this was an incredibly important nomination. Kath said that as she got more into reviewing the drafts that she wasn't sure how the authors were going to work in all of the layers of history into the nomination, but they succeeded and did a wonderful job.

Molly amplified what Gretchen said and she agreed with Kath that this is an incredibly moving nomination that is so deeply important, especially at this moment in time. She said that it is powerful to have that sort of meta self-recognition by calling out histories, experiences, accomplishments, and challenges. She thanked Kath, Amanda, Jay, and Ken for all the very inspiring and hard work that they do.

Wint said that there was a reference in the nomination to an Appendix listing the various plays produced by the Phoenix Theatre. He remembers going to some of those plays when it was uptown in the East 70s. He added that he knew the producer/director Norris Houghton slightly. He didn't receive the Appendix, which listed all of the productions, but Kath said she would be sure to get it to him. Wint added that the plays produced by the Phoenix Theatre were very good, though not all necessarily avant-garde, and perhaps some were more standard fare, but that the performances and actors were terrific. Ken Lustbader of the NYC LGBT History Project added that author Jay Shockley did a deep dive trying to make a connection with Yiddish theater and the LGBTQ experience and community. Jay researched an extraordinary number of productions that were affiliated with the theater, none that were directly LGBTQ so they couldn't make that part of a theme or part of the criteria. But, Ken wanted to be sure to acknowledge Jay's deep research into that topic, and they decided to include the information on the productions in an Appendix.

Motion to approve: Gretchen Sorin
Second: Molly Garfinkel
Abstentions: 0
Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 7: St. Peter's Church, New York City, New York County

Jeff Iovannone, PhD

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture, Art

Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties

Period of Significance: 1974-1977

Jeff said that this honorary nomination was prepared by Caitlin Watson, Senior Project Architect at aanda architects. We received nine letters of support, including from Docomomo US, the Vignelli Center for Design Studies, the Magazino Italian Art and Research Center, members of St Peter's Congregation, and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, which is a certified local government

Discussion: New York City architect and author of the nomination, Caitlin Watson, said that when she gets asked what her favorite building is or what people should visit while in NYC, she always directs folks to St. Peter's. This is why it has been such an honor and a pleasure for her to work with the church on the nomination. For ten years, she has been researching and writing about artist-designed chapels from the Matisse Chapel in France to the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas, and this led to a larger exploration of the emergence of a particular type of space: the "sacred public." The concept of the sacred public emerged in the United States from a fusion of a specific set of ideals about ecumenism with modern art and architecture to create spaces that are open to all and also operate outside of capitalist economic motivations. In 2018, she began studying the Nevelson Chapel at St Peter's Church as a part of this larger study and realized quite quickly how significant the church is as a whole, as a reflection of the integration of faith, and the arts and culture to serve new and diverse publics within a fluctuating urban realm. The city is so fortunate that the congregation of St. Peter's has done as much as they have to steward and protect this very special place, and listing on the Register will recognize and support their efforts in the future so that we can make sure that the church remains a vibrant public space for all for decades to come.

Jared Stahler, St. Peter's Senior Pastor, said that the nomination is heartily supported by the people of St Peter's. He said that in his 20 years at St Peter's, first as an intern and then as a Vicar, Associate Pastor, and now Senior Pastor, that it's been a great gift to get to know the people who helped to shape this place back in the 1970s. Sadly, many of them have died in these past 20 years and he sees it not only as his own personal mission, but very much the congregation sees it as vital to their mission to ensure that their legacies and the legacy of this place continues for the future and this

nomination would certainly go a long way to do that. As Caitlin mentioned, St. Peter's had this opportunity in the 1970s to create something that was not for themselves but was for this city, and that's what the congregation has maintained for almost 50 years. They want to ensure that St. Peter's remains for many, many years to come and so this nomination is very much in line with that original founding idea and our driving momentum. Finally, he added that this space is for the public and he is glad to have these public art installations, but he is also aware how integral the place is to the older adults who are meeting right now in the living room space. This place is integral to so many people in their everyday walk of life.

Fabiana thanked everyone who was involved in nominating this place and can't wait to visit it. She thanked the congregation for bringing to the board's attention the integration of arts and faith. The nomination was very well done.

Wint said that he is ashamed to say that he has passed by the building hundreds of times but never went in. He never realized its consequential importance, and he, too, wants to visit it very soon.

Molly commended the nomination for the elegant way it wove in zoning history, city development history, and corporate history into the textured and fascinating history of art, architecture, and faith. The nomination was really well done.

Motion to approve: Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 8: John Steinbeck Cottage, Sag Harbor, Suffolk County

Jeff Iovannone, PhD

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

B: Literature – John Steinbeck

Period of Significance: 1955-1968

Jeff said that this honorary nomination was prepared by consultant Zachary Studenroth. We received four letters of support, including one from the Village of Sag Harbor, which is a Certified Local Government.

Discussion: Wint said that he read in the nomination that the property had been recently bought from the Steinbeck estate by the Village for \$13 million, which is an amazing amount of money for a small community to raise. It is to be used as a writer's studio. This is an impressive sense of commitment to Steinbeck, who obviously loved the place. He added that there was one place in the writeup that had a misleading statement; it said that during the McCarthy era that Steinbeck was investigated by the

House Committee on Un-American Activities and that they investigated his un-American activities. If ever there was a writer who had no un-American activities, it was Steinbeck. Wint thinks that it should be written as “alleged” un-American activities.

Diana Howard, Co-President of the nonprofit Steinbeck House Advisory Board, spoke next. She said that this group now owns the property. She wanted to correct for the record that it was the nonprofit that raised the money to purchase the property using community preservation funds from the Town of Southampton, which was the biggest individual donor. The group also received a grant from the State of New York, and they raised the rest of the funds through private donations. The nonprofit has partnered with the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas, which runs the writer's retreat at the home. Wint thanked Diana for the clarification. Diana wanted to be sure that the Town of Southampton got their due as they used a lot of their community preservation funds to help out the nonprofit.

Motion to approve: Heather Mabee
Second: Wint Aldrich
Abstentions: 0
Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 9: High House and Studio, Southold (Peconic), Suffolk County
Jeff Iovannone, PhD

Individual Nomination
Criteria/Areas of Significance:
 B: Art – Edith Mitchill Prellwitz and Henry Prellwitz
Period of Significance: 1913-1944

Jeff noted that this honorary nomination was prepared by Wendy Prellwitz, who is the great-granddaughter of Edith and Henry Prellwitz. We received two letters of support.

Discussion: Wendy Prellwitz thanked Jeff for his thoughtful presentation. She said that Henry and Edith were quite a couple. They were quite different temperamentally. Henry was quite a bon vivant and very involved in the arts community, including as president of the Art Students League and treasurer of the National Academy; yet he found time to paint. He painted classical paintings, submitted to exhibitions, won prizes, and he loved the local landscape. He painted outdoors quite a bit, and she said that she has always loved the freshness of his paintings. Edith was from a very different background; a sort of illustrious New York Society family, whereas Henry was the son of immigrants from Prussia who lived on the Lower East Side running a cigar store. They made quite a couple. Edith was dedicated to the arts from early on. She was a young woman with ambition and decided to pursue the arts despite the fact that her social and family upbringing would have frowned upon it even though, in the end, they were supportive of her, and she won many prizes. She was often the first woman to win a prize including from the National Academy. She started the Women's Art Club, which still is in

existence today as the National Association of Women Artists. She was an early feminist and had a wide range of interests. Edith was a portraitist, often of women and children like the artist Mary Cassatt. Not only was she a skilled painter but she was also an intellectual and spiritual woman who painted symbolist paintings. Wendy said that she is in awe of both of them. She added that Edith broke a lot of boundaries and that she is very proud of her, especially because two of her paintings are hanging on the walls of the Metropolitan Museum.

Motion to approve: Gretchen Sorin
Second: Molly Garfinkel
Abstentions: 0
Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 10: Peleg White House, Ledyard, Cayuga County

Johnathan Farris, PhD

Individual Nomination/Commercial tax credit
Criteria/Areas of Significance:
C: Architecture
Period of Significance: ca. 1836

Johnathan said that this nomination was prepared by Roblee Historic Preservation. The plans for this commercial tax credit project are to rehabilitate the house as overflow lodging for a local hotelier. There is correspondence in support of this application from the Ledyard Town Historian.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Heather Mabee
Second: Wint Aldrich
Abstentions: 0
Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 11: St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church Complex, Geneva, Ontario County

Johnathan Farris, PhD

Historic District/Commercial tax credit
Criteria/Areas of Significance:
C: Architecture
Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties
Period of Significance: 1910-1962

Kath provided an explanation of why this nomination had been pulled from the previous meeting's agenda and subsequent outreach efforts. Johnathan said that the nomination was prepared by Katy Stuck of Preservation Studios. This is a commercial tax credit project with the high school being converted into apartments. There is one letter of objection.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Gretchen Sorin

Second: Molly Garfinkel

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 12: Commercial Buildings at 132-136 Seneca Street, Buffalo, Erie County

Johnathan Farris, PhD

Historic District/Commercial tax credit

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Commerce

Period of Significance: 1865-1958

The nomination was prepared by KTA Preservation Specialists. The proposed plan for this commercial tax credit project is to have commercial space on the first floor with residential units above, in keeping with how it was used historically.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Molly Garfinkel

Second: Heather Mabee

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 13: Manze Block, Buffalo, Erie County

Johnathan Farris, PhD

Individual Nomination/Commercial tax credit

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1923

Johnathan said that this nomination was prepared by Alexander Whydell of Johnson-Schmidt Associates. This is a commercial tax credit project that is being rehabilitated to serve its historical purpose as a mixed-use commercial and multi-family residential building.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi

Second: Gretchen Sorin

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 14: Playter-King-Felthousen House, Buffalo, Erie County

Johnathan Farris, PhD

Individual Nomination/Commercial tax credit

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1854-1889

Johnathan said that this nomination was prepared by KTA Preservation Specialists. This is a commercial tax credit project serving as a multifamily residence.

Discussion: Heather said that the pattern of the parquet floor in the hall is amazing.

Motion to approve: Heather Mabee

Second: Erika Krieger

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 15: Niagara Hall, Buffalo, Erie County

Johnathan Farris, PhD

Individual Nomination/Commercial tax credit

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Commerce, Social History

Period of Significance: 1891-1970

Johnathan noted that the nomination was prepared by KTA Preservation Specialists. This is a commercial tax credit project that will continue to house commercial spaces on the ground floor with apartments on the upper floors.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Molly Garfinkel

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 16: Wilkinson-Lent House, Perinton, Monroe County

Sara Evenson

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1917

Sara said that this nomination was prepared by Katie Comeau of Bero Architecture.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger

Second: Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 17: Red Rock Monument, Canaan, Columbia County

Julie Maresco

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Social History

C: Art

Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative

Period of Significance: 1860-1950

Julie noted that the sponsor of this honorary nomination is the Red Rock Historical Society. We have received one letter of support and no letters of objection. The author of the nomination is Craig Dillon, project manager for the Red Rock Monument Restoration.

Discussion: Fabiana commented that the monument commemorates the location having been settled in 1750 but wondered if there was any information as to who was here prior to that time. Julie responded that there is a little bit of information in the nomination regarding the pre-1750 period, but that is something that could be further fleshed out. She said that the monument was erected to specifically commemorate the 1750 establishment of the hamlet of Red Rock from the town of Canaan. She noted that the location was called other names before it became Red Rock.

Wint was pleased to hear that the monument is physically stable.

Motion to approve: Heather Mabee

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 18: George and Theodora Bragg House, Elmira, Chemung County
Dan Boggs

Individual Nomination

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Social History

B: Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance: ca. 1955-1979

Discussion: Gretchen asked for an explanation of the area of significance, "Ethnic Heritage: Black." Dan explained that this comes from the National Park Service bulletin, which has a broad category called Ethnic Heritage with associated ethnic groups. Gretchen questioned why we are categorizing people in this way, when we might not do the same for a fancy house owned by a white person. She challenged why we would be categorizing some people in this way and not others. She wanted her comment regarding this to be on the record as she finds this categorization offensive, saying that it seems like there is this mainstream category and then we have these extra people that we are putting under a different category.

Erika asked Dan Boggs if he knew some of the other categories under Ethnic Heritage. Dan McEneny responded that some other examples include Latino, Asian-American, and Native American. He said that we have been awaiting an update of the bulletin from NPS for a long time as some of the guidance is antiquated. Kath said that the groups noted under Ethnic Heritage are not all what one would call minorities. It could be any kind of group of people like Norwegians or French, for example. In the case of the Braggs, they were important leaders in the Black community. Fabiana asked about the possibility of using the area of Social History.

Wint said that this is a terrific story of two people. The husband and wife both came from miserable childhoods but were determined to make something of their lives. They contributed to the lives of many people in Elmira. It is wonderful to celebrate their lives, their house, and their descendant who wrote the nomination. This is a terrific American story.

Gretchen asked why not call this significant under Social History, as Fabiana suggested, as opposed to Ethnic Heritage. Dan McEneny thought it was a good point but he felt that Social History is a category more usually reserved for movements or events as opposed to individuals.

NOTE: For the record, the slide shown in the presentation was in error in that it omitted Criterion A – Social History, but the nomination form was correct in that it included Criterion A - Social History as an area of significance in addition to Criterion B - Ethnic Heritage: Black.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich
Second: Heather Mabee
Abstentions: 0
Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 19: E. Robert Moore Houses, Bronx, Bronx County

Chris Brazee

Individual Nomination/Commercial tax credit

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Social History, Politics/Government

C: Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance: 1964

Chris said that the nomination was prepared by Kendal Anderson from the firm of Ryan, LLC. We received a letter of support from the Certified Local Government concurring that this property appears eligible for the State and National Registers. This is a tax credit project with approved Part 1 and 2 applications.

Discussion: Camille MacLean, Project Manager of the New York City Housing Authority's Real Estate Development team, stated that this project is a RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration) conversion through NYCHA's PACT (Permanent Affordability Community Together) program. The historic tax credit program has been critical to NYCHA's mission to provide quality public housing to New York City residents while also preserving the architectural and social history of these properties. She thanked the SHPO team for being partners to NYCHA and for all their hard work and thoughtfulness. She said that the E. Robert Moore Houses development is part of the larger Moore and East 152nd Street Courtland PACT project. Moore is located in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx and consists of 463 units. This project represents an opportunity to preserve a representative example of a vest-pocket design in which the site integrates smoothly with its surrounding streetscape and the adjacent St. Mary's Park, one of the six original parks constructed in the Bronx, while creating a distinct community for its residents. The historic tax credit program will be instrumental in financing comprehensive repair work for residents. These sites comprise approximately 68 percent of units from the total overall project of nearly 700 units. NYCHA anticipates beginning construction early next year and the historic tax credits are integral to the financing of comprehensive repair work. NYCHA looks forward to working with the SHPO on future public housing preservation projects.

Gretchen said that the social history aspect of this nomination was very well done. She would like to see that all future housing project nominations be this well documented.

Erika asked if there was a site plan view available that would better depict the landscape architecture. Chris responded that he would check to see if we have current plans and if we can get the original landscape plans to include.

Carol concurred with Gretchen's comments. She feels that it has advanced our work significantly, and she commended Chris for his role in that. Carol added that she found the concluding section to really dangle, and she wondered if Chris agreed with that. Chris said that he will look at that and perhaps integrate that section into earlier sections about the South Bronx.

Motion to approve: Gretchen Sorin
Second: Molly Garfinkel
Abstentions: 0
Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 20: Ballston Spa National Bank, Ballston Spa, Saratoga County

Chris Brazee

Individual Nomination/Commercial tax credit

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Commerce

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1824-1973

Chris said that this nomination was prepared by Kim Alvarez. We received a letter of support from State Assembly Member Mary Beth Walsh. This is a tax credit project with approved Part 1 and 2 applications.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger
Second: Heather Mabee
Abstentions: 0
Vote: Recommended all in favor, 0 opposed

Deputy Commissioner's Report

Daniel Mackay

Daniel thanked Carol for chairing today's meeting as Doug Perrelli was unable to attend. He also noted that SRB member Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of New York State, is in Washington, D.C. this week advocating on behalf of federal historic preservation programming. Daniel thanked Fabiana for her participation today as NYSCA's proxy and appreciated her bringing her perspective.

SRB Appointments:

Daniel started his remarks by noting that for the first time in over a decade, we have a fully appointed, 16-member New York State Board for Historic Preservation. Two new and one re-appointments were confirmed by the New York State Senate in late May, after review and approval by the Governor's Appointments Office. Additional reappointments may be forthcoming before the end of the Legislative session.

Joining the board at our September meeting will be Ruth Pierpont, former Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, who served NYS Parks for 23 years at the Division for Historic Preservation, following earlier public service accomplishments leading the City of Troy's planning office. Many of you know Ruth well; since retirement in 2016, she served on the board of the Preservation League of New York State.

Also joining the board at our September meeting will be Felicia Mayro. Felicia is the Office & Grants Administrator at the Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation. The foundation's grantmaking is now focused on two programs: Defending and Strengthening Democracy and Climate and Environmental Justice. From 2000-2018, Felicia served as Director of the NYC-based Neighborhood Preservation Center when it was first launched as a project of the St. Mark's Historic Landmark Fund; she also led the Landmark Fund as its Executive Director and currently serves on its board. In addition, Felicia has worked for several nonprofits in New York City, including the World Monuments Fund and FRIENDS of the Upper East Side. She has also served on the boards of the James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation, Alumni Association of Columbia's Historic Preservation Program, and Bakás Pilipinas, a New York-based non-profit organization dedicated to supporting research and documentation, preservation planning, conservation and management of Philippine cultural heritage. Originally from Philadelphia, Felicia has a master's degree in Historic Preservation from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Preservation, and Planning.

NYS Budget:

NYS OPRHP was well supported in the enacted budget, including an \$11 million increase in the agency's operational budget, newly totaling \$170 million.

The agency's capital budget was level funded at \$200 million, continuing a historic high funding level.

Additionally, the agency's staffing cap was increased to 2,469 positions, the highest level in nearly two decades.

The agency greatly appreciates the Governor and Legislature's continued leadership in supporting OPRHP.

Revolutionary War Commemoration Commission:

Also of note is that the NYS 250th Commemoration Commission received an allocation of \$5 million to be divided between the NYS Education Department and NYS OPRHP. The budget allocations for both agencies will be finalized by the September meeting of the Commission.

Erie Canal Bicentennial Commemoration:

The canal opened for the season earlier this month, although navigation is impeded by high water levels and emergency repairs to infrastructure in the Little Falls region. The NYS Canal Corporation and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor website detail a wide range of events and activities across the corridor this summer, culminating in the hosting of the World Canal Conference in Buffalo in September and the departure of the replica canal packet boat Seneca Chief II on a cross-state voyage that will culminate in New York Harbor in October.

Federal Update:

Federally funded historic preservation programs are at a crisis point.

We are eight months into the current (FFY 24-25) federal fiscal year, and State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices have not yet received funds appropriated by Congress for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the primary federal funding source for historic preservation operations and programs.

Many SHPO and THPO offices expect to fully expend their current allocation of federal funds no later than December 2025, and thus, many are projecting the need for layoffs. For some states, this crisis is even closer at hand.

OH: Has already laid off 12 staff

CT: Lack of federal funds will impact June payroll; looking at possible re-allocation of state grant funds to cover payroll

ME: Preparing for layoffs; looking at possible re-allocation of state grant funds to cover payroll

TX: Lack of federal funds will impact payroll, but will have balance of FFY (September) covered by state funding source

IN: Federal funding depletion in July

AZ: Mid-August

KS: August

GA: September

WA: late October

NE: December

MO: December

AK: Real Estate Transfer Tax funding source should cover loss of federal funds

MI: Parent agency will cover loss of federal funds

Each of our offices urgently awaits the release of the FFY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the annual application process by which SHPOs and THPOs apply for their annual, formula-determined, federal underwriting. These funds are allocated to our respective offices to carry out, in partnership with NPS, the federally directed obligations of the National Historic Preservation Act. Failure to fund these offices would represent an unfunded public mandate.

\$62.15 million awaits release for SHPO and THPO operational underwriting. An additional \$100 million was Congressionally allocated for federal grant programs and related activity.

\$1.7 million is due, by formula, to the New York State Historic Preservation Office. This funding underwrites our federal programmatic responsibilities: Section 106 consultations, shepherding National Register nominations, and providing technical support for federal rehabilitation tax credit applications. Additionally, these federal funds are granted to communities via the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, and administrative, operational and travel support for federal program implementation.

Daniel next shared with the SRB the following email Dan McEneny sent to DHP staff on behalf of the senior staff team:

“This troubling information is impacting historic preservation offices nationwide. But simply put, New York is not like other states.

It is a factual superlative that NYS is the nation-leader in every category of federal preservation programming. Additionally, NYS has parallel laws and incentives to federal programming which require our office’s [continued] administration. Your work does not go unnoticed, and our staffing levels have been approved within the recently enacted state budget, recognizing the critical role we serve.”

Daniel said that despite the absence of federal funding, NY SHPO is fiscally whole through March 2026. Executive staff and the Chamber are fully informed about the delay in the release of federal funding, and its implications for other SHPOs as well as our own.

To the credit of the professional staff of the NY SHPO, staff remains focused on program responsibilities and morale remains strong. He and DHP Director Dan McEneny consider it their highest responsibility to keep our staff intact and effectively contributing to the office's responsibilities under national and state historic preservation law.

The delay of the White House Office of Management and Budget to release FY 24-25 Congressionally allocated funds is also impacting numerous federal grant programs directed at historic preservation initiatives. The following programs are funded from the Historic Preservation Fund:

- Save America's Treasures
- African American Civil Rights Grants
- Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants
- History of Equal Rights Grants
- Semiquincentennial Grants
- Underrepresented Communities Grants
- Tribal Heritage Grants
- Disaster Recovery Grants
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grants

Each of these programs is in suspended animation. Grants that were open for application in fall 2024 have not been awarded, including two submitted by NY SHPO. Grants that would be open for application by this calendar date have not opened. Each of these grants relies on the annual allocation of Historic Preservation Fund dollars.

NY SHPO and partner organizations have made great use of these grant programs, in support of capital investment at our Revolutionary War sites and diversification of our National Register program listings, including most recently the Marcus Garvey Park nomination presented at the March meeting, and today's Louis Jaffe Arts Theater nomination, which is the latest of numerous LGBTQ+ nominations advanced for National Register consideration.

Even if/when FFY 2025 funds are released for application, many states are concerned that the grants will be conditioned with obligations to current and future White House Executive Orders that may prove unacceptable to State leadership.

Compounding this situation in this current federal fiscal year is the explicit indication in the White House Executive Budget proposal for next federal fiscal year (beginning

October 1, 2025) that all funding for SHPO and THPO offices and all funding for the full NPS portfolio of historic preservation grants – with the exception of the grant program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities – will be zeroed out.

These funding cuts are occurring simultaneously with forced retirements and reductions in force at NPS that have the intended goal of a 40 percent staff reduction at that agency. NPS units across NYS have been impacted, as have NPS regional and central office programs. More than 170 NPS staff in the Northeast Region alone have left NPS since January.

National Heritage Areas:

The four Congressionally established Federal Heritage Areas in New York State (below) are in the same funding position as State Historic Preservation Offices:

- No access to FFY 2024-25 operational support funding
- White House FFY 25-26 budget proposes to zero out funding for Heritage Areas, nationally

-Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (NY, VT)

-Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor staff based at Peebles Island State Park,

-Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area – this is the only NYS heritage area that receives supplemental state funding via the Hudson River Valley Greenway

-Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

Legislation to establish a fifth National Heritage Area in the Finger Lakes Region is pending in Congress.

Procedurally, where things stand is this:

1. The White House budget proposal was released on May 2
2. There is bipartisan support in the House and Senate for a \$225 million appropriation to counter the White House proposal to bring that appropriation to near zero
3. Senate Appropriations committee meetings are underway and the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers and other representatives of the preservation agenda are submitting testimony
4. The House will release its mark-up of its Interior funding bill on June 23rd.

We should have a sense within the next ten days as to how the House will be approaching these two extremes of a zeroed-out proposal from the White House and a program that historically the House and Senate have supported with significant bipartisan effort. So, stay tuned.

Daniel said that it is a bleak scene at the federal level. He said that we are taking all possible steps to communicate with the Chamber and Executive staff at Parks. The SHPO staff are concerned, cautious, and worried. We have never seen such a threat to the underpinnings of the totality of federal preservation programs as what the White House has proposed for the next federal fiscal year. We have never seen such an extraordinary delay in the release of previously congressionally authorized funding that underpin our ability to serve our federal programmatic responsibilities. He added that a number of state and local preservation groups have been in touch with us. The Preservation League of NYS and some NYC preservation colleagues have pulled together. Several joint colleague letters have been sent to members of the NYS delegation in Washington.

Daniel said that he will hold off on making a very similar report at this time on what has happened to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, just as a new national marine sanctuary has been designated in Lake Ontario. This new marine sanctuary has lost programmatic funding, and the acting director was forced into retirement. That four-county effort to establish the nation's 16th national marine sanctuary, and third on the Great Lakes, had extraordinary local bipartisan support but those efforts have been thwarted at the federal level through staff attrition and pullback of funding. The work that is happening to get that sanctuary established is actually being, in effect, privately funded by the Marine Sanctuaries Foundation. So, the work at this marine sanctuary over the next three years is outside the federal budget process.

Carol said that this is a very sobering report. Wint asked if there are any indications that the federal tax credits may be impacted. He also wanted to know if the National Park Service will be directed to refuse certain kinds of nominations that may not be attractive to the White House.

Daniel said that the National Register standards and criteria are fixed and exist on a higher plane, thereby thwarting certain administrative interference. That said, certain nominations will be a test of that system, like today's nomination of the Jaffe Theater. We have recently sent the Marcus Garvey Park nomination to NPS, and it is now listed on the National Register. He is encouraged by National Park Service staff that there will not be direct interference in the National Register review and approval process. We may, however, see delays in reviews because of staffing shortfalls. Once submitted, the National Park Service has 45 business days to review a proposed nomination and, if they do not act within that timeframe, under current law, the property becomes listed on

the National Register without NPS comment or action. So, there is that escape clause. On another point, we are concerned that should the NPS Underrepresented Communities grants and African American Civil Rights grants be cut that this will impact our work and the nominations that we have historically brought forward to the SRB. So, if this funding goes away then we will need to find new sources of funding to support the underwriting of these important types of nominations that diversify our listings.

Daniel said that the 2017 tax reform bill passed in the first Trump administration, in its initial draft, did not include an extension of the federal rehabilitation tax credit program. There was a bipartisan effort in both houses of Congress to get the federal tax credit program reauthorized in that 2017 bill. As such, it is in the baseline version of the current federal tax bill and there was an active ongoing effort to enhance the program as it exists in the federal tax proposal called HTC GO; this is a pretty remarkable proposal to make the federal tax credit program more effective, more efficient, and more available. Everything identified in that enhancement bill will serve New York State very well. Daniel thinks that the tax credit program, as is or perhaps even in an enhanced format, is not going to go away. He added that Jay DiLorenzo and others are currently in Washington advocating for the tax credit program as well as HPF funding. He said that we have five or six co-sponsors from the New York State delegation for the HTC GO legislation, and there's an effort to continue building those numbers.

New Business

Carol reminded the board that the next SRB meeting will be on September 10th in the same location and at the same time.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Fabiana and seconded by Heather. The motion was carried by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by board secretary Kathy Howe.