


NEW YORK STATE

The Preservationist

VOLUME 9/NO.2 FALL/ WINTER 2005

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION





The mural, *In the Year 1608 Henry Hudson Sailed His Vessel Half Moon*, is shown here; the left half has been cleaned.

CONSERVING

New York's Collections

Since the early 1990s, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has made its art conservation services available under contract to other government agencies in New York. Over the last decade, conservators at the Peebles Island Resource Center (PIRC) in Waterford have carefully restored paintings and frames, works on paper, textiles, furniture, and decorative objects that had been acquired on behalf of the people of New York State. During spring and summer 2005, PIRC conservators undertook two especially interesting projects for the New York State Education Department and the State University of New York.

In 2005, painting conservators treated two murals designed by Albany-born artist David Lithgow, a popular early twentieth-century painter and sculptor whose works adorn many public buildings throughout the state. Between 1933 and 1946, Lithgow created a group of fourteen murals for the library of the Milne School, now the State University of New York School of Public Affairs in Albany. The series depicts the state's history from the seventeenth-century landing of Henry Hudson's *Hallmoon* to the twentieth-century construction of the Alfred E. Smith State Office Building in Albany. The Milne School was founded in 1845 and served as a teaching laboratory for the adjacent New York State College for Teachers, which became the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany. At the time of the commission, Milne students held bake sales and fundraisers to help underwrite the painting of each mural. The murals are widely known locally and over the last three years, Milne and SUNY alumni helped to raise funds for the conservation of four of them. The panels, large canvas paintings attached to plaster walls, had cracked over time from the effects of central heating and the lack of a controlled environment, while dirt and dust had accumulated on the surfaces from normal public use of the space.

This summer, two PIRC conservators worked on site to restore panels entitled *In the Year 1608 Henry Hudson Sailed His Vessel the Half Moon* and *Albany as a Trading Post*. Treatment

included removal of grime, cleaning the paint film, consolidation of flaking paint, filling in of holes in the canvas and paint film, and careful in-painting of the losses. While treatment was underway, dozens of Milne graduates returned to watch the work in progress and reminisce.

In spring 2005, PIRC conservators initiated treatment of an extraordinary scale model of the New York State Education Building in Albany. The building was constructed in 1908-12 to house the New York State Education Department, the New York State Library, and the New York State Museum. An edifice of colossal scale, the education building occupies an entire block across from the state capitol. It was designed by the New York City firm Palmer and Hornbostle, known for its classically inspired public architecture, after a design competition. Like the building, the fourteen-foot-long model is impressive for its scale. Constructed of wood with an exterior surface of cast plaster, the model is a faithful representation of the building as designed and built and is especially notable for its exacting replication of the detailed exterior ornament.

The model was created by Howell's Microcosm, a Washington D.C. firm, for display. After the building was completed, the model was exhibited in the lobby for many years before being relegated to the New York State Museum's Rotterdam storage facility. Over time, the model suffered from damage and deterioration. The rear wing, which represented the library's reading room, was removed and lost. The front wall sagged and cracked, and the delicate ornamental elements deteriorated. Even though it had been stored in a protective case, the model became extremely dirty.

Conservation treatment began with a thorough cleaning of the model's surface. Structural work was done to repair the sag and support the front wall. Missing elements were remolded, recast, and reattached to the surface. When the work is completed, the conserved model will be returned to the State Education Building's lobby, where visitors will once again enjoy the awe-inspiring replica of a landmark building.

Governor's Message

Just outside my office in the State Capitol is the stately Hall of Governors. Its walls are lined with portraits of my predecessors. Every time I see these distinguished paintings, I am reminded of the large and wonderfully diverse collection of historic objects and artifacts owned by the people of New York State. From rare books and priceless works of art to beautiful furnishings and significant archaeological remains, these valuable assets provide tangible links to the people, places, and events that have helped to shape this great state. We are all the beneficiaries and caretakers of these magnificent resources.

The New York State Museum in Albany is the steward of some of the state's most significant collections. Covering several centuries, the collection includes early Native American relics, a beautifully preserved carousel, some of the damaged remains of the World Trade Center buildings, and a treasure trove of other objects. In other locations across New York, our thirty-five state historic sites preserve and interpret an enormous array of artifacts, many of which highlight key episodes in the growth and development of the state and the nation. The John Jay Homestead in Katonah, John Brown Farm in Lake Placid, and Ganondagan in Victor are just a few of the state historic sites with notable collections.

Safeguarding and interpreting the state's collections is an enormously challenging yet extremely valuable endeavor. For over thirty years, many of New York's finest antiquities have been preserved at the Peebles Island Resource Center in



Model of the State Education Building.

Waterford. Skilled conservators have helped to research, repair, and restore hundreds of paintings, frames, furniture, textiles, documents, archaeological material, and decorative objects. One of the center's most extensive conservation projects has been the preservation of the state's large collection of historic battle flags in cooperation with the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Many state agencies and institutions are also the custodians of prominent collections associated with various periods and themes in our history. For example, the portraits and furnishings in the state Court of Appeals in Albany chronicle the history of jurisprudence in New York. The flags, armaments, uniforms, and information housed in the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs record our prominent role in various defense and peacekeeping efforts. The thousands of photographs, plans, and drawings in the Long Island State Park Commission archives document the development of one of the most extensive park and parkway systems in the state.

We are fortunate that so many of the state's collections have been preserved and are accessible for our education, enjoyment, and enrichment. These tremendously important artifacts are inextricably linked to our history and will, with proper care and treatment, remain a significant link to our past as well as a precious legacy for the future.

George E. Pataki, Governor
State of New York



Peebles Island conservators treating model.

Short Takes



View of Long Island Sound from Jamesport State Park and Preserve.

Jamesport State Park and Preserve

Earlier this year, Governor Pataki opened Jamesport State Park and Preserve, a 225-acre property on the eastern end of Long Island with almost one mile of beachfront on Long Island Sound. The governor also announced that 300 acres of adjacent land would be preserved for agricultural use through a combination of conservation easements and farm leases. Thanks to the cooperation of Keyspan (the former property owner), the state, the Trust for Public Land, Audubon New York, and other public and private partners, this important open space protection initiative safeguards one of the area's most scenic agrarian landscapes. As development pressure in the region increases, this collaborative effort will make a valuable contribution to preserving the area's natural assets for the benefit of local residents, visitors, and farmers. Jamesport is the twentieth new state park opened in New York since 1996, demonstrating the governor's continuing commitment to preserving significant environmental and recreational resources across the state.



Thomas Cole, 1840s. Half plate daguerreotype by Matthew B. Grady. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Thomas Cole Studio

Cedar Grove, the home of prominent nineteenth-century American artist Thomas Cole in Catskill, is owned by the Greene County Historical Society, operated as a national historic site, and open to the public. Cole lived and worked at Cedar Grove from the time of his marriage to Maria Bartow in 1836 until his death in 1848. His wife's relatives, the Thompson family, owned the Hudson River estate. Today, although reduced in size, the property retains its Federal era main house, landscaped grounds, and a series of outbuildings, including Cole's original studio, which appears to have been built in 1839. Over the past few years, thanks to the support of the Regional and Community Historic Preservation Benefit Plan,* the studio has been repaired and returned to its historic appearance. The restored studio promises to become an important resource in interpreting the life and times of Thomas Cole.

**The Regional and Community Historic Preservation Benefit Plan was developed in conjunction with the construction of the Athens Generating Company electric generating facility in Greene County. The plan established a fund to provide for the preservation of historic properties in Greene and Columbia counties.*

Front and back covers:

Close up of an original Badge of Military Merit from the collection of Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh. Although faded, the hand-embroidered, purple heart, which measures 2 3/8 inches wide by 2 1/8 inches high at the center, remains exceptionally well-preserved. In 1782, General George Washington issued orders from his headquarters in Newburgh to create the Badge of Military Merit in the form of a purple heart to honor meritorious action. This badge was presented to Elijah Churchill and was one of only three such awards known to have been given by Washington before the end of the Revolutionary War.

The badge became the precursor of today's Purple Heart medal, which is shown on the back cover. In 2002, Governor Pataki announced plans to construct the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor at New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site in Vails Gate, Orange County. Through exhibits and educational programs, this memorial will pay tribute to the more than 800,000 Purple Heart medal recipients who were wounded or killed in action while serving in the United States military. For information about the hall of honor and how you can support the project, contact Michael Clark at New Windsor Cantonment at (845) 561-1765.

Endangered Easements

Bernadette Castro, Commissioner, State Historic Preservation Officer and Vice Chair, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Under Governor George E. Pataki's leadership, New York State has taken unprecedented steps in the past decade to preserve our open space, agricultural, historic, and recreational resources. Much of this great success is the result of working closely with private organizations and individuals. Public and private partnerships have a far greater cumulative effect upon the quality of our citizens' lives than government action alone. That is why my colleagues at the Departments of Taxation and Finance, Agriculture and Markets, and Environmental Conservation and I are so deeply concerned that one of the most useful and uniquely effective tools for the protection of historic resources and the conservation of open space is being threatened with virtual extinction.

For decades, not-for-profit organizations and government agencies have responsibly used conservation and preservation easements to protect many thousands of historic structures, archaeological sites, rural historic districts, farmsteads, forest preserves, battlefields, and millions of acres of open space across the nation; and for more than twenty-five years, Congress has recognized the value of these easements by granting tax incentives to the donors. Of course, like any tax incentive, opportunities for abuse exist, and questions have been raised over the past year regarding the practices of certain promoters and façade easement holders. Recent media coverage has focused on wealthy taxpayers, living in tightly regulated historic districts who sought lucrative tax relief without giving up any additional property rights.

Adding to the strained public credibility resulting from the few individuals and groups who abused the practice, the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation issued a report in January 2005 recommending drastic action. The report

recommends the elimination of deductions for any conservation or preservation easement on a property used in whole or in part as a personal residence and the reduction by a minimum of two-thirds for any other easement deductions. This would effectively dismantle the program and makes ineffective an incentive that has benefited the public interest for decades.

A more positive solution might be to



In May, Governor Pataki and Commissioner Castro announced the creation of Jamesport State Park and Preserve and the protection, through easements and farm leases, of adjacent agricultural land. They are shown admiring locally produced pottery at the Hallockville Farm Museum, which will receive a twenty-acre parcel as part of this open space initiative.

monitor the organizations holding easements in order to ensure responsible stewardship. Being an effective easement holding organization requires a concerted commitment to the goals of easement programs. The New York Landmarks Conservancy, a non-for-profit preservation organization based in New York City that holds thirty-four preservation easements, has an exceptional record. More than twenty years ago, the conservancy saved an entire block of early nineteenth-century buildings from demolition through preservation easements. The block included Fraunces

Tavern, where General Washington bid farewell to his troops after the Revolutionary War. The conservancy's easements include the entire structure, not just the front façade, and are not limited to buildings in historic districts. The properties are monitored annually by conservancy staff, which every five years hires outside architects to do full condition assessments; deficiencies must be repaired by the owner in a timely manner. Any changes or alterations are reviewed and must be approved in writing; noncompliance can result in legal action. This high level of proactive management to safeguard the historic significance of each property is unmatched—even by a strong local landmarks law. And in the many places where there are no local laws, preservation easements can be invaluable.

We need to work together to be alert to opportunities to address this critical issue. Highly successful efforts in both historic preservation and open space conservation within New York State and throughout the nation would be weakened if the tax incentive for donating preservation and conservation easements were to be dismantled.

A preservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that protects historic and cultural resources. An easement provides assurance to the owner that the property's intrinsic values will be preserved through subsequent ownership. In return, the owner may obtain substantial tax benefits. Under the terms of an easement, a property owner grants a portion of, or interest in, his or her property rights to an organization whose mission includes historic preservation. Once recorded, an easement becomes part of the property's chain of title.

Heritage Fair and Square



From the gilded ballrooms of Binghamton’s mansions to the modest housing built for workers at the Endicott Johnson shoe factories, the Susquehanna Heritage Area celebrates the lives of those who pursued the American dream in this “Valley of Opportunity.” The heritage area focuses on three urban nodes aligned along the Susquehanna River—Endicott, Johnson City, and Binghamton (also known as the Triple Cities)—and is administered through an intermunicipal agreement among the three Broome County communities. Its

the Great Lakes, and New England with the Pennsylvania coal fields. Drawing on ample natural resources and in easy reach of consumer markets, the area developed as a manufacturing center, producing goods as varied as cigars, patent medicine, and work boots. The factories, along with the good working conditions championed by the area’s employers, served as a magnet for workers. These themes—Labor & Industry and Migration & Immigration—are the focus of the heritage area’s projects and programs.



The Endicott Square Deal Arch was constructed in 1920 by Endicott Johnson employees to honor their employer and benefactor George F. Johnson, who advocated policies of Fair Play—steady employment, just wages, reasonable hours—and a Square Deal, rewarding loyalty and hard work with profit-sharing and promotion from within.

two visitor centers—Old Colonial Hall in Endicott and Binghamton’s Roberson Museum—welcome more than 40,000 visitors each year.

For millennia, the northern reaches of the Susquehanna River were a gathering place for many Native American peoples. During the Revolutionary War, the Sullivan-Clinton campaign of 1779 destroyed native villages, making way for American settlers to timber and farm the fertile land. The Chenango Canal (1837) and a series of railroads, beginning with the New York and Erie (1848), transformed the confluence of the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers into a significant transportation hub, connecting the eastern seaboard with

sharing. In the community, the company provided homes sold to workers at cost, neighborhood farmers’ markets, and development of clinics, schools, churches, libraries, and recreational facilities, including six carousels.

The global giant IBM had its beginnings in the Bundy Manufacturing Company of Binghamton, a manufacturer of time clocks. A series of expansions brought the firm to Endicott, where Thomas J. Watson, Sr., was named president in 1915. Ten years later, the company (now called International Business Machines) was operating on six continents, the workforce and earnings had tripled, and the stock was paying 30 percent dividends. Like Johnson, Watson believed in treating his

Two corporations and their ground-breaking labor practices provide particularly compelling stories. The Endicott Johnson Corporation, for decades America’s largest shoe manufacturer, developed under the leadership of George F. Johnson as one of the early twentieth century’s most successful experiments in corporate progressivism. Championing an ideal of “industrial democracy” based on the principle of the “Golden Rule” (referred to as “The Square Deal”), Johnson and his family introduced countless innovations to improve the lives of workers. EJ was one of the first corporations to offer workers comprehensive medical care, the eight-hour workday and forty-hour workweek, and profit-sharing.

The carousel horse, shown at top, has become a symbol of the Susquehanna Heritage Area. Shoe manufacturer George F. Johnson donated six carousels in the Triple Cities, with the stipulation that the “magical ride” always be free. The carousels, made by the Allan Herschell Companies of North Tonawanda between 1919-1934, together form a one-of-a-kind collection. The carousels attracted the 2003 Convention of the National Carousel Association and the American Carousel Society, which contributed \$200,000 to the local economy.

workers well, and IBM was among the first corporations to offer paid vacations, survivor benefits, and equal pay and professional training for women. Under the leadership of Thomas J. Watson, Jr., IBM became the largest computer manufacturer in the world.

Interwoven with the stories of industrial leadership are the stories of the workforce, wave after wave of immigrants, first from New England and Western Europe, then from Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, and the mills and mines of Pennsylvania. Each group founded institutions and left a legacy of distinctive landmarks, such as onion-domed churches and arbored bocce courts. The heritage area also documents industrial innovation, from improved methods for wrapping candy to invention of the Link flight simulator.

Exhibits at the Binghamton Visitor Center focus on the architectural, social, and cultural aspects of the Triple Cities, with emphasis on cultural diversity and the immigrant experience. An audio-visual introduction to the heritage area uses the voices of local residents, and temporary exhibits have ranged from explorations of ethnic handicrafts to retrospectives on local architects and industries. In 2003, the heritage area and the Roberson Museum collaborated to produce an impressive exhibit of sixty antique, carved, carousel figures.

At the Endicott Visitor Center, permanent exhibits spotlight blue-collar EJ, white-collar IBM, community life, and the building itself. Old Colonial Hall began as the elegant residence of a long-time EJ employee and then housed the institution that became Harpur College, now Binghamton University. A notable feature of the Endicott Visitor Center is the attached Community Meeting Hall, in heavy use for public meetings and private celebrations since it opened in 2002. An expansion of the original carriage barn, the hall was built with volunteer labor and support from the United Service Clubs of Broome County.

Both visitor centers are popular destinations for school field trips and have developed programs to complement school curricula. Programming for the public includes self-guided walking tours and special events such as “Candlelight Mansion Tours,” open houses at ethnic churches, and the annual “Home for the Holidays,” which presents the diversity of local cultural celebrations.

Support for local historic, cultural, and natural resources extends beyond this educational programming. Research supported by the heritage area has resulted in books, exhibits, National Register nominations, and formation of the Center for Technology & Innovation, Inc., an organization devoted to interpreting the region’s industrial history. The heritage area has been extremely successful in receiving grant funds for local not-for-profit and municipal projects. In addition to developing the visitor centers, grant funds have supported the restoration of various landmarks, including all six carousels, the

Roberson Mansion, the Phelps Mansion, infrastructure improvements, park renovations, and development of new community resources. The restored 1920 Goodwill Theatre in Johnson City will be the cornerstone of a developing arts



Historic image of the Goodwill Theatre, one of Johnson City's most prominent civic landmarks.

district, which will house performance and community art spaces. In Endicott, the Oak Hill Avenue Improvement Corporation's conversion of a neglected clubhouse into the Little Italy Heritage Center has sparked community pride and lured new businesses to the traditional neighborhood. Parks, plazas, and promenades have transformed Binghamton's waterfront, attracting citizens and visitors alike to enjoy the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers.

Short Takes

*The **Heights Heritage Area**, the second for New York City and the eighteenth in the state system, was designated in 2004 for its significance in military history, maritime industry, and in the migration to and settlement of northern Manhattan. Situated in the northwest corner of Manhattan, the area includes bustling avenues and parkways, miles of waterfront, acres of parks, and landmarks as varied as the Little Red Lighthouse and Hamilton Grange.*

*The **Long Island North Shore Heritage Area** has completed its management plan and is presenting it for approval by the fifty-five villages, one city, and eight towns in the heritage area.*

*On August 31, 2005, Commissioner Castro approved the management plan for the **Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor**. Congratulations to the WECHC Planning Commission on this accomplishment!*

Stick & Ball for All



One of the most memorable events in the recent history of the New York state park system took place at Bethpage State Park in 2002, when the U.S. Open was played on the park's famed Black Course. The event marked the first time in its 107-year history that the tournament was played at a public golf course, and it was considered such a success by the United States Golf Association, park administrators, golfers, and fans that the event will return to Bethpage in 2009. When Tiger Woods, considered one of golf's all-time greats, carried home the trophy in 2002, much was made of the fact that he had learned to play on public golf courses. Much was also made of the fact that any of us with the stamina to spend the pre-dawn hours in line for a tee time might also try our luck on the championship course at Bethpage.

The Black Course is one of five public courses at Bethpage



Tiger Woods teeing off at the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage.

State Park, the largest public golf complex in the world and one of nineteen New York state parks that offer golf. Bethpage was acquired by the Long Island State Park Commission (LISPC) in 1934. At its core was the former Lenox Hills Country Club, including an eighteen-hole golf course designed by Devereux Emmet c1924. After the LISPC purchased the property, esteemed golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast was commissioned

to design or complete three new courses (Black, Red, and Blue) and to update the Lenox Hills course (Green).¹ Work was undertaken between 1934 and 1936 under the supervision of park superintendent Joseph Burbeck, who Tillinghast credited with encouraging him to develop a challenging layout for the Black Course.² All four were open in 1937, when the park hosted 90,000 players. A fifth course (Yellow) was designed by Alfred H. Tull in 1958. Today more than 300,000 rounds are played at Bethpage each year, and, while the park boasts superior courses, its acclaim rests equally on providing public access to them.

Although most sports differentiate between amateur and professional players in competition, the history of golf has also been marked by divisions between classes. Numerous versions of so-called "stick and ball" games—distant antecedents of golf—were played by the Romans, Chinese, French, and others between the third and the fifteenth centuries before the game of golf was formalized in Scotland. In the mid-fifteenth century, the Scottish parliament's attempt to ban golf—because it was a distraction from military duty—implied its widespread popularity among citizens; however, after the Scottish royal family took up the game in the sixteenth century, golf became known as a sport fit for kings. The game's popularity spread to England when James I rose to the English throne in 1603, and it was subsequently exported throughout the new world and the British Empire with Scottish and British immigrants. In America, a version of the game was apparently played in the Colonial era; however, the first formal golf courses date to the 1880-90s, when they were built by private clubs for the select use of members drawn from society's upper echelon.

Reinforcing the class divisions perpetuated by exclusive clubs were the distinctions between amateur players, who were usually club members, and professionals, socially inferior but potentially more skilled players who worked as caddies or in clubhouses. Despite their talents, pros were usually not allowed to play at members-only clubs or socialize in private clubhouses. Later, the professionals themselves divided into two classes: "club professionals," who ran shops and gave lessons, and "tour professionals," who made their living playing tournaments.

As for those who lacked the status to play at private clubs or the skill to play with professionals, the city of New York established the first public golf course in the country at Van Cortland Park (Bronx) in 1896-7. The nine-hole course was apparently developed at the suggestion of wealthy residents but was quickly overrun with working-class players.³ Public courses in other cities followed. The early decades of the

1. A local historian suggested that the LISPC name the new park "Bethpage," the name seventeenth-century owner Thomas Powell had conferred on the large tract, which now includes the park.

2. Quoted in Tom MacWood, "The Bethpage Mystery," GolfClubAtlas.com.

3. William Quirin, "Golf," *Encyclopedia of New York State* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2005).



“Pitch and putt” course at Jones Beach State Park, 1938.

twentieth century saw a tremendous increase in golf’s popularity, and municipal courses were chronically overcrowded. By 1927, when there were 4,000 golf courses in the United States, *The New York Times* quoted a parks official as saying that he knew “of no enterprise of similar character that has afforded so much recreation and pleasure to such a large amount of people.”⁴ Another way for average citizens to enjoy the game was to play on courses established by their employers. The Endicott Johnson Corporation, for example, developed a golf course in 1925 as part of the En-Joi Health Golf Club, one of the first company-sponsored health facilities in the country. Located in West Endicott, the club served workers in the Binghamton area. IBM, headquartered in Binghamton, also provided a golf course for employee use in the early twentieth century.

By the time New York State developed its recreation plan in the early 1920s, golf was a popular sport. Nevertheless, the idea of offering golf as public recreation was not immediately embraced by the State Council of Parks (SCP). When the Central State Park Commission (CSPC) reported increased public demand for golf courses in 1930, the SCP debated the merits of offering a sport associated with the “country club set” to the general public. The commission persevered, however, led by nationally known park planner Laurie D. Cox. Cox, who planned courses for the average player, argued that golf was an

4. Quoted in Les Clayton, “The Evolution of the American Municipal Golf Course: 1895-1940,” (M.A. thesis, n.d.).

5. Pitch and putt courses are par 3 courses with very short holes. Executive courses are shorter, lower par courses designed to appeal to players with limited time.

appropriate activity in state parks and pushed for the development of golf courses at the region’s four major parks. Courses were completed at Chenango Valley State Park, designed by Cox and regional engineer James Evans in 1935, and at Green Lakes State Park (c1934), where the course was designed by renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones. Green Lakes, among his earliest designs, is one of six low-budget courses planned by Jones during the Depression, when development of new golf courses all but ceased.

Whether it was swayed by Cox’s argument or influenced by popular demand, the SCP was soon engaged in the development of multiple golf courses. In addition to the complex at Bethpage, the LISPC opened a “pitch and putt” course, designed by Joseph Burbeck, at Jones Beach in 1932 and another one at Robert Moses State Park in the 1940s.⁵ When James A. Baird, an ardent golfer, donated his Dutchess County farm to the Taconic State Park Commission (TSPC) in 1939, the commission hired Robert Trent Jones to lay out a golf course as the park’s primary recreational offering. At Saratoga Spa State Park, an eighteen-hole course was part of a major expansion of the spa in the 1930s. The course was intended as recreational therapy for those taking the spa’s mineral waters and as recreation for their families and guests. Like most capital projects undertaken in New York state parks in the 1930s and 40s, all of these courses were substantially funded and constructed as public relief projects.

In addition to commissioning courses, the SCP also acquired them with new park land. Several, such as Lenox Hills, were formerly private clubs. Battle Island State Park, acquired by the CSPC in 1938, included an early twentieth-century private course. The nine-hole Dinsmore Golf Course (now part of Mills-Norrie State Park) was laid out in the 1890s for the exclusive use of several wealthy Hudson Valley families. The TSPC acquired it in 1952 and later enlarged it to eighteen holes. At Wellesley Island State Park, a nine-hole course originally owned by five area

STATE PARKS

WITH GOLF COURSES

Battle Island State Park,
Granby, Oswego County

Beaver Island State Park,
Grand Island, Erie County

Bethpage State Park,
Oyster Bay, Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Bonavista State Park,
Romulus, Seneca County

Chenango Valley State Park,
Fenton, Broome County

**Governor Alfred E. Smith/
Sunken Meadow State Park,**
Smithtown, Suffolk County

Green Lakes State Park,
Manlius, Onondaga County

James A. Baird State Park,
LaGrange, Dutchess County

Jones Beach State Park,
Hempstead, Nassau County

**Mark Twain State Park
(Soaring Eagles Golf Course),**
Veteran, Chemung County

**Mills-Norrie State Park
(Dinsmore Golf Course),**
Staatsburg, Dutchess County

Montauk Downs State Park,
East Hampton, Suffolk County

Pinnacle State Park,
Addison, Steuben County

Robert Moses State Park,
Babylon and Islip, Suffolk County

Rockland Lake State Park,
Clarkstown, Rockland County

Sag Harbor State Park,
East Hampton, Suffolk County

Saratoga Spa State Park,
Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County

St. Lawrence State Park,
Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence County

Wellesley Island State Park,
Orleans, Jefferson County

For information, visit
www.nysparks.com



golfers was acquired by the Thousand Islands State Park Commission (TISPC) in 1961. The course at St. Lawrence State Park, also nine holes, was purchased by the TISPC in the 1960s. Montauk Downs State Park, acquired by the LISPC in 1980, included a 1927 course designed by English course architect H.C. Tippet as part of a private resort and redesigned in the 1960s by Robert Trent Jones.

Other courses were added to existing parks in the contemporary period. Rockland Lake State Park, developed in 1958, has both an executive course and a championship course. The latter, constructed during the 1960s, was rehabilitated in the 1990s. Alfred H. Tull designed three golf courses for



Saratoga Spa State Park.

Sunken Meadow (now Gov. Alfred E. Smith) State Park, which had been acquired in 1927. At Beaver Island, another early state park (1935), a course was added in 1965, and Geoffrey Cornish designed a course for the new Pinnacle State Park in 1978. More recently, three 1990s parks, Bonavista, Soaring Eagles, and Sag Harbor, all included golf courses.

It is difficult to generalize about New York State's collection of golf courses; they vary in age, intent, and designer and are characterized by the same variety of scenic and topographical conditions as the state itself. Many incorporate dramatic water views—from the Atlantic Ocean, the Hudson River, or Lake Erie to numerous smaller lakes, rivers, and streams. The Long Island courses (some of which recall the seaside links courses of Scotland and Ireland) present the golfer with the challenges of ocean breezes and shifting sands. The Saratoga Spa course, part of a comprehensive landscape design for the park, is distinctive for its forested setting and pine-framed greens, while James Baird is laid out over rolling farmland.

New Yorkers can also experience courses designed by some of the country's most important course architects. A.W. Tillinghast (1874-1942), a Philadelphia native who trained in Scotland, approached his courses as naturalistic landscapes,

enhancing the existing character of the land to provide interesting and challenging courses. The Black Course, one of his last designs, is among his masterpieces. The course is revered for its expansiveness, grand scale, and amorphous bunkers.⁶ Tillinghast credited his success to the exceptional opportunities presented by the site, noting its "infinite variety... gently undulating terrain [and] impressive ruggedness" and describing its "swales and valleys" as naturally quite perfect and of great appeal.⁷

Robert Trent Jones (1906-2000), an English immigrant who developed the first curriculum for golf course architecture at Cornell University, was a prolific designer with hundreds of courses to his credit. Jones's sculpted courses were a contrast to Tillinghast's more traditional designs. Among the first to use large earth-moving equipment in course design, Jones molded the land to create topographic and water features and used plantings to create narrow, stylized fairways. Jones's earliest courses, however, including those at Green Lakes and Baird, were constructed during the Depression and World War II, when tight budgets limited the dramatic transformations that would define his mature style. Both of the latter courses were laid over rolling hills or fairly flat terrain. In the late 1960s, near the end of his career, Jones redesigned the 1927 Montauk Downs course with the assistance of his sons, Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Rees Jones. Over the last few years, Rees Jones has expanded the family's legacy in New York by renovating and/or restoring both Montauk Downs and the Black Course at Bethpage.

Alfred H. Tull (1897-1982), also English born, began his career supervising the construction of courses designed by A.W. Tillinghast and Devereux Emmet. Tull's signature courses were marked by large greens and sinuous bunkers. These features are evident in Bethpage's Yellow Course (1958) and his three courses at Sunken Meadow (1962-1968). Geoffrey Cornish (b. 1914), a native of Manitoba, is known for research and writing, as well as for the design of several hundred courses in New England. Cornish approaches design from an environmental perspective, advocating a sensitivity to the natural character of the land, while planning courses that offer variety for golfers of different skills. His course at Pinnacle State Park (1978) rises from riverbank to hilltop, taking advantage of the rolling terrain and wide views.

Robert Moses referred to Bethpage State Park as "the people's country club," while Saratoga Spa State Park has been called "the public's resort." New York's state golf courses, like its parks, were developed to provide average citizens with opportunities to enjoy places and activities otherwise restricted to the upper classes. Although these facilities were built for the masses, they were never intended to be second class. Among New York's park builders and benefactors were individuals with grand visions, administrators and designers with great talent, and generous patrons. Because they worked with ambition, dedication, and confidence, their legacy ranks with the best in the country.

6. Bunker: A sand trap or embankment constituting a hazard on a golf course.

7. Quoted in *Golf Illustrated*, Feb. [1934].

2005 New York State Historic Preservation Awards

The New York State Historic Preservation Awards honor excellence in the protection and rejuvenation of the state's scenic, historic, and cultural resources. This year's awards, presented on November 30, 2005, at the historic Roycroft Inn in East Aurora, recognized some of western New York's most important preservation efforts.



Robert J. Kresse

Lifetime Achievement

Playing a central role in preserving and renewing some of the region's most significant historic properties, Robert J. Kresse has made extraordinarily valuable contributions to improving the quality and character of life throughout western New York. As a prominent civic leader, preservationist, and trustee of the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation,



King Urban Life Center in Buffalo.

one of the area's foremost philanthropic institutions, Bob has provided key early support and encouragement to an impressive range of preservation and community improvement projects. Helping to rescue and transform the former St. Mary of Sorrow Church in Buffalo into the King Urban Life Center, an innovative learning center for children, families, and educators, is one of Bob's most striking neighborhood revitalization accomplishments. He also played a key role in protecting, restoring, and reviving the historic Roycroft Inn in East Aurora, one of the area's most appealing heritage destinations. More recently, Bob has helped to guide the impressive rehabilitation of the Asbury Delaware Church, a project which is also receiving an award this year. For many years, as the first president and now the chair of the Martin House Restoration Corporation, Bob has provided crucial direction and support to the extensive restoration of Buffalo's

prized Darwin D. Martin House complex. He is a well-respected trustee of the Preservation League of New York State and has also helped numerous public benefit and preservation organizations in the Buffalo area.

We salute Bob for his remarkable dedication to expanding preservation and community enhancement efforts in western New York. His public spiritedness is an inspiration to us all.



Martin House Restoration Corporation

Not-for-Profit Achievement

The Martin House Restoration Corporation has played an exceptional role in promoting heritage tourism in western New York through its efforts to restore the Darwin D. Martin House complex in Buffalo, one of the state's great preservation success stories. Constructed in 1903-05, the Martin House is widely recognized as one of Frank Lloyd Wright's signature Prairie Houses. The house is one of a group of residences designed in the first few decades of Wright's career that together constitute one of his most significant contributions to American architecture. Established in 1992, the corporation's original goal was to restore the main house, which was desperately in



Detail of the Martin House, c1906.

need of restoration and faced an uncertain future.

Over the past several years, through the vision and commitment of the organization’s dedicated board members, staff, and volunteers, and the considerable support of various public and private partners, the project has expanded to include not only the restoration of the main house, but also the impressive reconstruction of the estate’s former pergola, conservatory, and carriage house. A stunning new visitor center is also planned. Under the watchful eye and close supervision of corporation Chair Bob Kresse, President Howard Zemsky, and Executive Director John Courtin, this multiple phase project is moving forward, and the estate is being returned to its early twentieth-century appearance.

The continuing success of the Martin House project is a testament to the passion and remarkable ingenuity and determination of the corporation, the extraordinary support of the project’s many partners, and the keen interest of the community. We admire the corporation’s outstanding contribution to restoring this architectural treasure.

Landmark Society of Western New York
 Not-for-Profit Achievement

Organized in 1937, the Landmark Society of Western New York is one of the oldest preservation organizations in the country and one of the most effective preservation service providers in the state. Originally established to protect and restore the prominent Campbell-Whittlesey House in



View of double parlor, Campbell-Whittlesey House, 1968.

Rochester, the society now owns and operates several historic properties and has developed an array of preservation outreach programs for neighborhoods and communities in the

greater Rochester-Genesee region.

The society is the exemplary steward of an impressive collection of historic sites, including its headquarters, the 1840 Hoyt-Potter House (in Rochester), which was threatened with demolition, rescued by the society, and restored; the adjacent Campbell-Whittlesey House, one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the city; the settlement era Stone-Tolan House (in Brighton), which interprets the area’s agrarian history; St. Joseph’s Park (in Rochester), which preserves the remains of an historic church; and the Victorian era Ellwanger Garden, one of Rochester’s premier horticultural jewels. These well-preserved properties offer local residents and visitors many opportunities to experience and enjoy some of the area’s most significant scenic, historic, and cultural assets.

Through an effective combination of knowledge, experience, and resourcefulness, the society has become particularly adept at forming and strengthening cooperative partnerships with local officials, civic leaders, and private individuals and organizations to advance preservation efforts. Notable examples include helping to protect the once neglected Roycroft Inn in East Aurora and, more recently, serving as the host organization for the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor, one of New York’s eighteen state heritage areas and corridors.

Under the thoughtful leadership of Executive Director Henry McCartney and through the support of its dedicated board members, staff, and volunteers, the society offers an impressive series of community outreach and education programs, ranging from neighborhood tours and special events to technical assistance, publications, and public meetings. Helping localities establish and strengthen local preservation efforts has become one of organization’s hallmarks. For twenty years, the society has sponsored an annual regional preservation conference, which encourages preservation initiatives in the communities and counties surrounding Rochester. In 1998, the society established “The Home Room,” an innovative neighborhood real estate program

designed to attract potential home buyers to Rochester’s historic neighborhoods. The society’s attractive and informative publications, such as *Rehab Rochester*, a practical homeowner’s guide to historic rehabilitation and maintenance, have also

helped to foster preservation activities. And, in cooperation with local schools, the society has successfully established engaging heritage education programs for younger audiences, focusing on local history and architecture.

We commend the Landmark Society of Western New York for its long commitment to safeguarding the region's history and its outstanding contribution to expanding historic preservation across western New York.

Asbury Delaware Methodist Church, Buffalo

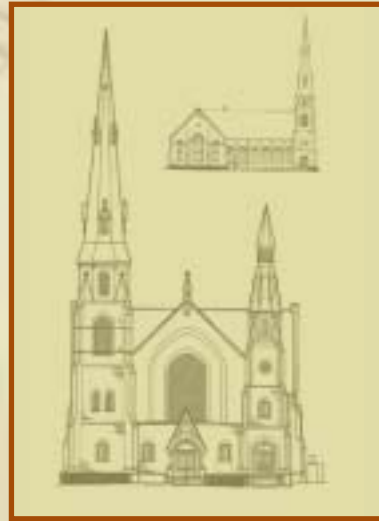
Private Sector Achievement

Built between 1871 and 1876, the Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is a distinguished example of High Victorian Gothic ecclesiastical architecture in Buffalo. Designed by prominent local architect John H. Selkirk, the imposing Medina sandstone landmark was built at the height of Delaware Avenue's development as a fashionable residential and civic neighborhood. With its tall, asymmetrical stone towers and large sanctuary, the church dominates the surrounding area. Its interior retains a high level of integrity, including open auditorium worship space with galleries, finely crafted ceilings, Gothic style paneling and railings, tile floors, ornate fireplaces, and grand staircases.

Through the years, the church served a variety of religious and community functions. Gradually, as a result of dwindling congregations and finances, the church declined. By the 1990s, the building was vacant, neglected, and threatened with demolition due to deterioration. The property was transferred to the City of Buffalo, its future uncertain. Enter Righteous Babes Records and its principals, singer and composer Ani DiFranco and her manager, Scot Fisher. Together they formed the Citizens' Committee to Save Asbury Church and, with both public and private support, the landmark church was rescued and stabilized.

Today, the building is owned by Righteous Babes Records, and Asbury Development, L.P. is overseeing the building's extensive rehabilitation, which is almost complete. The sanctuary is being restored and transformed into a performance space. The former chapel house at the rear of the church will become the home of Hallways Contemporary Arts Center and the offices of the record company. Through the careful oversight of Ani DeFranco and Scot Fisher, and with the help of the federal historic preservation tax credit program, this impressive project has skillfully merged the comprehensive rehabilitation of the historic

church with the creative conversion of its interior for up-to-date performance and arts uses.



Exterior elevations of Asbury Delaware Church.

We salute all those associated with the preservation of the Asbury Delaware Church, especially Righteous Babes Records and Asbury Development, for their commitment to protecting and restoring one of Buffalo's most imposing landmarks. The church's rebirth as a vibrant center for music and art promises to strengthen the community's efforts to revitalize one of Buffalo's most prominent neighborhoods.

**Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier
Preservation Coalition of Erie County**

Combined Not-for-Profit Achievement Award

Individually and together, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier, and the Preservation Coalition of Erie County have made outstanding contributions to recognizing, preserving, and interpreting Buffalo's extraordinary collection of scenic, historic, and cultural resources.

First established in 1978 as the Friends of Olmsted Parks,



Delaware Park is one of Buffalo's most prominent Olmsted parks. Courtesy of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.



This year's edition of the Preservation Coalition's Buffalo tour guide.

the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is dedicated to increasing the community's awareness and support for the city's historic park and parkway system, which consists of six major parks, connecting roadways and circles, and several smaller open spaces. Today, in cooperation with the City of Buffalo, the conservancy is overseeing the management, operation, and maintenance of the park system and has undertaken a variety of important initiatives to safeguard and enhance this valuable asset, including a twenty-year management and restoration plan. Thanks to the conservancy's commitment and support, Buffalo's historic parks and parkways offer a spectacular variety of scenic and recreational resources for the enjoyment and enrichment of thousands of

residents and visitors.

Founded in 1970, the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier has played an important role in safeguarding Buffalo's heritage, beginning with the acquisition and preservation of the early nineteenth-century Coit House, which was threatened with demolition. Through the years, the landmark society has developed strong, effective working relationships with local officials, organizations, and private citizens in an effort to expand public awareness and appreciation of the region's historic and cultural resources. The society offers a variety of activities to advance its mission, including

educational programs, community outreach and advocacy initiatives, and publications. The Landmark Society is one of the region's most respected preservation organizations.

From landmarks to landscapes, the Preservation Coalition of Erie County has become synonymous with

promoting and progressing the preservation and rejuvenation of western New York's historic built environment. The coalition is particularly effective at drawing attention to the plight of endangered historic properties and helping to examine practical preservation approaches. The organization's public education initiatives have been particularly effective, helping to engage residents and visitors in understanding the significance and value of incorporating heritage development into community improvement activities. The coalition's popular tour programs have played an exceptionally important role in increasing preservation awareness across the region.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier, and the Preservation Coalition of Erie County have made significant contributions to recognizing and preserving western New York's rich heritage. Through an extraordinary combination of commitment, talent, and cooperation, these organizations have become outstanding stewards of the region's treasure trove of historic and cultural properties.



The Market Arcade in downtown Buffalo, home of the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier and the Martin House Restoration Corporation.

Keeper for a Night

In April 1876, a new beacon alerted ships to the dangerous shoals off Thirty Mile Point on Lake Ontario for the first time. The flashing beam emanated from a sixty-two-foot stone tower recently constructed thirty miles east of the Niagara River by the United States Light-House Board. The light, intended to guide ships traveling on Lake Ontario, was one of many additional aids to navigation on the Great Lakes constructed by the United States government in the period after the Civil War.

Today, Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse is part of Golden Hill State Park, five hundred acres of former farmland along the scenic shoreline offering year-round recreation, including camping, hiking, picnicking, and snowshoeing. Now the public has two additional incentives to visit the park: the opportunity to rent rooms in the keeper's cottage and the chance to enjoy a new exhibit chronicling the property's long and interesting history.

In a sense, that history began more than a century before the lighthouse was constructed. The British ship *H.M.S. Ontario*, lost off the point in 1780, was the most famous of several major shipwrecks recorded here. In 1873, Congress appropriated funds for a light at Thirty Mile Point. The lighthouse was equipped with a third order Fresnel lens, which produced a large, powerful beam using a series of prisms arranged in a beehive pattern around a small central light. The light, among the largest on the Great Lakes, could be seen for more than sixteen miles.

The facility was expanded and improved with federal emergency relief funds in 1934. The grey limestone tower and attached two-story keeper's quarters was enlarged with the addition of a brick wing; a new pier was built; and a one-story brick building was constructed to house emergency generators, air compressors, and a diaphone foghorn generating an audible fog warning. Known as the foghorn building, this structure

now houses the new exhibit space. The Coast Guard assumed operation of this and all United States lighthouses in 1939; but within two decades technological advances had rendered the light obsolete, and by 1960 the decommissioned light had been replaced with a steel tower.

In the same era, New York State began purchasing farmland along the lake for a new park, which opened in 1962. The development of Golden Hill State Park coincided with a significant expansion of the New York state park system under Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. Its name—a familiar local moniker—incorporates local lore, said to refer either to a goldenrod field on a legendary island at the mouth of the Golden

Hill Creek or to a farmer's tale of witnessing the retrieval of buried treasure. In 1984, the Coast Guard donated the lighthouse to the state and it was incorporated into the park. In addition to the lighthouse and foghorn building, the site retains a carriage barn, a woodshed, two oil houses, and a privy.

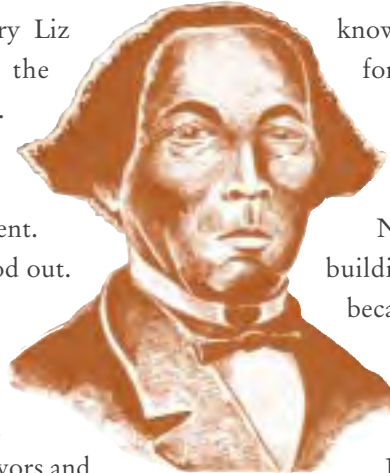


The lighthouse complex at Golden Hill State Park, c1945.

The recent improvements to the park are a credit to the Friends of Thirty Mile Point Light, which commissioned a report on the long-term stabilization and preservation of the lighthouse in 1997. OPRHP subsequently implemented many of the recommendations, including installation of a new roof. Impressively, the friends purchased a new light and arranged for its installation, reestablishing the stately structure's original function. Now, following rehabilitation by the friends and OPRHP, an apartment in the keeper's cottage can be rented for short-term stays. Among other amenities, the "Lighthouse Cottage" offers a spectacular view of Lake Ontario. Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse is located along the New York State Seaway Trail, a 454-mile scenic route that follows Lake Erie, the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers, and Lake Ontario.

Discovering the Underground Railroad in Albany

In 1999, Albany residents Paul and Mary Liz Stewart began to explore the story of the Underground Railroad in and around Albany. After countless hours of research, they had uncovered the names and stories of individuals who played a significant role in the movement. Among them, Stephen and Harriet Myers stood out. Stephen, chair of the Vigilance Committee of Albany, was credited with assisting hundreds of fugitive slaves on their way to freedom between 1830 and 1860. Harriet Myers had assisted her husband in those endeavors and edited their abolition newspaper, *Northern Light*.



known as 194 Livingston Avenue as the Myers's former office and home.

In 2004, the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital District sponsored nomination of the property to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The building was determined nationally significant because of the close association between Stephen Myers and Frederick Douglass. Douglass specifically noted Myers in his description of the Underground Railroad route from Philadelphia to Canada. Since acquiring 194 Livingston Avenue, the group has received grants from Heritage New York and the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. Stabilization of the building and development of an interpretive program are scheduled to begin soon.

Drawing of Stephen Myers by Marcus Anderson, 2005, based on historic images.

New York State The Preservationist

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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Empire State Plaza
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Albany, NY 12238-0001
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The Preservationist is published semi-annually by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Address all correspondence to Editor, *Preservationist*, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau, Peebles Island State Park, PO Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188-0189.

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All contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the **Natural Heritage Trust**, a not-for-profit public benefit partner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

State and National Registers

Recent Listings

ALBANY COUNTY

Knox: Knox District School
No.5

BRONX COUNTY

Bronx:
Morris Park Subway Station
Woodlawn Subway Station

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Nutzen Hook: Lynch Hotel

ERIE COUNTY

Buffalo:
Buffalo Electric Vehicle
Company Building
Saturn Club

ESSEX COUNTY

St. Huberts: Ausable Club
Westport: Essex County
Fairgrounds

FULTON COUNTY

Gloversville: Gustav Levor
House

GREENE COUNTY

Elka Park vicinity: Platte Clove
Post Office
Oak Hill: St. Paul's Lutheran
Church

KINGS COUNTY

Brooklyn:
Church of the Holy Innocents
Avenue U Subway Station
Bay Parkway Subway Station
New Utrecht Avenue Subway
Station
Ocean Parkway Subway Station
Subway Substation #401
Wilson Avenue Subway Station
4th Avenue Subway Station

9th Avenue Subway Station
15th Street–Prospect Park
Subway Station

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Conesus: Conesus Amusement
Hall
Leicester: Coverdale
Cobblestone House

MADISON COUNTY

Bouckville vicinity: Chenango
Canal Summit Level

NASSAU COUNTY

Kings Point: Stepping Stones
Light Station
Oyster Bay:

Oyster Bay Long Island
Railroad Station
Oyster Bay Long Island
Railroad Turntable

Roslyn Harbor: Clapham–Stern
House

Sea Cliff: Sea Cliff Village Hall,
Library and Museum Complex

Wantagh: Jones Beach State
Park, Causeway and Parkway
System

NEW YORK COUNTY

New York City:
Actors Temple
Beaver Building
Building at 210 East 68th
Street
Fulton–Nassau Historic
District
Hotel Theresa
Townhouses at 352 and 353
Riverside Drive

Brooklyn Bridge–City Hall
Subway Station
Chambers Street Subway
Station
14th Street–Union Square
Subway Station

ONEIDA COUNTY

Trenton vicinity: Wethersfield
Stone Schoolhouse

ONONDAGA COUNTY

Syracuse: Elmwood Park

ONTARIO COUNTY

Phelps: Philetus Swift House
(Additional Documentation
Approved)

ORANGE COUNTY

Goshen: Sawyer Farmhouse
Goshen vicinity: George T.
Wisner House

ORLEANS COUNTY

Lyndonville: Jackson Blood
Cobblestone House

QUEENS COUNTY

Douglaston: Douglaston
Historic District
Jamaica: Trans World Airlines
Flight Center
Kew Gardens Hills:
Queens County Savings Bank
Elmhurst Avenue Subway
Station

RENSELAER COUNTY

Defreestville: Sharpe Homestead
and Cemetery

RICHMOND COUNTY

Staten Island: Seaview Hospital

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Pomona: Ladentown United
Methodist Church

SARATOGA COUNTY

Rock City Falls: George West
Residence

SCHOHARIE COUNTY

South Gilboa: Forks in the Road
Schoolhouse

SUFFOLK COUNTY

Fishers Island vicinity: Race
Rock Light Station
Sayville: Sayville Congregational
Church
Southold:
Joseph Nelson Hallock House
Samuel Landon House
Brecknock Hall

TIOGA COUNTY

Owego vicinity: Vesper Cliff

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Granville: South Granville
Congregational Church and
Parsonage

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Eastchester: Marble Schoolhouse
Katonah: Stepping Stones
New Rochelle: Rochelle
Park–Rochelle Heights
Historic District
Peekskill: Peekskill Downtown
Historic District

Listings Highlights



East side of aqueduct.

Chenango Canal Summit Level, *Bouckville vicinity, Madison County*

This five-mile stretch of the Chenango Canal was constructed in 1834-36 as part of New York's extensive early nineteenth-century water transportation system. As the summit, this section was particularly important in maintaining adequate water levels in the Chenango Canal, which connected the Southern Tier to the Erie Canal. The canal prism, tow path, and remnants of a stone aqueduct are rare surviving engineering features from the state's first major canal building era.



Ausable Club, St. Huberts, Essex County

Surrounded by the steep mountains known as the High Peaks, the Ausable Club is one of the oldest surviving resort hotels in the Adirondacks. The sprawling clubhouse was designed in 1890 by Wilson Brothers Company, prominent Philadelphia architects. The intact building and associated recreational features retain their spectacular setting. Since 1905, the complex has been associated with the Adirondack Mountain Reserve, founded in 1887 to protect the High Peaks in their natural state.

Each year, the State Historic Preservation Office assists the public with hundreds of State and National Registers nominations. With more than 4,500 listings, including over 85,000 properties, New York has processed more nominations than any other state. They encompass an incredibly wide variety of historic and cultural resources, some of which are highlighted here.



Terra-cotta figures on the exterior of Pavilion #1.

Seaview Hospital, Staten Island, *Richmond County*

Developed 1905-1938, Seaview Hospital was the largest and most costly municipal facility of its era built for the treatment of tuberculosis. The scale of its program was commensurate with New York City's twentieth-century commitment to public health care, while its campus was designed to provide the therapeutic environment advised for the treatment of TB in this period. In the 1950s, Seaview was the site of clinical trials proving the effectiveness of modern drug therapy, a discovery that saved millions of lives.

Buffalo Electric Vehicle Company Building, Buffalo, Erie County

The Buffalo Electric Vehicle Company was a pioneer in the early years of the automobile industry, when electricity competed with steam and gasoline as the fuel of choice for mass-produced automobiles. Constructed c1911, the building was used for manufacturing and showroom space during the firm's short life (1912-1916). Its reinforced concrete and steel construction, which allowed for large windows and open interiors, was especially suited to assembly line production.

Model 29, Buffalo
Electric Two
Passenger. Courtesy:
The Horseless Age.



Gustav Levor House, Gloversville, Fulton County

The Gustav Levor House (1892) is a highly intact example of the Queen Anne style in Gloversville. The house stands out for its exceptionally fine interior design, characterized by an elaborate combination of architectural elements and decorative finishes, including parquet floors, fine-grained woodwork, paneled wainscoting, molded trim, and tiled hearths. Gustav Levor, who specialized in the production of shoe leather, was among the village's most prosperous and prominent citizens.



Main entrance and staircase.



Actor's Temple, New York, New York County

Built for an orthodox congregation in Manhattan's theater district, this synagogue was renamed the "Actor's Temple" in 1925 by Rabbi Beril Birstein, who worked to integrate the large community of Jewish vaudeville performers who frequented the district into the religious life of the synagogue. Sophie Tucker, Milton Berle, Edward G. Robinson, and Eddie Cantor were among many well-known entertainers who attended services here.

Elmwood Park, Syracuse, Onondaga County

Elmwood Park is distinguished by a dramatic natural setting rarely found in urban areas. The long, narrow parcel follows the serpentine path of Furnace Brook through a steep, wooded ravine. Roads and paths traverse an open space marked by rock outcroppings, diverse vegetation, and numerous small rustic features. Developed by William F. Pardee in 1893 and acquired by the city in 1927, Elmwood represents Syracuse's commitment to providing public recreational space for its expanding urban population. Elmwood Park is an addition to the Historic Designed Landscapes of Syracuse, New York Multiple Property Nomination completed in 1994.



Stepping Stones, Katonah, Westchester County

Stepping Stones was the home of William Griffith (Bill) Wilson and Lois Burnham Wilson, who were influential in creating effective treatments for alcoholics and their families. Bill Wilson, whose writings fostered public understanding of alcoholism as a disease, co-founded Alcoholics Anonymous and devised the twelve-step program that has helped millions of people to sobriety. Lois Wilson co-founded Al-Anon and founded Alateen, internationally recognized self-help groups for the families of alcoholics.

Bill and Lois Wilson (shown above) at Stepping Stones, 1954. Photograph courtesy of Stepping Stones Foundation.



Trans World Airlines Flight Center, Jamaica, Queens County

Eero Saarinen's design for the TWA Flight Center is a masterpiece of modern expressionist architecture. Built in 1962 to accommodate the first generation of passenger jet travel, the reinforced concrete building incorporates both functional and symbolic qualities. Its distinctive sculptural form, meant to evoke the sensation of flight, became an icon of the jet age. The terminal is the only intact component of the Port of New York Authority's 1954 master plan for Idlewild (now JFK) International Airport.

Site Seeing



This illustration of Johnson Hall appeared in the 1865 publication, *The Life and Times of Sir William Johnson* by W. L. Stone.

Preservation Past and Present

The genesis of the modern state historic sites system was the state's 1850 acquisition and preservation of Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, the nation's first publicly owned historic property. In 1887, New York purchased Senate House, where the first popularly elected state senate convened in 1777. Two years later, the state acquired the Drexel cottage on Mount McGregor in Saratoga County, where President Ulysses S. Grant died in 1885 while completing his memoirs.

The progressive spirit that seized the nation by 1890 included a popular interest in historic preservation, and the state began acquiring historic sites at a pace of more than one per year. By 1924, when the State Council of Parks was created, the state owned forty-one properties of "scenic, historic, scientific or practical value." The responsibility for administering and caring for these sites fell to different branches of state government. In 1944, most of the historic sites were gathered under the jurisdiction of the New York State Education Department.

By the 1960s, the historic preservation movement had adopted professional standards and a scientific approach to research, interpretation, and conservation of historic sites and their collections. In the same year that the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was

enacted, Governor Nelson Rockefeller created the New York State Historic Trust to consolidate the state's historic preservation activities within a single agency. The trust was placed under the director of state parks in the New York State Conservation Department.

In 1970, when the Department of Environmental Conservation was created, the Division of Parks was transferred

into its current home at Peebles Island State Park, where conservation laboratories, staff offices, exhibit design and fabrication facilities, and collections storage were established.

The Historic Trust worked to determine which existing properties should be retained within the sites system and what additional sites might be appropriate for acquisition. Many fit into one or more broad themes that are important in New York's history. These themes include the state's roles as a crossroads of conflict from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries; the changing patterns of wealth and power and their influence on the state and the nation; the role of engineering in facilitating New York's rapid growth during the nineteenth century; and the artists and idealists whose work continues to inspire us.



President Grant (center) surrounded by family and friends on the porch of the Drexel Cottage (now Grant Cottage State Historic Site), 1885.

to the Executive Department and named the Office of Parks and Recreation. Two years later, the Historic Trust became the Division for Historic Preservation within the Office of Parks and Recreation, and in 1974, the Bureau of Historic Sites (BHS) was created within that division. Since its inception, BHS has provided assistance to state historic sites with collections care and conservation, archaeology, historical research, interpretation, architectural research and restoration, security, and landscape preservation. In 1975, the bureau moved

A Crossroads of Conflict

By an accident of geography, Lake Champlain and the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers provide hundreds of miles of navigable waterways through the Appalachian Mountains and across the length and breadth of what is now New York State. Flanked by mountains, these waterways concentrated commerce and warfare along predictable routes. It did not take long for the Dutch, English, and French settlers to begin contending with one another and the native inhabitants for control of these strategically vital waterways.

After resting control of the Hudson River from the Dutch in 1664, the British expanded further into the frontier, bringing France and Britain into a series of colonial wars as they vied for supremacy in North America. Invading forces followed the Mohawk Valley and the Hudson-Champlain corridor. In 1754, this episodic fighting entered a new phase, as the French and British colonies drew the European powers into a global conflict. The French and Indian War marked the final showdown between Britain and France in North America. When the war ended in 1763, Britain gained control of French Canada.

Several of New York's state historic sites were the scenes of major events during the French and Indian War. Built in 1755, **Fort Ontario** protected the only British toehold on the Great Lakes. The fort was destroyed by the French in August 1756 in the first of a series of great French victories. The British rebuilt the fort, and it served as a launching point for the siege of Fort Niagara in 1759 and the successful invasion of Montreal in 1760. Meanwhile, at **Fort Niagara**, 3,000 British, American, and Iroquois warriors laid siege to the fort's French garrison, which held out for nineteen days before surrendering. Between 1755 and 1758, the British launched four campaigns to drive the French from Fort St. Frédéric on Lake Champlain, which the British named **Crown Point**, before they successfully occupied the site in 1759.

Peace and British domination of North America did not last long. Growing tensions between Britain and its North American colonies erupted in open warfare in April 1775. Once again, many of the confrontations occurred along New York's waterways. Clashes in 1777 at **Oriskany**, **Bennington**, and **Fort Montgomery** were part of a British invasion of New York that ended when Americans surprised the world by



Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site "reenactors."

capturing an entire British army at Saratoga.

After the 1781 Battle of Yorktown, Virginia, the Americans awaited a formal end to the war. The Northern Department of the Continental Army moved into quarters at the **New Windsor Cantonment**, one of three state historic sites in the Newburgh area associated with the Revolutionary War. The others are **Knox's Headquarters** and **Washington's Headquarters**, where George Washington stayed for the last sixteen and one-half months of the war.

The Treaty of Paris formally ended the Revolutionary War in 1783. Unresolved arguments between the U.S. and Great Britain simmered until 1812, when the British impressment of American sailors and border disputes over the Northwest Territories and Canada provoked the U.S. to declare war on Britain. After an unsuccessful bid to conquer Canada in 1812, the Americans retired to Fort Ontario and Fort Niagara to defend the northern border against the threat of invasion. **Sackets Harbor** became the center of American naval operations on Lake Ontario. In May 1813, a British attack on Sackets Harbor was repulsed. The cessation of hostilities in 1815 brought New York's role as a crossroads of conflict to a close, ending nearly 150 years of periodic warfare in the state.



The 1754 John Ellison house at Knox's Headquarters State Historic Site.

Changing Patterns of Wealth and Power in New York State

New York State played a leading role in the country's social, economic, and political development and many of its citizens emerged as leading figures in American politics and commerce. New York's stories recall the rise and fall of the landed aristocracy of an agricultural economy and the emergence of a new social elite whose wealth was derived from business and industry. When the Dutch began settling in the Hudson Valley in the 1600s, the Dutch East India Company granted large parcels of land to investors in the new colony. **Craigo** was built by one of the descendants of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, who owned much of present-day Albany, Columbia, and Rensselaer counties.

The practice of granting large estates continued after the English seized New Netherland from the Dutch in 1664. Landholders continued to populate their lands with tenants, ruling their manors in a fashion similar to Europe's feudal landlords, and slave labor supported many of the large farms in



The aqueduct that carried the Erie Canal over the Schoharie Creek, at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site.

eastern New York and on Long Island. Livingston Manor, granted to Robert Livingston in 1686 and named **Clermont** in 1728, served as the seat of one of early New York's most influential families. Frederick Philipse I was granted a 52,500-acre estate that included **Philipse Manor Hall** in Yonkers.

The American Revolution altered the way Americans understood the ordering of society. As the country expanded and prospered, a new elite began to emerge whose wealth and power was based on commercial success rather than inheritance. Ledyard Lincklaen, who made a fortune as a land agent in western New York, built an elegant mansion named **Lorenzo** in 1807 overlooking Lake Cazenovia.

The wealthy entrepreneurs who accumulated vast fortunes in railroads, insurance, banking, steel, and oil began to displace the landed elite from their positions of preeminence in American politics and society. Darius Ogden Mills amassed his fortune in the 1850s by investing in banks and railroads. His son Ogden Mills became a noted financier in his own right and in 1895 commissioned McKim, Mead and White, New York City's premier architectural firm, to remodel the family's Staatsburg home. Known for a time as Mills Mansion, the property is once again called by its historic name, **Staatsburgh**.

During the early twentieth century, other entrepreneurs built lavish mansions on Long Island's north shore, earning it the nickname the "Gold Coast." **Caumsett** and **Planting Fields Arboretum** State Historic Parks preserve the splendor of these estates. Caumsett was a self-sufficient, English-style estate with an elegant, sixty-five-room Georgian mansion, farm complex, and hunting preserve built by newspaper

publisher Marshall Field III. Planting Fields Arboretum includes Coe Hall, which was built in 1918 by William Robertson Coe and his wife Mae Rogers Coe, daughter of one of the founders of Standard Oil.

Engineering and the Rise of the Empire State

Two monumental engineering feats, the Erie Canal and the Croton Aqueduct, facilitated New York City's growth as the nation's greatest metropolis during the first half of the nineteenth century. Today, parts of both of these engineering marvels are preserved as state historic sites and parks.

After the federal government had rejected several requests by New York State for funds to construct a canal connecting the Hudson River with Lake Erie, the state financed the venture through the sale of bonds. No public works project on this scale had ever been attempted in North

America. Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal stretched 363 miles and included eighty-

three locks, eighteen aqueducts, and nearly 300 bridges. Within ten years,

work began on enlarging the canal.

The canal fueled the birth and explosive growth of cities and towns all along its length. The

canal carried raw materials and agricultural products east to New York City while it opened

the upper Mid-west to settlement. New York City, at the eastern terminus of this water route to

the North American interior, reaped

the greatest reward and experienced

dramatic growth into the twentieth century.

Today, **Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site** and **Old Erie Canal State Historic Park** preserve portions of the old canal and interpret its major impact on the development of New York and the nation.

But for the construction of another engineering marvel, New York City's growth would probably have been stifled by devastating fires and outbreaks of disease. Built between 1837 and 1848, the Croton Aqueduct carried water forty-one miles from the Croton River in Westchester County to New York City and was the first piece of New York City's immense water

Drawing of Herkimer Home by Rufus A. Grider, 1895. Collection of New York State Library.





The Marshall Field III mansion at Caumsett State Historic Park on Long Island.

system. The project included the country's first large masonry dam, a nine-foot-high masonry tunnel to carry the water, and two reservoirs. The fresh water supply enabled the city to continue its rapid growth as America's largest city. Today **Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park** is a twenty-six-mile railway running atop the original aqueduct.

A Landscape of Ideas

Some of New York's state historic sites are associated with artists, authors, and thinkers. Many were inspired by the state's dramatic scenery. Frederic Church, one of the founders of the Hudson River School of landscape painting, took his cues from the rivers and landscapes themselves, capturing the power and drama he saw in the natural world around him. **Olana**, the home Church designed in the Hudson Valley, was his largest canvas. Author John Burroughs was also inspired by nature's beauty, often exulting in its small wonders. His grave, part of **John Burroughs Memorial**, lies at the foot of his "boyhood rock," from which he gazed upon a spectacular view of the Catskill Mountains.

Two other state historic sites commemorate the lives of a pair of nineteenth-century idealists. Walt Whitman, one of America's greatest poets, established a new, free-flowing literary style that influenced subsequent writers. Whitman internalized nineteenth-century America's boundless



A carriage driving competition at Lorenzo State Historic Site.

optimism and proposed individual realization of every person's best self as a worthy ideal. **Walt Whitman Birthplace**, where the poet spent his early childhood, commemorates his legacy.



The barn and pond at John Brown Farm State Historic Site in the Adirondacks.

Another great idealist was John Brown, who believed so strongly in the anti-slavery cause that he relocated his family to Timbucto, a remote settlement founded to help African American families establish farms. In 1859, Brown led an assault on the U.S. armory at Harper's Ferry in a failed attempt to spark an uprising against slavery. Brown's execution made him a martyr for the anti-slavery cause. Today, **John Brown Farm State Historic Site** features the abolitionist's home and gravesite just outside Lake Placid.

An Opportunity to Explore the Past

New York's state historic sites and state historic parks offer an opportunity to explore these and other themes. To find out more, visit the agency's website at www.nysparks.com



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