Historic Resources

Source of photo: Geneva Historical Society website

GOAL:

A. Encourage the preservation of historic and culturally significant buildings and landscapes.

Background Information

Early History

Prior to the arrival of European explorers and settlers, the land along the shores of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, respectively, were occupied, by the Seneca and Cayuga Indian nations. These tribes were part of the Iroquois Confederacy of six nations. The Seneca Indian known as "Red Jacket," from the coat given to him by the British army, was born in Canoga in the current Town of Fayette.

During the Revolutionary War, the Senecas and Cayugas were aligned with the British. In 1779, Gen. Washington ordered the destruction of Seneca and Cayuga villages and crops to prevent Indian attacks on the Continental army.

General Sullivan and General Clinton carried out the expedition during the summer of 1779. From a base in Tioga, troops destroyed villages in Kendaia (Town of Romulus), Canadgaga (at the north end of Seneca Lake), and Canandaigua, and continued with a sweep along both sides of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. Many Cayugas and Senecas fled to Fort Niagara, which was controlled by the British, and later settled in Canada.

Seneca County was part of the Military Tract, an area of 1,500,000 acres between Oneida Lake and Seneca Lake that was created in 1790 by New York State. The tract was divided into 100 lots of 600 acres each and offered by lottery to Revolutionary War troops.

Several soldiers from Sullivan's expedition were among the first to settle this rapidly growing region. The early pioneers included German and Scotch Irish from Pennsylvania, Dutch and English from eastern New York, settlers from New England, and immigrants from abroad.

The Town of Fayette, initially named "Washington", was formed from Romulus in March 14, 1800, changing its name in 1808. The Town of Varick was incorporated separately from Romulus in 1830. Seneca County was created in 1804 from Cayuga County.

Throughout its history, Seneca County has been strongly agricultural. During the late 1700s and early 1800s, wheat was a principal crop, numerous mills were established and flour became one of the principal exports of the county. Following the construction of the Erie Canal, wheat cultivation in the Midwest became more efficient and a greater variety of crops were cultivated in Seneca County. These included potatoes and dairy as well as apples, grapes and other fruits.

Seneca and Cayuga Lakes were major transportation routes. The establishment of a ferry across Cayuga Lake connected two ends of the State road in 1790. Remnants of the pier are still visible in East

Varick. A toll bridge across Cayuga Lake was constructed in 1800 and operated until 1856. A Canal company completed improvements to navigation in the Seneca River in 1813-19. The connection of the Cayuga-Seneca canal system to the Erie Canal in 1828 allowed farmers and industries to ship products to distant markets at a fraction of the previous cost.

By the late 1800s, steamboats provided transportation on the lakes. This led to the development of tourist destinations along the Lakes. East Varick was one such destination, with dances held at the Burroughs House.

The Auburn and Rochester Railroad entered Seneca County in 1841. By 1873 a network of railroads connected Seneca County communities with outside markets. West Fayette, Yale, and MacDougall in the Town of Fayette were stations on the railroad.

Early churches utilized private homes for worship services. The first church organized in Fayette was Christ Church in Bearytown (now the Hamlet of Fayette.) In 1823, the German Reformed and Lutheran congregations constructed a stone structure that was used by both congregations until 1855, and by the Reformed Church subsequently. A belfry and tower were added in 1882.

Early public schools were in one-room schoolhouses. Many of these former schools are still standing in Fayette and Varick.

The State Agricultural College was established in 1835 on the Fayette farm of John Delafield, its first president. On his death, in1860, the college was moved to Ovid, then to Schuyler County, and afterwards to Ithaca, where it is part of Cornell University.

Historic Resources

The Mike Weaver Drain Tile Museum, located at 3535 East Lake Road in the Town of Fayette, is a Federal style building with period rooms and exhibits of drain tiles. The building was built in the 1830s by John Johnston, a native Scotsman who started using ceramic tiles to drain fields and increase yields. Within ten years, twelve factories in the region were converted from clay pot shops and brick yards to manufacture the tiles. Drain tiles revolutionized agriculture in the United States, allowing farmers to vastly increase crop production. John Johnston is credited with being the "Father of Drain Tiles" in the United States.

References

Information about historic resources in Fayette and Varick was obtained from the book, Landmarks of Seneca County: A Photographic Exploration of Historical Styles, by Edith Delavan. Cayuga Press, Ithaca, NY 2004, from History of Seneca County, New York 1786 – 1876, Everts, Ensign & Everts, J.B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, PA 1876 and from conversations with the County Historian and Town Historians.

The Seneca County Historian's Office, the Fayette Historical Society, the Geneva Historical Society, and the Varick and Fayette Town Historians are sources of additional information about the history of the community and the historic buildings and sites in the Towns.

The Rose Hill Mansion, a National Historic Landmark, was built by General William K. Strong, a wealthy merchant from New York City, in 1839. After his death, Robert Swan farmed the property for 40 years and pioneered the use of drainage tiles. The house is now maintained by the Geneva Historical Society and is open to the public between May and October. The house, located at 3381 Route 96A in the Town of Fayette, is a grand example of Greek Revival Architecture that overlooks Seneca Lake.

The Town of Fayette is also considered the birthplace of the Mormon religion. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has recreated the cabin on Peter Whitmer's farm as the site where Joseph Smith is reported to have "translated", with the assistance of Oliver Cowdry, the gold plates he received from the angel Moroni in 1827 in Palmyra. The first Baptism into the Mormon faith was conducted in Thomas Creek in Fayette. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized in Fayette in 1830. (See p. 129 of Lippincott's History of Seneca County 1786-1876.

Additional historic buildings in Fayette and Varick are described in Tables 4 and 5. Their locations are depicted in Map 21. Many other buildings in the two Towns have historic significance. Additional information may be obtained from the Town Historians and the Fayette Historical Society.

Cemeteries (*Source of information: Fayette Town Historian and Fayette Historical Society, Varick Town Historian, www.rootsweb.com)*

There are more than 16 cemeteries in the Town of Fayette. Some are maintained by town or county government, others are operated by cemetery associations or churches, and others are privately or family owned. There are also some abandoned, unnamed and unrecorded cemeteries. Most of the cemeteries in the Town of Fayette, and possibly the Town of Varick, need further research and documentation.

Burgh Cemetery is a small (300+ graves) cemetery near Fayette. The property was given to the town of Fayette 1828 and the cemetery was active through the early 1900s. The Town retains the responsibility for maintaining the cemetery.

The Seneca County Alms House Cemetery is located on County House Road at the corner of County House Road (CR 118) and Disinger Road. Before selling the surrounding property, Seneca County determined the perimeters of the cemetery by placing air vent holes around the wooded area and using the dogs to smell for cadaver odor. There are only two remaining head stones in this area. Seneca County maintains the cemetery.

The Jerusalem Church Cemetery, located on the South side of Yelllow Tavern Road (CR121) on the corner of Watts Rd., was established by a congregation of German Reformed and Lutheran that was established in 1811. The former brick Jerusalem Church is no longer standing. There are small number of monuments standing in the cemetery as well as several broken and smaller headstones. The tall monument is the Keim (from Christian Kime's family) memorial.

The Rural Fayette Cemetery, north of the Hamlet of Fayette on NYS Route 414, was the first German cemetery in Seneca County.

There is also an old cemetery, known as the Jabberwocky Hollow cemetery, located southeast of Canoga. This cemetery is on private land.

Canoga Cemetery, located on Route 89 North of the Hamlet of Canoga, was established in the late 1800s. This cemetery is still active and is operated and maintained by a private cemetery association.

Table 4
Historic and Architecturally Significant Buildings - Town of Fayette

MapID	Address	Year Built	Original owner/ builder	Historical/ Architectural features
1	3092 Route 89			"Lakeholme." Farmhouse on Cayuga Lake
2	3703 Route 414			Italinate w/ spire on cupola, window arches and pennant brackets.
3	3563 Route 89	1830s	kins by John Morris	"Locustwood." Pale brick. Classical style w/ elliptical windows, wide entablature with dentils.
4	3579 Route 89		Mr. Greenfield, early settler	"Canoga Meeting Hall." Also used as voting hall, theater and for church services. Clapboard structure with brackes, wooden awnings and cut stone foundation.
5	4315 Route 89	1820s	Hause family	"Burroughs Point." Vernacular farmhouse with view of Cayuga Lake. One of the County's first vineyards established in the 1930s by Hamilton Garnsey.
6	2226 County House Road	1853	Seneca County	Former "Alms House." Limestone walls, lintels, sills and entablature. Federal-style doorway includes sidelights and a transom. Remodeled into apartments in 1990s.
7	3279 Route 414	1825-1832		Limestone walls, from quarry on Reservation Road, are 4-feet thick in basement and 1-foot thick near roof. Greek Revival gable in front; Italianate brackets and cupola.
8	2279 Tom Allen Road	1882	Samuel Disinger	Stick Style Victorian, with steep gabled roof, decorative trusses and overhanging eaves. Restored in late 1980s.
9	2479 Yellow Tavern Road, County Road 121	1870s	Hoster family	Brick Second Empire once had a concave mansard roof and tower. South facade has paired, arched windows with decorative brick trim.
10	3678 Ridge Road	1837	Hoster family	"Cherrydale." Brick frame house has both Federal and Greek Revival elements, quarter round windows in gables. Outbuildings include a stable and summer kitchen with bell tower.
11	4345 Route 414	1823	Church	Christ Evangelical Church, listed in National Registry of Historic Places. Built of stone from local quarry. Ornate iron fence encloses cemetery at rear.
12	3319 Yost Road			Stone house reached by long drive over a cut stone bridge.
13	Aunkst Road		Peter Whitmer farm	of Latter Day Saints organized at site in 1830. The original cabin was recreated using logs from a similar house on McGrane Road.
14	3381 Route 96A	1839	Gen. William K. Strong	"Rose Hill Mansion." High Greek Revival style with six Ionic columns. Restored, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Owned by Geneva Historical Society and open to the public May through October.
15	3535 East Lake Road		John Johnston	Currently the Mike Weaver Drain Tile Museum. Federal style building with period rooms and exhibits of field tiles from around the world.
16	584 Kime Road		Kime family	Greek Revival residence with four Ionic columns, recessed entry way with large entablature, free-standing columns, pilasters and sidelights. Elliptical window placed vertically.
17	3743 East Lake Road	c. 1815	Christian Kime	Federal style with leaded fanlights at the gables. Tongue and groove construction on south facade; clapboard on others. Eight fireplaces in the house. Ornate classical entryway surmounted by fanlight.
18	3978 East Lake Road	1820s		"Berryman House." Brick Federal style house, 2 1/2 stories, with wings added later. House has original walnut stair and banisters, original balcony and chimneys. Fireplace and brick ovens built into kitchen walls.
19	3886 East Lake Road	1875		"Grace Episcopal Church of Willowdale." Gothic with steep roof, circular window near gable peak; overhanging tower and bell; pointed arches on narrow windows. Mary Emmeline Halsey operated church in early days.
20	4454 MacDougall Road	1850s	Gambee family	Greek Revival house, restored after 1950s fire
21	Corner of Kime Beach Road and East Lake Road	1913		"Papa's Boy" statue, for dog owned by Mr. Zobrist, a Geneva dentist
22	Route 89 north of Canoga			Red Jacket birthplace monument
23	2385 Willers Road	1790		Greek Revival
24	3720 East Lake Road	1840-1860	Stacey	Italianate
25	2378 Yellow Tavern Road	1800	Reigle/ Stofflett	Quarried Limestone; Federal style
26	3861 Route 414	1863	Sam/ John Pontius	Brick Second Empire. Original slate patterned roof. 11-ft. ceilings; original plasterwork. Walnut hand-carved staircase and banisters. Original custom made internal window shutters. Original faux grained woodwork.
27	3114 Route 414	1830	1830 L.S. Frantz	Brick Italianate; cupola
28	3048 Route 414	1840		Brick Italianate; round windows in attic; cupola
29	4352 Route 414	1900	East Fayette Grange	Excellent example of typical grange halls built in the U.S. at end of 19th and beginning of 20th centuries. Original woodwork throughout.

SOURCE: *Landmarks of Seneca County: A Photographic Exploration of Historical Styles* , by Edith Delavan, Cayuga Press, Ithaca, NY 2004; Seneca County Historian; Fayette Historian; Fayette Historical Society; *History of Seneca County, New York 1786 – 1876* , Everts, Ensign & Everts, J.B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, PA 1876.

Table 5
Historic and Architecturally Significant Buildings - Town of Varick

MapID	Address	Year Built	Original owner/ builder	Historical/ Architectural features
A	4519 Route 89	1850s	John R. Schuyler	22-room dwelling with wide plank floors, rooms with 10-foot high ceilings, and original woodwork. Italiate brackets at roofline date from 1880s. Numerous outbuildings include large chicken house. Land subdivided and developed in 1970s.
B	4622 Route 89	1837	Schuyler	Vernacular farmhouse with Italianate brackets and Victorian era porch added later. Outbuildings include icehouse, barns, corncrib, smokehouse and outhouse. Known locally as Backlund farm.
C	5102 Route 89	c. 1833	Julius Bull	Cobblestone house was part of farm and used primarily in the summer. Wing and outdoor patio constructed in 1980s. Three early barns on property, also orchards and vineyard.
D	Lane off Route 129	1830s	John Laughenslager	Greek Rivival house with view of Cayuga Lake, accessibly by dirt lane. Federal style doorway with four Ionic colums; hand-hewn white oak beams; keyhole motif on doors and windows.
E	Kings Corners Road	1832	John Laughenslager	Greek Revival with wide entablature, frieze band windows. Federal doorway supported by Ionic columns and Doric pilasters. Three barns on property, including one constructed in 1830s with hand-hewn and pegged frames
F	5480 Route 89	1912	Dr. C. Anna A. Brown	Barn built with patented beamless construction. Now used as tasting room for Goose Watch Winery.
G	5177 Route 129	1847	Thomass Burrough	"Burrough Farmhouse." Three sections. The remaining barn has beams joined with wooden pegs.
H	4768 McGrane Road	1860s	Thomas Wilcox	Italianate with finely crafted woodwork, curved staircase inside. Elaborate paired brackets with scrollwork and drop pendants were probably added later.
I	Route 414 at Ernsberger Road	1850s		Greek Revival with wide entablature and frieze-band windows, Doric pilasters, fulted Ionic columns and detailed recessed doorway.
J	1028 Yale Station Road at Route 96A	c. 1850s		Brick Italianate, with Victorian porch and gazebo. Ceilings are 12-feet high on first floor and 9-feet high on second floor. Tall windows and porthoses on upper story have decorative moldings.
K	4626 McGrane Road	1850s	Gambee family	Brick with stone sills and lintels, build on a limestone foundation. Upper level is clapboard with iron grills on frieze band windows. Recessed Federal style doorway with sidelights and two sets of columns.
L	5064 East Lake Road			Former brick pumphouse has arched windows. Late 20th century alterations include outside chimney, porch and dormer windows.
M	4673 East Lake Road	1830s		Symmetrical Federal farmhouse with five bays faces Seneca Lake
N	5525 East Lake Road	c. 1830		Five bay front; Federal doorway has sidelights and fanlight. Currently part of 200-acre farm.
O	5621 East Lake Road	1860s	Richard Wilcox	Second Empire house with mansard roof patterned in green, brown and gold, topped by culpola with pagoda-like roof.
P	Across road from 5621 East Lake Road			Pilings mark Dey's Landing, where goods were delivered to the Hamlet of Romulus by boat.
Q	2385 Willers Road	1790		Greek Revival

SOURCE: Landmarks of Seneca County: A Photographic Exploration of Historical Styles, by Edith Delavan. Cayuga Press, Ithaca, NY 2004; Seneca County Historian

Varick

There are two privately owned cemeteries located in the Town of Varick. The Oak Hill Cemetery, located on CR 128 west of the Hamlet of Romulus, and the Mt. Green Cemetery, located at 1800 CR 135. The older portion of the Oak Hill Cemetery dates from the 1800s.

Former rural schoolhouses

Several buildings that were used as rural schools are still standing in the Towns of Fayette and Varick.

Underground Railroad

Properties in the Towns of Fayette and Varick were used as part of the "Underground Railroad" which helped escaped slaves travel to Canada.

Stone Quarries

Stone quarrying has been significant in the history of Fayette. The Seneca Stone Co. on CR 121 east of NYS Rte. 414 continues to operate. The former stone quarry on Poormon Road west of Route 414 in the hamlet of Fayette was subsequently used as the Town landfill. Several other stone quarries have ceased operation in the two towns.

Former Sodus Bay Railroad

Remnants of the Sodus Bay Railroad remain visible in the Towns of Varick and Fayette.

Peter Whitmer Farm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in 1830 in the log cabin of Peter Whitmer, Sr., approximately 4.7 miles northwest of the Hamlet of Fayette. The church has built a visitors center, a chapel, and a replica of the Whitmer log cabin on the old Whitmer farm.

Native American Villages and Burial Grounds

Several Native American villages and burial grounds are located within the Towns of Fayette and Varick that are neither marked nor well-researched. New York State has identified the location of some of the burial grounds, including one site west of Route 96A near Boody's Hill Road. Historical preservation opportunities exist that include preservation of these grounds, research of their topography and history, and provision of historic markers.

Residents Survey Results

The Residents Survey asked what the Town should do to encourage the owners of historically significant properties and buildings to preserve their historical character. Respondents expressed some support for the following activities:

- *Provide property owners with information explaining how to preserve historic buildings (33%; 32% of Fayette residents and 36% of Varick residents)*
- *Publicly recognize property owners who maintain the historical character of their properties (26%: same for Fayette and Varick residents)*

Less than 10% of respondents would support the creation of a historic preservation district with historic preservation standards.

Only 15% of respondents (16% of Fayette residents and 11% of Varick residents) indicated that the Town should not do any of the suggested actions and another 15% had no opinion.

Issues and Opportunities

The historic resources in the Towns of Fayette and Varick provide a physical link to the community's past. The preservation of these resources contributes to the character of the community.

The preservation of privately-owned historic buildings require the participation of individual landowners. The Town and the Historical Society may be able to provide information about grant funding and technical assistance that may be available to individuals.

Cemeteries

Cemeteries contain a wealth of historic information. Civil war veterans and early settlers were buried in the older cemeteries. Individuals who are researching geneology use cemetery records in their research.

Action may be needed to prevent the deterioration of older cemeteries.

New York State Town Law (Chapter 62, Article 17, Section 291) requires that Towns maintain cemeteries that are abandoned and not maintained by a private association. Three of the cemeteries in Fayette are currently owned by the Town—Burgh, Jerusalem, and Bachman-Markel; one is owned by Seneca County; and the other five are privately owned. The two cemeteries located in Varick are privately owned.

Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites

Nearly all of the historic sites and buildings in Fayette and Varick are privately owned. The preservation of historic features depends on the awareness and action by these landowners. Activities such as tours, brochures and newspaper articles help to raise public understanding of the historical significance of these buildings and sites.

Tools and Techniques

Techniques available to local governments to encourage the preservation and restoration of historic buildings include both recognition programs and regulatory approaches.

Recognition programs for privately owned buildings

The National Register of Historic Places recognizes buildings, sites and landscapes that are historically and architecturally significant. The program does not provide protection to privately owned buildings. However, public money cannot be used to alter or demolish buildings that are in a Historic District or are individually listed on the National Register without a formal review of the impacts.

Municipalities may develop their own recognition program to designate historic structures or to acknowledge private efforts to restore or rehabilitate historic buildings. Such a program would send a message to the public that historic preservation is important to the community, and may encourage private property owners to restore historic buildings.

Municipalities may also provide information to private property owners to assist in restoration and rehabilitation efforts. There is a considerable amount of literature and technical assistance available to ensure that restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings is done in a manner that is consistent with the building's historic character and that does not damage the building's architectural features or materials.

Regulatory techniques

Municipalities may establish regulations to protect historic buildings. The process typically requires the designation of certain historic buildings as "landmarks," or the delineation of an area as a "Historic District." A citizen board, usually known as the "Historic Preservation Commission" or "Landmarks Preservation Board," is appointed to review applications for building permits that would affect historic landmarks or buildings within the Historic District. The board is responsible for ensuring that changes to historic properties are consistent with the historic character of the property.

Towns may also establish regulations to limit construction within a certain distance of known burial grounds.

Local Organizations Active in Historic Preservation

Town Historians

Each Town in New York State is required to maintain the office of Town Historian. Town Historians are required "to collect and preserve material related to the History of the Town, and to file such material in a safe environment, as provided by the Town."

The Varick Town Historian (2005) is Bernice L. Kaufman. The Fayette Town Historian is Blaine Elkie.

County Historian

Seneca County maintains an office of County Historian. Walter Gable is the Seneca County Historian.

Fayette Historical Society

The Fayette Historical Society was formed in 2004 as a not-for profit membership corporation. Its purpose is to preserve and promote the history of the Town of Fayette and its environs. The historical society is housed in a historic building, slated to become a historical museum, that currently houses historical artifacts from the Town of Fayette. The society hosts monthly meetings and community education programs that promote the unique culture and history of Fayette.

Geneva Historical Society

The Geneva Historical Society (GHS) is a not-for-profit membership corporation that is devoted to preserving and interpreting the heritage of the City of Geneva (Ontario County) and its environs. GHS owns and maintains the Rose Hill Mansion and the Mike Weaver Drain Tile Museum , both located in the Town of Fayette.

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Certified Local Government Program

The Certified Local Government Program of the National Park Service encourages municipalities to pass laws that provide for local review of development proposals that would affect historic buildings. Municipalities may be certified by the State Historic Preservation Office if they enact a law that designates local historic landmarks or district, and that establishes a procedure for reviewing proposed changes to designated properties. Certified local governments are eligible for grant funding that is set aside for participants in the program. Grants may be used for research, education, and restoration of properties.

Tax Incentives for Private Properties

Pursuant to the Farmer's Protection and Farm Preservation Act, passed in 1996, property owners can claim a tax credit for up to 25% of the cost of rehabilitating a historic barn. Barns constructed or placed into agricultural service before 1936 are eligible, provided that the barn is used for agricultural purposes and meets the tax definition of "income-producing." The rehabilitation must not "materially alter the historic appearance" of the barn. Costs incurred after January 1, 1997 are eligible. Technical information is available on the NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation website, at *www.nysparks.state.ny.us/field/fsb/ barns.htm*. This law also enables local governments to phase in the increase in assessed value that results from the rehabilitation of barns built before 1936.

Federal tax credits are available for the rehabilitation of historic and older buildings. A tax credit of 20% of the cost of rehabilitation is available for "certified rehabilitation" of "certified historic structures." This credit generally applies to buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places. The renovations must comply with the Secretary of Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation." This credit applies only to buildings that are used for agricultural, commercial, industrial or rental residential purposes. Both the structure and the rehabilitation must be approved by the National Park Service. The project must also meet the guidelines set by the Internal Revenue Service.

A 10% tax credit is available for rehabilitation of "non-historic" buildings built before 1936. This credit applies only to "depreciable" buildings that are used for non-residential purposes. The renovation must be "substantial," exceeding either $5,000 or the adjusted basis of the property, whichever is greater. Certain guidelines apply for retaining external and external walls and the internal structural framework. The tax credit must be claimed on IRS form 3468 for the tax year in which the rehabilitated building is placed in service. There is no formal review process for the rehabilitation.

Grant funding

Grant funding is available to both private and public owners of historic properties. In 2000, the **NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation** made $2 million in grant funding available to restore and preserve historic barns and related agricultural buildings. Similar funding opportunities may be available in the future.

The **Preservation League of New York** administers a program to provide grants to municipalities and not-for-profit agencies for cultural resource surveys, historic structure reports, and historic landscape reports. Grants awarded are usually between $3,000 and $15,000. The application is usually due in May, with applications available in January.

The **New York State Council on the Arts** provides grants to local governments and not-for-profit organizations for planning and design, capital funding, and independent projects. The application deadline is generally March 1 of each year. Information is available from Anne VanIngen, Director, Architecture, Planning and Design, NYS Council on the Arts, 175 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014-4604, (212) 387-7013.

Funding is also available from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, under the **Environmental Protection Fund**, for the preservation and restoration of historic properties.

The **New York Landmarks Conservancy** provides grants for historic religious buildings that are owned by a religious institution and are listed in the State or National Registers of Historic Places. The maximum grant is $15,000. Deadlines are May 1st and November 1st of each year.

Local Organizations Active in Historic Preservation

(Continued from page 150)

Landmark Society of Western New York

The Landmark Society of Western New York, based in Rochester, works to preserve, restore, renovate, and revitalize historic homes, buildings, and landscapes and to educate the public about the region's architectural heritage. The Society's website provides information about the maintenance of historic properties, identifying architectural styles, and funding sources for historic preservation. See www.landmarksociety.org.

The Landmark Society of Western New York also has trained staff available to assist, for a fee, with historic preservation efforts. For example, a "cultural survey" involves researching historical records, preparing an inventory of historically significant structures and sties and describing each structure or site in its historical context. Another service the Landmark Society provides is the preparation of applications for listing structures and sites on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The methodology used to prepare cultural surveys and applications for listing are governed by State and federal regulations. The review and approval of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is also required.

Recommended Actions:

1. Continue to support the Town Historians and the work of local historical societies.

2. Establish a recognition program for privately owned historic buildings that retain their historic character.

3. Distribute pamphlets and sponsor workshops that provide suggestions for appropriate exterior treatments of historical buildings and appropriate landscaping.

4. Provide information to owners of historic buildings and properties regarding grant programs.

5. Provide information and training to the Town Code Enforcement Officers and the Planning Boards in the recognition and preservation of historic resources in the Towns.