

LANDMARK

Newsletter of the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier

www.pastny.org

Moving PAST Forward

Fall 2019



The Davidge Mansion

Preservation by Involvement

Those magnificent corinthian columns with elaborate capitals on the portico of the Davidge Mansion may look familiar. In fact, they served as models for the PAST logo and their image appears in the header and right margin of every newsletter.

Ten years ago PAST's offices were located on the second floor of the mansion. It was in a room behind those bay windows on the right, that a committee met to come up with a new logo for the organization. While considering various architectural features to incorporate in the design, one look out the window provided the obvious choice.

PAST ultimately moved to another location, but to this day its logo includes an homage to one of Binghamton's grand mansions – which would appear to be especially appropriate while this historic landmark sat empty and threatened.

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The Davidge Mansion

(Continued from Page 1)

Designed by Sanford Lacey and built in 1903, the historic Davidge Mansion and attached structure were recently vacated and put up for sale. In January of this year a public hearing was scheduled by the Binghamton Planning Commission to discuss a proposed renovation of the building by a potential buyer. The proposal involved renovating the property into multi-unit housing – specifically, student housing. Plans included alterations to the rear addition, but of much greater concern, to the interior of the mansion itself.

Two weeks prior to the public hearing PAST posted an announcement on its Facebook page. Within days the posting had been viewed by more than 14,000 people and generated over 800 comments from the community – overwhelmingly in opposition to the multi-unit housing proposal.

It was standing room only at the public hearing. Community members voiced strong opposition to the proposal, and in presenting to the Commission, PAST made the following recommendations:

- 1) Deny the current application to rezone the property for multi-unit housing.
- 2) Consider developing a program to protect interior features of our most precious local landmarks.
- 3) Enforce existing regulations and hold property owners accountable for the ongoing deterioration of Binghamton's architectural heritage.

Current photographs of the nearby Whitney Homestead were presented, showing how another of Binghamton's historic homes has been significantly by its resident fraternity members. The Davidge proposal, although initially to be revised and resubmitted, was ultimately withdrawn.

The first battle was won – and it was won strictly by public opinion. This was an example of “preservation by involvement” and demonstrates how effectively, *and responsibly*, social media can be utilized to save our historic landmarks – and now, as this newsletter goes to print, a buyer has come forward with a plan to renovate and reuse the building while restoring and preserving the architectural integrity of the structure.



Educational Programs and Resources

Field Trips and Scholarships

The Preservation Association of the Southern Tier is pleased to announce its 2019-2020 Educational Programs.

The HISTORY IN YOUR BACKYARD Field Trip Grant Program is for school groups K-12. Awards of \$200 each are available to supplement field trips focused on places of historic, architectural and/or cultural significance within Broome and Tioga Counties of New York.



Fourth-grade students tour the 1799 Washingtonian Hall



An afternoon exploring the historic Kilmer Mansion

The JIM BRYDEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP program provides funding for college-bound students interested in architecture, art, history, preservation, urban studies and urban planning, as well as any other major related to historic preservation.

Additionally, students interested in pursuing the building trades and applying that trade to historic preservation or restoration and who will participate in a training program that charges tuition will also be considered.

This year awards went to Simon Joyner, Binghamton High School Valedictorian, to attend Clarkson University majoring in Civil Engineering, with focus on historic architecture, and Alanna Hill, Johnson City High School Salutatorian, to attend SUNY Oswego majoring in Education with focus on History/Social Studies.



Simon Joyner after presentation of award by Taylor Norton



Alanna Hill receives award from Ken Jackson

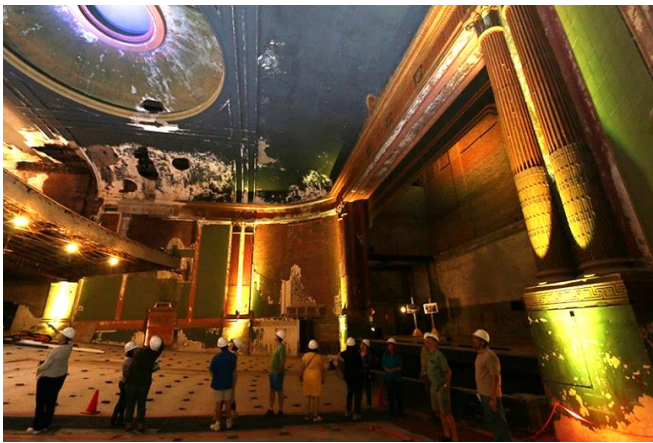
More information and applications can be found online at www.pastny.org/resources

or scan this QR code:





In September PAST held its second *History and Hardhats* tour. Following a successful tour of the Carnegie Library earlier this year, this event was an opportunity to walk through the historic, long-vacant Goodwill Theatre in Johnson City. Starting in the lobby, visitors learned the history of the building, then followed their guide to explore the auditorium, the stage and organ loft, then the balcony and projection booth.



Like the Carnegie tour, this was a rare opportunity to see historic preservation at its best, and in progress.



"History & Hardhats" is just one of PAST's exciting new programs... Watch for many more!

2nd Annual PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

It's time for the 2nd annual **COUNTRY Style** photo contest. Photos must be taken during 2019 and feature structures in rural Broome or Tioga County, such as barns, silos, fences, bridges, homesteads, cemeteries, etc.



Prizes of \$100 each will be awarded for best photos in each of 3 age groups: Over 18, 14 to 18, and under 14. Enter as many photos as you'd like, entry forms may be downloaded from the PAST website. There is an entry fee of \$5 per photo. All entries will be on exhibit through the month of January at the BC Library Gallery.

Please note: The deadline for submitting entries has been extended. Bring your "ready to hang" entries to the PAST office Friday, December 6 or Saturday, December 7 from 10am to 2pm.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

PAST Holiday Trees

Roberson Museum and Science Center
Home for the Holidays Display
November 14 – January 5

Endicott Visitors' Center

PAST Annual Holiday Party (Members Only)

December 6, 6:30-8:30PM
222 Ackley Avenue, Johnson City

Visit pastny.org for more information

Programs and Tours

PAST's programs and tours are extremely important to the viability and growth of PAST. As your board has worked over the last several years to expand the scope and reach of programs and tours, we determined the workload had become too much for one committee. To address this challenge we have divided program and annual tour responsibilities into two committees, as follows:

1. **Annual Tours committee:** Scope is to plan, coordinate and publicize annual public tours. Lorna Steigerwald is chairperson and committee members are:
 - House Tour = Terry VanHall
 - Garden Tour = Janet Denman
 - Spirits, Trolley Tours = Joan Sprague
 - Sacred Sites = Ron Borgna
 - Bus Tours = Dave Rasey
 - Loft Tours, other = open
2. **Programs committee:** Scope is to foster and facilitate community, government, business, investor, student, and membership awareness, involvement, and advocacy for Broome and Tioga county Historic and Architectural treasures. Ken Jackson is chairperson and committee members are: Cheryl Brown, Diane Kalmen, Julia Walker, Taylor Norton, Roger Luther.

The program committee had our first meeting in October and decided our 2019-2020 focus will be in 2 areas:

- Education facilitation
- Community involvement

Watch for more information soon on the new programs for these areas!

We welcome input and participation from all PAST members for these and other committeesplease reach out to Lorna or Ken or Roger.

Stay up to date with all things PAST
and Present...

Visit www.pastny.org often,
and follow us on Facebook

Sacred Sites Open House

The seventh annual Sacred Sites Open House Sunday was held on Sunday, May 19. Sacred Sites in Binghamton, Johnson City, Endwell and Endicott opened their doors to visitors at various times from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Five new locations were added to the list this year bringing the total number of participants to twenty-three making our number of participants the second highest in the state.

The theme this year was *From Medieval to Modern: Celebrating New York's Religious Art and Architecture*. This state-wide event was sponsored by the New York Landmarks Conservancy and co-sponsored locally by the PAST Sacred Sites Committee.

Various architectural styles including Gothic, Romanesque, Byzantine, Modern, Tudor, Folk Art of the Ukraine and Dutch Renaissance were featured at the sites. Many structures were designed by well-known architects including T.I. Lacey and Son, Isaac Perry, and Lester A. Kaley. Sites offered guided tours, photo displays, music and light refreshments. It was also an opportunity for participating sites to make neighbors and visitors aware of social and community activities that take place outside the religious service.



Islamic Awareness Center, Binghamton

The Sacred Sites Committee wishes to thank all the participating Sacred Sites, religious leaders and volunteers who gave their time to make this event a success. We look forward to next year's *Sacred Sites Open House Sunday* scheduled for May 17, 2020.

A Message from the Executive Director

Thank you, Jim Bryden

This column normally provides an opportunity to give an update on your Preservation Association... to highlight new programs, events and achievements. There are many indeed, but in light of a recent development, another matter must take priority.

PAST is built on the hard work, talent, dedication and passion of its volunteers, and for the last 20-plus years this organization has benefited from its association with one of the best.

Jim Bryden was a unique individual. His life was filled with a variety of interests. He was an architect, a speaker on local history, a preservationist, and more than anything, an "idea man." Jim was always thinking... always coming up with ideas for improvement.

One of Jim's proudest achievements was saving and repurposing Binghamton's historic Lackawanna Railroad Station. Having survived Urban Renewal, Jim renovated the building and maintained an office in it for years. Today it stands as one of Binghamton's most significant historic structures.

Jim took equal pride in his work with area students, encouraging history and architecture clubs and developing a preservation-related program that has continued for decades.

Jim had a profound impact on many people. He enjoyed life – always active, always open to new ideas, always exploring... and often contemplating life's great mysteries. He lived life to its fullest.

Then, on August 15 of this year, while riding in the country with his bicycle club, doing what he loved... in an instant, Jim was gone.

Jim Bryden is greatly missed but his presence will continue to be felt. More than an architect, historian or preservationist, Jim was an inspiration. We are indeed privileged to have known and worked with him, and to have learned from him. PAST's success over the years has been due in large part to Jim's influence.

Following Jim's passing, PAST created a scholarship program in his honor – the *Jim Bryden Memorial Scholarship Program*, and since then several donations in his memory have been received.

Each year high school students in Broome and Tioga County will be eligible for scholarships of \$1,000 in pursuit of higher education or training in a field related to historic preservation.

We feel this to be a fitting tribute to Jim's memory – a tribute that will live on for generations to come, and a legacy that Jim would be very proud of.

Roger Luther

A Message from the President

As we approach the holiday season, I am reminded of how proud I am of being a member of PAST. Since 1976 as the Landmark Society and 1986 as the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier, we have worked to save our area's landmarks and cultural heritage. These are indeed exciting and important times.

Educational tours for our elementary students, scholarships for our future leaders, garden tours, house tours, sacred sites tours, hard hat tours all highlighting the beauty and historic significance our area offers. We helped raise public awareness to threatened buildings such as the Davidge Mansion on Front Street in Binghamton. This is all due to the tremendous efforts of our board, executive director, and our many volunteers who always answer the call when needed.

I am thankful I live in such a beautiful area of upstate New York and am able to contribute in a small but meaningful way in preserving our past for a better tomorrow. Happy Holidays!

Lorna Steigerwald

Don't let your membership lapse!

Check the mailing label on this newsletter for your membership status.

If yours expires this year, please consider renewing. To Renew, just visit www.pastny.org/past-membership

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Barney & Dickenson, Inc	520 Prentice Rd, Vestal
Binghamton Material Handling, Inc.	295 Court Street, Binghamton
Broome County Historical Society	185 Court Street, Binghamton
Chianis + Anderson Architects	84 Court Street, 7 th Floor
City of Binghamton	38 Hawley Street, Binghamton
Coughlin & Gerhart LLP	99 Corporate Drive, Binghamton
Daniels Paint & Decorating	242 Main St, Binghamton
First Tioga Realty	54 Central Ave, Owego
Haas Landscape Architects	9 Washington Street, Binghamton
Hillside Garden Landscaping	2340 State Rt 26, Endicott
Levene, Gouldin & Thompson, LLP	450 Plaza Drive, Vestal
Nelson Development Corp	1803 Castle Garden Road, Vestal
P.A. Every Architect	31 Oakridge Drive, Binghamton
Railside Properties	2338 Seneca St, Binghamton
Security Mutual Life	PO Box 1625, Binghamton
Tri-Cities Opera	315 Clinton Street, Binghamton
Tioga State Bank	191 Conklin Ave, Binghamton
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Water Street Brewing Company	168 Water St, Binghamton
William H. Lane Inc.	113 Court St, Binghamton
William Orband Insurance	84 Court St, Binghamton

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