

Rutger Park Buildings Named to *Seven to Save* List

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ALBANY, January 19, 2006 – The Preservation League of New York State has named 1 and 3 Rutger Park in the City of Utica, Oneida County, to the nonprofit group's annual list of the Empire State's most threatened historic places, *Seven to Save*.

The announcement was made today by Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of New York State, at a press conference held at the site. He was joined by Utica Mayor Timothy Julian and Michael S. Rizzo, President of the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica.

Located in a park-like setting in what was once the rural outskirts of the city, the residences at Rutger Park are linked to state and national leaders who made Utica their home and thus contributed to the city's economic, cultural and political importance in the 19th century.

Their architectural attributes are no less significant. Both are associated with nationally prominent designers who had especially strong connections to New York State. Number 3 Rutger Park was designed by Philip Hooker of Albany, while the imposing 1854 Italian Villa style house at 1 Rutger Park is considered one of Andrew Jackson Davis' most important works.

In addition to their outstanding historic and architectural significance, these properties hold the promise of spurring new economic activity. "If properly restored, 1 and 3 Rutger Park could become important contributors to the city's and region's heritage tourism programs," DiLorenzo said. "As we have seen in numerous communities around the state, cultural and heritage tourism is a proven economic engine. By reopening 1 and 3 Rutger Park and re-establishing the historic grounds, Utica would have one more good reason to welcome visitors while providing an asset for its own citizens."

1 and 3 Rutger Park are included in Utica's Scenic and Historic District and are located in the Rutger-Steuben Park State and National Register Historic District, designated in 1973. In addition, 3 Rutger Park has the Federal government's highest recognition. that of National Historic Landmark.

streets, it is clear that many homes have been rescued and carefully restored. This same type of attention to these landmark buildings would turn a blighted corner into a neighborhood anchor and help protect the considerable public and private investments and have already been made.”

Currently, the buildings are vacant, and are facing yet another winter without stabilization. “By placing them on the 2006 Seven to Save list, we are urging that plans for their stabilization and rehabilitation be made promptly,” said DiLorenzo. “The Preservation League pledges our support so that these local, state and national treasures can again become useful, beautiful and a point of pride in Utica and the state.”

Since 1999, publicity surrounding the Seven to Save designation has led to the stabilization of St. Joseph’s Church in Albany; the rehabilitation of the Oswego City Public Library, the adaptive re-use of the former Niagara Falls High School as a cultural and arts center, and prevented the demolition of the Conger Goodyear House on Long Island.

The Preservation League of New York State, founded in 1974, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection of New York’s diverse and rich heritage of historic buildings, districts and landscapes. From its headquarters in Albany, it provides a unified voice for historic preservation. By leading a statewide movement and sharing information and expertise, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize the Empire State’s neighborhoods and communities.

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