



LANDMARKS *Preservationist*

LANDMARKS' 2002 COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENT FEATURES SBU BANK

Qn any list of the most spectacular and familiar structures adorning the local landscape, the SBU Bank building at 233 Genesee Street in downtown

and Hotel Utica, which were featured on the 2000 and 2001 ornaments, respectively.

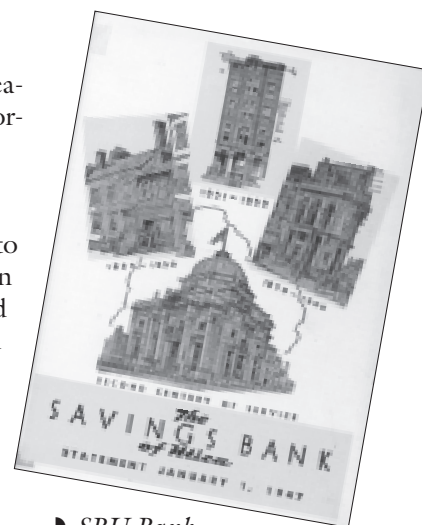
A TRUST EARNED

SBU Bank traces its roots to Utica's earliest days when, in 1814, the brothers John and Nicholas Devereux included an iron strong box in the construction of their new brick general store. Local citizens respected and trusted the Devereuxs and brought them their valuables for safekeeping. Investing the money wisely, the brothers were soon able to pay dividends and the operation that was to become known as The Savings Bank of Utica was born.

This informal beginning occurred two years prior to the opening of the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, officially recognized as the first savings bank in the country. Thus, SBU was among the first, if not *the* first, savings bank in the nation.

"DIGNITY"

Steady growth throughout the 19th century necessitated increasingly larger facilities until, on July 1, 1898, construction began on the current building. Much credit for the enduring beauty of the structure goes to architect Robert Williams, who gave the name "Dignity" to his plans. With architecture designed to inspire



► *SBU Bank has had four headquarters buildings in downtown Utica.*



► *The Landmarks Society's 2002 Commemorative Ornament features the historic SBU Bank headquarters building. The collectible is available for \$20.*

Utica is near the top. Since its doors opened on February 26, 1900, the stately Italian Renaissance-style edifice, affectionately known as "The Bank with the Gold Dome," has stood sentinel-like at the corner of Genesee Street and Bank Place, a symbol of both the city's best times and the underlying strength that has seen it through less prosperous ones.

Fittingly, the SBU Bank building has been chosen for the Landmarks Society's 2002 commemorative ornament. It becomes the third such structure to be featured in the already-popular 21st-Century Series, joining "Old Main" from the Utica Psychiatric Center campus

awe and confidence among the depositors, the design was said to elevate the status of the bank to that of a cathedral, a popular idea among banking institutions of the era.

The massive, beautifully proportioned gold dome is the focal point of SBU Bank. Covered in 23-carat gold leaf, the gleaming dome rises over 90 feet from the floor of the lobby and has an outside diameter of 52 feet. Last gilded in 1989, it has needed only six applications of gold leaf throughout its history.

MURALS DEPICT LIFE CONCEPTS

In addition to the distinctive gold dome, the groupings of eight large murals which encircle the rotunda high above the main

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▶ A 1953 photo of the bank, decorated for the holidays.

ORNAMENT TO BE INTRODUCED AT NOV. 7 RECEPTION

Landmarks' 2002 commemorative ornament will be formally introduced and made available for sale at a reception in the SBU

Bank lobby, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 7. The reception is free and open to the public.

banking floor are another outstanding feature of the bank. Painted in oil on canvas by Frederick Augusta Marshall, they were installed during the period 1900-1904 and depict the artist's concept of the place of thrift, industry, abundance, philosophy, art, religion, education and history in the life of man.

The building has undergone other additions and improvements over the years. In 1964 the mezzanine floor was added, a 65-foot curved teller counter was installed and a black marble illuminated pool with playing fountain was artfully placed under the dome in the main lobby. These changes only helped to improve the facility's already majestic appearance. An office annex added to the building's north side was completed in 1979.

DEDICATED CARETAKERS

"We salute SBU for being such dedicated caretakers of this historic landmark," noted Landmarks Society Trustee and Ornament Committee Chair Bertha Romanow, "for ably serving the area's financial needs and for generously supporting our community in so many ways throughout the years."

"We're very pleased that the Landmarks Society chose SBU Bank to be recognized this year,"

said Richard F. Callahan, the bank's Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing, "and are happy to make the ornaments available at our branches in the Greater Utica Area."

WHERE TO FIND 2002 ORNAMENT

SBU Bank Main Office, Utica
SBU Ellinwood Branch, New Hartford
SBU New Hartford Shopping Center
SBU North Utica Branch
SBU Whitesboro Branch
Danella Photographic
McHarris Gifts
Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute Gift Shop
Reid Sheldon & Co.
Oneida County Historical Society
Stanley Performing Arts Center

The cost of each ornament is \$20. Further information is available by calling the Landmarks Society at 732-7376.

"OLD MAIN" RECEIVES \$200,000 GRANT

Efforts to preserve the "Old Main" building on the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center campus have received a boost in the form of a \$200,000 grant to support restoration of the first floor and mechanical systems.

The funding, awarded through the Save America's Treasures program, has been announced jointly by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, National Park Service, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and Institute of Museum and Library Services.

A National Historic Landmark and magnificent example of Greek-revival design, "Old Main" opened in 1842 and was vacated in 1978. The Landmarks Society has actively promoted its preservation and re-use, and has designated it one of the area's most significant yet endangered structures.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Landmarks Society is pleased to welcome these new members who have joined since our spring 2002 issue of *Landmarks Preservationist* was published:

BUSINESSES/PATRONS

SBU Bank, Richard Callahan

COUPLES

Sharon & Robert Dicks Jr.
Edward & Sandra Glenski
Calvin & Nancy Jones
Mr. & Mrs. James Kane
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kowalczyk
Jim & Maureen Maher
Ron & Lorraine Post
Al & Molly Provasnik

INDIVIDUALS

Norman C. Barry Jr.
Joan Blanchfield
Theresa DiSpirito
Agatha Enea
Daniel A. Evans
Linda Hajdasz
Jean Houts
Joan C. May
Shirley O'Brien
Kevin Schultz
Brian Thomas
Carol Welch

BUS TOURS POPULAR ADDITION TO UTICA MONDAY NITE

While summer might be thought of as a time to slow down, summer 2002 was anything but that for the Landmarks Society. Landmarks was again a major player in the Utica Monday Nite program, which ran from June 3 through August 26.

Landmarks hosted the "Walks and Talks" component of each Monday evening's agenda, sharing the historical and architectural significance of over a dozen sites

— from churches to "Old Main," Union Station to Forest Hill Cemetery — with crowds large and enthusiastic. The newly added bus tours of Utica's Scenic and Historic Districts, coordinated and led by Vice President Mary Lyons Bradley on July 15 and August 19, literally overflowed in attendance.



► The large turnout for the tour of Union Station, led by President Mike Bosak, was another indication of the community's strong interest in this facility. The Landmarks Society has been a catalyst in the station's preservation and restoration.



► The buses filled up quickly for the tours of Utica's Scenic and Historic Districts.



► Tour guide and Landmarks Vice President Mary Lyons Bradley narrates the trip on bus #1, providing insights into many of the historic structures along lower Genesee, Oriskany, Main, Pleasant and Rutger streets.



► Directors Steve Olney and Rand Carter led tours of Utica's Forest Hill Cemetery, describing its richness as a treasure-trove of local history and cemetery art.



LANDMARKS' ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 21

The Landmarks Society's 2002 annual meeting will be held Thursday, November 21, in the beautifully restored Hotel Utica. The evening will get underway at 6 P.M. with music and cocktails on the mezzanine, followed by a sit-down dinner at 7.

The program will include a keynote address, election of officers and board members, voting on next year's budget and presentation of the Society's 2002 Awards of Merit. A formal invitation including further details will be sent to members, with reservations due by November 15.

Official Notice: Slate of Officers, New Board Members and Returning Members to be Voted Upon at the 2002 Annual Meeting

Officers

Michael Bosak, President*
 Michael Rizzo, Vice President
 (one-year term 2003)
 David Trevisani, Treasurer*
 Phyllis Draper, Recording Secretary*
 Nicholas Sbarra, Membership Secretary*

*continuing through 2003

New Board Member 2002-2004

Acting Member:
 Carol Whitehouse, Utica

New Board Member 2001-2003

Acting Member:
 Jody English, Utica

Returning to New Term 2003-2005

Michael Bosak, New York Mills
 Rand Carter, Utica
 Phyllis Draper, Utica
 Ron Draper, Utica
 Edward Earl, Clinton
 Judy Olney, Poland
 Michael Rizzo, Utica
 Bertha Romanow, Utica

FALL TOUR VISITS HISTORIC REMSEN, EDMONDS ESTATE, CONSTABLE HALL

Members and friends who took the Landmarks Society's fall tour on Saturday, September 21, were treated to a day of terrific sightseeing and dining.

Organized by Ron and Phyllis Draper, the excursion included a visit to historic Remsen, where the group toured the Old Welsh Stone Church and recently reconstructed railroad station; the magnificent Walter Edmonds-Northlands estate near Boonville, now owned by Don and Edie Carbone; a delicious full-course lunch at the Hilltop Tavern; and a tour of riveting Constable Hall in Constableville.



▮ The "Capel Cerrig" (Old Stone Welsh Church), today the Stone Meeting House, was one of five such churches established in Remsen between 1824 and 1831, when the village was the cradle of Welsh Calvinistic Methodist religion in America. Built by Welsh immigrant craftsmen, it is the only one of the five that remains.



▮ Although having undergone some modifications over the years, the plain interior of the structure — like its exterior — still reflects the theology and spirit of the original congregation, which was to be void of ornamentation and signs of vanity.



▮ Authentically reconstructed on the foundation of the original station, the "new" Remsen Depot is a stop for the Adirondack Scenic Railroad along its Utica-to-Thendara run, a train from which pulled in as the Landmarks group toured the facility.

▮ Completed in 1819 and home to five generations of the Constable family — whose members included one of the biggest landholders in post-Revolutionary War New York State as well as prominent importers and exporters — Constable Hall remains remarkably as it was in its earliest years. It still houses many of the original furnishings, including the Constable Library, and stands today on the remote, picturesque setting chosen for it nearly two centuries ago.



▮ Once the summer home of the Edmonds family and the birthplace of Drums Along the Mohawk author Walter D. Edmonds, the breathtaking 19th-century estate known as Northlands is now owned — and has been meticulously restored — by Don and Edie Carbone. Inside and outside, there was much to enjoy and appreciate around the Edmonds estate.



The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica was chartered by the State of New York on October 25, 1974, as a non-profit educational corporation to preserve historic buildings and districts in the Utica area. Offices at 1124 State Street, Utica, New York 13502; 315-732-7376.

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