

Helping The Landmark Society Share "Hidden Treasures"

by Susan Latoski,
Director of Development

Inspirational stories about special friends of The Landmark Society.

Do you know what treasures you would save if you had to leave your house in an emergency? Many people would say their family photographs. We all have things we value: photo albums, books, letters and even our homes. Sometimes we must keep our cherished assets secured, but we miss looking at and sharing them.

Like most of us, The Landmark Society also has treasures. Some are hidden away for their protection, but we have found a way to share them with all of you.

One of our treasures is a set of architectural images taken by photographer Hans Padelt, a respected pioneer in the development of the Graflex-XL camera. Padelt, born in 1907, created beautifully composed images which capture the distinctive light and shadow that great architecture embraces. His photographs are extremely sharp and well composed, with a distinctively precise use of light. Padelt documented many important buildings in Rochester and Monroe County and generously gifted The Landmark Society with a series of these photographs. In fact, a number of Padelt's photographs were published in a book sponsored by The Landmark Society; *Landmarks of Rochester and Monroe County* (Paul Malo, Syracuse University Press, 1974). His collection of photographs of locally significant build-

ings is a unique aesthetic and cultural resource—a hidden jewel in Rochester's cultural crown—but one that may be lost forever if steps are not taken to preserve it.



The Elishu Kirby House. Photograph by Hans Padelt.

The notable collection of approximately 570 black and white images is but one of many riches housed in our Wenrich Memorial Library, which stores an extensive compilation of rare and unusual books, periodicals, photographs, slides and drawings, all related to our region's rich architectural history. Other treasures include the Society's architecture survey books, known as the "Blue Books" of Rochester and Monroe County, which document architecture from the mid 1800's to the present, neighborhood surveys, architectural/historical files and more.

There is demonstrated need for public access to these collections. Each year we receive over 3,000 inquires from local residents, visitors and distance researchers. Sadly, we do not have the resources to respond to every inquiry in a timely manner.

Currently we have one part-time staff person working in our library, which means that the collections are not easily accessible to the public. Just imagine how wonderful it would be if with the click of a computer

mouse, folks in Rochester, New York State and around the globe were able to access The Landmark Society's significant collections!

As stewards of our collections, it is our responsibility to see these assets not only preserved but made available to our community. Plans are underway to digitize these irreplaceable materials and post them in a searchable database accessible to the public on the Society's website.

The project will begin with the digitization of the most valuable and fragile portions of the collection: The Hans Padelt Architectural Photography Collection and selected records from The Landmark Society's architecture survey books. We anticipate protecting 1,000 records from loss through deterioration, and making that information available to the community in the first phase of the project. Once the system is implemented, we will be able to continue adding to the database using in-house scanning technology and staff assistance.

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The first step is to upgrade our computer infrastructure, and we have received a significant gift from a very generous Landmark Society Trustee and her spouse, Gabriel and Ed Saphar. As long time Landmark Society members, Gabriel and Ed understand the importance of our mission and support of this

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The Powers Building. Photograph by Hans Padelt.

project exemplifies their commitment to The Landmark Society and to our community.

Gabriel and Ed had the following to say about their gift:

“We believe the Society has the credibility and integrity to play a significant role in enhancing our neighborhoods and communities by encouraging historic preservation.

It is our hope that this gift will encourage other long-time supporters of The Landmark Society to add their financial support and invest in the lasting community benefits we are all seeking.”

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~Gabriel and Ed Saphar

We are actively reaching out to our long time members and Trustees seeking their support in this critical endeavor and we hope to be able to report to you in the future that the installation of new technology allows us to easily share our archival treasures with the world and will keep them safe for future generations!

If you would like to see more of the Hans Padelt Architectural Collection

and other Landmark Society treasures, call Bill Keeler, Curator and Librarian at 546-7029 x13.

You have shown your support of The Landmark Society through your generous membership participation, and we hope you will help us now with this important and timely project. Landmark Society members and the general public are invited to participate in this exciting effort. Please call Susan Latoski, Director of Development at 546-0729 x29, to learn how your donations can help.



Inside Downtown, from page 1



An apartment in Flat Iron's reconfigured ballroom.

ballroom space now hosts one-of-a-kind apartments. Twelve foot high windows open to Rochester's skyline while, just down the way, turn-of-the-century Victorian Era homes provide a variety of single-family housing and apartments.

The Neighborhood of the Arts boasts that rare combination of urban diversity and accessibility for dwellers and business people alike. A wonderful example of planned revitalization, the Neighborhood of the Arts will capture your imagination.

The tour is self-guided and sites can

be visited in any order. The two-day tour ticket allows entrance to all tour stops during both days of the tour. The tour begins Friday, September 28 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and concludes on Saturday, September 29 running from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A tour narrative, with photographs and descriptions of each site, will be available on the website in early September. The guide will be published in September as an insert in *City* newspaper and will also be available at the event.

Tour tickets are \$18 (\$15 for Landmark Society members). Order your Inside Downtown ticket online at www.landmarksociety.org or by phone at 585-546-7029 x10. Tickets, if available, are \$20 during the tour.

Ghost Walk, from page 1

performances. This 152-page paperback resurrects the life and times of 19th century Rochester, from botched executions and grave robbery to industrial disasters and unsolved murders. Author Cindy Boyer will be on hand to sign copies.

Tickets are \$12 in advance (\$10 for members) and \$15 at the door, and are available online at www.landmarksociety.org, by phone at 546-7029 x10, or in person at the Landmark Society, 133 South Fitzhugh St. and at Parkleigh, 215 Park Ave. Member tickets are available only from the Landmark Society. Groups of 8 or more can reserve specific tour times by calling 546-7029 x14.