

**Contact:**

**Megan Klem**

**Landmark Society Preservation Planner**

585-537-5958

[mklem@landmarksociety.org](mailto:mklem@landmarksociety.org)

**APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR GRANTS TO REHABILITATE HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND ADVANCE HISTORIC PRESERVATION INITIATIVES IN THE GENESEE VALLEY**

*\$750,000 awarded to NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation from the National Park Service's Paul Bruhn Rural Revitalization Grant Program.*

*Matching funds provided by the Rochester Area Community Foundation, Letchworth Gateway Villages and The Landmark Society of Western New York.*

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), in partnership with The Landmark Society of Western New York (LSWNY), announces that applications are being accepted for Round 2 of the **Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program (GVRR)** to support rural communities in the Finger Lakes and Western New York. This funding is made possible by a grant received from the Paul Bruhn Rural Revitalization Grant Program as administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and will allow OPRHP and LSWNY to offer reimbursable sub-grants for historic building repair and rehabilitation in small rural communities located in eligible counties. Matching funds have been provided by the Rochester Area Community Foundation, Letchworth Gateway Villages, and LSWNY. This program will support local governments, non-profit and commercial property owners, and small businesses in their efforts to preserve the historic places that have shaped their community's social fabric and economy.

"We are thrilled to partner with NYS Parks to assist with offering this important funding for rural rehabilitation projects in our most treasured Genesee Valley Communities," said Wayne Goodman, Executive Director of the Landmark Society of Western New York, "and we are grateful to the National Park Service for recognizing the value of preserving some of our most historic communities."

This GVRR grant program is being administered by OPRHP and LSWNY. Applications are available through the Landmark Society of Western New York. For more information on the grant program, contact Megan Klem, Preservation Planner, at [mklem@landmarksociety.org](mailto:mklem@landmarksociety.org) or visit [www.landmarksociety.org/GVRR](http://www.landmarksociety.org/GVRR).

Webinars will be hosted on December 9, 2021 and January 28, 2022. The webinar will cover general program information, walk through the application form, and allow for Q&A at the end. Each webinar presentation will include the same information.

Register online at [www.landmarksociety.org/GVRR](http://www.landmarksociety.org/GVRR).

## **Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program (GVRR)**

**Eligible Buildings:** Historic commercial, industrial, civic, educational, and community-oriented buildings in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates Counties. Eligible buildings must also be located within incorporated villages with a population of 4,000 or less, or within towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Properties must be listed or determined eligible for listing in the NYS and National Registers of Historic Places.

**Eligible Applicants** can be community-based non-profit organizations, units of local government (village, town, county), business owners who operate within a historic building (with express permission to apply from the building owner), Non-residential property owners who own an eligible building type.

**Types of Projects Eligible** include, but are not limited to: Capital rehabilitation/restoration projects, such as a roof replacement, masonry repair, window repair or replacements, storefront restoration, weatherization, system upgrades, the creation of an ADA-compliant access, etc. The completion of nominations to the State and National Registers of Historic Places or Cultural Resource Surveys are also eligible projects.

*Grants in the first GVRR round were issued to:*

Photos available on website at:

<https://www.landmarksociety.org/genesee-valley-rural-revitalization-gvrr-grant-round-1-awards-announcement/>

- Village of Holley Development Corporation, Holley (Orleans County) - The Village of Holley Development Corporation will receive \$50,000 for the first phase of stabilization and rehabilitation of the historic Holley Odd Fellows Hall, which was built in 1890s, and has suffered vacancy and deterioration since 2010.
- Silver Lake Institute, Silver Lake (Wyoming County) - The Silver Lake Institute will receive \$40,000 for asbestos remediation at the historic Epworth Hall, a large assembly hall used for public meetings, events, and programs.
- Patrick Reynolds/The American Hotel, Lima (Livingston County) – Hotel owner Patrick Reynolds will receive \$45,600 to rehabilitate the historic hotel portico and entrance. The American Hotel was constructed in 1862 and is an anchor building in the community.
- Gowanda's Historic Hollywood Theater, Ltd., Gowanda (Cattaraugus County) - Gowanda's Historic Hollywood Theater, Ltd. will receive \$35,500 for an architectural

evaluation of the theater parapet and exterior masonry repairs. This theater opened in 1926 and has been undergoing extensive rehabilitation. It is a centerpiece of the Gowanda Historic District, which is on the state and national Registers of Historic Places.

- Mount Morris Historical Society, Mount Morris (Livingston County) - The Mount Morris Historical Society will receive \$37,405 to restore 33 historic windows of the Mills Mansion, the former home of Livingston County founder General William Augustus Mills, a veteran of the War of 1812.
- Cuba Friends of Architecture, Cuba (Allegany County) -The Cuba Friends of Architecture will receive \$42,800 to recondition, seal, and repair the roof of the historic Palmer Opera House. Funds will also be dedicated to exterior masonry repairs of this important community space.

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*This program is funded by the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program through the Historic Preservation Fund, and administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.*

*The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 individual parks, historic sites, recreational trails and boat launches, which were visited by a record 77 million people in 2019. A recent university study found that spending by State Parks and its visitors supports \$5 billion in output and sales, 54,000 private-sector jobs and more than \$2.8 billion in additional state GDP. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456 or visit [parks.ny.gov](http://parks.ny.gov), connect on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).*

*The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc. is one of the oldest and most active preservation organizations in America, serving nine Western New York counties. Formed in 1937, The Landmark Society continues to protect the unique architectural heritage of our region and promote preservation and planning principles that foster healthy and sustainable communities. For additional information about The Landmark Society, visit [www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org). The Landmark Society programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.*