

# Preservation Buffalo Niagara Honorees

## Category: Preservation Service

**Marge Thielman Hastreiter**

**Buffalo, New York**

Triggered by its observable decline, Marge Thielman Hastreiter in 1988 began twenty-two years of advocacy for her Lovejoy/Iron Island neighborhood by using personal funds to stage contests for the best gardens in summer and the best holiday decorations in winter. Her “Lovejoy in Bloom” was the first garden tour in the city.

Marge joined successful protests, led by her mother, to reopen the historic Engine 28 Firehouse, closed in 1977 due to budgetary constraints. Then, following a centennial celebration organized in 1997 by the Iron Island Society in which she is active, she began successful efforts to place the building on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, researching with firefighters’ assistance and working with SHPO to complete the paperwork.

Today, she is advocating with city hall to complete work needed to bring the firehouse back to its original beauty, as well as for a National Register designation plaque.

Marge also successfully completed documentation to put the historic *Edward M. Cotter* fireboat on the State and National Registers.

Undaunted by some unsuccessful designation efforts—the 1937 Mead Branch Library was refused local designation by the city and St. Agnes Church was refused by the bishop—she spent thousands of her own money to save Father Hennepin Park, and her ten-year advocacy for the Central Terminal met with success when it was



purchased by a restoration group.

Today, as curator of the Iron Island Museum (pictured above), Marge is helping to preserve the 1885 museum building at 998 Lovejoy and to educate visitors on her beloved neighborhood.

For her decades of preservation service, Preservation Buffalo Niagara is proud to honor Marge Thielman Hastreiter.