

Preservation Buffalo Niagara Honorees

Category: New Construction
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural
National Historic Site
Buffalo, New York

After three years of planning begun in 2005, ground was broken on May 2, 2008, for a \$2.7 million construction project to preserve and protect the historic Wilcox Mansion where in 1901 Theodore Roosevelt took the presidential oath of office following the death of President William McKinley.

Partners in the long-range planning effort were the National Park Service and the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation (the local board of trustees that manages the Site through a cooperative agreement with the NPS).

Their plans included building a new addition that would replace the original Carriage House demolished in the late 1930s when the mansion became a restaurant operated by

Kathryn and Oliver Lawrence.

Several other important goals were achieved: universal access to both the Wilcox Mansion and the new Carriage House; expanded space for education, meetings, and events; climate-controlled storage space for collections; a new museum shop and admissions area; and a new, enhanced tour experience for visitors. The project architect was Jake Schneider of Schneider Design Architects.

Completion of the TR Site project, celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 15, 2009, enables more accurate interpretation of the important events of 1901 while creating a more efficient and visitor-



friendly museum. In addition, the project has reproduced an historic element to the Site and to the city's streetscape, enhancing the neighboring Allentown and Delaware Avenue Historic Preservation Districts.

Were TR here, we're confident he would leap onto his Bully Pulpit and proclaim his approval, perhaps even wish to present the award himself. Instead, Preservation Buffalo Niagara is proud to present it for him.