

Proposed Policy—Designating Historic Properties September 21, 2009

In coming months and years, Preservation Buffalo Niagara's staff and volunteers will be working with both property owners and public agencies to insure the preservation and protection of historic places. In doing so, PBN wants to be sensitive to those that own historic properties, as they are vital stewards. But PBN also will be representing the public's interest to insure that historic places survive into the future.

- * Historic Designation is a valuable tool for the protection and enhancement of historic buildings and communities throughout the Buffalo-Niagara region.
- * Local designation and National Register designation are the two primary types of designation, each offering their own benefits, advantages and requirements.
- * Preservation Buffalo Niagara strives to educate property owners and the public in general, about the benefits and requirements that local and National Register designation offer.
- * Preservation Buffalo Niagara works in cooperation with municipalities, Certified Local Governments, the State Historic Preservation Office and the Preservation League of New York State to encourage ongoing discussion and usage of a variety of tools for preservation, including conservation easements, façade easements, conservation or character districts, and other creative solutions.
- * To encourage increased preservation activity, Preservation Buffalo Niagara advocates for expanded financial incentives for property owners who undertake preservation projects, including appropriate repairs, quality maintenance, and private investment, so that properties will be eligible for every possible benefit.
- * Preservation Buffalo Niagara encourages property owners to seek landmark designation for qualified properties.
- * With our unique historic districts and individual properties throughout the region, the tools we use to protect and enhance each property will also be unique. PBN will strive to work with property owners to find the best solution for them and the community. PBN recognizes that there will be occasions where the public's interest in a distinctive or historical property may initiate a designation process. In cases where urgent protection of a historic property is essential, and the owner has been presented with all pertinent information, PBN may need to support the designation of property against the owner's wishes.