



# SELECTED SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE FOR HISTORIC RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES IN NEW YORK STATE

PRESERVATION LEAGUE OF NEW YORK STATE ■ 44 CENTRAL AVENUE, ALBANY, NY 12206  
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## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### ***National Trust For Historic Preservation***

The National Trust provides matching grants and low-interest loans for preservation activities. Funding is available for site acquisition, rehabilitation costs, inner-city neighborhoods, education programs, and for the restoration of historic interiors. See [www.nationaltrust.org/help/preserving\\_sacred\\_sites.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/help/preserving_sacred_sites.html). Unless instructed otherwise, contact Brent Leggs, Northeast Regional Office, for information on the National Trust grant programs: NTHP Northeast Regional Office, Seven Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02109, 617-523-0885, [Northeast\\_Office@nthp.org](mailto:Northeast_Office@nthp.org), [www.nthp.org/help/grants/html](http://www.nthp.org/help/grants/html).

***The Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation*** provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for projects that contribute to the preservation or the recapture of an authentic sense of place. Individuals and for-profit businesses may apply only if the project for which funding is requested involves a National Historic Landmark. Funds may be used for professional services, conferences, workshops and education programs. Grants generally range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Funds are not available to support “bricks and mortar” restoration costs. Competition for these grants is intense; this is a national grant source with a very limited number of funds. The application deadline is February 1.

***The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors*** provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Individuals and for-profit businesses may apply only if the project for which funding is requested involves a National Historic Landmark. Funds may be used for professional expertise, print and video communications materials, and education programs. Funds are not available to support “bricks and mortar” restoration costs. Competition for these grants is intense; this is a national grant source with a very limited number of funds. The application deadline is February 1.

***John E. Streb Fund for New York*** provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies matching grants from \$500 to \$5,000 (typically from \$1,000 to \$1,500) for preservation planning and education efforts. Funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law as well as preservation education activities to educate the public. Funds are not available to support “bricks and mortar” restoration costs. Application deadlines are February 1 and October 1.

***Save America's Treasures*** is a partnership between the National Park Service and the National Trust. Historic properties owned by active religious organizations may be eligible for funding if they meet the national significance criteria. See guidelines at [www.saveameericastreasures.org](http://www.saveameericastreasures.org), or contact Trust staff at 202-588-6202, 877-873-2787 or [saveameericastreasures@nthp.org](mailto:saveameericastreasures@nthp.org). Only nationally-significant sites are eligible (i.e., National Historic Landmarks or National Register of Historic Places sites listed at the level of national significance). For information on the NR status of a site, see [www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo). To discuss upgrading your site contact Mark Peckham at NYSHPO: 518-237-8643. For questions directly related to the federal grant program process, call Joe Wallis at the National Park Service at 202-354-2054.

### ***New York Landmarks Conservancy***

For information about the following NYLC programs, contact Ann-Isabel Friedman, Director, Sacred Sites Program, [annfriedman@nylandmarks.org](mailto:annfriedman@nylandmarks.org), or Colleen Meagher, Manager of Grants and Technical Services, [cmeagher@nylandmarks.org](mailto:cmeagher@nylandmarks.org); New York Landmarks Conservancy, One Whitehall Street, New York, NY, 10004, 212-995-5260 or visit [www.nylandmarks.org](http://www.nylandmarks.org).

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### **New York Landmarks Conservancy, cont.**

**Sacred Sites Program (SSP)** provides grants for the preservation of historic religious buildings and related sites throughout New York State. Support for planning and implementation is available. Eligible properties must be owned by a religious institution, and designated as a local landmark or listed in the State or National Registers of Historic Places. The maximum grant is \$10,000. The recipient must match the award dollar-for-dollar. Deadlines for application are generally January 15th and June 1st of each year.

#### **Consulting Grant Fund**

The SSP administers another 50/50 matching grant to support professional fees for the preservation of historic houses of worship and related sites in New York City. Projects considered for funding include: conditions surveys, master plans, specification writing, project management, engineering reports, stained glass surveys, and laboratory testing. Applications for this program are continuously accepted. Contact staff for eligibility.

#### **Robert W. Wilson Sacred Sites Challenge**

This SSP grant program awards matching grants of \$25,000 to \$100,000 for large church restoration projects. Eligible properties must be owned by a religious institution, actively used for worship, and listed as a local landmark or on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Priority is given to the large-scale, comprehensive restoration of steeples, roofs and related drainage systems, exterior masonry walls, and stained glass windows. Consultant fees and planning documents will not be funded. Prospective applicants must first call to discuss their projects. Deadlines for application are generally January 15th and June 1st of each year.

### **New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)**

Information on all SHPO programs is available at: [www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo); 518-237-8643; or Field Services Bureau, NYS OPRHP, Peebles Island, Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188. For National Register, Technical and Grants or Archaeology units regional staff contacts, visit [www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/state/map.htm](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/state/map.htm) or go to the main site and click on the "Territory Maps" link. For information about grants and availability of applications, visit [www.nysparks.state.ny.us/grants/](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/grants/).

**Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)** provides reimbursement grants to municipalities and nonprofit corporations, including religious institutions, for the preservation and restoration of historic properties and development of the state's Heritage Areas System. Historic preservation grants must improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate or restore properties on the State or National Registers of Historic Places. All grants are made available on a matching basis of up to 50% of total project costs. For the long term protection of the property, recipients must convey a covenant to OPRHP, based on the amount of funding received. For information regarding the next funding round and the name of your regional grant staff, see websites listed above or contact Austin O'Brien, 518-237-8643, x3279. Note: **Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act** funding is no longer available.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Interfaith Coalition on Energy (ICE)**

ICE is a not-for-profit organization that assists religious institutions to reduce the costs of operating facilities, use less energy, purchase energy at a lower cost, and to anticipate and prevent problems with mechanical and electrical systems. ICE publishes "Comfort and Light," a quarterly newsletter, and also provides documents, research reports, and articles related to the conservation of energy in religious buildings. These are available for a small fee. Contact: Andrew Rudin, Interfaith Coalition on Energy, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027, 215-635-1122 or [andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net).

### **Interfaith Coalition on Energy (ICE) - WNY**

ICE-WNY is a not-for-profit organization that assists religious institutions in Western New York with energy studies, consulting services, and educational programs. To be placed on the newsletter mailing list contact Maureen Gensler at 716-882-4793 or [mggensler@aol.com](mailto:mggensler@aol.com). For energy related questions, contact Viki Ingersoll, Technical Liaison, Interfaith Coalition on Energy - WNY, 795 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203, 716-847-8389; [VIngersoll@Buffalodiocese.org](mailto:VIngersoll@Buffalodiocese.org).

### **Designation of Landmarks**

To list buildings as *local* landmarks, ask the municipal clerk whether your community has a preservation ordinance and a preservation commission designating

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### **Landmarks, continued**

local landmarks and historic districts. For information about listing on the **State and National Register of Historic Places** and issues regarding landmark and historic district designations, first visit the **National Park Service** website : [www.cr.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/), or contact the National Register Reference Desk at 202-354-1496. Then contact the NYS OPRHP, Field Services Bureau by visiting [www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo) or calling Mark Peckham, 518-237-8643, x 3258.

### **National Park Service**

The website has an extensive list of resources, a section on "Caring for your historic building," briefs on preservation issues, technical information and publications. The main page is [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov); technical briefs on a broad list of topics are at [www.cr.nps.gov/architecture.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/architecture.htm), [www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/index.htm](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/index.htm).

**Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.** Detailed guidelines on accepted practices for the various approaches to preservation work, see [www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_0.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_0.htm).

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The Trust has a website section on preservation of **Historic Houses of Worship**. See: [www.nationaltrust.org/issues/houses\\_of\\_worship/](http://www.nationaltrust.org/issues/houses_of_worship/). There are several publications available as PDF files including *Preserving Historic Religious Properties: A Toolkit for Congregations and Community Leaders*. The toolkit helps identify important character-defining features of historic church structures, gives examples of other successful reuses of churches in Boston and surrounding communities, and offers guidance for repairs and redevelopment of historic church structures. The toolkit also provides basic information on how local zoning and permitting processes work, and lists specialists who can be called upon to help plan for the repair, maintenance, and sensitive reuse of historic religious structures. While focused on Massachusetts, the information is relevant for other regions. The Trust also publishes a number of books on preservation, fundraising, etc.. See [www.nthp.org](http://www.nthp.org); [www.preservationbooks.org](http://www.preservationbooks.org); or contact [preservation\\_books@nthp.org](mailto:preservation_books@nthp.org); or 202-588-6296.

### **Partners for Sacred Places**

Partners for Sacred Places is a national, not-for-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to the sound stewardship and preservation of America's religious properties. Through its Information Clearinghouse, annual conference, and educational projects, Partners provides information on fundraising strategies, repair and rehabilitation techniques, shared space projects, and local sources of assistance. For more information, visit [www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org) or contact: Partners for Sacred Places, 1700 Sansom Street, Tenth Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215-567-3234; [partners@sacredplaces.org](mailto:partners@sacredplaces.org).

### **Preservation League of New York State**

The Preservation League of New York State is the statewide, not-for-profit, membership organization dedicated to the preservation of New York State's historic resources. Staff provides assistance with building-specific and general preservation planning issues and advocacy assistance. The Preserve New York grant program provides funding for survey projects leading to landmark designation, and religious sites may be included in the resulting historic districts; however, a religious organization cannot be the lead applicant. Contact: Erin Tobin (Eastern NY) at [etobin\(at\)preservenys.org](mailto:etobin(at)preservenys.org) or Tania Werbizky (Western NY) at [twerbizky\(at\)preservenys.org](mailto:twerbizky(at)preservenys.org), Regional Directors, Technical Grants & Programs, 44 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206, 518-462-5658.

## **OTHER RESOURCES:**

**African American Heritage Preservation Foundation, Inc.:** [www.aaahpf.org](http://www.aaahpf.org)

**Faith and Form Magazine:**

[www.members.tripod.com/FaithNForm](http://www.members.tripod.com/FaithNForm)

**H-Stained-Glass** listserv on History-Net, [www.h.net.org](http://www.h.net.org), is an Internet discussion forum on historic research, documentation, creation, restoration and preservation of architectural stained glass. The list provides a forum for reporting research findings on stained glass artists and studios, styles, techniques...raising issues related to repair, restoration and preservation...To subscribe visit: [www.h-net.org/lists/subscribe](http://www.h-net.org/lists/subscribe)

**Stained Glass Association of America:**

[www.stainedglass.org](http://www.stainedglass.org)