



HISTORIC PITTSFORD

Fall, 2010

NEWSLETTER

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Edited by Karen Hultz

www.historicpittsford.com

Statement of Purpose

Historic Pittsford is a not-for-profit organization chartered and incorporated under the New York State Department of Education. Committed to the preservation of Pittsford's rich heritage of nineteenth and twentieth century architecture and the special character and sense of place it has provided, Historic Pittsford also faces the complexities of today.

CELEBRATE THE BARNS OF PITTSFORD!



Pittsford has a long history as a farming community and barns have played a major role in its survival.

Come and celebrate "Barns of Pittsford" through a self-guided tour of selected barns which appear on Historic Pittsford's Barn poster.

Join us, rain or shine, on Saturday, October 16 from 1-4 pm. Stroll through some of the barns, talk with the owners, purchase some produce and have some refreshments.

Beginning October 4th, the Little House will be open special hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9 am – 12 noon, so that you may purchase your tickets/booklets for the tour. Tickets will cost \$10.00.

For further information, call Liz Jackson-Renner at 586-2793 or the Little House 384-2941.

IN THE BEGINNING: HP'S ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTATION SERVICE

by Jean France

About 25 years ago, the Board of Historic Pittsford was facing a pleasant problem. A generous supporter had given us an unexpected gift. What could we do with that lovely money?

Our mission, as you know, is always to celebrate Pittsford's historic background, the history that is illustrated in the group of buildings at the village center. The low-key charm that attracted us or our ancestors to settle here is hard to define but important.

How could we keep that attractive look of a pretty small town without turning it into a zombie, a kind of Lego village that never changed? How could we welcome new owners and new uses without losing our biggest asset, those handsome historic buildings?

How to keep Pittsford Pittsford?

One answer to that riddle was to pass historic preservation laws setting up citizen boards that would help to control development, making sure that proposed changes stayed compatible with existing fabric. Those laws are administered by the respective Village and Town governments through appointed volunteers, not us.

What could we do to help that process? Well, we could make sure that owners had good advice. Some times people have no idea what makes their house historic or what to do about it. The Board thought up a new program, one that no other local town offers. Historic Pittsford offers free architectural advice to every owner of a historic property in the village or town. With the help of that unexpected gift, we finance a consultation with a trained preservation architect, who visits and analyzes the building with the owner. The key to that process is the architect, one who is familiar with local history and more important, American architecture. To a skilled interpreter, every building has a message. To a skilled architect that message shows in every detail. And every mistake.

We were very lucky to find that architect in John Bero. He is not just familiar with two centuries of American buildings, he understands the importance of sound construction, beginning his visit with analysis from roof to cellar, identifying problems as he goes. His reports have set the gold standard for work with historic properties.

In accepting HP's Preservation Achievement Award, Mr. Bero had the following to say (via letter):

"Thank you for awarding me Historic Pittsford's 2010 Preservation Achievement Award. Providing consultation for Pittsford building owners has been a pleasure; it is personally satisfying to help preserve the beautiful and significant buildings of the Village and Town.

When this consultation program was established in 1984, I was engaged to help owners, who anticipated making major changes to their buildings, and help them anticipate the Architectural and Preservation Review Board's concerns. The goal was to facilitate communication between owners and the APRB. When I visited buildings with this goal in mind, I almost always found owners who were also eager for advice about day-to-day care of their buildings; and I was eager to provide it. Although I hope I have been somewhat successful in facilitating communication between owners and the ARPB, I take great satisfaction in helping educate owners about appropriate options for care of their buildings, believing the decisions they make while doing so are vital in maintaining the historic significance of the Village and Town. Thank you for inviting me to participate in this process."

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Fall! I want to take this opportunity to thank you again for supporting Historic Pittsford. Thanks also to those who have moved away and still support our mission. We continue to quietly influence the Town and Village Boards for responsible decisions to keep Pittsford special.

I also want to thank those who have, or plan to, include Historic Pittsford as a beneficiary of their estates. These endowments will be carefully used to maintain our facilities and present interesting and informative programs for our community.

Since our last newsletter in the Spring, your Board and the activities committees have been busy planning great programs for the new season, including a tour of the barns portrayed in our Barns poster of last year (see article enclosed). Check out our website, www.historicpittsford.com for more upcoming events.

Our membership remains strong and active, but we can always use more people. Please invite your family and friends to enjoy our programs. We also embrace volunteers to assist with events and programs. Call Dorothy at the Little House or me.

Sincerely,
Rusty Likly, **President**
Historic Pittsford

HP'S ANNUAL MEETING

Historic Pittsford's annual meeting was held July 11 at the beautiful home of Ken and Pat Morrow at 48 Sutherland St., also known as the Satterlee Estate "Hyllgarth". Refreshments were served as people toured the house, followed by a picnic supper and a short business meeting.

John Parker and his committee presented this year's Preservation Achievement Awards. The first award was presented to Patrick Pfeiffer, an Eagle Scout who painted and repaired the Pioneer Cemetery fence. The second award was given to John Bero for his many years of dedicated service in assisting HP and the residents of the community in the restoration and rebuilding of many historic properties since 1984.

Audrey Johnson presented the slate of Board members whose terms have been renewed for another two years. No new members were added to the Board. The Board's officers remain the same.

The meeting concluded with a short talk by Bob Corby on how the Satterlee Estate affected the way Pittsford was preserved.

(Note: If you are missing either a covered pyrex casserole dish or an olive green plastic oval salad bowl, you may claim them by calling the Little House.)



HP BOARD MEMBERS

President – Rusty Likly
Vice President – Joe Maxey
Secretary – JoAnne Shannon
Treasurer – John Parker
Assistant Treasurer – Peter Webster

Members at Large:

Peggy Brizee, Bob Corby, Jean France,
Liz Jackson-Renner, Karen Hultz, Audrey Johnson,
Mary Menzi, David Minor, Nancy Swett, Vicki Profitt,
Deborah Resch, Bonnie Salem



MORE ON THE BARN

The barn on Willard Road is a "rescued" barn. It was used for a very different purpose than most of the others. This barn housed migrant workers who came from Florida every year to work on Irv Hopkins' farm helping mostly with potatoes, but with other crops as well. The main floor was divided into small rooms that served as bedrooms for families. Kitchen and bathroom facilities were in the lowest level which had been a cow barn. The second level was a large room that could be used for dances, gatherings or just socializing. These workers were well organized and came as a group for many years to help Irv harvest his crop of certified potatoes. Those were stored in his large Wells Truss barn on Clover St., not far away.

The land on which this barn sat was purchased by a developer and was scheduled to be torn down. The developer offered the barn to any farmer who would move it from the land on which it was located and in the way of "progress". Larry Knickerbocker obtained the building and hired the Matthews people, who specialize in moving large buildings, to move it to where it now sits, closer to Willard Road. The barn needed much repair and refurbishing and some of this was completed by Amish farmers who specialize in this work. Mr. Knickerbocker treasures a letter he received commending him for saving this barn, "the only migrant barn in Pittsford!"



The Barns poster is still available for purchase at the Little House. Posters are \$15.00 each.

Barns of Pittsford

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE LITTLE HOUSE

Barn Poster

The "Barns of Pittsford", a colorful poster highlighting 18 of Pittsford's historic barns, is now available. Help support Historic Pittsford by purchasing your printed, mounted or framed poster.

Poster: \$15.00 Mounted: \$55.00 Framed: \$75.00

Books

Echoes by Paul Spiegel

Volumes 1879-1904

Each volume is \$8.00

Architecture Worth Saving in Pittsford, Elegant Village

\$8.00 members, \$12.00 non-members

Pittsford Scrapbook: Stories of Early Pittsford

\$15.00 members, \$18.00 non-members

Gift Membership

HP membership – Individual/Family level \$25.00



Little House Office and Museum

18 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, NY 14534 / 381-2941

Open: Wednesday and Saturday 9am-12noon

Dorothy Meusburger, Secretary

www.historicpittsford.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANDLELIGHT NIGHT

in the village of Pittsford, December 7, 4-9 pm

Stop by the Little House to say hello!

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
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Permit No 21

18 MONROE AVENUE
PITTSFORD, NY 14534

