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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PRESERVATION LEAGUE OPENS PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER, CELEBRATES PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT**  
**Historic Albany Foundation Receives Funding**

ALBANY, NY – 1/22/13 – Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan will cut the ribbon and officially open the Preservation League’s new **Preservation Resource Center** at **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2014**. The Preservation Resource Center will occupy the previously vacant ground-floor space at the League’s Albany headquarters at **44 Central Avenue**.

“The Preservation League has a library of valuable publications including several hundred books and dozens of professional surveys of historic properties, landscapes and neighborhoods,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “These materials have previously been accessible only to League staff. With the support of the Bender Family Foundation, we have organized and catalogued our library, and will now make it available to League members, researchers and students by appointment. We will also use the Preservation Resource Center to display artifacts from our building’s past, so the space will tell part of the story of the city of Albany and its westward expansion.”

The League will also use the space for meetings and events, and will make the space available on a limited basis for use by other groups.

At the junction of two historic turnpikes, 44 Central Avenue is one of the oldest remaining commercial buildings in Albany. Constructed prior to 1817, the building first served as a grain and feed store, and retains many of the architectural elements that illustrate its history. Grain was brought from outlying farms via the Great Western Turnpike (Western Avenue) and the Albany Schenectady Turnpike (Central Avenue), and processed for distribution at local markets. The building was added to the New York State Register of Historic Places in 2103 and listing on the National Register is imminent.

In 1982, the building was only partially occupied and in poor condition. Matthew Bender IV purchased the building and began rehabilitation in 1983. The Building was occupied by Historic Albany Foundation and other organizations prior to being donated to the Preservation League.

The Preservation League of New York State will also celebrate a **Preserve New York Grant of \$3,500** to Historic Albany Foundation to support the cost of completing a historic building inventory. Settled in 1624 and established in 1659, Albany is one of the state's oldest cities. It retains many remnants of its 17th and 18th century settlement, often encapsulated within later buildings and hidden in 19th and 20th century neighborhoods. The inventory will include early vernacular residential and commercial buildings, well-known landmarks and estate houses, along with the outbuildings and support buildings that go along with the estates. Consultants Don Rittner and Walter Wheeler will complete the survey, which will include a map and database.

"We thank the Preservation League for their support of the Oldest Buildings survey, which is about 75% complete and we will share the results with the public soon. We've attempted to identify buildings built before 1860. The League's building ties into this list and brings our efforts full circle – 44 Central is one of the earliest buildings in the City. Also, we are enthused that this building will be on the National Register soon," said Susan Holland, Executive Director at Historic Albany Foundation.

The Preserve New York Grant Program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. "With the announcement of the 2013 awards, the total support provided by Preserve New York since its launch in 1993 is over \$1.8 million to 292 projects statewide," said Jay DiLorenzo, president of the Preservation League. "Preserve New York has a strong track record of bolstering local preservation efforts and delivering a strong return on investment."

"At its August, 2013 meeting, the Preserve New York grant program panel selected 13 applicants in nine counties around the state to share \$100,000 in funding," said Erin Tobin, the League's Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs in eastern New York. "As always, the competition for these funds was intense. The Preservation League is delighted to help advance the preservation efforts of Historic Albany Foundation with timely funding from Preserve New York."

Organizations and municipalities receiving grant awards in 2013 are: **Albany County:** Historic Albany Foundation; **Erie County (2):** Old First Ward Community Association, Buffalo; Preservation Buffalo Niagara, Buffalo; **Kings County:** Historic Districts Council, New York City; **Ontario County (2):** 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse; Geneva Business Improvement District; **Monroe County:** Landmark Society of Western New York, Rochester; **Montgomery County (2):** Village of Canajoharie; Mohawk Valley Collective; **Niagara County:** City of Lockport; **Schenectady County:** Vale Cemetery Preservation, Inc.; **Sullivan County (2):** Beaverkill Neighbors Association; Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

For more information on the Preserve New York Grant Program, please call 518-462-5658 or visit the League's website at [www.preservenys.org](http://www.preservenys.org).