

Milestones

Hunt Memorial Building Named State Historic Landmark; Holds Open House October 2nd

The *Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee, Inc.*, and the Village of Ellenville, invite the community to a 3 PM event on **Saturday, October 2nd**, to celebrate official receipt of the designation of the **Hunt Memorial Building** (*photo, right*) as a State Historic Landmark.

Both the Village of Ellenville, as owner, and the *Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee* received notification at the end of August that the **Hunt Memorial Building** will be listed on the State Register of Historic Places and nominated for the National Register in Washington, DC.

Generally referred to as *HMPC*, the *Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee* gathered in late 2002, formally organized, and was incorporated as a membership corporation in early 2003, and immediately began working with the Village Board to preserve the integrity of the **Hunt Memorial Building**. They achieved 501(c)(3) status as a not-for-profit charity, so that donations would be tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

A committee chaired by Iris Friedman worked for months on the application for historic status, while other committees monitored the physical state of the building, communicated with the Village Board, applied for tax-exempt status and a sales tax number for fundraising sales, conducted art tours, and, most recently, produced notecards of local historic structures, with brief histories.

The *HMPC* Board of Directors, composed of nine local residents, meets monthly and is currently planning the annual membership meeting in early November. Under the chairmanship of Marion M. Dumond, the Board of Directors includes Robert Berger, Sally Berger, Stephen Bradley, Iris Friedman, Barbara Hoff, Phyllis and Stan




Rubin, and Mary Sheeley.

The Village of Ellenville currently owns the **Hunt Memorial Building** and is cooperating in facilitating this open house celebration. During the *Annual Blueberry Festival*, an art show was held in the section occupied by the *Ellenville Public Library* for more than 50 years. Visitors to the show were reminded of the past glories of the building and interest in **Hunt Memorial's** past and future was stimulated. The October 2nd Open House is part celebration and part response to the revived interest in the building.

The Village Board is presently discussing the potential sale of this important facility and its surrounding property with several prospective buyers. Much of the building has deteriorated, and the use of wooden stairs is banned, but the sections used by the library and the former legal offices of attorney Philip Slutsky, all on the main floor, will be open for viewing.

The building will be opened at 3 PM and a brief, informal ceremony will be conducted at about 3:15 in the former Children's Room, involving both Village officials and members of the *HMPC* Board of Directors. Light seasonal refreshments will be served. *HMPC* will have a table for memberships, both new and renewals, and the new notecards will be available for purchase. Notecard scenes include the **Hunt Memorial Building**, the **Ellenville Post Office**, **Norbury Hall**, and the **Greenfield One Room School**. The building will be closed about 4 PM.

To expand the afternoon's activities, *HMPC* director Stan Rubin is planning a Canal Walk from the **Ellenville Sanitation Department Bldg.**, along the **D&H Canal Corridor** to the Napanoch train station at the *NYS Eastern Correctional Facility*. Plans are still tentative and will depend on advance reservations (no charge, of course), so interested "walkers" should contact Stan at 647-7582. The walk is planned for **1 PM on October 2nd** so that participants can be back at **Hunt Memorial** in time for the program and refreshments.

For additional information, contact members of the *HMPC* Board of Directors. 



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Fax: (845) 436-8156

Ellenville Office
47 N. Main Street
PO Box 186
Ellenville, NY 12428
Tel: (845) 647-4110
Fax: (845) 647-6232