Annual Report
2012
Historic Ithaca’s mission is to promote the value and enhancement of our historic buildings and neighborhoods through education, advocacy, and action.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Rod Howe, Secretary
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Lisken Cordes
Tom Hoard
Julee Johnson
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Through May 2012
Tania Werbizky, President
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Molly Adams
David Stinson
Carol Travis
Through December 2012
John Snyder

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Karen Coleman, Work Preserve Education & Outreach
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On the cover: Two houses on South Albany Street in Ithaca are part of the Henry St. John Historic District, Ithaca’s newest designated district and the subject of Historic Ithaca’s 2012 That Old House Tour. Other photographs courtesy of Molly Adams, Paul Anderson, James Cordes, Rod Howe, and Julee Johnson.

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(607) 273-6633
www.historicithaca.org
www.significantelements.org
President’s Message

2012 was a year of transition, opportunities and action for Historic Ithaca. We bid a fond farewell to outgoing Board members Molly Adams, Evan Kopelson, John Snyder, Dave Stinson, Carol Travis and Tania Werbizky. A special hats off to Tania, our Board president for four years, who capably led Historic Ithaca through a very challenging period. At the same time we welcomed new Board members Leslie Chatterton, Rod Howe and Julee Johnson, who have already demonstrated their spirit and energy.

During 2012 we offered special events including popular tours of the Henry St. John neighborhood, of Cornell’s magnificent Greek houses, and of the Ithaca City Cemetery, set new sales records at our architectural salvage warehouse Significant Elements, advocated in public and in the press on various critical preservation issues, and established the annual Joseph O. Ciaschi Preservation Excellence Award to recognize the work of outstanding local preservation leaders.

To guide the work of Historic Ithaca forward, the Board embarked on a 5-year strategic plan, to be completed in late 2013. Through this work Historic Ithaca re-affirms its role, after 46 years, as Tompkins County’s only county-wide organization advocating for special places in our community.

We cherish Historic Ithaca’s many supporters--you, our Friends-- who share the belief that our rich local architectural fabric is irreplaceable and contributes greatly to our quality of life. With your help, we pledge to continue to celebrate our unique spaces and speak out on the many important preservation and planning issues ahead in Ithaca and the towns and villages of Tompkins County.

Director’s Message

Our 46th year was one of the most exciting in recent memory. We completed two large consulting projects for the City of Ithaca, giving historic designation to an entire new historic district near downtown and documenting twelve historic properties in Collegetown. Work Preserve, our job training program for youth and young adults, expanded with a pilot entrepreneurial youth summer program, which will repeat in 2013. I hope you'll visit our store or our newly-expanded library soon to see our hardworking staff and volunteers in action.

And there is much work still to be done. The loss of the old Ithaca City Hall, Cornell Public Library, and other beloved downtown landmarks (see timeline on back cover) led to Historic Ithaca’s founding in 1966. At that time, the threat to downtown was from new suburban development on the fringe. Today, we are seeing tremendous new investment downtown, but this new development is higher and denser at the expense of existing historic buildings – buildings we know (and studies demonstrate) make for a more livable, economically vibrant, and sustainable community. I hope you’ll join us in the months ahead to make sure that new development is in the best interest of our community and complements our rich architectural heritage.

We believe that the care and maintenance of existing buildings is the most sustainable practice, the ultimate act of recycling. We design our technical services, classes and special events to educate members of our community and to ensure that our historic resources are cared for and last far into the future.

Historic Ithaca has much to be proud of and I am extremely grateful for the support of our Friends and the dedication of our community partners; it makes our work that much more worthwhile. Thank you!
Our popular Preservation Basics Series continued in 2012 with classes on Researching Your House History, What Style Is It?, The Evolution of the Kitchen, and Maintenance for the Older Home. We took some of the classes “on the road” to TC Lifelong, where participants in the styles class were able to see nearby examples of the most common historic residential styles in our region.

A collaboration among Historic Ithaca, The History Center in Tompkins County, Cornell University’s Historic Preservation Planning Program, and Ithaca College’s Architectural Studies Program resulted in a pilot program bringing undergraduate and graduate students from the two schools together to explore archival resources for researching historic buildings. The program grew out of the 2011-2012 William H. Miller exhibit co-sponsored by The History Center and Historic Ithaca.

The June Hands-On Window Workshop, in its third year, brought 13 participants to Historic Ithaca for a daylong introduction to window design, restoration & repair, and weatherization. Since 2010, HI has trained 47 people in window repair, including one contractor who then started his own business providing professional window restoration services in Tompkins County and beyond.

“You all did a great job and really got me moving into restoring my own windows. Thank you.”
- a Window Workshop participant

Volunteer Ashley Miller shows off her repaired bentwood chair. She wove a new cane seat under the guidance of Rob Kauffman, our in-house furniture expert.
“What a wonderful afternoon you gave us all! It added depth to my perception of Ithaca architecture as a whole.”
- Frank Robinson

Our spring That Old House Tour showcased the Henry St. John neighborhood, designated by Common Council as Ithaca’s newest historic district in early 2013. The fall fundraiser, Historic Ithaca Speaks Greek, took participants on a tour of ten Cornell University fraternity and sorority houses, followed by a gala reception at Greystone Lodge, home of Sigma Chi and former home of silent film star Irene Castle. The popular annual Halloween Graveyard Tour returned to the Ithaca City Cemetery, where visitors learned about gravestone art while “meeting” individuals from Ithaca’s past.

Friends of Historic Ithaca attended an exclusive hardhat tour of the historic Cowdry House, under renovation to become the Argos Inn at 408 East State Street. And, as always, we welcomed supporters to our Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards and to our Holiday Party.

Net raised through special events to support HI’s programs: $8,996
Preservation Services

As consultant to the City of Ithaca, Historic Ithaca documented 15 historically significant Collegetown properties for potential designation as local landmarks, and wrote the nomination document for the Henry St. John Historic District, which was designated by Ithaca Common Council in February 2013. We also wrote a successful nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Montour Falls Union Grammar School, recently converted to apartments, offices, and a child care center. Buildings in the Henry St. John district and the Montour Falls school are now eligible for New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

Historic Ithaca spoke out in support of historic preservation on projects including the Commons redesign, the expansion of Cornell University’s Law School, and the retention of historic stone sidewalks in the City of Ithaca. Our staff participated as members of the City of Ithaca Comprehensive Plan Committee, the Forest Home Bridge Working Group, and as stakeholders in Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Path Through History project.

“You made my day! Thanks for your great research.” - Bill Diehl

39 Consultations and Referrals
79 Buildings Given Historic Designation as a result of HI’s consulting work
2012 was a great year for Significant Elements, with a 24% increase in sales and over 23 tons of material diverted from the waste stream. In April, Significant Elements became the newest location for the Family Reading Partnership’s Bright Red Bookshelf, providing free, gently-used books to local families.

Now in its third year, our Work Preserve Job Training Program expanded in 2012 with an additional staff position, enhanced training opportunities, and a pilot summer program for teens. Launched in 2010, with support from the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency and the Park Foundation, Work Preserve provides youth and young adults with training in customer service, retail, furniture repair, and facility maintenance skills in a supportive workplace environment.
“Historic Ithaca has been blessed with a core group of supporters who have been with us for many, many years.”

Over the past five years our board and staff have been focusing on ensuring Historic Ithaca’s financial stability. We are taking a critical look at our business practices, making changes where needed, increasing the capacity of our board, securing funding to carry out our work and developing plans for the future.

Our largest source of funding is Significant Elements, with sales increasing each year, followed by local, state and foundation grants, and support from individuals and businesses. We are working to build our Technical Services offerings in order to increase revenue from consulting fees.

We were successful in 2012 in raising approximately $38,000 for replacement of the roof at 212 Center Street, which will take place in spring of 2013. Special thanks go to Assemblywoman Barbra Lifton for her tremendous help in securing these funds. Other restricted funds reflected in 2012 income include grants to support our Work Preserve program in the 2012-2013 program year.

Our largest expense is employee payroll. We are conscious of the need to ensure equitable pay for our dedicated team, and we plan to improve this over the next five years.

Most importantly, Historic Ithaca has been blessed with a core group of supporters who have been with us for many, many years. We cannot thank our Friends and business supporters enough for helping to make our work possible. We have much work ahead of us to ensure complete financial stability but we are on the right path.
Special Thanks to Our Supporters

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Alumni Inter-Fraternity Council
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Foster Custom Kitchens
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Nelson Development Group
On Balance Solutions
PPM Homes
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Sciarabba Walker & Co.
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Just A Taste
La Tourelle Inn / August Moon Spa
Red Feet Wine Market
Sheldrake Point Vineyard
Molly and Barry Adams
David Halpert and Teresa Halpert
Deschanes
Tom Herson
Carol Kammen
Charlie Pomada
Diana Riesman and Frederick Cowett
Tracy Vosburgh and Peter Potter

Grants and Foundations
The Brooks Family Foundation
Joseph Steuer, The Comey-Fitzgerald Family Foundation
The Community Foundation of Tompkins County
The New York State Council on the Arts
New York State Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton
Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency
The Park Foundation
The Social Service League of Ithaca
Sustainable Tompkins

“I support Historic Ithaca because I like that someone cares about our historic houses and buildings and looks out for them.” - R.C.
**Special Thanks to Our Supporters**

**Friends of Historic Ithaca $1000 and greater**
- Molly and Barry Adams
- Lisken and James Cordes
- Evan Kopelson and Rae Ostman
- Ellen McCollister and Robert Frank
- Avi Smith
- Dennis Stein

**Friends of Historic Ithaca $250-$999**
- Steven and Beverly Beer
- Ronald Chapman and Tracy Farrell
- Leslie Chatterton and Allyson Ford
- Ann Clavel
- Elsie Gutchess
- David Halpert and Teresa Halpert Deschanes
- Carman and Sandra Hill
- Margaret Hobbie and Roger Haydon
- Julee Johnson
- Timothy and Elizabeth Mount
- Bard and Gina Prentiss
- Eric Rosario and Neha Khanna
- John Schroeder
- David Stinson
- Tracy Vosburgh and Peter Potter
- Tania Werbisky and Brad Edmondson
- Penelope Wickham and Thomas Kather

**Friends of Historic Ithaca $100-$249**
- Judy Burns
- James and Terry Byrnes
- Ron and Shelley Cooper
- Robert and Vanne Cowie
- David Daly
- Clover Drinkwater
- Ed Finegan
- John Foote and Kristen Rupert
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- Marty Schlabach and Mary Jean Welser
- Robert Siedhoff
- Wendy Skinner and Don Lebow
- Stuart and Sandra Stein
- Patricia Sullivan

**Friends of Historic Ithaca up to $99**
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- R.J. Armstrong
- D.G. Bancroft-Gowin
- Sherene Baugher and Robert Venables
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Michael Kammen
Dooley Kiefer
Leslie Kinsland
Eric Kopelson
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Rhonda Lathwell
Deborah Levin
Barbara Ley
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Lois Lounsbury
Janet Lowe
Gwyneth Lumberis
Chris Lyons
Joanie Mackowski
Pamela Markham
Lawrence McCann
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James and Gladys McConkey
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Daniel and Gail Walker
Martha Walker and John Barradas
Peter Walz
Dix and Barbara Wayman
Lesley Williamson
Kerry Wittig
Joel and Cathy Zumoff

Gifts In Memory Of

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Tania Werbizky and Brad Edmondson
Clara Golay
Michele Craig
Jane Crawford
Mary Curtiss
Laurina Harper
Carol and Dan Sisler
John and June Willson
Constance Lewis
Molly and Barry Adams
Millicent Vosburgh
Julee Johnson
George Werbizky
Julee Johnson

The programs of Historic Ithaca are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Historic Ithaca (HI) is founded in response to the demolition of several historic downtown buildings, including the Ithaca Hotel, Cornell Public Library, and the old City Hall.</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>HI performs first survey of Ithaca’s historic buildings.</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>HI begins fight to save 1866 Boardman House.</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>Old County Courthouse saved from demolition; Clinton House purchased for extensive rehabilitation.</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>HI begins three decade relationship assisting St. James AME Zion Church.</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>HI attempts to save three historic buildings on Cornell’s Ag Quad. After 10 month legal battle, buildings are demolished.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>Significant Elements opens.</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>1832 West Dryden Community Center, a former Methodist church, is purchased and stabilized.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Newfield’s Van Buskirk Gulf Road Bridge restored; First Old House Fair.</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>1817 Cradit-Moore House in Town of Ithaca moved to save it from demolition.</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>University Hill Local Historic District designated; Newfield’s Zenas King Bowstring Bridge restored.</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Significant Elements moves to current location, an 1880s warehouse on Center Street.</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Clinton House is sold, yet remains protected by covenants.</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Ithaca Downtown Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>State Theatre is sold, yet remains protected by covenants.</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Work Preserve job training program established.</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Historic Ithaca celebrates 45th anniversary and 20th anniversary of Significant Elements.</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>HI completes an intensive-level survey of 12 Collegetown buildings and the Henry St. John local historic district nomination as consultant to the City of Ithaca.</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Markles Flats, also known as the old Ithaca Gasworks, is demolished.</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>HI’s Library of the Built Environment moves to renovated, expanded space.</td>
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