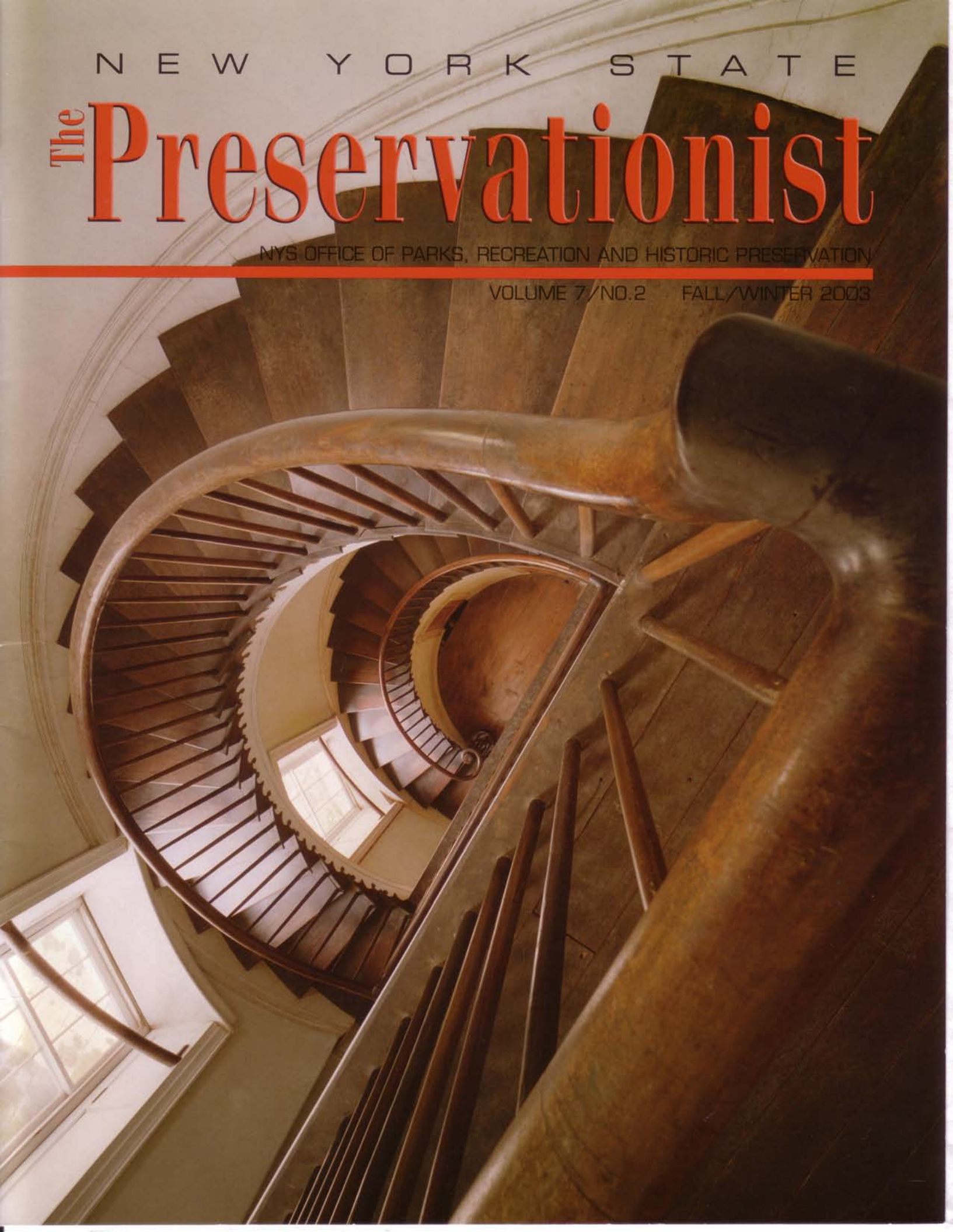


N E W   Y O R K   S T A T E

# The Preservationist

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

VOLUME 7/NO.2    FALL/WINTER 2003



## Not-for-Profit Achievement Award *Otsego 2000*

Over the course of two decades, Otsego 2000 has been making an outstanding contribution to preserving the Otsego Lake area's scenic, historic, and cultural resources. The regional not-for-profit organization was founded in 1981 as Friends of P.R.O.T.E.C.T. to safeguard the area's legendary landscape from the Marcy-South Power Line project. Through the years, the organization, renamed Otsego 2000, has expanded its mission to include a variety of enhancement activities, including historic preservation, open space protection, community planning, and public education. Today, Otsego 2000 is a particularly effective educator, promoter, and advocate for safeguarding the area's rich heritage. Through a variety of community outreach activities, Otsego 2000 is helping to raise local awareness and appreciation of the area's natural and historic built environments. By taking a holistic approach to preservation and development, Otsego 2000 seeks to incorporate historic, cultural, and environmental resources into local land-use planning, community renewal, and sustainable agricultural practices. Notable projects include helping to sponsor the State and National Registers nominations for the Glimmerglass and Lindesay Patent Historic Districts, which together encompass more than 20,000 acres in the towns of Otsego, Middlefield, Springfield, Cherry Valley, and the village of Cooperstown. Documenting and recognizing the significance of these large historic areas has helped to change how local communities view their heritage and has inspired citizens to preserve their past. Thanks to Otsego 2000's commitment to protecting the region's scenic and historic resources, the Otsego Lake area remains one of New York's premier cultural landscapes and heritage tourism destinations.

*The Kitchen restaurant in Jeffersonville, shown before and after rehabilitation, is a Main Street Redevelopment Center success story.*



## Private Sector Achievement Award *American Hotel, Sharon Springs*

Every community across New York State has a special quality and Sharon Springs is no exception. Developed during the nineteenth century as a fashionable mineral springs spa, the resort's large and remarkably intact concentration of historic hotels, boarding houses, baths, outdoor pavilions, residences, and commercial buildings recalls the community's prosperous development and growth. While Sharon Springs reached the height of its popularity as a resort during the late 1800s, by the end of the twentieth century, the village's fortunes had declined. As a result, many of its historic resources had fallen into disrepair or been lost. Up until a few years ago, the American Hotel was a large and neglected "white elephant" in the middle of Sharon Springs. Thanks to the intervention of property owners Douglas Plummer and Garth Roberts, the newly renovated Greek Revival style inn is receiving much-deserved attention as the catalyst for the community's redevelopment. With the help of the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit program, Mr. Plummer and Mr. Roberts have carefully restored the hotel to its nineteenth-century charm. Today, this hotel, with its stunning classical lines and colonnaded two-story porch, provides both a visual anchor and an economic focus for the village's rebirth. State Parks commends Mr. Plummer and Mr. Roberts for their commitment to revitalizing the American Hotel and for their contribution to the community's revitalization.



*American Hotel.*

## Public Sector Achievement Award *Sullivan County Department of Planning and Community Development*

Under the leadership of former Commissioner Alan Sorensen, the Sullivan County Department of Planning and Community Development has made an outstanding contribution to the development of quality communities in the Catskill Mountain region. Through innovative programs, the department has combined incentives for historic preservation and economic development for businesses, farms, and cultural institutions to create healthy, profitable, and aesthetically pleasing communities. The Main Street Redevelopment Center, which is the first county program of its kind in the nation, provides access to various assistance programs, including historic rehabilitation, economic development, low interest loans and grants, and business improvement funds to address issues associated with unhealthy commercial areas. Thirty-two communities and 170 projects have benefited from these programs, which have leveraged more than \$5 million in private investment. Similar initiatives have been developed to benefit cultural organizations, the agricultural and wood products industries, and major roadways and community gateways. In another national first, the department secured Empire Zone designation for the entire county and linked participation to mandatory community enhancement activities. The department also helped to secure Scenic Byway designation for NY Route 97 (Upper Delaware River corridor) and sponsored National Register nominations for historic resources that subsequently received county assistance with restoration and redevelopment. Thanks to former Commissioner Sorensen's creativity and the commitment and hard work of the planning department, Sullivan County is playing a vital role in preserving and renewing communities across the county.

Photographs courtesy of the Sullivan County Department of Planning and Community Development.