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CELEBRATION



Photos by James Franco / Special to the Times Union

Juneteenth festivities

Nell Stokes marshals the Juneteenth celebration Saturday in front of the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region on Pearl Street in Albany. The Washington Park Rumberos, right, perform during the festivities. **More events/C2**



State chooses historic places

Nominates 23 properties; wants mansion amended

By Chris Churchill

Albany

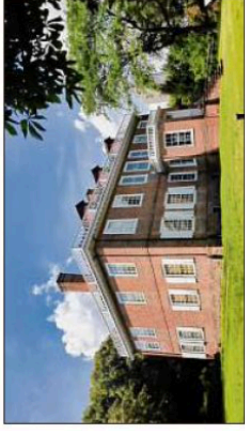
The state Board for Historic Preservation is recommending that 23 properties across New York, including eight in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, be added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The board is also asking that the listing for Albany's Schuyler Mansion, which was added to the National Register in 1967, be amended to acknowledge that enslaved people lived and labored at the Georgian-style mansion built in 1761.

In the current National Register listing, according to supporting documents submitted by the state, "not a single mention is made about the enslaved people who lived and worked at Schuyler Mansion, nor is even a passing reference made to the fact that Phillip Schuyler used the enslaved labor of human beings to help amass the wealth that made the construction of Schuyler Mansion possible."

Gen. Phillip Schuyler, for whom the home on Catherine Street mansion was built, is a celebrated hero of the Revolutionary War and an icon of Albany history. In recent years, though, more attention has been paid to his being the largest owner of enslaved people in the city at the time.

Please see **HISTORIC C9** ▶



Paul Buckowski / Times Union

The Schuyler Mansion in Albany. The state Board for Historic Preservation is asking to amend the listing.

HISTORIC

▼ CONTINUED FROM C1

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, for example, in 2020 cited Schuyler's owning of slaves for her order that a statue of the general, who served in the state Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, be removed from its perch in front of City Hall. The city has yet to move the statue.

Schuyler owned 13 enslaved people at the mansion in 1790 and another four worked on his farm in Saratoga County, according to Times Union archives. There were 3,722 enslaved people of African descent listed in the 1790 Census in Albany County, the most of any county in the state at the time.

The state Board for Historic Preservation recommendation stresses that "a complete re-evaluation of the life of Philip Schuyler is beyond the scope of this project" but adds that a history of the home that ignores its enslaved residents is woefully incomplete, as is a narrative that fails to offer a complete picture of the general's legacy.

"A life-long enslaver, Philip Schuyler had little interest at the end of the eighteenth century in abolition outside of the political capital to be gained as more and more politicians embraced the idea (in theory, if not in their daily lives)," it says.

Included in the Capital Region properties nominated for the National Register are the Boardman and Gray Piano Company building at 883 Broadway in Albany's Warehouse District and the Mark House, a small home on Johnson Road in Colonie built around 1791 and substantially altered 50 years later.

Built when Revolutionary War veteran Isaac Mark was granted a land lease by patriot Stephen van Rensselaer III, the house is one of the few remaining structures that illustrate Colonie's early agricultural history and the lives of its many tenant farmers. The home also "speaks to the strength and endurance of the Dutch cultural identity in rural New York," the state Board for Historic Preservation says.

Rensselaer County

Among the other nomi-

inated properties are the former Schenectady Police Department building at 301 Clinton St.; the First Presbyterian Church of Lansingburgh at 570 Third Ave. in Troy; and the Gooding Farm in the Rensselaer County town of Hoosick.

Kathy Sheehan, the Troy city historian and the Rensselaer County historian based at the Hart Cluett Museum in Troy, was glad to see the Gooding Farm in the hamlet of Eagle Bridge in the town of Hoosick and the First Presbyterian Church in Troy's Lansingburgh neighborhood, now the Cornerstone Community Church, on the list.

"When you have any farm that's been operating for 100 years, it is an accomplishment in and of itself given how many small farms were sold out for development or to bigger farms," Sheehan said. "You have this just wonderful family farm. It brings some of the early Dutch history, the Hoosick Patent and an incredible Greek Revival farmhouse of very high style. It was a very successful farm and the architecture shows that."

Looking at the church, Sheehan said, "It has a noted architect, Marcus Cummings, who built so many churches and public buildings in Troy. He came to Troy after the Great Fire of 1862.

"Cornerstone Community Church is a very active church in the community of Lansingburgh," Sheehan said. "They've been able to retrofit the church and make it work. This embraced honoring their church history and its wonderful architecture and making it work for the 21st century."

The state Board for Historic Preservation is also nominating the Captain Joseph Allen House in Catskill, a Federal-style dwelling built in 1814 and the Sweet Homestead on Center Hill Road in Co-pake.

New York already has more than 120,000 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A listing on either the state or national register makes a property eligible for tax credits that can help finance renovations.

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