



CITY OF PEEKSKILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

Nominations Sought for Peekskill Historic Preservation Plaque Awards.

Structures Must Use Authentic Materials. Siding and Windows Are Especially Important Factors .

Historic Preservation Advisory Commission Sets July 12 Deadline. Anyone Can Nominate Any Building Within Peekskill City Limits, Residential or Commercial.

For Immediate Release

Thursday, June 15, 2006

**Contact: Mayor John Testa
914-734-4105**

PEEKSKILL, NY—In the latest chapter of one of the City's most successful preservation promotion programs, the Peekskill Historic Preservation Advisory Commission is seeking nominations for the 2006 Peekskill Historic Preservation Plaque Awards.

Originally established by the Peekskill Museum, the Plaque program is now sponsored by the City itself. Every year it pays tribute to the tremendous amount of hard work and creativity that local preservationists invest in restoring homes to their past beauty. The Historic Preservation Advisory Commission oversees the Plaque program.

“Peekskill has one of the region’s largest and most dense stock of historic homes. While other cities may boast occasional older homes, we have entire streets and neighborhoods where whole streets are lined with historic buildings,” says Mayor John Testa. “The Historic Preservation Plaque program is a wonderful and very effective way of paying tribute to the marvelous work that is being done by citizens and businesses alike to preserve our architectural heritage,” he says.

Although anyone can nominate a building for an Award, but both the criteria for winning and the judging itself are strictly defined. A panel of independent architectural experts, all with a knowledge of Peekskill, selects the winners. About three dozen buildings are usually nominated. Of these, about half a dozen actually receive plaques. Plaques are highly desired, and the judging is very competitive. Buildings are sometimes nominated and re-nominated year after year.

Nominations can be sent to the Peekskill Historic Preservation Advisory Commission C/O Peekskill City Hall, 840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY, 10566, or by calling 914-737-8776. The deadline for submission is July 12. Any nomination should include the complete address of the house being nominated, contact information for the person doing the nominations, the reasons the nominator thinks the building qualifies for an award, and photographs if possible.

Buildings must meet a strict set of criteria to be considered for an award:

- 1) The structure must be within the city limits of Peekskill, NY. Any type of building can qualify; residential, commercial, houses of worship, etc.
- 2) The structure must have been built or erected prior to 1940.
- 3) The structure must have been visibly restored or renovated in a historically appropriate manner. *Architectural distinction in and of itself does not enable a building to qualify.* This Award is for restoration and preservation, not for architectural or historical interest alone.

4) The restoration should involve materials that are historically appropriate to the architectural style of the building. Replacement windows and doors should be made of the material that was used in the original construction. Asbestos, vinyl or aluminum siding render a building ineligible, as do major design alterations such as enclosure, removal or repositioning of porches, doors and windows. Additions to a building do not render a building ineligible unless the addition is not stylistically appropriate to the architectural style of the building.

5) Although anyone can nominate a building for consideration, if the current owner of a building does not want their building to display a plaque, the building cannot be considered.

6) By accepting a plaque, the building owner agrees that the plaque should:

- a) Be prominently displayed on the building.
- b) Remain on the building if the building is sold.

7) The plaque, although affixed to the building, is the property of the City of Peekskill, and can be retrieved by the City if the architectural and esthetic condition of the building undergoes a dramatic deterioration or change.

For more information, contact Celine Seideman at 914-737-8776.

-END-