

~Greater Brockport Development Corporation~

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Historic Whiteside Barnett Building Purchased

Greater Brockport Development Corporation Secures Canalside Property
Adaptive Reuse, Compatible with Village's Clinton St. Redevelopment, Envisioned

December 9, 2008 – Brockport, New York

The Greater Brockport Development Corporation (GBDC) has purchased the historic Whiteside Barnett Building, located at 60 Clinton Street in the Village of Brockport.

Erected in 1850, the building, of quarry stone and wood frame construction, occupies the former site of Hiel Brockway's brickyard and boatyard which burned in 1848. It is one of Brockport's last remaining examples of early canal era industrial architecture and has been on the State and National Registers of Historic Places since 2002.

As the village government proceeds with the planning and design for the redevelopment of Clinton St. it is envisioned that the building could play a significant part of that redevelopment.

According to Kathy Halstead, President of the GBDC, the potential uses for the building remain open and the GBDC plans to work closely with village officials and consultants. "While no specific use has been identified, many possibilities have been discussed. Clearly a building of its historic and architectural significance could be a main anchor for redevelopment of Clinton St. and the canal south bank, west of Main."

"We've seen other successful examples of adaptive reuse of similar structures in the village, a prime example being One Park Avenue, a former canalside stone warehouse which has served successfully as a mixed use commercial/residential building for many years now" said Bill Andrews, historian emeritus for the Village of Brockport and a member of the executive committee of the GBDC. The offices of Windus-Cooke Real Estate currently serve primary tenant in that building.

The GBDC has retained Bero Associates, historic preservation architects, to survey the building's current condition and recommend appropriate measures to ensure the buildings viability. It is expected that a request for proposals for redevelopment of the building and/or site will be initiated within the next 12-18 months. In the short term steps have been taken to protect the building from the elements and further deterioration.

Funding for the acquisition of the building was made possible by a HUD Economic Development Initiative Special Projects Grant secured through the office of Congressman Thomas Reynolds.

(more)

About the Greater Brockport Development Corporation

Founded in May, 2002 the GBDC is a local development corporation with IRS 501-C-3 status. The mission of the GBDC is to relieve and reduce adult unemployment through researching and encouraging economic development and business retention, to lessen the burdens of government acting in the public interest and to engage in and support appropriate charitable and educational activities.

Under its charter, the GBDC may, among other activities, purchase and hold a property for purposes of rehabilitation/restoration/redevelopment but cannot become a permanent owner operator and eventually must sell the property.

The GBDC has worked collaboratively with a range of partners on various community initiatives including the Village of Brockport, Walk! Bike! Brockport! Action Group, The Brockport Farmers' Market, the Brockport Merchants Association, the Brockport Tree Board, and the Brockport Community Museum, among others.

The GBDC is guided by an all-volunteer board comprised of citizens representing a cross-section of the greater Brockport community. Current membership roster is listed below.

Greater Brockport Development Corporation

Officers and Members of the Board of Directors

Kathleen A. Halstead, President/Member

William G. Andrews, Vice President/Member

Josephine C. Matela, Secretary/Member

R. Scott Winner, Executive Committee/Member

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Drew Coleman, Member

Paul Drake, Member

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