



Pullman Architectural News

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Pullman Pink Sandstone is a Winner

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church Makes the First Round of “Sandy” Medina Sandstone Hall Of Fame Awards

December 12, 2013 in Medina, NY. Pullman Memorial wins first ever “Sandy” award given by The Medina Sandstone Society, an historic preservation group in Orleans County, NY dedicated to funding worthy projects involving unique native New York sandstone.

The Medina Sandstone Society also honored the Richardson-Olmstead Complex in Buffalo, Medina’s Armory (YMCA), St. Bernard’s Seminary in Rochester, St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Medina, and St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral, Buffalo.

“[Pullman is] a flawless pink sandstone in the old English Gothic style.”

- Dave Miller, Awards Committee
Medina Sandstone Society

Additionally, Pullman Memorial, on December 24th, received a special grant from the Media Sandstone Society’s Trust to help repair our church’s front steps.

Orleans County, NY sandstone is the “brown” in New York City’s famed brownstone townhouses

Elegant and durable, sandstone quarried in New York State was a building material sought worldwide until cement displaced it in the first decades of the 20th Century. New York’s sandstone can be seen far away in the cobblestone streets of Cuba, or Britain’s Buckingham Palace and London Bridge. It is called “Medina” sandstone because the first commercial quarry was located there. Pullman Memorial’s builder, 19th Century train car magnate George M. Pullman, spared no expense obtaining a delicate pink version of this sandstone crafted into the finest ashlar style stonework for our church’s facade.

The Congregation at Pullman Memorial would like to thank Orleans County historian, C. W. “Bill” Lattin, for nominating us for the Sandy Award, The Medina Sandstone Society Hall of Fame Committee (Jim Hancock, Dave Miller and John Slack) for the “Sandy,” and The Medina Sandstone Trust for our special preservation grant.



Pullman's pastor, H. Lee Richards, top row center. Photo: Tom Rivers orleanshub.com

Architectural Preservation is No Joking Matter!

With Humor, Historian Tells the Foibles and Follies of Church Preservation at Pullman's Fall Restoration Fundraiser

To raise awareness of the importance of preserving historic church buildings, and to raise funds for the restoration of our original Spanish tile roof, Pullman Memorial Universalist Church presented an evening of storytelling with longtime member and local Orleans County historian Bill Lattin.



Orleans County historian, Pullman trustee, and restoration fundraising event storyteller, C. W. "Bill" Lattin.

Photo: Virginia Kropf, Batavia News.

***“incompetent stewardship, or
nincompoopery”***

The well attended and well-reviewed event, on Sunday, November 3, 2013 at 7 pm, was a cabaret in Pullman's social hall. Bill related stories about local churches passed down through the generations, told to him by direct observers or seen first-hand himself. Many of the stories came from Bill's father, Cary H. Lattin, who was the Orleans County historian before Bill took the post.

Interlaced with funny tales of Orleans county church parishioners and clergy, was Bill's genuine concern for the precious architectural legacy now endangered and even destroyed by the incompetent stewardship, or “nincompoopery,” as Bill recollects one incensed Albion community member calling the poor preservation decisions made by earlier generations.

Stories from years past of church lady vapors over purloined church parking spaces, and wayward ministers taking off with farmer's daughters, gave way to Bill's well intentioned and forthright critique of fatal alterations to local church structures that have resulted in irreversible damage to, and demise of, historic buildings.

Bill's stories, serious and humorous, will be in his forthcoming book. The next issue of the Architectural News will feature an exclusive excerpt from Bill's book about Orleans County, NY which records one of the most serious lapses in local historic architectural stewardship: demolition of Pullman Memorial's "neighbor" - the Clarendon, NY Universalist Church.

Repairing, Renovating & Restoring Our Heritage. The Pullman125project is an all-encompassing effort to honor the inheritance of our ancestors and ensure that their legacy will have a continued firm foundation for the next 125 years. If you'd like to learn more, or make a contribution to help with this effort, please visit pullman125project.com

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