



Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway
Burden Iron Works Museum
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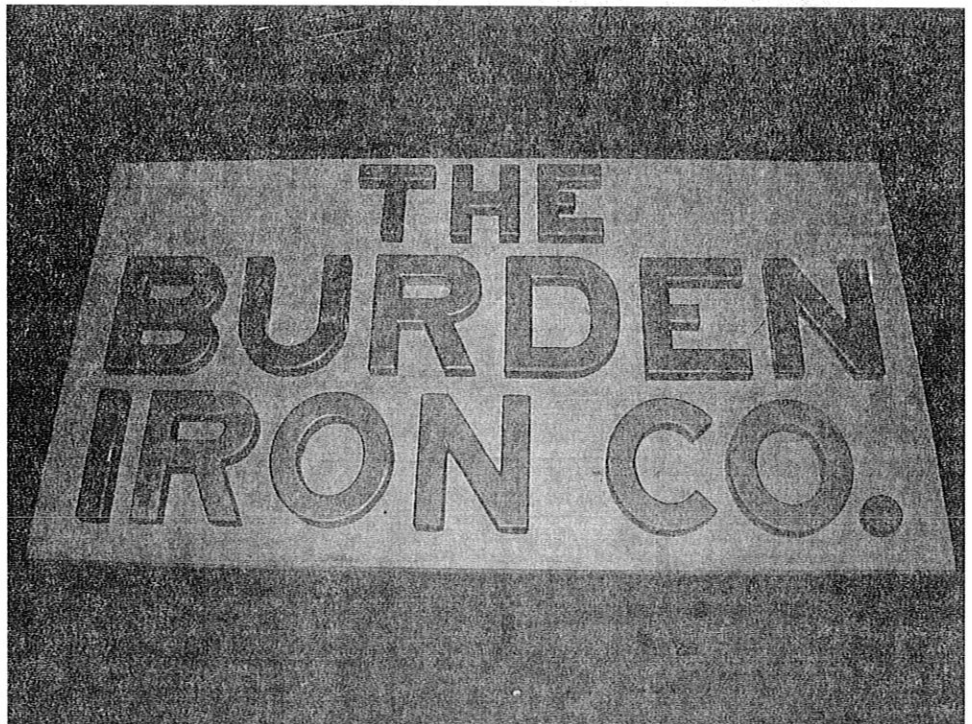
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We've Got Letters

A year ago, we told you about our exciting project to restore the gilt lettering over the entrance to the Burden Iron Works Museum. We're happy to report that all the letters have been cast by Ross Valve Mfg. Co., Inc. Making them was a successful test of a new technique for making molds for cast metal parts. Now that they have been cast, they need to be polished to the necessary smoothness to take gold leaf, then drilled and tapped for the pins that will mount them into the brick facade. Once mounted, they can be gilded. (Please let us know right away if you can recommend any gilders for the job.) And then the curb appeal of our historic Burden Museum will be greatly enhanced, thanks to the generous contributions of all who helped on this creative project. Keep watching at the Foot of Polk Street for some golden enhancements to South Troy.



New cast lettering for the Burden Iron Works Museum awaits polishing and gilding before being installed above the entrance to the Museum. *Photo courtesy of Ross Valve Mfg. Co., Inc.*



Burden's Best

The Newsletter of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway
Number 24 - Spring/Summer 2007

DOUBLE MILESTONE ISSUE

Museum Restoration At Last: A Personal Perspective

by Eric P. DiSarro, AIA, Gateway Board Member

I came to the Gateway Board at the end of 2003. I was certainly no youngster but still brought with me some fresh faced enthusiasm, which would inevitably be tempered by harsh reality. The Board very graciously elected me to join their ranks and appointed me, an architect, to chair the Building Committee. I had been forewarned of the need for such help and gladly plunged in.

The learning curve began. One of my first tasks was to assess the Burden Museum and its obvious physical shortcomings, and to identify and assess those not so obvious. The cosmetic needs of the building interior are obvious to all, but the need to stabilize this historic (read 'old') building, rich in history, was of greater importance. One of those needs that was not so obvious was the condition of the roof. In an old and historic building this was critical.

I soon learned of the poor condition of the roof, and of the project already underway to restore it. I immediately concurred that this was absolutely essential to preserving the building before any highly desirable, but more cosmetic, renovations could reasonably be

considered. Also included in this project were some exterior elements including access for persons with disabilities and other provisions to also make the museum more accessible to the public.

Starting in 1998, the Gateway had begun to accumulate grants and donations for these projects at the Burden Museum. Successful awards to date include the following: \$270,000 from a \$1.6 million federal TEA-21 waterfront bicycle trail grant to the City of Troy, to restore the roof, create a paved parking lot, and provide compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); a \$125,000 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act grant to restore the roof; a \$113,000 Environmental Protection Fund grant to restore the roof; a little over \$69,000 from an earlier Environmental Quality Bond Act grant to assist with all these projects; and a \$42,000 parking lot grant from the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency (IDA).

Some of these grants count as match against some of the others, but in addition to that, we had to raise a considerable amount of matching funds. Many

of the readers of our newsletter have helped in this regard. Among the larger gifts that count as match are the following: \$30,000 from the Howard and Bush Foundation; two \$10,000 donations from Peter A. and Elaine L. Grimm; a transfer of approximately \$20,000 in equities from a Burden family member; a \$5,000 gift from another Burden family member; a \$5,000 gift from an anonymous Troy donor, another \$5,000 gift from an anonymous New York City foundation, and \$2,500 each from William H. Prout, Jr., and the Sid & Doris Brown Charitable Gift Fund. In addition, our founder, Rev. Thomas Phelan, left us a generous \$35,000 bequest that the Board has voted to devote to this purpose. The Capital District Civil War Round Table supplied the first and the last donations necessary to match the Bond Act Grant. Even with all these generous donations, and others from our many supporters, we still need to commit almost every penny of our current unrestricted reserves to meet the bid price. This is one of the prices one pays for the cost increases from Hurricane Katrina and the inflation in fuel costs. Thus, we continue to seek donations toward the Museum's capital campaign.

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