

The New York Landmarks Conservancy has announced a Robert W. Wilson Sacred Sites Challenge Grant of \$25,000 to St. George's Episcopal Church in Schenectady.

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## SCHENECTADY

# St. George's Episcopal gets grant to help repair steeple

BY SHANNON LUIBRAND  
For *The Daily Gazette*

For more than 250 years, St. George's Episcopal Church in Schenectady has been a surviving and thriving historical religious site in the Stockade Historic District.

On Friday, the New York Landmarks Conservancy announced that St. George's is the recipient of the Robert W. Wilson Sacred Sites Challenge Grant for \$25,000 to fund the repair of its steeple.

The conservancy recently announced 23 grants to historic religious properties throughout New York state totaling \$275,000.

"It's vital to renew and repair religious buildings," said Peg Breen,

president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

St. George's is among the oldest surviving religious buildings in the entire state. The church is currently home to many community programs, including adult and youth choirs, musical instruction groups and a community "adopt a plot" garden program.

"Not only do these sites convey their communities' history," Breen said, "they serve their neighborhoods today with food pantries, nursery schools, concerts and a variety of worthy programs."

St. George's was designed in 1759 by Samuel Fuller, a carpenter and shipwright from Massachusetts. In

1953, the church underwent renovations. Architects Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, the original architects for Colonial Williamsburg, designed the renovations and additions to the church. The additions included the construction of an apse chapel, visible through a glass wall behind the altar. Victorian period decoration was also removed to restore the enlarged church to its Colonial roots.

The church remains surrounded by Colonial Revival-style brick buildings from the early 20th century, including a detached parish hall, administrative and education buildings. The church has continued to go through additional renovations and repairs throughout the years.