

Schenectady Historic District Commission

Brian U. Stratton

Mayor

• *Commissioners* •

James Jamieson, A.I.A.

Chairman



Jim Jamieson attended Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA where he received the Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1981. As the Capitol Architect for the NYS Office of General Services, Jim has the responsibility for all new construction, restoration and preservation at the Capitol, the Empire State Plaza, and the Executive Mansion in Albany. He is also the agency's Historic Preservation Officer. Jim is a licensed architect and a member of the American Institute of Architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the NYS Capitol Restoration Commission; the New York State Preservation League and the Society of Architectural Historians. He began serving on the Historic Commission in 2001. Jim lives in the historic G.E. Realty Plot.

Emily Klotz

Vice Chairman



Emily Klotz started serving on the Historic District Commission in 1999. She received a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Ball State University, Indiana and an undergraduate degree in historic preservation/architectural conservation from Mary Washington College, Virginia. She spent six years providing technical services at the Preservation League of New York State. Emily now works as a preservation consultant.

Michael Szemansco, A.I.A.



Michael Szemansco is an architect who lives in the Union Street Historic District, where he and his family have restored a 1910 late Victorian-style home. He has been a member of the Historic District Commission since 2001. Michael is one of the founding Principals of Synthesis, an architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning firm located on historic Jay Street. He has been Principal-in-Charge for numerous historic preservation and rehabilitation projects in the City, including the Parker-Rice house on Lenox Road for Union College (now Abbe Hall) and the Parker Inn on State Street.

Beth Petta



Beth Petta has served on the city's Planning Commission and has been serving on the Historic District Commission since 2005. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Classics from Union College and is currently on leave from the SUNYA PhD program in Philosophy. She and her husband Mike Petta own a home in the Stockade Historic District, renovations for which they received a Heritage Foundation Award for historic preservation. Active in the Stockade Neighborhood Association for years, Beth also serves on the Executive Board of Schenectady's public access TV station 16.

Jackie Craven



Jackie Craven lives in the Union Triangle historic district. She writes the *Architecture* pages for About.com. She is the author of [The Healthy Home](#) and [The Stress-Free Home](#). A former teacher, Jackie Craven holds a Doctor of Arts in English from the State University of New York at Albany. Over the years, Jackie renovated five old buildings on her street and established a small rental business specializing in attractive apartments in historic neighborhoods. She now lives in a restored turn-of-the-century cottage for which she won a Schenectady Heritage Foundation Preservation Award. Jackie joined the Historic District Commission in 2007.

John Blanchard



John Blanchard lives in the G.E. Realty Plot Historic District. As a consultant in NYC for co-op apartment corporations, John specialized in loft legalization projects, zoning and property management issues, and financial and budgetary planning. He consulted on several New York City loft conversions, all within the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission historic districts. John also coordinated and contracted façade work and filing of NYC Local Law 10 reports and oversaw Landmark Preservation Commission historic district façade restoration projects and storefront and sidewalk reconstruction projects. John received his B.A. in Philosophy at DePauw University followed by his M.A. and PhD in Philosophy from The New School for Social Research in NYC. John is a professor of philosophy at Siena College. John joined the Historic District Commission in 2007.

Ben Wiles



Ben Wiles has been a resident of the G.E. Realty Plot since 1983 and has been a member of the Realty Plot neighborhood association for over 15 years. He is currently employed as an attorney by the Public Utility Law Project, which is a legal services and policy advocacy organization representing the interests of low-income residential gas, electric and telephone customers. After moving to the Capital District in 1983, Ben served for six years in the Governor's Counsel's Office and was responsible for energy, environmental, parks and historic preservation issues. Ben joined the Historic District Commission in 2007.