

# Patriot

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## *Contract signed for <sup>Patriot</sup> roof repair on Palmer Opera House*

*NOV 23-29, 2005*



**CUBA**—Don Donovan, president of Cuba Friends of Architecture signs long awaited contract with Kinley Corporation of Allegheny. Roof restoration work will begin soon on the Palmer Opera House in Cuba's downtown National Historic District. A portion of the roof collapsed in 2002 and the previous owner, Arts West Gallery, was unable to get funding for repairs. Recently the Cuba Friends of Architecture received title to the building and has been finalizing paperwork with the architects and construction company. Fund raising continues for the renovation project.

Wellsville has a connection to this historic structure. The building is comprised of three store bays fronted by cast iron pilasters, topped with lion capitals. The iron was cast by McEwen Company of Wellsville. In 1868, according to "A History of the Town of Wellsville, New York" by Martha Howe, John and William R. McEwen formed the McEwen Brothers and in time made

iron fronts for buildings. Several examples remain in Wellsville and the Palmer House in Cuba, built in 1872, has ten of these decorative pilasters.

The Cuba Friends of Architecture needs help to restore the Palmer House and want to assure that Wellsville's historic McEwen iron casts are saved. If you want to contribute to this cause you may send a contribution to: Cuba Friends of Architecture, P0 Box 274, Cuba, NY 14727.