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GUSTAV STICKLEY HOUSE PROJECT AWARDED \$10,800 GRANT

Funding will go towards study of the homes interior.

The Gustav Stickley House restoration project was awarded a \$10,800 grant through the Preserve NY Grant Program of the Preservation League of NYS in Albany on Tuesday. David Michel accepted the grant on behalf of the University Neighborhood Preservation Association (UNPA) who is overseeing Phase One of the restoration. The funding will be dedicated to the work of the Historic Structure Report (HSR) in particular the interior study of the property. The HSR will include documentation of the historical and physical development of the building as well as description and analysis of building finishes and components. The report is essential to provide a better understanding of the building as well as help guide the sensitive restoration and rehabilitation of the highly significant interior, including paint and finish documentation.

The preparation of a HSR for historically significant structures is a key component in any restoration effort. The HSR will assist in the informed and accurate understanding of the building's elements as well as provide information which will be incorporated into the project planning process.

Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners of Syracuse has already begun work on the HSR with funding through the Community Foundation of CNY, the William & Mary Thorpe Fund, and the Arts & Crafts Society of CNY. Professional interior photographs were recently completed by documentation photographer Bruce G. Harvey of Syracuse. Interior finishes

investigation and paint analysis will be conducted by Architectural Conservation Services of Bristol, RI.

The Preserve New York grant program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation has provided additional support for projects in New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The web announcement can be found here: <http://www.preservenys.org/pny-2017.html> and a full PDF version is available as well at: <http://www.preservenys.org/uploads/3/1/6/2/31626961/pny-omnibus-17-lca.pdf>

Gustav Stickley (1858-1942) established his furniture factory by 1900 in the Syracuse suburb of Eastwood. His sturdy and unadorned Craftsman oak furniture was so successful that Stickley moved his corporate office to New York City in 1905. Shortly after, his family relocated to Craftsman Farms in Morris Plains, New Jersey. While Gustav was an incredibly gifted entrepreneur, he was unable to change with the times and was forced to file for bankruptcy in 1915. Gustav returned to his Syracuse home on Columbus Avenue that was sold to his daughter Barbara Stickley Wiles in 1919. He continued to live there until his death in 1942. The Wiles family sold the house in the 1950s and it was subdivided into five apartments. In 1996 the L. & J.G. Stickley Company purchased the home to save the interiors from being dismantled and to preserve it for future generations.

The late Queen Anne style home was originally purchased by Stickley in 1900 for his family residence. Following a fire on Christmas Eve 1901, Stickley redesigned the First and Second floors with the first-ever Craftsman interior. The house is an icon of American architecture and illustrates the shift in the aesthetic from the 19th century Victorian style to a more modern sensibility. While changes to the structure have occurred over the years, the house contains the relatively intact original Arts & Crafts interior from 1902. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a Protected Site under the Syracuse local preservation law.

The Gustav Stickley House Foundation, Inc. (GSHF) was established to aid in the restoration, preservation and interpretation of the home and principally functions as a fundraising body to benefit the historic house.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact David Rudd at 315-463-1568 or email stickleyhousefoundation@gmail.com.

He is Jay DiLorenzo; President, Preservation League of NYS.