



## **The Greater Syracuse Land Bank & The Gustav Stickley House Foundation to join Public Officials in Unveiling the Official Signage Awarded by The National Park Service, Commemorating the Save America's Treasure's Grant**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

On Monday September 20, 2021 at 2 p.m. the Greater Syracuse Land Bank and the Gustav Stickley House Foundation will join Mayor Ben Walsh and County Executive Ryan McMahon and other public officials to unveil the official National Parks Service signage signifying the awarding of a \$500,000 "Save America's Treasure's" matching grant for the interior restoration of this historic home located at 438 Columbus Avenue in Syracuse, N.Y.

A total of 42 grants equaling \$12.8 million were awarded by the Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS) for projects across the United States. With these funds, organizations and agencies conserve significant U.S. cultural and historic resources, which illustrate, interpret, and are associated with the great events, ideas, and individuals that contribute to our nation's history and culture.

Gustav Stickley (1858-1942), noted furniture designer and proponent of the American Arts & Crafts Movement, purchased the Queen Anne style house in 1900. The following year a Christmas Eve fire significantly damaged the home. Stickley redesigned the original interior in what came to be known as the "Craftsman Style." In doing so, he laid the foundation of interior design for a generation of American homes in burgeoning residential neighborhoods in cities and towns across the nation. Over the years the home fell into disrepair but much of the Stickley interior remained untouched. The Stickley family lived in the house on and off from 1900 until Stickley's daughter Barbara Stickley Wiles sold it in the mid 1950s. The house then had a series of owners over the next half-century, until 1996, when the Audi family – who also purchased the L. & J. G. Stickley Company, Inc., bought the house to prevent it from being dismantled and preserve it for future generations. If it weren't for the foresight and generosity of the Audi family, the house might not have ever been restored.

The Audi Family donated the property to the University Neighborhood Preservation Association for the restoration of the exterior. That project was completed in 2018 with funding from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

(New York State Environmental Protection Fund), New York State Homes and Community Renewal Urban Initiatives Program), The Central New York Community Foundation, The Thorpe Foundation, and The Arts & Crafts Society of Central New York.

Now the focus is to transform the interior into a unique historic house museum and guest house. Historic elements on the main and upper floors will be restored to their original Craftsman appearance, exhibit and educational programs space will be created and five upper floor suites for overnight guests. Once the project is complete, ownership of the home will be transferred to the Onondaga Historical Association, which will oversee the house and its operations.

“The assistance we have received to date from New York State, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service as well as many local organizations, along with the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County has been tremendous,” stated Foundation President David Rudd.

The Gustav Stickley House Foundation, is leading a capital campaign to restore the house. The Capital Campaign has a goal to raise an additional \$1.7 million to complete the project. Unfortunately, the Capital Campaign has been stalled due to COVID-19 and the need to be cautious with group events. If people are interested in contributing to this important historic preservation project they can contact Amy Shook-Perez at (415) 722-9437 or [stickleyhousefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:stickleyhousefoundation@gmail.com).

For questions regarding the Save America’s Treasure’s grant program, or to comment on this or any other proposed Historic Preservation Fund grant project, please contact the State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants Division, National Park Service, at 202-354-2020 or [stlpg@nps.gov](mailto:stlpg@nps.gov). Save America's Treasures grants are awarded in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matt Chadderdon  
315-283-3486

