

Gustav Stickley House Restoration Project receives a Save America's Treasure's Grant

The Greater Syracuse Land Bank has received a \$500,000 matching grant from the Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS) funded through the Historic Preservation Fund and the Save America's Treasure's grant program, for the interior restoration of the Gustav Stickley House at 438 Columbus Avenue in Syracuse, NY. A total of 42 grants totaling \$12.8 million were awarded 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 Audi Family took title to the property in 1996 to preserve it and donated it 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 and a basement apartment for a resident caretaker will be created. Universal access will also be provided through a new rear addition.

The Gustav Stickley House Foundation, a friends group, is leading a campaign to restore the house. Donations have already been received from members of the Stickley family, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and other contributors. The Save America's Treasure's grant will accelerate this effort.

Foundation President David Rudd, noted, "Receiving this significant grant from Save America's Treasure's is a huge boost. Such national recognition will go a long way to helping us reach our goal."

In 2019 the Greater Syracuse Land Bank agreed to take title of the property, partnering with the Gustav Stickley House Foundation, during restoration of the interior. Ownership will transfer to the Onondaga Historical Association once restoration is complete and they will operate the building as part of their public mission.

For more information on this project please contact Amy Shook-Perez at (415) 722-9437 or 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. 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).

