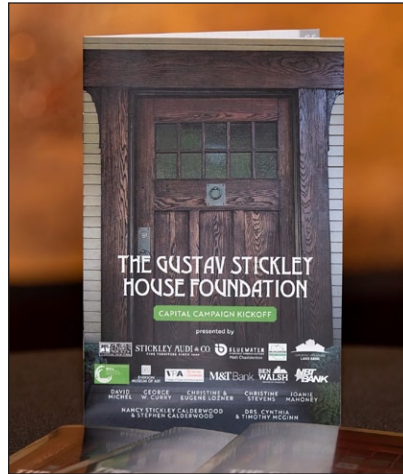


## Gustav Stickley House Phase II Restoration

Project receives coveted Save America's Treasures Grant

BY DAVID RUDD

**Y**OU MAY HAVE READ in an earlier issue of *American Bungalow* that the exterior restoration of the Gustav Stickley House at 438 Columbus Ave in Syracuse, New York was completed in 2018. The exterior project received an award from the Preservation Association of Central New (PACNY) for "excellence in the application of preservation technology and craftsmanship." Since then the Gustav Stickley House Foundation (GSHF) and others have worked diligently to refine the interior restoration plan (Phase II) and move forward with fundraising. Recently, we received



a huge shot in the arm, a \$500,000 matching grant through the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program.

The SAT program, sponsored by the National Park Service, is a national effort to protect "America's threatened cultural treasures, including historic structures, collections, works of art, maps, and journals that document and illuminate the history and culture of the United States." According to grant committee chair Amy Shook-Perez, "We are so honored to receive this matching grant but

we must move quickly to raise the required \$500,000 match to use the funds. The Covid-19 shutdown requires us to think differently."

In March, a Phase II Capital Campaign was launched. A Kick-Off event held on March 5th was a huge success, but like many other nonprofit organizations, Covid-19 curtailed community activities planned for the rest of the year. The foundation is now working on virtual opportunities in addition to fundraising through its website. For now, here is an outline of the Phase II plan, what we intend to accomplish and how the house will be used once restoration is complete.

The ultimate goal is to create a unique historic house museum and guest house which will be operated by the Onondaga Historical Association. The space will be transformed into an educational environment with tours and exhibits as well as space for personal and cultural events. A small commercial kitchen will be created on the first floor. Up-



MR. STICKLEY'S BEDROOM.



MAIN STAIR HALL & DINING ROOM.

stairs, five guest suites with private baths will be created and in the basement area, a two bedroom apartment for a full-time caretaker/manager. A new three-story addition at the rear of the house will provide universal access including an elevator (LULA) and publicly accessible first floor bathroom as well a second stairwell for egress. A tall but exciting order, the work will maintain and preserve the integrity of the historic elements of this important legacy of Gustav Stickley and the Arts & Crafts Movement in America.

The Gustav Stickley House was constructed in 1900 as a single-family house on a typical narrow lot in one of Syracuse's east side neighborhoods. After suffering a fire on Christmas Eve 1901, the entire interior was redesigned by Gustav Stickley, in the "Craftsman" style, reflecting the American Arts and Crafts Movement. Stickley lived there with his family



WATER DAMAGED ENTRY HALL CEILING.

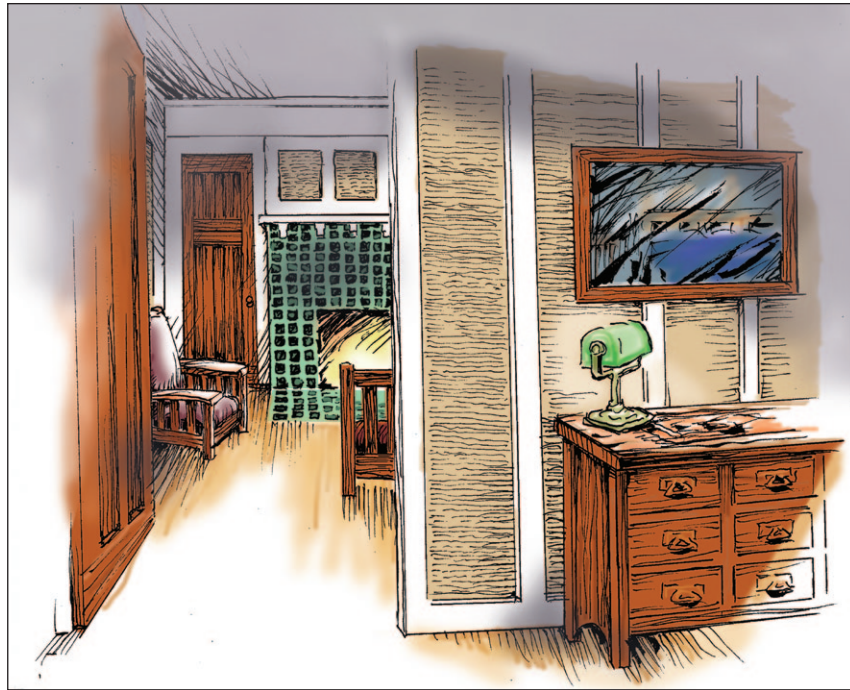
from 1900 to 1910, and then again with his adult daughter and her family from 1919 until his death in 1942. The first floor contained living and dining rooms, an iconic Arts & Crafts style inglenook, and a broad stair/entry hall. The second floor had 4 bedrooms and a master bedroom with Stickley's adjoining private study. The third floor had both bedrooms and common space.

After the Stickley descendants sold the house in the 1950s, the interior was altered into 5 apartments. Luckily most of Stickley's

significant design and materials survived these changes. In the late 20th century, the building was vacant for some time, and it was during this period that the building suffered most from deterioration and damage. The Audi Family purchased the home, saving it from destruction and in 2016, donated the house to a local nonprofit and the restoration project began.

The Gustav Stickley House is one of the first architectural examples of the Arts & Craft Movement in the U.S. The completed Phase I exterior restoration included asbestos removal, and structural repairs and the recreation of the historic front porch. Phase II, the interior, will complete first floor restoration and historic elements on the upper floors while assuring universal access and modern code compliance. The interior requires substantial work; virtually all mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems are unusable,

## PERSPECTIVE ON ANTIQUES



2ND FLOOR BEDROOM WITH GRUEBY TILED FIREPLACE.

and materials and finishes suffer from lack of temperature control, moisture, water, and wear, including elements installed by Gustav Stickley.

The creation of the guest suites will provide income to support the public use of this building, educational exhibits and events and

add to the integrity of an emerging and diverse neighborhood. The guest suites will also add to the local economy, with County occupancy tax and generate tourism dollars in the region. All work is designed to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties,

as well as requirements of the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board and the State Historic Preservation Office.

The Gustav Stickley House Foundation (GSHF) was formed in 2016 to support the restoration, preservation and interpretation of the Gustav Stickley House. After the successful funding of Phase I the GSHF has begun a Capital Campaign for Phase II. Our goal is to raise 2.2 million dollars to complete the interior restoration. Additionally, GSHF is committed to supporting the property beyond restoration.

The restoration of the Gustav Stickley House and its return as a functioning example of the American Arts & Crafts Movement is a testimony to decades of vision, dedication and commitment by so many. The home will once again honor and reflect the vision of Gustav Stickley and be a public example of innovative historic restoration and interpretation while serving as a community gathering place. To learn more about the restoration's progress or to contribute a tax deductible gift to the project visit [www.gustavstickleyhousefoundation.org](http://www.gustavstickleyhousefoundation.org).

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