

YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HOMAN-GERARD HOUSE RESTORATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE ROBERT DAVID LION GARDINER FOUNDATION

Yaphank, NY – January 10, 2018 –The Yaphank Historical Society is pleased to announce a grant in the amount of \$300,000 for the continuing restoration of the Homan-Gerard House in Yaphank’s Historic District.

The matching funds grant was given by the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for the project, a partnership between Yaphank Historical Society and Suffolk County Department of Parks Historic Services. Suffolk County already contributed \$300,000 to reinstall heating equipment, framing and other work. The Gardiner grant is going directly to the historical society and work is expected to be completed by the spring of 2019.

“The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation Grant helps provide much needed funding to continue the restoration of the historic Homan-Gerard House,” said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone. “Preserving and restoring endangered structures such as the Homan-Gerard House, which are an integral part of our history, is a top priority in Suffolk County.”

The Homan-Gerard House project has been first on the list of preserving and restoring endangered buildings. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. The stabilization of the foundation and framing of the building has been completed by the County over the past few years, so that the restoration of the exterior and interior can begin.

Scheduled work includes the restoration of period fireplaces, windows and doors, stairways and floors, which are unique examples of transitional Federal and Greek Revival architectural detailing are important in saving this unique early Long Island home, an integral part of the history and culture of Yaphank. When open to the public in 2019, it will be interpreted as it was in 1825-1830.

This strategy follows in the tradition of past joint efforts in restoring the Hawkins House and the Mary L. Booth House.

The Homan-Gerard House was first noted in Brookhaven Town Records in 1762, when the sawmill was built there adjacent to the house on the river.

The house was rebuilt in the Federal style and ownership was transferred over the years to the Homan, Hawkins and Gerard families. When the mills became obsolete, the house was used as a boarding house for summer visitors who came to Yaphank to enjoy swimming, fishing and boating on the millponds, and then as a sporting lodge, until it was closed, but its site on the lake and entrance to the historic district make it a significant landmark in Yaphank.

ABOUT YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Yaphank Historical Society was established in 1974 to preserve and protect the historic houses of Yaphank and create an historic district on Main Street. A book on the history of Yaphank was published in the Images of America series by Arcadia in October 2012. Additional information on the Yaphank Historical Society can be found at www.yaphankhistorical.org

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