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Sag Harbor Partnership Recipient of Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation Grant for SANS Cultural Resource Survey

Sag Harbor, NY – December 10, 2017: Sag Harbor Partnership is the proud recipient of a Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation grant in the amount of \$4,600. This grant was awarded to partially fund an historic and state required SANS (Sag Harbor Hills, Azurest, and Ninevah Subdivisions) Reconnaissance and Intensive Level Resource Survey (“Cultural Resource Survey”) of homes and cultural history for landmark consideration. The Cultural Resource Survey will serve as a backdrop in the Local, State, and National landmark application for designation and recognition.

Sag Harbor Partnership is dedicated to, among other things, the preservation and enhancement of the quality of life in Sag Harbor including education, historic preservation of the built environment, preservation of the natural environment, and related social and economic concerns. This grant underscores the important role that the Gardiner Foundation plays on Long Island in preserving the character and essences of life and culture on Long Island.

Since Sag Harbor Partnership’s inception, we have focused on those areas that honor and sustain the arts, culture, and sense of community that have occurred over the years and remain today. These cultural elements define Sag Harbor and attract residents and visitors year around. The \$4,600 Gardiner Grant provided the remarkable financial partnership to achieve our organization’s goals.

The purpose of this Gardiner grant project is the kickoff Phase I of the SANS Cultural Resource Survey to document the over 60-year historic character of the SANS neighborhoods and to investigate the historic and cultural context that contributed to their origins. This survey is a first-step in documenting the unique history of this African American enclave and is a precursor to applying for inclusion in the National Register for

Historic Districts. (Though the SANS neighborhoods are within the village of Sag Harbor, they lie adjacent to and just outside of the boundaries of the Sag Harbor Village National Register Historic District.) Additionally, the Survey is designed to capture the post-Jim Crow and Civil Rights era cultural and social interactions of the expanding African American social, political, economic class realities of the area's residents and guests.

According to Renee Simons, one of the founders of SANS, "The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation grant launched our efforts and partially funded SANS' (Sag Harbor Hills, Azurest, & Ninevah Subdivisions) Intensive Cultural Resource Survey that will provide the necessary foundation and historic documentation to apply for National and State landmark recognition. We, in SANS, appreciate Sag Harbor Partnership's support and collaboration in this effort."

Collation of the history of the SANS neighborhoods and the potential designation of these neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Districts are the types of projects that fit squarely within the partnership's mission.

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About Sag Harbor Partnership

Sag Harbor Partnership is a 501(c)3 designated not-for-profit dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the quality of life in Sag Harbor.

The activities and programs of our organization include education, historic preservation of the built environment, preservation of the natural environment, and related social and economic concerns, such as affordable housing and support for locally-owned small businesses.

With monies raised through our fundraising activities, we will offer grants to support projects and other organizations engaged in work that furthers our stated purposes, including professional assistance. <http://www.sagharborpartnership.org/>

About SANS (Sag Harbor Hills, Azurest, and Ninevah Subdivisions)

In the Summer of 2016, a group of residents collected over 51% of owner petitions confirming interest and permission to pursue cultural landmarking of the three (3) subdivisions. Following the Sag Harbor Trustee Board's unanimous endorsement of SANS landmarking goals, SANS was formally formed to unite and umbrella efforts to document and survey the three (3) historic American beach communities, house owners, and notable guests for landmark designation -- recognizing the unique, never before surveyed circumstances and lifestyle occurrences in this little part of paradise.

The exact documentation process is called a *Cultural Resource Survey*. Our ultimate goal is to apply for State and National historic designation as a mid-century founded Historic District based on cultural significance. This is similar to the designations awarded Eastville, Oak Bluffs in Martha's Vineyard, Rapp Rd. in Albany, areas of NYC's Village, etc. Pursuit of government landmark designation is an appropriate and a natural course of action for SANS owners.

Fielding a SANS Cultural Survey is viewed by SANS residents as a moral imperative to provide insight and historical knowledge about an era, circumstance, and human condition that has yet to be fully explored. Already The Smithsonian Institution approved

a photograph about a SANS resident on SANS' beach, which is currently included in the "Place" collection displayed at the new Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. The Museum was approved by Act of Congress in 2003 during President George W. Bush's administration, and is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture.

While the architectural nature of SANS is not distinctive for the area, it is historical reinforcement of a treasured lifestyle...a lifestyle of mutual respect, human courtesies, and a strong sense of community and belonging. Here, there was no sense of wealth entitlement or a caste-like "less than" another environment despite the known wealth of some and academic achievement of most. The circumstances of SANS' formation, ownership, and oversight only occurred in a handful or so areas that still exist today in all of America. SANS' goal is to capture and document this previously undocumented lifestyle for history. This area is one of the last known privately owned African-American resort areas in America.

SANS Press coverage-to-date:

- *Sag Harbor Express*: <http://sagharborexpress.com/another-big-house-ninevah-spurs-community-debate/>
- *Wall St. Journal*: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/sag-harbor-residents-try-preservation-push-to-thwart-mega-mansions-1500835026>
- *Washington Post* (July 2017): https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/surf-sand-and-race/2017/07/26/f674c5be-61bb-11e7-84a1-a26b75ad39fe_story.html?utm_term=.2b76834a3bb0

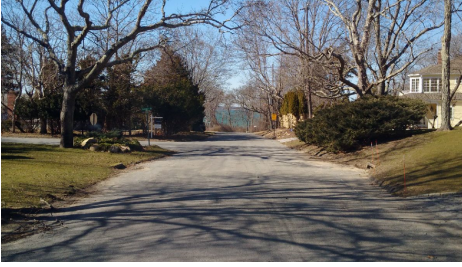
SANS Photos*:



*Photos by Donnamarie Barnes (requires permission to reprint) – Front left to right: Ninevah Entrance, Ninevah Entrance statement, SANS beach view.



Photos of Sag Harbor Hills Entrance



From left to right: Streetscape within Sag Harbor Hills, Streetscape within Azurest