



Historic Huguenot Street Awarded \$500,000 from Save America's Treasures to Restore Bevier-Elting House



NEW PALTZ, NY (September 27, 2021) – Historic Huguenot Street (HHS) has been awarded a \$500,000 Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant from the National Park Service, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Funding will support much-needed major repairs and restoration work at the Bevier-Elting House (ca. 1700, 1735, and 1760). The project, expected to start in 2022 and continue over the next five years, is one of 49 projects in 29 states funded by the SAT program this year.

A key structure centrally located within HHS's ten-acre National Historic Landmark District, the Bevier-Elting House is an extraordinary example of Dutch vernacular architecture in the U.S. Home to generations of the Bevier and Elting families, this important structure is the earliest

house maintaining its original form on Huguenot Street, and is particularly significant in that it is a rare surviving example of the front-gable orientation common in Dutch architecture.



The house also plays an important role in HHS’s interpretation of slavery in New Paltz. Historical documents indicate that each of the patentees and other early families enslaved Africans. That includes the Beviers and Eltings. Names of the enslaved descendants listed in inventories and bills of sale relating to Samuel Bevier and Josiah Elting’s son include Molly, Bett, and Sam. The cellar of the Bevier-Elting House is interpreted as a kitchen where the enslaved would have lived and slept and serves as an integral part of HHS’s tours, which strive to tell the stories of all residents of the street and not merely those of the white European inhabitants.

Recognizing roof and other repairs were needed on the Bevier-Elting House, HHS commissioned Lothrop Associates LLP Architects and Silman Structural Engineers in 2018 to do a conditions assessment. The subsequent report pointed to several major areas of concern in the stone foundation and walls of the house, as well as in the wood framing and roof structure. The Save America’s Treasures grant and matching funds will ensure the long-term preservation of this historic stone structure so that it may be interpreted for audiences for centuries to come. “HHS is extremely grateful for this federal support,” noted President Liselle LaFrance. “To fully

accomplish the needed repairs, we must raise an additional \$500,000 in nonfederal funds, and we hope that our community of supporters will recognize the worthiness of the project, which will be implemented under the guidance of our Director of Curatorial and Preservation Affairs, Josephine Bloodgood.”

This is the second Save America’s Treasures grant awarded to HHS. The first was granted in 2006 for reconstruction of the north wall of the Jean Hasbrouck House (ca. 1721).

For any public questions, concerns or comments, please email the SAT Project Director at info@huguenotstreet.org.

About Historic Huguenot Street

A National Historic Landmark District, Historic Huguenot Street is a 501(c)3 non-profit that encompasses 30 buildings across 10 acres comprising the heart of the original 1678 New Paltz settlement, including seven stone houses dating to the early eighteenth century. Historic Huguenot Street was founded in 1894 as the Huguenot Patriotic, Historical, and Monumental Society to preserve the nationally acclaimed collection of stone houses. Since then, Historic Huguenot Street has grown into an innovative museum, chartered as an educational corporation by the University of the State of New York Department of Education that is dedicated to preserving a unique Hudson Valley Huguenot settlement and engaging diverse audiences in the exploration of America's multicultural past in order to understand the historical forces that have shaped America.

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Frances Vigna
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
frances@huguenotstreet.org
(845) 255-1660 Ext. 102