

Homan House Restoration Update

by Peggy Judd

You will all be happy to learn that serious restoration work has “finally” begun on the Homan House. You may have noticed work crews on site these past few weeks. Suffolk County and the Yaphank Historical Society have been working toward the restoration of this House for a number of years, but actual restoration work was seriously stalled. The Historic District Committee, comprised of members of the Society and Suffolk County Historic Services Department, along with support from Legislator Kate Browning, has been instrumental in bringing this project to the top of the County’s list of historic restoration projects. Considerable work has been completed during the past few months, including establishing contracts with the appropriate architectural and construction organizations.

In preparation for the building stabilization process, several meetings with the General Contractor and various subcontractors have been held and a complete review of the existing architectural and structural documentation was completed.

An appropriate technique for stabilizing the House to ensure safety and durability is the first crucial step in the actual construction phase. For the main portion of the House, a decision has been made to insert several steel beams through holes in the foundation to support the structure. Work has begun on this. For the back portion of the House, the House will be raised very slightly to allow repairs to be made to the stone work. Once repairs are completed, the back portion of the House will be lowered back down to its “original” position. Further stabilization work will be required to repair the chimney (support from beneath and throughout the House) before the House can be considered completely safe for interior work to begin.



In a crucial first step, steel beams were inserted through the foundation to support the structure.

Other Exterior work includes:

- Chain link fencing was installed surrounding the construction site as a safety measure.
- A storage unit for construction equipment was placed on site.
- Two large, but diseased and rotting, locust trees were removed from the front of the House.
- Split rail fencing was installed to the south of the driveway.
- Debris was removed from the original barn site and surrounding area.
- Debris was removed from around the House and back shed.
- Picket fencing was installed in front of the House.
- Several windows were removed and boarded.
- Several areas of siding were removed.



Mill gears found on site.

We expect this project to quickly move forward and we will keep you informed as the restoration project continues.