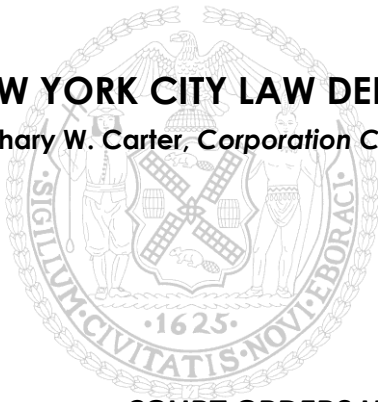


NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT

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COURT ORDERS HISTORIC STATEN ISLAND LANDMARK TO BE REPAIRED, RESULT OF SUIT BROUGHT BY LAW DEPARTMENT & LANDMARKS COMMISSION

The City Law Department and Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) announced today that a Court has ordered the owners of the historic Manee-Seguine Homestead on Staten Island, which was landmarked by the City in 1984, to repair their property. The owners of the property, one of the six oldest surviving houses in New York City, face significant monetary penalties for failing to comply with landmark laws by allowing the building to deteriorate.

A ruling by Staten Island Acting Supreme Court Justice Philip Straniere requires the owners to pay as much as \$8.5 million in fines. The total amount may be reduced by the Court following a hearing currently scheduled for February.

Law Department senior counsel Rachel Moston said: "We are pleased the Court has ruled that the owners of this historically significant property can no longer shirk their responsibility to maintain it in good condition under the Landmarks Law, and must make long-neglected repairs to the property for the benefit of all the community."

The Homestead is one of the six oldest surviving houses in the City -- constructed around 1680 -- and an example of New-World Dutch architecture. The building initially served as a single family home for the Manee and Seguine families -- French Huguenots who settled on Staten Island beginning in the second half of the 17th Century. Later, the home was converted to a hotel and was known as the Homestead Hotel and Purdy's Hotel.

"The Court's decision upholds the Landmarks Law and in doing so saves one of the oldest landmarks in New York City. This is a win for Staten Islanders and preservation overall," said **Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission**.

The owners must comply with the ruling and make repairs to the property by January 31, 2017 or else the City may secure the property and repair it at the owners' expense.

The lawsuit was filed by the City in 2013 after the owners refused for almost four years to make necessary repairs despite being informed of their legal obligation to do so and having purchased the building knowing it was a designated individual landmark. LPC approved the prior owners' proposal for new development on a vacant portion of the landmark site.

The case is the *City of New York and the Landmarks Preservation Commission vs. Seguine Bay Estates LLC, Leo Tallo and The Land and Building Thereon Known as 509 Seguine Avenue a/k/a Block 6666, Lot 1* - Index No. 100740/13

Law Department attorney Karen Selvin also represented the City.

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