

News

\$90G grant for St. Margaret's Home renovations gains approval from state

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RED HOOK — It was a long time in coming, but state funding promised in 2008 for renovations to the historic St. Margaret's Home has finally arrived.

Approval of the \$90,000 grant was announced in a press release issued over the weekend by state Sen. Steve Saland and Assemblyman Mark Molinaro.

Saland, R-Poughkeepsie, announced the funding more than a year ago, however the approval process took much longer than expected.

"The process to access the funding was somewhat delayed," said Molinaro, R-Red Hook.

The money comes from a competitive grant through the Community Capital Assistance Program.

The state Economic Development Corp. review board recently approved the funding, which will be used to stabilize the roof on the historic U.S. Route 9 home.

St. Margaret's Home was built in 1853 by Margaret Armstrong Astor as a home and school for neglected girls. It was converted into a private residence in the 1930s and in the 1990s was used as a homeless shelter.

The shelter was closed and the building left vacant following the 1994 murder of a local man by one of the occupants of the homeless shelter.

In the early 2000s, Hannaford Bros. Co. acquired the building when it purchased the surrounding site for the construction of its supermarket. In 2006, the company donated the building and about two acres for use as a community center.

In 2007, the town received a \$450,000 grant from the state Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation for the rehabilitation and renovation of the building.

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