

Did You Know?... WHAT'S NEW ABOUT SH 600 / SANDLASS HOUSE

- Sea Bright & Highlands Town Councils voted unanimously on Proclamations of Support for preservation of SH 600/Sandlass House in March 2022.



- A private entrepreneur is seeking permission to facilitate a renovation.
- A new 2020 premiere history exhibit at Twin Lights Historic Landmark features: William Sandlass, Visionary Builder!

WHOSE ON-BOARD? These legislators are reaching out to NPS in favor of the Sandlass House Airbnb living history experience at Sandy Hook...

- Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.
- State Senator Declan O'Scanlon
- State Senator Vin Gopal

WE NEED YOUR HELP! ...

- There is a state of urgency while the house is still salvageable as an Airbnb living history experience in 2022. Help us to find a solution to preserve this important structure in New Jersey history.
- Save history for free! Save the taxpayers money, provide jobs and help the local economy by providing this Airbnb living history experience.

BUILDING 600 OWNERSHIP

NPS Recognition of building ownership states: “...there do seem to be discrepancies between some of the county and state’s information and that of NPS.”

The 1980 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Easement Survey was sent to me by Shawn Welch after our last FACA Meeting when he sourced the document online while we spoke. Supt. Nersesian stated in her letter, “We have not been able to identify any easements that exist on the property.” This easement raises some questions relating to the hash marks which cover the ocean side of the property and not the river side where the house is located. The area without hash marks matches the 1974 Sandy Hook Deed transfer which gives part of this parcel to NJDOT. We would like to pursue clarification as soon as possible due to the imminent need of a roof repair.



Photo: Courtesy of Rick Geffken

UNANIMOUS VOTE!

HIGHLANDS AND SEA BRIGHT TOWN COUNCILS, MARCH 2022

This is the proclamation & the resolution in the public records to advocate for the preservation of SH 600.

Official Proclamation

WHEREAS, SH 600/Sandlass House is located at the entrance to Sandy Hook on property owned by the State of New Jersey and managed by the National Park Service (NPS), and

WHEREAS, the historical significance of SH 600 was documented in a cultural resource report, prepared by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in conjunction with the construction of the new Highlands Bridge, preserving the house and construction around it, and

WHEREAS, SH 600 is listed in the *National Archives* as a Contributing Structure in the Landmark, the most historical NJ area, and

WHEREAS, a leasing program has been established by NPS to preserve the historic Ft. Hancock structure on Sandy Hook, and

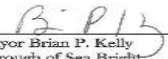
WHEREAS, a proposal to preserve SH 600 as an Airbnb living history experience has been presented to NPS by a current lessee at Officer's Row, Ft. Hancock at Sandy Hook, with urgency due to deteriorating conditions of the SH 600 roof, and

WHEREAS, action by NPS is needed to 1) return SH 600 to the list of contributing structures at Sandy Hook, making it eligible for the leasing program, and 2) to add SH 600 to the RFP List in the Sandy Hook Leasing Program, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Sea Bright, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey supports preservation of SH 600 and urges swift action while this crucial part of our local history may be salvaged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this proclamation be sent to the Governor and Congressional representatives to urge their support of actions to preserve SH 600/Sandlass House.




Mayor Brian P. Kelly
Borough of Sea Bright

March 1, 2022



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION 22-079

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PRESERVATION OF SH 600 / SANDLASS HOUSE

WHEREAS, SH 600/Sandlass House is located at the entrance to Sandy Hook on property owned by the State of New Jersey and managed by the National Park Service (NPS); and

WHEREAS, the historical significance of SH 600 was documented in a cultural resource report, prepared by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in conjunction with the construction of the new Highlands Bridge, preserving the house and constructing around it; and

WHEREAS, SH 600 is listed in the *National Archives* as a Contributing Structure in the Landmark, the most historical NJ area; and

WHEREAS, a leasing program has been established by NPS to preserve the historic Ft. Hancock structures on Sandy Hook; and

WHEREAS, a proposal to preserve SH 600 as an Airbnb living history experience has been presented to NPS by a current lessee at Officer's Row, Ft. Hancock at Sandy Hook, with urgency due to deteriorating conditions of the SH 600 roof; and

WHEREAS, action by NPS is needed to 1) return SH 600 to the list of contributing structures at Sandy Hook, making it eligible for the leasing program, and 2) to add SH 600 to the RFP List in the Sandy Hook Leasing Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Highlands supports preservation of SH 600 and urges swift action while this crucial part of our local history may be salvaged;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall also be sent to the Governor and Congressional representatives to urge their support of actions to preserve SH 600/Sandlass House.

Letters to NPS: U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., State Sen. Declan O'Scanlon and State legislator, Sen. Vin Gopal asking NPS to preserve SH 600



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VIN GOPAL
Senator, 11th District
Majority Conference Leader

February 8, 2022

Superintendent Jennifer Nersesian
Gateway National Recreation Area
210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10305

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Sandlass Home of Sandy Hook to request that you work with the advocates to find a resolution in bringing the Sandlass Home back to its former glory.

This home is a pivotal component of New Jersey's historical makeup. It is the last remaining part of the Highland Beach Resort, drawing a crowd of 15,000 people a day during the summer for special leisurely family vacations. It was one of the earliest Jersey Shore destinations from the 1800s, and uniquely positioned at the beginning South End of the Sandy Hook peninsula. The home has remained an incredible source of history and was influential in making the Jersey Shore the popular tourist destination it remains today.

While I understand that the home was moved from its original location in 1940, the historic importance of the site has not altered, and the original structure still remains intact to this day. Even through the catastrophe of hurricane Sandy, the house remained undamaged due to its pristine location and protection from the bridge abutment per the NJDOT design. A local entrepreneur Brian Samuelson, the first and current lessee to save a building in the Landmark, has stepped forward to facilitate an urgently-needed roof repair with a wish to refurbish the home into an Airbnb giving it access to future generations visiting Sandy Hook.

The advocates are looking for:

1. The acceptance of the NJDOT research validating Sandlass Home 600's historical importance on the Sandy Hook peninsula currently exhibited at NJ State Park's Navesink Light Station Historic Landmark.

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VIN GOPAL
Senator, 11th District
Majority Conference Leader

2. Return Sandlass House 600 to the contributing Structures List at Sandy Hook to match the National Archives group designation for SH 600 on the Landmark's list of contributing structures (LCS) and qualify it for the leasing program in the Sandy Hook NHL.
3. Add Sandlass House 600 to the RFP List in the Sandy Hook Leasing Program and remove it from the Ruins Bin to allow renovation by a qualified private entrepreneur who has expressed interest.

I appreciate your attention and consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at SenGopal@njleg.org, or by phone at (732) 695-3371. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vin Gopal
Senator, 11th District

Sen. Vin Gopal states, "I am writing on behalf of the Sandlass Home of Sandy Hook to request that you work with the advocates to find a resolution in bringing the Sandlass Home back to its former glory. This home is a pivotal component of New Jersey's historical makeup..."

REQUEST TO NPS

- We request a quick solution to the question of ownership in the 1980 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Easement Survey, and discrepancies in the county and state's information due to the imminent threat of a roof collapse.
- As advocates, a petition last July which garnered over 1,800 signatures to gain permission for this Airbnb concept at the 1893 Sandlass House on Sandy Hook, was delivered to NPS. The community, the legislators and local town councils champion this endeavor to preserve the last remaining remnant of the 1888-1963 Highland Beach Resort at Sandlass Beach. This history deserves a rightful place on the Sandy Hook peninsula.