

Title: Home Sweet Home 2017

Creator: Phyllis Araneo

Year: 2016



Research Background

Cultural Heritage is an expression of living developed by a community passed on from generation to generation, including its customs and practices (intangible heritage) and/or places, objects (tangible heritage). These forms of heritage inherently embody artistic expression and value. They are uniquely individualistic and encompass authentic importance to those living in and/or visiting a particular place/area/town. Historical societies are organisations dedicated to preserving, educating and celebrating both tangible and intangible heritage within communities and often take up residence in heritage protected buildings (over 100 years old). The individuality and importance placed on historical societies' function and ability to operate is further enhanced and appreciated when a natural disaster destroys or causes change to tangible heritage.

Research Contribution

The original oil paintings and subsequent printed calendar of heritage and related buildings in the **Home Sweet Home 2017** series explores changes to the built environment of a New Jersey coastline town, Keyport, which was part of the vast devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy. Known as the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season and the second-costliest hurricane in United States history, Sandy destroyed many heritage listed buildings, some of which were previously painted by the artist on commission. Adding to the individuality and importance of this creative work, Keyport is the artist's hometown and current home of several of her family members whose homes and businesses were also destroyed.

Research Significance

The artist was initially commissioned to paint the first **Home Sweet Home Calendar** ten years prior. Featured on that cover was the Steamboat Dock Museum, home to the Keyport Historical Society. Superstorm Sandy devastated the building and most of the contents. Donations and state grants enabled the purchase of a new Heritage Listed Building in 2016 to house the society. This building appears on the 2017 calendar cover. This research project is noteworthy as it connects the intangible to the tangible. It does this as its pages tell the story of connection to place and perseverance of the human spirit (intangible) whilst aiding the tangible goal of resurrecting the museum and its collections through sales of the calendar.

