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HISTORIC Preservation BULLETIN

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection • Natural & Historic Resources
Historic Preservation Office

National Reports Give Visibility to Women's History Sites

Barbara Irvine, Past President of the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation and a member of the Women's Progress Commemorative Commission

Two reports released last July during a ceremony at the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York, go a long way toward building the framework needed to provide greater visibility for preservation issues related to history sites associated with women.

The first report "Women's History Sites: The Other Half of the American Story" was issued by the Women's Progress Commemorative Commission. Created by Public Law 105-341 sponsored by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY) and Senator Chris Dodd (CT), the bipartisan commission was directed to meet for one year to consider the challenges faced in preserving sites instrumental in American women's history and to identify sites throughout the United States of historical significance to the women's movement. Recommendations were submitted to the Department of the Interior.

Included in the report were the following recommendations for national, statewide and local action:



- ◆ create a national database of women's history sites;
- ◆ create a data field in the National and State Registers that identifies women's history sites;
- ◆ support a public-private partnership network for technical assistance for preservation and interpretation of women's history sites;
- ◆ establish an incentive program for State Historic Preservation Offices to encourage them to identify and preserve women's sites;



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The Historic Preservation Office...

is committed to enhancing the quality of life for the residents of New Jersey through the preservation and appreciation of our collective past.

Our mission is to assist the residents of New Jersey in identifying, preserving, protecting and sustaining our historic and archaeological resources through the implementation of the state's historic preservation program.

- ◆ create statewide, regional or local women's history trails;
- ◆ encourage owners of women's history sites to document, highlight and seek opportunities for preservation and maintenance of their property at the time of sale;
- ◆ work to include youth in women's sites activities.

New Jersey was recognized in the report for its Women's Heritage Trail Project and identified as the first state to conduct a comprehensive survey of historic sites that document women's contributions to the history of the state.

To review the findings and recommendations in detail, you may request a copy of the report from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office by calling

Judy Abramsohn at (609) 292-0061 or e-mailing her at jabramso@dep.state.nj.us.

An Executive Summary for the Draft Report for the Women's Rights National History Trail Feasibility Study prepared by the National Park Service details the process and findings related to the designation of a women's rights national historic trail from Boston, Massachusetts to Buffalo, New York.

In addition to outlining the study process, this summary details three specific options that could be pursued to implement such a trail:

- ◆ a Votes for Women's History Trail in Upstate New York;
- ◆ a National Women's Rights History Project;

- ◆ a National Women's History Project in combination with a Partnerships Network.

Cost estimates have been included for each option along with brief implementation plans.

For further information regarding the study, you can contact Ellen Levin Carlson, Project Manager, National Park Service Boston Support Office at (617) 223-5251 or at ellen_carlson@nps.gov.

There is no doubt that these two ground-breaking studies will raise the awareness of federal and state officials and grassroots preservationists to the challenges faced by women's sites nationwide and will begin to build a coalition which will call attention to the need to preserve and interpret those sites which tell the "other half" of the story.

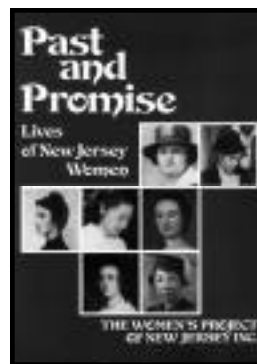
What is the Women's Project of New Jersey?

Delight Dodyk, President, Women's Project of New Jersey (WPNJ)

WPNJ was formed in 1984 by a small group of scholars, librarians, teachers and community activists interested in working collaboratively to retrieve and disseminate New Jersey women's history. This group was concerned with the lack of available material in New Jersey women's history and decided to do something about it. It was incorporated as a non-profit in 1985.

The WPNJ's initial project was the researching and writing of **Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women** comprehensive, illustrated reference volume on the history of women in New Jersey. Over 250 women and men— teachers, writers, historians, librarians, and women's history enthusiasts— were recruited to research and write the nearly 300 biographical essays in the book which was published in hardcover by Scarecrow Press of Metuchen in 1990. The book was released in paperback in 1997 by Syracuse University Press and is available through book stores and on-line book merchants.

The WPNJ also sponsored a traveling exhibit based on **Past and Promise** that opened at the New Jersey State Museum in 1990 and circulated throughout the state until



1994. In conjunction with the book, a set of four posters on New Jersey women were produced for school use, and were distributed through the Consortium for Educational Equality at Rutgers University. The latest project of WPNJ is the "New Jersey Women's History" web site which is a resource for students, teachers, journalists, and all interested people

who want to know more about the history of New Jersey women. It provides a chronological listing of notable facts, files of images and print documents, a topical index, a bibliography of print materials on New Jersey women published since 1970, and most recently, the E-Classroom containing learning activities for school use.

The website can be accessed at www.scc.rutgers.edu/njwomenshistory

At present, the WPNJ has the task of formulating the context study for the Women's Heritage Trail Project.

The WPNJ research and organizational papers are held by Special Collections, Alexander Library, Rutgers University.



New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail Project

Deborah Kelly and Ellen Schultz, Preservation Partners

The New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail Project

is an exciting new initiative sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, to identify and document New Jersey's historic sites significant because of their association with women. This exciting, groundbreaking project will contribute to an increased historical understanding of political, social, economic, and cultural ideas and forces that shaped the history of New Jersey, the United States, and the world. New Jersey is the first state in the country to take on such a comprehensive project.



New Jersey's rich history has always included the story of the lives of "famous" women from Annis Boudinot Stockton, Clara Barton, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, to Alice Paul, Anne Morrow Lindbergh and Millicent Fenwick. It is important to identify sites associated with these and other "famous" women as well as those that tell the collective story of women who contributed to the agricultural, industrial, labor and domestic history of the state. Although women have comprised over half of the state's population, historic places associated with women have been understudied and underrepresented.

The attempt to find funding for the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail Project began in 1997 with the efforts of a group of New Jersey women who had been involved in organizing the first national conference on women and historic preservation held in nearby Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1994. Led by representatives of the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation and Preservation New Jersey, the group met with New Jersey State Senator Diane Allen, who had been involved in efforts to help to preserve Paulsdale, the birthplace and childhood home of women's rights leader, Alice Stokes Paul. Presented with examples of the significant contributions of women to New Jersey's rich history, and the opportunity for New Jersey to become a leader in the nation in identifying and documenting women's historic sites, Senator Allen demonstrated her support by introducing a bill into the New Jersey State Legislature in

Beatrice Farrand Graduate College Princeton University, Princeton Mercer County

Beatrice Farrand was an early landscape designer who served as Princeton University's consulting landscape architect from 1915 to 1943. Farrand began her own business designing gardens for fashionable residences in New York City at the age of 20 years, and served an apprenticeship with Charles Sprague Sargent, founder of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, learning how to fit a plan to the landscape. Farrand was hired by Princeton University in 1912 to redesign Prospect Gardens, and to supervise the landscaping of the Graduate College. She remained as the University's landscape architect until 1943. Farrand would also transform other campuses during her career, including Yale, University of Chicago, Oberlin and the California Institute of Technology. Farrand is best known for her design of the gardens at Dumbarton Oaks, an estate in Washington, D.C. Farrand was the only woman among the founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899. As you walk through the Princeton University campus, especially the grounds of the Graduate College, Farrand's designs continue to contribute to the beauty of the University.



Newfield Library
Church Street, Newfield
Gloucester County

The Newfield Library was begun in 1868 by a group of local women who saw the need for a public library, and dedicated themselves to raising funds for that purpose. The Mite Society was a women's social organization whose members contributed a "mite", or a small amount of money, each time they met. When the women agreed to merge with the local Sewing Society, they combined their cash for a total of \$40.00 to purchase books to begin a library. Over the next several years they held various fundraising events until they had enough money in 1876 to erect the current building, using materials and labor donated by Newfield residents and other friends. The Newfield Library flourished for 15 years, only to be closed in 1891 due to lack of money and interest. During the next 30 years the library remained closed, with the books still on the shelves, and was moved across the street. In 1921, interest in the library was again rekindled and it opened again as the incorporated Newfield Public Library Association, with financial assistance from the Borough of Newfield. The building was again moved back closer to its original location, and continued to serve as the public library until 1971 when the library was moved to the new borough hall, and the building became the headquarters for the Newfield Historical Society.

June 1997 to fund the New Jersey's Women's Heritage Trail Project.

Although the bill made slow progress through the legislative committees, it was finally approved by both houses of the Legislature and enacted into law in the fall of 1999.

The State Historic Preservation Office and the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation are working with The Women's Project of New Jersey to develop a broad cultural and historical context study. Based on the 1990 publication **Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women** the study will give an overview of New Jersey women's history as it relates to United States history, identify a number of themes related to that history, and suggest the types of sites that best represent those themes. At the same time, preservation consulting firm Preservation

Partners is compiling a Comprehensive Inventory of 300 women's historic sites that meet the following criteria:

- ◆ The site has an association with an historical event or activity that reflects the broad patterns of women's lives in New Jersey before 1960; or
- ◆ The site has an association with a particular woman who had an impact on New Jersey, or the state had an impact on her life, during her residency or period of noteworthy accomplishment, which occurred before 1960.

This Comprehensive Inventory may include sites where the resource no longer exists, sites that have been altered significantly, archaeological sites, and sites that have already been listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places for other areas of significance.

After this inventory has been completed, a list of 150 of these resources will be further investigated in an Intensive Level Survey of women's sites that must meet the official New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places criteria. These sites will later be nominated to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

Finally, a number of sites will be chosen from both the Comprehensive Inventory and the Intensive Level Survey to be included in the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail. The criteria for the Heritage Trail sites will be determined at a later date.

In the end, the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail Project will publish material that will serve teachers and students, historic site managers, historic preservation administrators and commissioners, government agencies and other members of the general public. For example, it will provide a rich body of content specific background specifically for social studies teachers developing curriculum to meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Social Studies. Most importantly, it will broaden everyone's understanding and awareness of this long forgotten part of our State and nation's history.



**Reverend Dr. Florence
Spearing Randolph**
Wallace Chapel

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
140 Broad Street, Summit
Union County

Reverend Dr. Florence Spearing Randolph was a prominent African American community activist and religious leader, who made a significant mark on early 20th century New Jersey history. Her early interest in public service led her to take an active role in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and later, a leadership role advocating women's suffrage as a board member of the New Jersey Suffrage Association. In 1915, she organized the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Her early commitment to the AMEZ church led to her appointment in 1925 as "temporary" pastor of the small mission church in Summit known as Wallace Chapel AMEZ Church. Under her guidance, this congregation thrived, constructing its new sanctuary, Wallace Chapel, parsonage and community center. She retired from active ministry in 1946, and died five years later, December 28, 1951 at the age of 85.

Jennie Tuttle Hobart
Memorial Day Nursery
397 Grand Street, Paterson
Passaic County

Jennie Tuttle Hobart was a philanthropist, Paterson community leader, prominent New Jersey antisuffragist, and well-loved Second Lady as the wife of Garret Hobart, Vice President during William McKinley's first term as President. Her community service began with her support of the Paterson Orphan Asylum and the Old Ladies Home. She was instrumental in establishing the Children's Day Nursery of Paterson in 1887, one of the earliest day-care centers in the State. Still in operation today, the center was originally established to serve the children of Paterson's mill workers. She donated the land along with funds for the building and its ongoing operation in 1901 in memory of her young daughter Fannie. Garret died in 1899, leaving her a wealthy and prominent widow at 50. She spent her life devoting her energies to a variety of community efforts, including her support of the development of the county park system, the Passaic Historical Society and the establishment of Lambert Castle. In 1925, she donated the family's painting collection to Paterson's Danforth Memorial Library. She died at her son's home, Ailsa Farms in Haledon, on January 8, 1941 at the age of 91.



If you would like additional information about the project or would like to nominate a site contact:

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Preservation Partners

P.O. Box 506, Crosswicks, New Jersey 08515
609-291-9351

or e-mail: kellybd@worldnet.att.net or efreeschultz@msn.com.

W o m e n

It's hard for us today to imagine exclusive million dollar homes occupying the grounds of what was once Mount Vernon or a high-rise office building where Independence Hall once stood. These are historic properties that many people take for granted, assuming that their significance to American history was so readily apparent to all that their very existence was automatically guaranteed. We, as preservationists, know better. Historic properties are part of our daily fabric of life because someone has had the foresight to appreciate their importance and the initiative and resourcefulness to find ways to preserve them for the future. Historically, women have been at the forefront in the fight to save these tangible, and vulnerable, reminders of our past.



Indian King Tavern, Haddonfield, New Jersey

Historic Preservation

Sandra Riccio, Program Associate
& Sue Pringle, Senior Historic
Preservation Specialist, NJ Historic
Preservation Office



Beulah Oliphant

Early preservation efforts bear out the notion that history is just that - his story. Mount Vernon and Independence Hall are but two examples of how so much of our history as a nation has been dominated by the actions of men, mainly in the realms of government, war and business. Yet it was women who were instrumental in preserving many of these sites so important to American history. Why women? Because the Victorian ideal of the 19th and early 20th centuries largely restricted women's responsibilities to the home with the social imperative to be good wives and mothers and to maintain a healthy, pleasant and aesthetically pleasing environment in which their families could reside. Since women were prohibited from

voting, and lived primarily under the auspices of fathers, husbands and other men, their influence at home and in their communities was often limited. However, during the late 19th century, leisure time for women of the middle and upper classes increased, affording them the opportunity to somewhat broaden their horizons. Women's clubs flourished during this time because they temporarily got women out of the home and provided an opportunity for social interaction among women that might otherwise have been missing from their lives. The mission of so many of these clubs largely mirrored the roles that individual women played within their own homes, but provided women a socially acceptable venue by which they could have an influence in

their communities at large. Women's clubs often provided social services for those in need and sought to improve the educational, social, cultural, aesthetic and sometimes moral standards of the towns in which they were located. The preservation of historic property was on the agenda of a number of these women's organizations or of organizations led by women.

Ann Pamela Cunningham and her Mount Vernon Ladies Association is the first of such efforts. As commander in chief of the army during the Revolutionary War, our first president, and the acknowledged Father of Our Country, George Washington looms large in American history. Not surprisingly then, the property most associated with his life should have been deemed worthy of preservation. In 1858, Ms. Cunningham organized the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. Campaigning door to door, the women raised funds sufficient to both purchase and help preserve Mount Vernon, Washington's stately and beautiful Virginia plantation. Ms. Cunningham's efforts at Mount Vernon have earned her a place in preservation history. A major tourist attraction one hundred and forty-three years later, Mount Vernon is still owned and operated by the same ladies association established by Ann Pamela Cunningham, the so-called "mother of historic preservation" in America.

New Jersey recognized George Washington in 1896 when local resident Kate McFarlane established the Washington Headquarters Association for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining Rockingham as a "historic shrine." Rockingham is the Rocky Hill farmhouse where George Washington briefly resided in 1783 while Congress was meeting in Princeton and where legend says he wrote the farewell address to his troops. Princeton resident and philanthropist Mrs. Josephine Swann purchased the farmhouse



In 2001, Rockingham was relocated for the fourth time in its history to protect it from activities of the local quarry.



from a local quarry on behalf of the Washington Headquarters Association. Although the owners would not sell the property on which the house sat, they did provide an alternate piece of land just up the road making this the first of several times that Rockingham has been moved to ensure its preservation.

Another early women's organization involved in historic preservation, The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), was established in 1890 with the patriotic purpose of furthering the ideals of the Revolution and recognizing those individuals most influential in the birth of this country. Working through local chapters and state societies, the DAR acquired, restored and preserved historic sites. The DAR assumed responsibility for Independence Hall, the birthplace of the United States, in 1896, and after two years of fundraising and restoration, the second floor was opened for public visitation.

In 1899, the Trenton chapter of the DAR and its regent, Mrs. Beulah Oliphant organized a purchase fund for the "Old Colonial and Revolutionary Barracks" in Trenton, New Jersey hoping to save this important piece of eighteenth century military history and architecture. The Old

Barracks is the sole survivor among five soldier's barracks erected in New Jersey during the colonial era to relieve private citizens from the burden of housing troops in their homes. The ladies of the DAR raised \$6,314.70 to purchase the building and maintained it until 1917 when it was deeded to the State of New Jersey. The Old Barracks remains an important New Jersey and national landmark thanks to the foresight of Mrs. Oliphant. Today's Old Barracks Association recognizes the efforts of the DAR in the preservation of this building and maintains an informative exhibit relating how their efforts saved it from probable destruction.

The DAR was also involved in the preservation of the Indian King Tavern located on King's Highway in Haddonfield, New Jersey. Built c.1750, the building is an excellent example of tavern architecture of the eighteenth century. Indian King Tavern is where the state assembly met in 1777 to pass legislation to officially create New Jersey as an independent state and where, it is believed, the great seal of New Jersey was adopted. The local chapter of the DAR, working in conjunction with the Haddon Fortnightly, a local women's organization, convinced the State of New Jersey to acquire the building in 1903.

Examples of women working to preserve historic properties in the late 19th and early 20th centuries abound. For example, in 1888, Mary Jeffrey Galt organized The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, arguably the oldest statewide preservation organization in America. Among the group's early preservation efforts were Jamestown Island and the powder magazine at Williamsburg, Virginia. Association member Mrs. Joseph Bryan also organized the Confederate Memorial Literary Society which, in 1896, saved the Richmond, Virginia home of Jefferson Davis, also known as the "White House of the Confederacy." Again, while the efforts of these organizations resulted in the preservation of properties important in the collective history of Virginians, southerners, and Americans, they were properties primarily associated with the male dominated spheres of politics and war.

Recognizing that men of color also played an important role in the development of this country, the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) worked to save the Washington, D.C. home of abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Upon her death in 1903, Helen Pitts Douglass donated their estate, Cedar Hill, to the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association with the hopes that it would become a "Mount Vernon for African Americans" and a celebration of freedom. The NACW was instrumental in paying off outstanding debts thereby helping to ensure Cedar Hill's survival.

Preservation efforts undertaken by women's clubs have not been limited exclusively to historic properties or the built environment. The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) was a key player in the fight to save the Palisades, the towering rocky cliff formation bordering the Hudson



Old Barracks, Trenton, New Jersey

River in northern New Jersey once threatened by the ravages of quarrying and inevitable development. In 1899, the NJSFWC secured passage of a bill that authorized the creation of a commission to study how the Palisades could be saved. They joined the successful fight to limit development in the Palisades and supported development of Palisades Interstate Park. The NJSFWC was also instrumental in helping to preserve the c.1750 Blackledge-Kearney house in Alpine Borough which served as the headquarters of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission until 1928. It was subsequently restored by the NJSFWC and opened as a museum in 1933. A two story stone tower stands in Federation Park, Alpine Borough, erected as a memorial to the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, and their efforts to preserve the natural beauty and integrity of the Palisades.

Early historic preservation efforts were primarily private in nature. Private citizens employing a variety of fundraising techniques purchased, maintained, and in many cases provided for the future of historic sites. However, the early 20th century saw a significant increase in government involvement in preservation affairs. The Antiquities Act of 1906 gave the President of the United States the authority to designate public lands as national monuments, levy

criminal fines for destroying ruins and to grant permits for scientific and educational institutions to conduct field work. The Historic American Buildings Survey was established during the Depression years as a means of putting unemployed historians and architects to work researching and architecturally recording historic properties nationwide. The National Historic Landmarks Program was initiated in the 1930s to recognize and protect those historic and architectural resources of national significance. A number of states also began to play a bigger role in historic preservation. In New Jersey, the state assumed ownership, maintenance and interpretation of a number of historic properties statewide including the Indian King Tavern (1903), Old Barracks (1917), and Rockingham (1935). Municipal governments also began to recognize some of the benefits offered to their communities by historic preservation.

In the late 1920's, Susan Pringle Frost of Charleston, South Carolina sought the assistance of the municipal government in the regulation and protection of historic properties within Charleston. As the first president of the Society for the Preservation of Old Dwelling Houses, Ms. Frost was concerned about the preservation of landmark buildings like the Joseph Manigault house and the Heyward-Washington house which appeared threatened by the ongoing demolition and defacing of historic properties within the city. Decorative ironwork and old woodwork was disappearing from older homes and reappearing in art and museum galleries. Due in part to the urging of Ms. Frost and the organization that she led, Charleston passed an ordinance in 1929 regulating placement of gas stations, schools, industrial, and commercial properties, thus creating the first historic preservation zoning in America. A historic district design review

board was also created to regulate what changes could be made to the buildings in the district. Anyone who has since visited historic Charleston has been the beneficiary of these forward-thinking initiatives.

Similar efforts were undertaken in New Orleans, Louisiana where Elizabeth Thomas Welein, founder of the Vieux Carre Property Owners Association, lobbied for preservation of the French Quarter of the city. Laid out in 1722 by French military engineer, Adrian de Pauger, the grid-like street pattern of the original city slowly took shape lined with the pleasant variety of urban architectural styles and distinctive ironwork characteristic of its Creole population. Ms. Welein pushed for and won enactment and enforcement of municipal building codes to help preserve the district's historic old-world charm. In 1937, a local commission was given power to regulate and control building in the French Quarter.

Women's sphere of influence has changed radically over time. Once limited to home and family, women are now participating in society to an extent unimaginable to many of their Victorian counterparts. Today's women vote, hold political office, are employed in all types and at all levels of business and government, exerting considerable influence over the world we live in. Accordingly, women's perception of their own history and historical importance has changed with the times. Just as Ann Pamela Cunningham did in the 1850s, women today still seek to protect and preserve those resources they feel have historic value. However, increasingly, properties preserved are celebrating women and their contributions to our past.

Take, for example, Wyoming. Women often enjoyed greater freedom in the frontier towns of the 19th and 20th centuries than they did in more staid and

established communities. Maybe that's why in 1869, Wyoming became the first territory or state to legalize women's right to vote or hold political office. A few months later, county commissioners appointed Esther Hobart Morris of South Pass City as the first female justice of the peace in Wyoming. That controversial appointment also gave Ms. Morris the distinction of being the first female judge in the United States. Almost 100 years later, while preparing to celebrate the state's 75th birthday, state legislator Edness Kimball Wilkins started the ball rolling to recognize and preserve South Pass City as a historic site significant to the history of women. It was an uphill battle with women playing most of the major roles. The Old South Pass Historic Preserve Commission, the Ladies Club of Lander and other volunteers, removed trash and debris from the site, inventoried and cataloged articles removed from the vacant buildings, stabilized and restored buildings and interpreted the site for visitors. Although not initially supportive - and even downright hostile at times - Wyoming's government apparently came to understand and appreciate the economic impact of heritage tourism, and in the 1980's began to take a more proactive role in the preservation of South Pass City.

The issue of women's suffrage also played a role in preserving a site in New Jersey with important connections to women's history. Alice Paul was a leading suffragist



Palisades Interstate Park, New Jersey

of the twentieth century, founder of the National Women's Party, and author of the first Equal Rights Amendment. The Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, Inc. (APCF) was formed in 1984 with the intent to purchase Alice Paul's personal papers then available at auction. The unexpected opportunity to purchase Alice Paul's home in 1990, enabled the APCF to greatly expand its mission. Paulsdale in Mount Laurel, New Jersey is the birthplace of Alice Paul and the place where she learned about equality of the sexes as espoused in Quaker philosophy. The house is currently being restored, and when completed, Paulsdale will serve as an educational resource center focusing on the life and work of Alice Stokes Paul and the women's suffrage movement. The APCF will also function as a clearinghouse for issues and projects dealing with the preservation of women's historic sites.

Historic preservation is an ongoing endeavor, and one that is subject to influence from the people, events and mores of a continuously changing society. For much of our past, it was primarily men who controlled politics, purse strings, and (as much as we today might hate to admit it) women. Not surprisingly, therefore, the history of women in this country has largely revolved around the struggle to achieve equality of the sexes. While the idea of preserving historic sites has been around for a long time, the realization and acceptance of the idea that some of those properties should also recognize individuals and events significant in women's history is essentially an idea of the very recent past. But regardless of whether it's his story or her story being told, it has largely been through the efforts of women, individually or collectively, that have led to preservation of some of our history's most significant properties.

Paulsdale

Rehabilitation

Project



Rhonda Carboni

Architects rendering of Paulsdale after restoration.

In May 2001 construction at Paulsdale, Alice Paul's birthplace and family home in Mount Laurel, New Jersey got under way. Paulsdale is a three-story, five-bay, stucco-over-brick vernacular farmhouse located on 6.5 acres in the midst of suburban development. The outlines of the farmyard and foundation remnants of two barns are evidence of what was once a thriving 200-acre farm. The house was built in the early 1800s and was renovated to its present-day interior layout in the early 1880s, when the Paul family purchased it. Alice Paul, the oldest of four children, was born in the house on January 11, 1885. The house and farm remained in the Paul family until her brother William's death in 1958, when the house and surrounding 6.5 acres were sold intact, while the farm acreage was divided for residential development. The Alice Paul Centennial Foundation purchased Paulsdale in 1990. In 1991 the site was awarded National Historic Landmark (NHL) status, one of only two NHLs in New Jersey that commemorate leadership of the women's movement toward equal rights.

Work entails restoring the outside of the building to appear as it did during the early years of Alice Paul's life (1885-1920) and the inside to meet current HVAC and building code requirements, all while maintaining the historic integrity of the building itself and the surrounding grounds. The project's scope includes structural reinforcement, exterior restoration and interior rehabilitation. Exterior restoration will include: roof replacement, door and window rehabilitation, stucco and masonry repairs and reconstruction of the wrap-around porch. Interior rehabilitation work includes: plaster and trim repairs, repainting based on finishes analysis, and new wiring to support new and restored lighting, telephone service, fire/security system, HVAC, and a sprinkler system.

The grounds surrounding Paulsdale will undergo a face-lift as well. Work for the grounds include: parking areas, grading, drive surfacing, asphalt paths and completion of pruning and removals from existing vegetation, as well as new plantings for screening of parking areas.

Funding for the estimated \$1.2 million rehabilitation comes from matching grants from the New Jersey Historic Trust, Bally's Park Place Casino (through the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority) and the Heritage Investment Program funded by Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by the Independence Visitor Center Corporation. In addition, State Senator Diane Allen played a key role in obtaining state funds for Paulsdale through grants

The outlines of the farmyard and foundation remnants of two barns are evidence of what was once a thriving 200-acre farm.

from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women, and the New Jersey Department of State.

During construction Paulsdale will be closed to the public. The building is scheduled to be operational in June 2002. Once Paulsdale is fully restored, the building will not only serve as an important historic resource for the surrounding area, interpreting Quaker farm life and the story of an important New Jersey figure, but will also host the Alice Paul Leadership Center.

The Alice Paul Centennial Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the life and work of New Jersey Quaker and suffragist, Alice Stokes Paul, author of the Equal Rights Amendment, founder of the National Women's Party, and lifelong activist for women's equality.

For further information, contact Rhonda Carboni, President, Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, Inc., Box 1376, Mount Laurel, NJ, 08054, telephone: (856) 231-1885, fax: (856) 231-4223, website: www.alicepaul.org, email: info@alicepaul.org.



Above:
North facade (1950's kitchen later demolished)

Below:
South facade after demolition of kitchen and wrap-around porch – new slate roof being installed.



!!! Save the Date !!! April 20, 2002 !!!

Vanishing Resources ♦ Hidden Significance

“By Land & By Sea”

The 2002 Historic Preservation Office Conference
Passaic County Community College, Paterson, NJ

Hulking factories, eerie medical institutions, outmoded navigational aids, and abandoned railroad facilities. Once these resources were a vital part of our economy, our landscape, and our culture. Often when first constructed they were heralded as great signs of progress. But just as progress created them, it has now decreed that they are no longer needed for their original purposes and are often left vacant to deteriorate. This process is accelerated by a lack of appreciation for their importance and possibilities. As a result they are being rapidly lost - they are vanishing from our built environment. Join us for an illuminating call to arms which will spark your awareness and imagination.



Check our web site at www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo
for updated information or call Genny Guzman at (609) 984-0543.

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