

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	Movements
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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC **ELIZABETH CADY STANTON HOUSE**

AND/OR COMMON

Elizabeth Cady Stanton House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

32 Washington Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Seneca Falls

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

33

STATE

New York

CODE

36

COUNTY

Seneca 99

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Ralph Peters

STREET & NUMBER

32 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Seneca Falls

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Seneca County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Seneca Falls

STATE

New York

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on a quiet street in a residential section of Seneca Falls, the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House is a small, two story L-shaped house with a gable roof. The house is covered with white-painted shingles and has double hung sash windows. The house is built on rubble stone masonry foundations, and it has a partially raised basement. A screened-in front porch is located in the angle of the L.

Aside from a small frame garage located to the southeast of the house, the property is kept as a simple lawn.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1846-1862 (years of BUILDER/ARCHITECT  
Mrs. Stanton's residence)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as one of the leaders of the 19th century women's rights movement, and the instigator of the suffragette movement in America, was largely responsible for the successful revolution in women's status in American society. While living in her simple two story frame house at 32 Washington Street, in Seneca Falls, New York, Mrs. Stanton met with Lucretia Mott and they together held the nation's first women's rights convention, where Mrs. Stanton first advocated women's right to vote, in her "Declaration of Sentiment."

From the Seneca Falls convention in 1848, until her death in 1902, Elizabeth Cady Stanton continued to pursue and amplify her goals for women through both her writing and her public appearances.

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton House in Seneca Falls is a privately-owned residence, and is not open to the public.

### BIOGRAPHY

Born on November 12, 1815, in Johnstown, New York, Elizabeth apparently owed her education more to a friendly Presbyterian minister than to her parents. It was he who stimulated her desire to learn, causing her to study Greek, Latin, and mathematics in a boy's academy in Johnstown, where she won the second prize in Greek. Following that schooling, she attended the academy operated by Emma Willard in Troy and was graduated in 1832.

Although but seventeen when she left Emma Willard, Elizabeth had already experienced the inequities of being a female and her ire had been aroused. And it continued to be so as she matured. As a young girl, Elizabeth had discovered the inequality of the sexes when following her brother's death her father had frequently lamented that she had not been a boy. Moreover, all of her efforts to take her brother's place had been rejected by her father. After she had begun to read and to understand more of the world, she contemplated the injustice meted out to women as they sought aid in her father's law office and were told the law had no help for them. Then at Emma Willard, she experienced the stringent separation of the sexes, which had come to seem senseless and hypocritical.

When twenty-five, Elizabeth experienced two decisive events. She married Henry Brewster Stanton on May 10, 1840, having had the word "obey" deleted from the marriage ceremony, and in him acquired the perfect companion apropos of her

(continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Katherine Anthony, Susan B. Anthony (New York, 1954).  
 Constance Burnett, Five for Freedom (New York, 1953).  
 Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle, the Woman's Rights Movements in the United States (Cambridge, Mass., 1959).  
 Alma Lutz, Created Equal, A Biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (New York, 1940).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	35, 40, 2, 0	4, 7, 5, 2, 4, 5, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton House National Historic Landmark boundaries are those of the lot upon which the house stands and are coterminous with Tax Parcel 13-1-3 on the Seneca Falls Tax Map (attached). The west boundary measures 90' from north to south along the east curb of Washington St., and the north and south boundaries extend east for 230', and the eastern boundary runs south between them parallel to the western boundary for 90'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

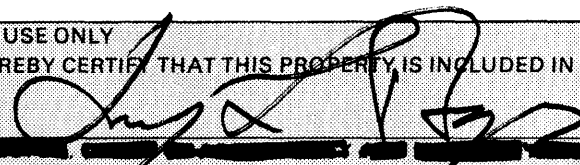
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE

11/23/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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future dedication to woman's rights. Understanding and sympathetic, he aided her throughout her long years of battle. Then immediately after her marriage, she sailed with Henry to London, where he was to attend a world anti-slavery convention. The convention's refusal to seat female delegates further aroused Elizabeth, but even more significantly, she met the then most eminent crusader for women's rights in America, Lucretia Mott. Lucretia had already assumed a radical role for herself, and her experience and personality infused Elizabeth with a determination to wage the fight for female equality. As a result of their meeting, Lucretia and Elizabeth both agreed that a woman's rights convention should be held in America upon their return.

The rights convention was to be delayed, but Elizabeth's contempt for male domination increased. An experience in 1842 with a doctor, who said that Elizabeth's improvement of a bandage on her first born was due to a mother's instinct, which was better than man's reason, led her to write subsequently:

I trusted neither men nor books absolutely after this, either in regard to the heavens above or the earth beneath, but continued to use my 'mother's instinct' if reason is<sup>1</sup> too dignified a term to apply to a woman's thoughts.

In 1846, Elizabeth and her family moved to Seneca Falls, New York which unsuspecting small rural community was soon to play host to the nation's first woman's rights convention. Stanton's vigorous wife quickly became bored with the uneventful life in her village home, and when she re-met Lucretia Mott in 1848, in a neighboring town, the two acted on their earlier scheme to call a woman's rights convention. They issued a call for a meeting in Seneca Falls for July 19-20, 1848, and drafted a Declaration of Sentiments, following the style of the Declaration of Independence. At Elizabeth's insistence, the Declaration noted that women lacked the vote and a resolution was written advocating the ballot for women. She had insisted on those statements concerning voting as she had decided that the best way of achieving equality was through the ballot. The convention was carried off successfully, as was a second one in Rochester, New York in August, 1848, and they alerted women over the country to the fledgling woman's rights movements. The convention also attracted male attention and as few men viewed the development with alarm, newspapers, such as the Philadelphia Public Leader, treated the crusaders jocularly:

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted in Alma Lutz. Created Equal, A Biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (New York, 1940), pp. 36-37.

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A woman is nobody. A wife is everything. A pretty girl is equal to ten thousand men, and a mother is, next to God, all powerful. . . The ladies of Philadelphia, therefore, under the influence of the most serious sober second thoughts are resolved to maintain their rights as Wives, Belles, Virgins, and Mothers, and not as Women.<sup>2</sup>

But it was not too long before the righteous male became more scurrilous and vehement, especially, perhaps, when he learned that in 1849 men had been forbidden to speak at a women's convention held in Salem, Ohio.

Although interested in woman's rights in general, Elizabeth concentrated on fighting for the vote. At the various woman's meetings, she always tried to keep that as the main issue. When the Civil War came, she and other female agitators loyally supported the Union, even helping to collect some 400,000 signatures in support of the Thirteenth Amendment. Having supported the abolitionists before 1861 and their subsequent efforts to secure complete equality for the Negro, Elizabeth and her fellow workers suffered bitter disappointment when the former abolitionists refused to support their crusade for the vote after 1865. This convinced the feminists that men could not be relied on for support, and when Elizabeth helped to found the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869, it was decided that no men should hold office or influence the group's policies, Elizabeth served as president for most of the period between 1869 and 1890, and she became president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association when that organization was formed out of the National Woman Suffrage Association and another female suffrage group.

Despite her emphasizing the fight for the ballot, Elizabeth spoke boldly on numerous matters after 1865. While editor of the militant woman's periodical, Revolution, in 1868-69, Elizabeth wrote in defense of women unjustly treated in divorce actions, declaimed against discrimination in employment and job opportunity, and attacked the "derogatory concept of women fostered by established religion."<sup>3</sup> She also began to lecture, and between 1869-81, she travelled from October to June throughout the country, talking to women on the position of the  
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<sup>2</sup>Quoted in Lutz, Created Equal, p. 197.

<sup>3</sup>Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle, The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States (Cambridge, Mass., 1959), p. 151.

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female. Her most applauded talk was entitled, "Our Girls," which called for the training of young women, so that they could compete on a basis of equality with men. She frequently encountered hostility on the lecture platform, but her quickness and sense of humor usually turned such situations to her advantage. Once, when speaking at the Nebraska Constitutional Convention in 1875 and urging the convention to give women in the state the vote, she was interrupted by a man who asked if it were not best for women to bear and raise children, his wife having had eight. Elizabeth glanced at him, and quickly replied,

I have met few men worth repeating eight times.<sup>4</sup>

Twelve years after becoming president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association which position she held until 1892, Elizabeth died. Yet her influence remained, and the results of her work are still apparent today.

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<sup>4</sup>Quoted in Lutz, Created Equal, p. 197.