

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

SUSAN B. ANTHONY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Susan B. Anthony House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

17 Madison Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rochester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

35

STATE

New York

__ VICINITY OF

CODE
36COUNTY
MonroeCODE
55**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Susan B. Anthony Memorial Corporation, Mr. and Mrs, Joseph Hilbert,
Resident Curators

STREET & NUMBER

19 Madison Street

CITY, TOWN

Rochester

__ VICINITY OF

New York

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Plymouth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rochester

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

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED (minor)

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Susan B. Anthony House is a two story rectangular brick house with wood trim and a steep, shingled, gable roof, as well as a basement and an attic. Built in 1845, the house, which is located on a small residential street, served as a private residence until 1945, when it was acquired by the Susan B. Anthony Memorial corporation and adapted to museum use. The house consists of two rectangular sections; the front section, which is organized on a side hall plan, is two rooms deep, and has an attic over its second floor; and the rear section which is slightly narrower and lower, without an attic, and contains a dining room and kitchen on the first floor and bedrooms on the second floor. The first floor of the front portion consists of the front parlor with its two full length windows, and the back parlor behind it, and the hallway and dining room on the other side. Bedrooms occupy the second floor, except for Susan Anthony's study, which is located above the back parlor. The attic rooms were used as study and office space during Miss Anthony's occupancy.

Since the house was acquired for use as a museum, a wide range of the feminist's belongings including furnishings, clothes and personal effects have been donated. Such items as the lace curtains in the front parlor, and most other items of furniture belonged to Miss Anthony. The basement of the house is the only area which is not maintained as part of the house-museum.

There have been no structural changes in the house, the only significant alterations being the installation of electricity for gas, a new kitchen and other modernization of the utilities. Certain items such as a vertical tube radiator are still in service.

The Anthony House is the only structure on a standard 40' x 127' house lot.

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 1866-1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Susan B. Anthony's prominent role in the woman's rights movement in the United States, during the latter half of the nineteenth century, at first caused her to be reviled along with her cause, but then hailed as one of the country's outstanding women. Today she continues to be recognized as one whose life-long devotion to the cause of woman's rights has enabled modern women to live more productive and satisfactory lives.

Miss Anthony's house at 17 Madison Street, Rochester, New York, which served as her home for forty years, is presently maintained as a memorial house-museum, in her honor. The two story brick house, which is owned by the Susan B. Anthony Memorial Corporation, is relatively unchanged from the time of Miss Anthony's occupancy.

BIOGRAPHY

Susan Brownell Anthony was born on February 15, 1820, in Adams, Massachusetts. Her family life and early career induced her to attach herself to the reform movement afoot in the United States. Her father, who was a very liberal Quaker, encouraged an independent spirit in Susan and her sisters as they grew up in a home infused with a strong moral quality. After Susan, who possessed a fine mind, had finished schooling, she began to teach, occupying several positions before becoming headmistress of the Female Department of the Canojoharie Academy in 1846. By 1849, she not only felt some frustration in teaching, but chafed at her inferior position in the academy because of her sex. Unhappy, she resigned and returned to her family, which was now living in Rochester, New York, where she met William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, Lucretia Mott, and Lucy Stone, all of whom were involved in reform movements. Disenchanted with teaching and angry over the lowly position of women, Susan, influenced by a growing knowledge of reform activities, decided to devote herself to reform.

Susan's early undertakings in behalf of reform further convinced her that it was a man's world. First working for temperance, she having been raised in an abstemious home, the young reformer experienced a humiliating rebuff in attending a meeting of the Sons of Temperance in Albany in 1852. When she rose to speak, she was silenced because of her sex. That stimulated her to help organize the Woman's State Temperance Society of New York, which established a precedent in the nation. But as she labored in behalf of temperance, she became increasingly distressed over the prevailing conception of woman's role in life and the arrogance of the male. She also encountered hostility in her work as an

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Katharine Anthony, Susan B. Anthony (New York, 1954).
 S. Sydney Bradford, "Susan B. Anthony House," National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Form 10-317, 3/19/65.
 Constance B. Burnett, Five For Freedom (New York, 1953).
 Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle, the Woman's Rights Movement in the United States (Cambridge, Mass., 1959).
 Alma Lutz, Susan B. Anthony (Boston, 1959).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	2,8,6,3,1,0	4,7,8,0,9,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Susan B. Anthony House national historic landmark consists of the house lot at 17 Madison Street on which the house stands. The lot measures 40' from north to south along the west curb of Madison Street, and 127' west from said curb to east curb of the throughway to the rear of the house. This rectangular lot is located approximately 350' north of the intersection of the west curb of Madison Street and the north curb of West Main Street. These boundaries enclose the house and property as they existed while in Miss Anthony's possession.

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 Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE 1/13/76

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street TELEPHONE 202-5235464

CITY OR TOWN Washington, D.C. 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

1/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Bill Lovovich

DATE

1/13/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Anthony House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

abolitionist, especially when in 1856 she became an agent of the American Anti-Slavery Society. As she crisscrossed New York, planning abolitionist meetings, displaying posters, and sponsoring various speakers, she experienced hostility both because of her cause and sex. In addition to the preceding activities, Susan also participated in woman's rights activities, which she began to concentrate on as a result of the abuse and insult she had received as a female agitator.

The young woman who was to become one of the boldest crusaders for woman's rights possessed a keen intelligence and a strong personality, both of which were supported by courage, resourcefulness, and persistence. Undaunted by the invective and abuse from all ranks of society, she never abandoned her cause, and in the end worked a moral and practical triumph over her bitter adversaries. Miss Anthony's tremendous vitality also helped her in her struggle, she in one year giving 171 lectures and numberless impromptu talks. She never married; indeed, she sometimes expressed irritation when cohorts momentarily abandoned the fight in order to marry.

Susan entered the woman's movement in 1851, after meeting Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was already prominent in the cause. The two women became fast friends and extremely effective co-workers in the crusade to encourage the rise of the "new woman," or "the true woman," as they described her. Generally, Elizabeth developed their ideas in speeches and plans, which Susan, in her indefatigable way gave or carried out. As Mrs. Stanton's husband once remarked,

Well, my dear, another notice of Susan. You stir up Susan and she stirs up the world!¹

Susan especially contributed organization and direction to the crusade for the new woman. She soon saw, for example, that petitions to legislatures for a redress of rights would be more meaningful if they carried lists of signatures. In 1854, she organized a drive in New York for signatures to a petition pleading for the right for women to control their own earnings, for the custody of children in event of divorce, and for the ballot. She selected a woman in each of New York's counties as a captain and then urged them to solicit signatures, and within six weeks some 6,000 names had been garnered. In order to add to the impact of the preceding, she then organized a New York State Woman's Rights Convention to be held in Albany while the legislature was in session. As could have been expected, the legislature refused to act on the petition, but the significant thing is that Susan had devised a method for agitating for her cause that grew in effectiveness as the years passed.

Signatures and conventions--between the two, more and more women became aware of the woman's rights movement and involved in its activities. In 1876, Susan stimulated petitions from twenty-six states bearing 10,000 names in behalf of the vote for women. Seven years earlier, in 1869, she had played the main role

¹. Quoted in Alma Lutz. Susan B. Anthony, p. 70.

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CONTINUATION SHEET S.B. Anthony House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

in organizing the National Woman Suffrage Association, which became a militant force in the fight as it held annual meetings. Perhaps the culmination of this aspect of Susan's work was the meeting of an international congress on woman's rights in Washington in 1888, with delegates in attendance from many countries other than just the United States.

Although Susan had decided that the key to the movement of the female's position lay in obtaining the vote and thus made that the paramount issue in the campaign, she spoke out on all of woman's social ills. In the Revolution, a magazine published by Susan between 1868-1870 and whose motto was, "Down with politicians, up with people," she defended women who had been seduced and abandoned, spoke up in behalf of women in divorce cases, and generally flinched at nothing in attacking the domination of the male. Utterly fearless, in 1875, she lectured on the tacit approval of prostitution in a talk entitled "Social Purity," which she first presented at the Chicago Grand Opera House.

As decade after decade passed, Susan continued to lead in a growing movement dedicated to bettering woman's position in life. She died on March 13, 1906, fourteen years before the ratification of the XIX Amendment, but that amendment, in a sense, will always memorialize her role in its adoption.