

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>
COUNTY: <b>Bergen</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Elizabeth Cady Stanton House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Elizabeth Cady Stanton House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**135 Highwood Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Tenafly**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**9**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

COUNTY:  
**Bergen**

CODE:  
**003**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Dr. and Mrs. Bernard E. Herman**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**135 Highwood Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Tenafly**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Registry Division, County Clerk's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Administrative Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hackensack**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
**ca. 1964**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Department of Environmental Protection**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bureau of Parks**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Trenton**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built about 1868 the white-painted framehouse is two stories high with a slate mansard roof. According to Assistant Architect Charles R. Tichy of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the residence has undergone extensive exterior alteration, and now Colonial Revival trim obscures much of the original Victorian Mansard styling.

The house stands on a red sandstone foundation and has 11 gabled dormers. Three original ones adorn the front or south side, and three face east. On the west side, a two-story Greek Revival portico with square columns and a railing constitutes a major alteration. At the front, a one-story, column-supported porch with a railed deck crosses to the door, where it juts forward to form a porte cochere. The porch then ends beside the two-story front bay window. Formerly, a companion bay stood west of the doorway, but it has been removed. On the east side of the house, a small terrace and a one-story porch replace an original Victorian-style porch. The windows have apparently undergone changes, too, and the present Colonial Revival-type paneled front door has side and transom lights. Four red brick chimneys top the house.

Inside, the parlors remain on either side of the first-floor hallway, and completing the original L-shaped plan, the dining room lies at the rear of the east parlor. Behind the dining room, a two-story service wing houses the kitchen. Subsequent remodeling created another room behind the west parlor and gave the residence its current rectangular plan. Though the trim and mantels in the original rooms are changed, the open Victorian staircase in the front hall is intact. Spiraling in elliptical form to the dormer level, it has a massive tapered, faceted newel post and turned balusters. The second floor now holds four bedrooms.

Mrs. Stanton's Seneca Falls, N.Y., house is a National Historic Landmark already, but this Tenafly residence was her home during her most active years, a period when she helped write a history of the women's movement and helped draft the resolution that eventually became the 19th amendment to the Constitution.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **circa 1868-1887**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the opinion of historian Eleanor Flexner, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was "the leading intellectual force in the emancipation of American women."<sup>1</sup> Standing almost alone in her belief that women should be permitted to vote, Mrs. Stanton delivered the revolutionary first call for female suffrage in 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention, which she helped instigate. During later years she served as both spokeswoman and philosopher for the women's rights movement. Between 1869 and 1892, she presided over organizations seeking a constitutional amendment enfranchising women. In 1866 she ran for Congress, and in 1880 she attempted to vote. With others, she completed the first three volumes of the History of Woman Suffrage in 1881-85. Alone, she authored The Woman's Bible (1895-98), Eighty Years and More (1898), and innumerable speeches and magazine and newspaper articles.

From about 1868 until 1887, Mrs. Stanton's home was a two-story, white Victorian framehouse with a mansard roof. While residing here, she worked on the History of Woman Suffrage, tried to vote, and helped draft the resolution that eventually became the 19th amendment to the Constitution. Though the dwelling is in good condition, it has been greatly altered over the years.  
Biography

Born in 1815, at Johnstown, N.Y., Elizabeth Cady learned about discriminations against women as a child in her father's law office, where she watched Daniel Cady explain to his unhappy women clients how their husbands had legal control of their children and property.

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<sup>1</sup> Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle; The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States (Cambridge, 1959), 72.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Flexner, Eleanor, *Century of Struggle; The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States* (Cambridge, 1959).

Lutz, Alma, *Created Equal; A Biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1902* (New York, 1940).

Paulson, Ross Evans, *Women's Suffrage and Prohibition; A Comparative Study of Equality and Social Control* (Glenview, Ill., 1973).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 55' 35"	73° 57' 18"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **circa 1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:

**Cathy A. Alexander, Assistant Editor**

ORGANIZATION

**American Association for State and Local History**

DATE

**Dec. 1, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:

**1315 Eighth Avenue South**

CITY OR TOWN:

**Nashville**

STATE

**Tennessee**

CODE

**47**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

Other shaping influences in Elizabeth's early life include her father's political activity, her family's gloomy religion, and her only brother's death. When young Eleazer Stanton died, 11-year-old Elizabeth longed to take his place. Thus, she demanded and received an education far superior to that of most contemporary girls. She learned Greek and attended the local academy as the only girl among boys. Subsequently, unable to matriculate at any American college, Elizabeth attended Emma Willard's Female Seminary, from which she was graduated in 1832.

During the next few years, through the influence of her reformer cousin Gerrit Smith, Elizabeth became interested in the antislavery and temperance movements, and while visiting the Smiths, she met Henry Brewster Stanton (1805-87), an antislavery lecturer. They married on May 10, 1840, but beforehand Elizabeth convinced the clergyman to omit "obey" from the ceremony.

Immediately after the wedding, the Stantons sailed to London, where Henry would attend the World's Antislavery Conference. During this convention, Elizabeth met Lucretia Coffin Mott (1793-1880), one of several female delegates from the United States. Though some men, including Henry Stanton, spoke for recognition of the women delegates, the gathering denied their participation. Angered by this discrimination, Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Mott became fast friends and spoke of calling an American women's rights convention.

When the London conference disbanded, Elizabeth and Henry toured Europe then returned home, where he studied law with Elizabeth's father. In 1842 Henry opened an office in Boston, but his health suffered in the damp seacoast climate. Consequently, in 1847 the family moved to Seneca Falls, N.Y.

In 1848 Lucretia Mott stopped at nearby Waterloo, N.Y., and Mrs. Stanton visited her. Bored with household drudgery and isolation, Elizabeth poured out her discontent, and quickly they and a few friends drafted a call for the long-delayed women's rights convention. Next they formulated their Declaration of Sentiments based on the Declaration of Independence, and at this juncture, Mrs. Stanton discovered her writing talent. She drafted a resolution calling for the enfranchisement of women, but because they feared it

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

would make them appear ridiculous, her coworkers opposed it. On July 19 the women's conference opened in Seneca Falls, and the next day Mrs. Stanton introduced her article boldly. It carried, and thus as her biographer Alma Lutz has pointed out, "the first formal public demand for woman suffrage in the United States was made through the vision, courage, and determination of Elizabeth Cady Stanton."<sup>2</sup>

Two weeks later the women held a larger meeting in Rochester, N.Y., and again the female enfranchisement resolution passed. The press began, however, to denounce and ridicule the movement, and in response, Mrs. Stanton began writing for publication. Also, she helped organize additional conventions and gave lectures.

In 1851 Elizabeth met Susan B. Anthony, who brought her into the organized temperance movement. The next year Mrs. Stanton became president of the newly formed Women's State Temperance Society. Both women resigned, however, when men took over the 1853 convention. Henceforth, the two crusaders focused on women's rights.

Through most of the 1850's, her seven growing children kept Mrs. Stanton occupied, but she continued publishing articles and drawing up the tracts and petitions that Susan circulated. In 1862 the Stantons moved to New York City, where Henry had a job in the custom house. Soon he began practicing law and writing for the Tribune. Meanwhile, to support the Union Civil War cause, Elizabeth and Susan started the National Woman's Loyal League in 1863. Mrs. Stanton became its president. In 1866, after the war ended, the prospect of black male enfranchisement prompted Elizabeth and Susan to petition Congress for a female voting amendment, the first such demand on that body. While collecting signatures, Mrs. Stanton decided to test woman's right to run for office. She became a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives but received only 24 votes.

In 1867 Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony went to Kansas to campaign for amendments adding female and black suffrage to

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<sup>2</sup> Alma Lutz, Created Equal; A Biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1902 (New York, 1940), 49.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

that State's constitution. Both bills failed, but on their tour, the women met George Francis Train, who gave them enough money to start a newspaper. He named it the "Revolution" and made Susan its proprietor and Parker Pillsbury and Elizabeth its editors. The first number appeared in January 1868.

Mrs. Stanton's Revolution editorials fought discrimination in employment, inequities in divorce procedure, and the derogatory view of women that religion fostered. With other tensions, her radical views contributed to a split in the women suffragists' ranks. The Revolution's connection with Train, a Democrat, aroused suspicion, too, and because the 14th and 15th amendments failed to include women, the newspaper opposed them.

In 1869 the first Woman Suffrage Convention met in Washington, and Mrs. Stanton pleaded for an amendment to enfranchise women. Her proposal completed the division of suffragists, so she and Susan withdrew immediately and formed the National Woman Suffrage Association. Accepting only women members, their organization pressed for a constitutional amendment, and Mrs. Stanton served as president. The more conservative American Woman Suffrage Association organized later that year. It had men and women members, worked for the vote in the States, and avoided social questions. In contrast, the militant National tackled all issues pertaining to women.

The American began a well produced and financed newspaper, the Woman's Journal, in 1870, and this competition forced Susan to sell the Revolution during its third year of publication. From 1869 to 1881, though, Mrs. Stanton carried her message to the public as a lyceum speaker. Miss Anthony lectured also. Some other activities of the aggressive, unorthodox National included Susan's attempt to vote in 1872 and a demonstration at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876.

To maximize its influence with the Congress, the National held a yearly Washington convention. At the 1878 meeting Mrs. Stanton presented the women's suffrage amendment that the country would finally ratify 42 years later. The article is often called the Anthony Amendment, but since Mrs. Stanton drafted most of the organization's resolutions,

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

probably she wrote this bill, too. In 1880, having planned for some years to chronicle the women's movement, Elizabeth and Susan settled at Tenafly in the Stantons' country home, which Elizabeth had built about 1868. In 1881 Fowler and Wells published their first volume, covering 1848 to 1861, of the History of Woman Suffrage.

Meanwhile, on election day 1880, when the Tenafly Republican wagon stopped for the men, none were home, so Susan and Elizabeth climbed on board. At the polls, Elizabeth explained that she was three times the legal voting age and a property holder. Also, she had resided in Tenafly for 12 years, paid poll and real estate taxes, and could read and write. The inspectors refused to let her deposit her vote, though.

When the first volume of the History was finished, Elizabeth, Susan, and Matilda Joslyn Gage began the second, which was published in 1882. In 1885 they completed the third volume, and in later years, with advice from Elizabeth, Susan and Ida Husted Harper wrote the fourth volume. After Mrs. Stanton's and Miss Anthony's deaths, Mrs. Harper published volumes V and VI.

After vacationing in Europe in 1882-83, Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony had the idea for an international women's conference, but the plan met delay. Meanwhile, Elizabeth devoted increasing time to refining her philosophy and writing articles for magazines and newspapers. In 1886 she returned to England, where her daughter Harriot resided, and while she was away, Henry died. To divert her thoughts, Elizabeth began writing a woman's commentary on the Bible. At Susan's urging, however, she returned to America for the first International Council of Women in 1888, and then in 1890, after about 3 years' negotiation, the National and the American Woman Suffrage Associations reunited. Mrs. Stanton became the president of the new National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

At the NAWSA's annual meeting in 1892, Mrs. Stanton announced her retirement, and Miss Anthony assumed the presidency. Elizabeth did not attend any more conventions, but sometimes she penned addresses for Susan. Chiefly, she concentrated on her Bible project. The first volume of

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

The Woman's Bible came out in 1895 and met a storm of criticism. While not irreligious, Elizabeth believed that established religion held women in an unjust, subordinate place. In 1898 her reminiscences, Eighty Years and More, and the second volume of The Woman's Bible were published.

In her last years, Mrs. Stanton's eyesight failed, and although her mind remained sharp, she was less active. Always interested in political action, she wrote President Theodore Roosevelt on October 25, 1902, urging him to emancipate American women. The next day Mrs. Stanton died quietly in her chair.