

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance .

The five sites included in this nomination are directly related to the origins of the women's rights movement in the United States. Each resource is historically important for the event that transpired there and/or the women who lived there. The buildings are located in the neighboring villages of Seneca Falls and Waterloo. The acreage surrounding each property is included with the exception of a half acre for the M'Clintock house in order to exclude the nearby church.

The survey of women's resources was conducted jointly by Hanns Kuttner of the Seneca Falls Young People's Committee and Anne Ackerson, Director of the Seneca Falls Historical Society during 1978-79. Both individuals are historians and were interested in acknowledging the important heritage of their community by researching the people associated with Women's Rights Convention of 1848. Simultaneously their materials were also used to help substantiate a reconnaissance survey of Seneca Falls by the North Atlantic Region of the National Park Service.

For more specific site information, please refer to attached building-structure inventory forms. A brief description of each property will be found on continuation sheet 2.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Women's Rights Historic Sites thematic group is composed of the remaining structures associated with the birth and early life of the American women's rights movement. The reform movement was one of many which were active in Seneca County during the mid-nineteenth century including Washingtonian Temperance, abolition, dress reform, the underground railroad and the breaking away of the Wesleyan Methodists from the main body of the Methodist Church over the issue of slavery. The most important of these, in terms of later significance to American social history was women's rights. The nomination focuses on the years 1847-1849 and the contributions of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Jenks Bloomer, Lucretia Mott, Jane Masters Hunt and Mary Ann M'Clintock.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the one individual most responsible for Seneca County's role in the early history of the women's rights movement. It was her interest which brought about the birth of the movement, and it was her continued involvement, along with Susan B. Anthony, that provided the impetus which carried the women's rights movement until Stanton's death in 1902. She was born in Johnstown, New York in 1815. Her early interest in reform was heightened by her cousin, Gerrit Smith, who was an active and well known abolitionist. It was at Smith's house that Elizabeth Cady met her future husband, Henry B. Stanton, whom she married in 1840.

Immediately following their marriage the Stantons sailed to London, England to attend the World Anti-Slavery Convention to which Henry was an elected delegate. The convention was thrown into controversy over the issue of whether or not women should be seated as delegates and the question was decided in the negative. It was here that Elizabeth met Lucretia Mott, a Quaker from Philadelphia, who was also denied a seat. They talked about the status of women in America and they decided to someday hold a convention to discuss the inequities of society's treatment of women. Following the Stantons return to the United States they briefly lived in Boston and then moved to Seneca Falls in 1846 where Elizabeth's father owned property including the house they moved into on Washington Street.

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The year 1848 presented an opportunity for the fulfillment of the London plans when Lucretia Mott and her husband James were visiting the area for the annual meeting of Friends in western New York. On July 14, 1848 Mrs. Mott and Mrs. Stanton met at the home of Jane Hunt, a mutual friend who lived in Waterloo. The Hunts were prominent local business people and investors as well as members of the activist branch of the Quaker Church which supported the abolitionist cause. Also in attendance was Mary Ann M'Clintock. Her husband, Thomas M'Clintock operated the local drugstone and both of them were also active abolitionists.

By the time the day was ended, the women had decided to organize a convention to discuss the position of women in American society. A notice was drafted which appeared in the Seneca County Courier for the date July 14, 1848:

SENECA FALLS CONVENTION

WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION - A convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of women, will be held in the Wesleyan Chapel, at Seneca Falls, N.Y. on Wednesday and Thursday, the 19th and 20th of July, current; commencing at 10 o'clock a.m. During the first day, the meeting will be exclusively for women, who are earnestly invited to attend. The public generally are invited to be present on the second day, when Lucretia Mott of Philadelphia, and other ladies and gentlemen will address the convention. 1

The notice was indeed the "startling announcement" that Stanton would categorize it some forty years later. 2

Three days later, on Sunday the 16th, the five women reassembled at the home of Mary Ann M'Clintock for the purpose of writing resolutions and speeches. They had no experience in organizing conventions or preparing resolutions and Elizabeth likened "the first attempt to frame a resolution; to crowd a complete thought, clearly and concisely, into three lines..." to being "asked to construct a steam engine." 3

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With no other options open, they began to comb male-produced reports of temperance and anti-slavery conventions. One of them found a parallel between the grievances of women toward society and the American colonists toward King George and the Declaration of Independence was paraphrased to become the Declaration of Sentiments. Following the phrase "We hold these truths to be self-evident" the reference "that all men are created equal" became "all men and women are created equal." "Knowing that women must have more to complain of than men under any circumstances possible, and seeing the Fathers had eighteen grievances," the women compiled what they felt to be the eighteen greatest injustices against women.⁴ Eleven resolutions concerned with bringing about female equality were also drafted. However, the ninth resolution was included on the demand of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and read, "Resolved, that it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise."⁵

1. Quoted in Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Joslyn Gage History of Woman Suffrage (New York, Fowler & Wells, Publishers, 1881), vol. 1, p. 67.

2. Ibid., p. 67

3. Ibid., p. 68

4. Ibid., p. 68

5. Report of the Woman's Rights Convention, Held at Seneca Falls, N.Y., July 19th and 20th, 1848. (Rochester, N.Y., John Dick at the North Star Office, 1848), p. 5.

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On such short notice, the organizers of the convention expected a poor attendance but the crowd filled the Wesleyan Chapel. Those in attendance included the most noted reformers of Seneca County, Quakers of the area, local residents attending out of curiosity and such prominent individuals as James Mott of Philadelphia and abolitionists Frederick Douglass, Amy Post and Catherine F. Stebbins.⁶ Many men were included in the crowd so "it was decided, in a hasty council around the altar, that this was an occasion when men might make themselves pre-eminently useful."⁷ James Mott was then called upon to chair the convention, as none of the women felt they possessed sufficient command or presence to control such a meeting but all the speakers were limited to females. Lucretia Mott read the opening address and then the Declaration of Sentiments was discussed point by point with a note to come the following day. The afternoon session saw the insertion of a new section into the Declaration after which the document was passed to obtain signatures totaling sixty-eight women and thirty-two men.⁸ The resolutions were taken up as the next order of business and after several short addresses, the convention adjourned to the following morning. That evening, Lucretia Mott spoke "to a large and intelligent audience on the subject of Reforms in general."⁹

6. Ibid., p. 10-11
7. Ibid., p. 10
8. Ibid., p. 4
9. Ibid., p. 6

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When the convention reconvened the next day for final consideration of the adoption of the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions men were allowed to take part in the discussions. Various speakers included Mrs. M'Clintock's daughters and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Samuel Tillman, a law student, spoke on the condition of women under the law and Ansel Bascom, active in legal reform and a member of the Constitutional Convention, spoke on the property bill for women which had just passed the legislature. The Declaration of Sentiments were then approved. The afternoon session was devoted to consideration of the Resolutions. The convention report states that some of the items "elicited little remark; others, after some criticism much debate and some slight alterations, were finally passed by a large majority." ⁹ Mrs. Stanton in The History of Women Suffrage, stated "The only resolution that was not unanimously adopted was the ninth, urging the women of the country to secure to themselves the elective franchise." ¹⁰ The evening session was filled with more speeches, chiefly by Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Frederick Douglass. Before adjourning, a committee to publish the proceedings of the convention for publication was appointed and the following resolution adopted:

Resolved, That the speedy success of our cause depends upon the zealous and untiring efforts of both men and women, for the overthrow of the monopoly of the pulpit, and for the securing to woman an equal participation with men in the various trades, professions and commerce.¹¹

The significance of the convention lies in its importance as a milestone in the history of human rights and its role in generating broad interest in the movement and its related issues. The convention marked the beginning of the struggle for equality on the basis of sex in the United States and the determination of these women who began the struggle is voiced in the closing of the Declaration of Sentiments:

- 9. Ibid., p. 11
- 10. Stanton, Anthony and Gage, p. 73.
- 11. Report. p. 12

(11/78)

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In entering upon the great work before us, we anticipate no small amount of misconception, misrepresentation, and ridicule; but we shall use every instrumentality within our power to effect our object. We shall employ agents, circulate tracts, petition the state and national Legislatures, and endeavor to enlist the pulpit and press in our behalf. We hope this Convention will be followed by a series of Conventions, embracing every part of the country.¹²

Additional conventions soon occurred in Ohio, Massachusetts, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and various places in New York. On the following August 2nd, a convention was convened at the Unitarian Church in Rochester, N.Y. and Mrs. Mott, Mrs. Stanton, and Mrs. M'Clintock attended. The Declaration of Sentiments and the Seneca Falls Convention's activity was discussed, re-affirmed and additional signatures appended.

The hoped-for support of the press and pulpit did not appear. Although the Seneca Falls' convention attendees saw the righteousness of the cause of women's rights as being self-evident, the pulpit and press did not. Frederick Douglass and his abolitionist sheet, The North Star, along with other reform publications, took up the cause, but criticism and negative response were more of the general rule. For the first time, however, the issue was receiving serious attention. Elizabeth Cady Stanton carefully clipped reaction to the first convention. The Albany Mechanic's Advocate, The Worcester (MA.) Telegraph, the Rochester Democrat, the Philadelphia Public Ledger and Daily Transcript and James Gordon Bennett's New York Herald were among the publications coming out against female agitation for equality. Possibly the only publication of general circulation to favor the cause was Horace Greeley's New York Tribune.¹³ Due to the increased pressure, many who signed their names to the Declaration of Sentiments later withdrew them "as soon as the storm of ridicule began to break."¹⁴ However, when the Committee's favorable report of the convention was printed by the North Star press it was widely circulated.

12. Ibid, p. 10.

13. Stanton, Anthony and Gage, p. 802-806.

14. Ibid., p. 73.

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In the same reform spirit of the Convention were the activities of Amelia Jenks Bloomer. During her thirteen years of residence in Seneca Falls she founded The Lily, which was the first publication in America, by, for and about women; and became associated with dress reform. The costume to which her name became applied was bloomers which she referred to as a "short dress". Her name became associated with the costume when she took up the defense of its practical style after it was ridiculed in the press. Mrs. Bloomer had adopted the costume from Mrs. Stanton whose cousin, Elizabeth Smith Miller, is generally credited for its introduction.

Upon her marriage in 1840, Amelia moved to Seneca Falls where her husband, Dexter Bloomer, worked for Issac Fuller who published The Seneca County Courier. They lived briefly with the Fullers on East Bayard Street and it is this building which remains as the only extant structure associated with Amelia's activities in Seneca Falls.

While Elizabeth Cady Stanton's work in the area of women's rights was based on her involvement with the abolition movement, Amelia Bloomer's reform roots were with temperance and in 1847 or 1848, the Washingtonian Temperance movement came to Seneca Falls. Mrs. Bloomer's description of the founding of The Lily described the status of women.

Up to about 1848-49, women had almost no part in all this temperance work. They could attend meetings and listen to the eloquence and arguments of men, and they could pay their money towards the support of temperance lecturers, but such a thing as to their having anything to say or do further than this was not thought of. They were fired with zeal after listening to the Washingtonian lecturers, and in some instances held little meetings of their own, organized societies, and passed resolutions expressive of their feelings on this great subject. It was at a meeting of this kind in Seneca Falls - that the matter of publishing a little temperance paper was first introduced.¹⁵

Thus was born The Lily whose first issue appeared on January 1, 1849. It was and continued to be printed at the Courier office until 1853 when the Bloomers moved to Ohio. The building burned in 1869 and now the site is completely covered by asphalt pavement and a modern gas station. In addition, as assistant postmaster for her husband, Amelia maintained "a kind of ladies' exchange where those coming from different parts of the town could meet to talk over the news of the day, and read the papers that came to Mrs. Bloomer as editor of The Lily."¹⁶

15. Dexter C. Bloomer, Life and Writings of Amelia Bloomer (Boston, Arena Publishing Co., 1895), p. 15-16.

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Mrs. Bloomer had attended the 1848 Convention but did not sign the Declaration. However, under the powerful influence of Mrs. Stanton, she and her publication moved closer to the cause of women's rights. Therefore her home and activities are related to and included in the theme of this nomination.

The Seneca County activities in the areas of women's rights and other female related reforms provided the impetus for a great change in American society. The change in the role of women in America since 1848 is due, to no small degree, to the work of those social revolutionaries who brought about the first women's rights convention, the Lily and dress reform. As the initiator of many of these events, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home is included in this nomination as are the homes of Jane Hunt and Mary Ann M'Clintock for their roles in planning the Convention. Though as a religious structure the Wesleyan Chapel would be considered exempt from National Register listing, its significance arises not from its religious associations but from its involvement as the birthplace of the women's rights movement.

Recently Seneca Falls has been the focus of much local, state and federal interest revolving around the theme of this nomination. Both the Women's Hall of Fame and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation are located in Seneca Falls. During 1979 the community was also selected as a study area under the N.Y. State Urban Cultural Parks Act (incorporating the preservation of historical, cultural and architectural resources with recreational functions.) The theme for Seneca Falls is the reform movement and if the proposal is eventually realized, the park would incorporate National Register sites, interpretive trails and markers, and general redevelopment of the central business district and canal. The National Park Service Study of Alternatives, Women's Rights Historic Sites was published in October 1979, and from this document, a park proposal was introduced to Congress in February 1980.

For more specific site information,
please refer to the attached building-structure inventory form.

16. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as revealed in her letters, diary and reminiscences, ed. by Theodore Stanton and Harriot Stanton Blatch (New York, Harper and Brothers, 1922), vol. 1, p. 170.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Becker, John E. A History of the Village of Waterloo. Waterloo, NY, 1949.
 Becker, John E. Some Waterloo Citizens of Yesterday. Manuscript copy in
 Waterloo Historical Society, NY, 1950.
 See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property A. Stanton = 2/5, B. Bloomer = .6, C. Chapel = 1/6, D. Hunt = 1.9,
E. McClintock = 1/3
 Quadrangle name Seneca Falls **ACREEGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 8	3 5 4 0 1 0	4 7 5 2 4 5 0	B	1 8	3 5 3 8 1 0	4 7 5 2 1 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 8	3 5 3 0 8 0	4 7 5 2 2 6 0	D	1 8	3 4 9 4 2 0	4 7 5 1 8 1 0
E	1 8	3 4 8 0 1 0	4 7 5 1 7 6 0	F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of each site is shown as the heavy black line on the accompanying tax maps; three entitled "Seneca Falls Tax Map, 1979" and two entitled "Waterloo Tax Map, 1979" and all drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Hanns Kuttner and Anne Ackerson, name/title Consultants
 Contact: Anne B. Covell, 518-474-0479
 organization Div. for Historic Preservation date February 1980
 street & number Empire State Plaza, Bldg. #1 telephone (518) 474-0479
 city or town Albany state New York

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Stephen White* date 2/28/80
 title Director, Bureau of Field Services

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.	date
<i>[Signature]</i> Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest: <i>[Signature]</i> Chief of Registration	date

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Bloomer, Dexter C. Life and Writings of Amelia Bloomer. Boston:
Arena Publishing Co., 1895.

Report of the Women's Rights Convention, Held at Seneca Falls, N.Y.,
July 19th and 20th, 1848. Rochester, NY: John Dick at the North
Star office, 1848.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage.
History of Woman Suffrage. New York: Fowler & Wells, Publishers,
1881.

Stanton, Theodore, Harriet Stanton Blatch. Elizabeth Cady Stanton,
As Revealed in Her Letters, Diary, and Reminiscenses. New York:
Harper and Brothers, 1922.