



# Research, Planning and Stewardship

## What is a Cultural Resource? What Does the Cultural Resource Division Do?

Cultural resources come in all shapes and sizes but all constitute a unique medium through which people can see themselves and the rest of the world from a new point of view. Five types of cultural resources are identified in [Cultural Resource Management Guideline](#) (NPS-28), the go-to manual for NPS cultural resource managers: archeological resources, cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources, historic and prehistoric resources, and museum collections. Of these five, four exist at Women's Rights NHP: archeology, cultural landscapes, historic structures, and museum collections. These resources are unmistakable evidence of earlier lives—a common inheritance from past generations with whom we have shared this land.

Park archeological sites are listed in **ASMIS** (Archeological Site Management Information System). Cultural Landscapes are part of the **Cultural Landscape Inventory**; the M'Clintock, Stanton and Hunt sites are listed on the CLI. The **List of Classified Structures** includes the Wesleyan Chapel, the Stanton, Hunt, and M'Clintock Houses, the M'Clintock wellhead,

and Visitor Center. Information about museum collection items is listed in **ICMS** (Interior Collection Management System).

The Cultural Resource Division develops and implements plans for the inventory, evaluation, documentation, preservation, research and interpretation of park cultural resources. The Division is the designated contact for compliance purposes with regional and state historic preservation staff and for coordination of efforts within local and regional contexts. Division staff coordinates the documentation, preservation, protection, exhibition and use of park museum collections to provide the four primary museum functions of research, collection, exhibits, and education.

Put plainly, the Cultural Resource Division works on three tasks: **Research** to establish basic information about cultural resources, **Planning** to assure that all resource decisions are research-based and are coordinated with outside entities, and **Stewardship** to ensure that cultural resources are preserved and interpreted for future generations.



The archeological work at the Stanton House provided evidence of the Stanton cultural landscape.

## Do You Know?

### Questions About the Collections

How tall was Elizabeth Cady Stanton? What grew in the gardens at the Stanton House? Last year the division clocked 27 requests from outside researchers and 86 from park staff which required use of park archives, research reports, or museum collections in order to be answered. Numbers of research requests are included in the yearly Collection Management Report.

#### Examples of research requests from outside researchers:

- In 2012 a professor from the University of the Pacific spent two days in park archives researching a book about the development of women's history sites in the U.S.A.
- Member of the general public, who owns a Elizabeth Cady Stanton letter to his Ancestor, queried the park historian about events mentioned in the letter.

#### For park exhibits and programs:

- What kind of vegetables and fruits did the M'Clintocks, Hunts and Stantons grow in their gardens?
- What did Elizabeth Cady Stanton like about her Seneca Falls home?
- Who were the people who lived in the M'Clintock House?
- Who was the George Bailey of the Women's Rights Movement?
- What did the Wesleyan Chapel interior look like?

#### For park management needs:

- How long has the horse chestnut tree overhung the Stanton House?
- When were the benches offered for use in the Wesleyan Chapel constructed? How were they used?
- When was the printshop developed?
- How old was the press?
- What were the historic uses of the Wesleyan Chapel?
- How was the Hunt House used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
- Are there pictures of participants of the First Woman's Rights Convention?

# Housekeeping in a Historic Park

A Housekeeping Plan guides all actions in the historic houses at Women's Rights NHP. Monitoring conditions, keeping things clean and addressing problems immediately is the best preservation strategy for cultural resources. Standard operating procedures assure that regular monitoring, cleaning and treatment occur in the historic homes and buildings at Women's Rights NHP.

Monitoring of temperature, humidity and visible light occurs wherever museum collections are housed. Collections items are made of various materials which are affected differently by temperature, humidity and light. Wood dries out, joints become loose, or patina fades when temperature, humidity or light reach excessive levels over time. Monitoring allows conditions to be addressed before damage occurs.

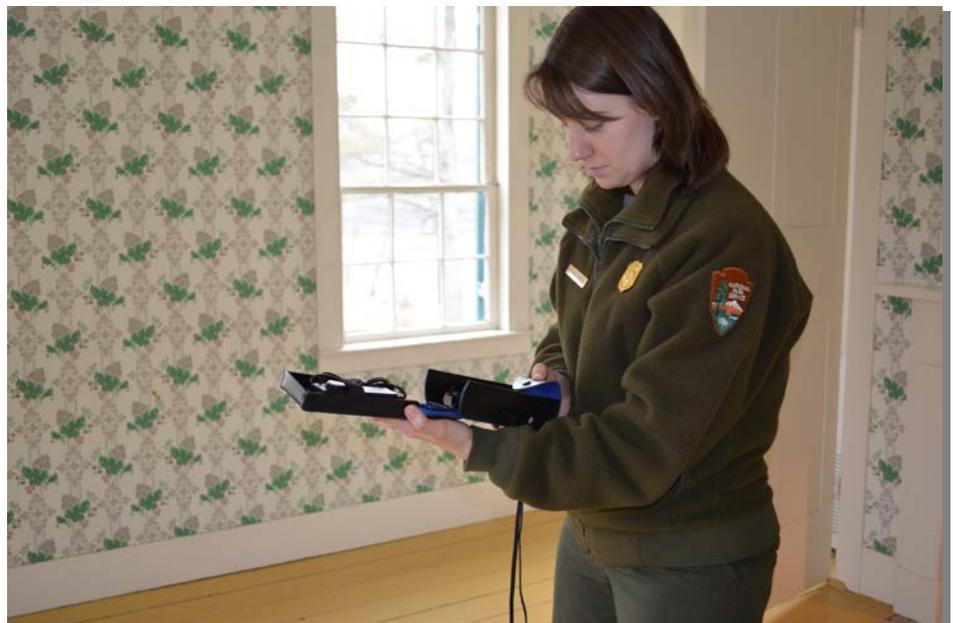
Dataloggers located throughout the park record measurements every thirty minutes. The Onset HOBO datalogger is downloaded and reset via a HOBO U-Shuttle monthly. Data is uploaded to the collections computer monthly, along with notations of weather patterns, climactic events, or activities or group

use that shifted temperature, humidity or light. The data is shared with Maintenance staff.

Cleaning is the easiest preservation method for historic furniture and houses. The Stanton and M'Clintock Houses receive weekly to bi-weekly dusting, wiping and cleaning walls, floors, windows, and furniture to remove opportunities for environmental conditions to build up into dust layers or films that can cause damage and attract pests. At season's end, collections items are removed and furniture covered to protect them from dust and environmental extremes in historic houses.

If pests do arrive, they are trapped in bug traps. Insects are brought back to the office to identify; preferred conditions for living for each type of bug provide information about climate conditions that should change. Pest arrival also gives division staff the warning that furniture, paint, and woodwork should be checked for damage and treatment.

Maintenance plays a big role in keeping things clean in the park...when you see them next, say thank you!



Meghan Barbay uses the Gossen Panlux to measure the footcandles (fc) of light at the Stanton House.

# What Do We Count and Why Does It Matter?

Annual reporting, near the close of each fiscal year, provides dollars and numbers to tell the American public how their money was spent to preserve and interpret their national parks. The Cultural Resource Division reports on the park museum collection, which reached 63,768 items in 2011. Three annual reports are required: an inventory, a checklist of conditions affecting the museum collection, and a collection management report.

**The Annual Inventory** verifies that accountable property, additions to the collection not yet cataloged into the museum software, and random sample of the remaining collection are in the locations stated in the museum software. Accountable property includes all items on loan to the park, including Stanton family furniture, dishes, and books on display at the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House. In 2012, the accountable property, new accessions, and random sample generated a list of 367 items to be physically inventoried and certified by two people working together. All items must be and were found.



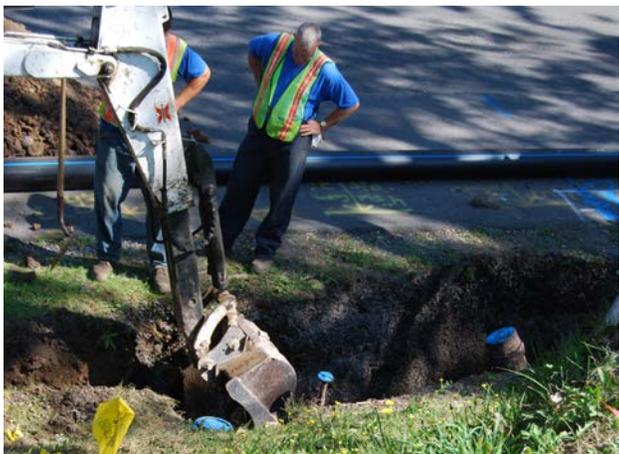
**Intern Inventories the Museum Collections**

**The Automated Checklist** documents conditions at each location where museum collections are housed and is used to indicate how well the collections are being preserved and protected. The checklist documents the need for support from a specialized fund source, Museum Collection Preservation and Protection (MCP). Questions cover environmental conditions like lighting, temperature and relative humidity as well as housekeeping practices, security and fire protection, and professional assistance and planning needs. The annual goal is to minimize the number of checklist questions with a

negative response. In 2012, 87% of the 316 condition standards that applied to park collections were met. 41 applicable questions received a negative response.

**The Collection Management Report** tracks the park collections by type, documents new accessions, incomplete cataloging, and reports use of the collection in exhibits, loans, and research. The Collection management report is the basis for gaining special funding for backlog cataloging projects. This report is generated by the WASO Park Museum Management Program from data provided by the park. 2012 numbers are not yet available however, as of 2011, 98.65% of the park collection was cataloged.

The reports are a snapshot in time that allow park staff to evaluate use and care of the museum collection. They provide the basis for workplans and for PMIS statements requesting funding for coming years. The park has been successful in receiving funds to catalog and preserve the Hunt Family Papers through needs documented in the annual reports.



## Replacing Waterlines

A Town of Seneca Falls Water Department project to replace waterlines around the Elizabeth Cady Stanton property allowed park staff to learn more about activity in and around the Stanton lot. During the entire project, park staff monitored digging to document trench profile, and retrieved artifacts from the historic period.

Sides of the trench along Washington Street showed disturbances that included drain tile and brick fragments. Along Seneca Street, a hand blown glass bottle, a molded glass container, creamware, mortar from between two bricks, metal and rubber handle, and green stamped glass were recovered. These items are evidence of human activity along the road since the early 1800s.

The park extends a sincere thank you to the Town of Seneca Falls Water Department for their kindness.

**Town of Seneca Falls staff observe digging (above)  
Artifacts recovered along Seneca Street (below)**



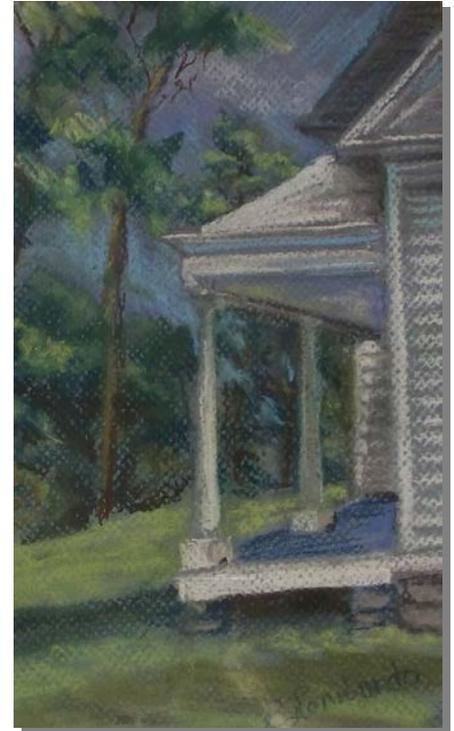
# Compliance at Women's Rights NHP

All National Park superintendents are required by the law that created the national park system "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historical objects...and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Women's Rights NHP was created by a law that charged the NPS "to preserve and interpret for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations the nationally significant historical and cultural sites and structures associated with the struggle for equal rights for women..."

When actions are planned that might have an effect on natural or historical resources Supt. Duchesne, assisted by Cultural

Resources division staff, is required by law to consider scientific and scholarly studies, seek input from subject matter experts and consult with traditionally associated peoples. Public meetings assure that citizen input is also taken into consideration.

This process, called compliance, is defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1965 (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Supt. Duchesne's signature on the resulting compliance document certifies that she has followed this process and has determined that the action will leave sites associated with the First Women's Rights Convention unimpaired for generations to come.



**Stanton Porch** Pastel by Bev Lombardo  
Planned actions at the Stanton House include repairing the front porch and replacing the roof.



**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior

"Research Planning and Stewardship" is the newsletter of the Cultural Resources Division at Women's Rights National Historical Park.

This is the second of two Cultural Resources newsletters released in 2012.

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**House on the Canal Near Lock CS 2/3** Pastel of Jacob P. Chamberlain's home by Susan Harris . Chamberlain, Stanton's near neighbor, signed the Declaration of Sentiments in 1848 and ran the Upper Red Mill from his home. *Both illustrations were created during August Arts Afire! 2012*