



A BRIEF HISTORY OF HAMILTON GRANGE

- 1800** Hamilton bought 34 acres of farmland, picturesquely wooded and watered by two streams, in upper Manhattan. The 200-foot elevation offered views of the Hudson River on the west and the Harlem and East Rivers on the east.
- 1801** John McComb, Jr., the leading architect in New York City, was hired to design the house. McComb had been to England and was familiar with the style developed by the Adam brothers there. When adapted to America, this became the “Federal” style. McComb and the builder, Ezra Weeks, had also completed Gracie Mansion which has some similarities to the Grange. McComb went on to design the New York City Hall.
- 1802** The Hamilton family moved into their new home. Hamilton named it The Grange, a reference to his father’s ancestral home in Scotland. The cost of the land purchase and house construction left Hamilton deeply in debt. The elegant interior includes two octagonal rooms, a parlor and dining room, with tall French windows. The dining room also had mirrors on and above the doors, reflecting the view of the landscape from the windows opposite.
- 1804** Hamilton was killed in a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr. Hamilton’s friends and supporters created a trust fund to allow the family to remain in their home.
- 1833** The Grange was sold. Elizabeth Hamilton moved to Washington D. C.
- 1889** The Manhattan street grid was extended north to Harlem. West 143rd Street was to be built through the site where the Grange stood. However the congregation of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church was planning to move uptown, and bought the Grange for use at the site of their new church. Front and rear porches were removed; the house was lifted off its foundation, and drawn by horses to the new site on Convent Avenue, near West 141st Street.
- 1924** The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society bought the Grange and turned it into a public museum. Furniture and decorative objects associated with the Hamilton family were displayed.
- 1962** The National Park Foundation purchased the house and property and transferred it to the National Park Service. Congress authorized Hamilton Grange National Memorial, contingent upon relocating it

and restoring the house as Hamilton knew it in 1802 – 1804, which is considered its period of historic significance.

1995

NPS developed a General Management Plan following extensive consultation and review. The preferred alternative was to move the house to nearby St. Nicholas Park, which would keep it on part of Hamilton's original property, and where it could be fully restored.