

March 8, 2013

## **Women's Rights National Historical Park General Management Plan**

### **DRAFT Foundation Statement**

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## INTRODUCTION

Every unit of the national park system is required to have a formal statement of its core mission that will provide basic guidance for all planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. Increasing emphasis on government accountability and restrained federal spending demand that all stakeholders are aware of the purpose, significance, interpretive themes, fundamental resources and values, and special mandates and administrative commitments of a park unit, as well as the legal and policy requirements for administration and resource protection that factor into management decisions.

The process of developing a foundation document provides the opportunity to gather together and integrate all varieties and hierarchies of information about a park unit. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what are the most important attributes of the park. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and stakeholders in identifying information that is necessary for future planning efforts.

A foundation document serves as the underlying guidance for all management and planning decisions for a national park unit. It describes the core mission of the park unit by identifying the purpose, significance, fundamental and important resources and values, interpretive themes, assessment of planning and data needs, special mandates and administrative commitments, and the unit's setting in the regional context.

The foundation document can be useful in all aspects of park management to ensure that primary management objectives are accomplished before addressing other factors that are also important, but not directly essential to achieving the park purpose and maintaining its significance. Thus, the development of a foundation document for Women's Rights National Historical Park is necessary to effectively manage the park over the long term and protect park resources and values that are integral to the purpose and identity of the park unit.

On August 14, 2012, a group of Women's Rights National Historical Park (NHP) staff, NPS regional specialists, and outside stakeholders participated in a Foundation Workshop to develop statements of the park purpose, park significance, interpretive themes, and fundamental resources and values. Workshop participants developed draft statements, which were subsequently refined by park staff and other NPS professionals. A complete list of attendees and preparers is included in part 3 of this document.

The park atlas is also a part of the foundation project. It is a geographic information system (GIS) product that can be published as a hard copy paper atlas and as electronic geospatial data in a Web-mapping environment. The purpose of the park atlas is to act as a reference for park projects and to facilitate planning decisions as a GIS-based planning support tool. The atlas covers various geographic elements that are important for park management such as natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, and facilities. It can be developed as part of a planning project (e.g., general management plan, foundation document), although it can also be designed as an independent product. The park atlas will be available at \_\_\_\_\_.

## PART 1: CORE COMPONENTS

All foundation documents include the following core elements:

The park purpose is the specific reason(s) for establishing a particular park. A park purpose statement is grounded in a thorough analysis of the legislation (or executive order) and legislative history of the park, and may include information from studies generated prior to the park's establishment. The purpose statement goes beyond a restatement of the law to clarify assumptions about what the law means in terms specific to the park.

The significance statements express why the resources and values of the park are important enough to justify national park designation. Statements of park significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and system-wide context. Significance statements are directly linked to the

purpose of the park and are verified by data or consensus that reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions because the resources and values may have changed since the park was established.

Interpretive themes connect park resources to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, beliefs, and values. They support the desired interpretive objective of increasing visitor understanding and appreciation of the significance of park resources. In other words, interpretive themes are the most important messages to be conveyed to the public about the park. Interpretive themes are based on park purpose and significance.

Fundamental resources and values are features, systems, organisms, processes, visitor experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes of the park that merit primary consideration during planning and management because they are essential to achieving park purpose and maintaining park significance.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PARK**

Women's Rights National Historical Park was established by the US Congress in December 1980. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 28, 1980. The Women's Rights National Historical Park District is comprised of four non-contiguous units that are thematically linked to the early 19th century Women's Rights Movement in the United States and to the First Women's Rights Convention, held in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. The four units are the Wesleyan Chapel/Visitor Center and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House in Seneca Falls, and the M'Clintock House and the Hunt House located nearby in Waterloo, New York. The park boundary encompasses a total area of 7.44 acres. The Park's Maintenance Facility, located on Water Street in Seneca Falls, is leased by the Park and not owned.

The nation's first Women's Rights Convention was the work of a small group of women who developed the idea and wrote the call for the convention at the Hunt House in Waterloo. At the M'Clintock House in Waterloo, members of the M'Clintock family met with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and drafted the Declaration of Sentiments which was signed by 100 delegates at the July 1848 convention. The Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, significant for its association with Stanton, who became a national leader of the Women's Rights Movement, was also a home base for 14 years after the convention, used for the continued development of the Women's Rights Movement. Strategically located in the center of the groundswell of religious and reform movements occurring in central New York in the first half of the 19th century, the villages of Seneca Falls and Waterloo became the birthplace of women's rights in the United States. During the 1830s and 1840s, the active role of women in anti-slavery and legal reform efforts (on the latter case, specifically with regard to married women's property rights) informed a growing concern for women's rights on a broader scale that are clearly reflected in the Declaration of Sentiments.

## **PARK PURPOSE**

Purpose statements identify the specific reason for the establishment of a particular park. Purpose statements are crafted through a careful analysis of the enabling legislation and legislative history that influenced the development of Women's Rights National Historical Park, which was designated on December 28, 1980, when the initial enabling legislation was passed and signed into law (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement reinforces the foundation for future park management administration and use decisions.

The purpose statement below presents the fundamental reasons for which Women's Rights National Historical Park was established.

Women's Rights National Historical Park preserves and interprets for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations, the nationally significant historic and cultural sites, structures, and events in Seneca Falls and Waterloo, New York, associated with the struggle for equal rights for women, and cooperates with national, state, and local entities to preserve the character and historic setting of such sites, structures and events.

Women's Rights National Historical Park administers the Votes for Women History Trail Route in partnership with participating properties, other federal agencies, and state and local governments, setting standards and coordinating management of and planning for the trail.

## **PARK SIGNIFICANCE**

Significance statements express why Women's Rights National Historical Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and system-wide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

The formal struggle for equal rights for women was ignited by the people and events connected with the First Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls in July 1848. This effort is one of the most critical and influential social movements in world history, rooted in other reform movements of the period and continuing today.

The Declaration of Sentiments, unanimously adopted at the 1848 Convention, is a document of enduring relevance, which asserted that equality and justice should be extended to all people without regard to sex.

## **INTERPRETIVE THEMES**

Interpretive themes, which are based on park purpose and significance, provide the basis for interpretive and education programs at Women's Rights National Historical Park. The themes do not include all park elements that can be interpreted, but they do address the ideas that are essential to visitor enjoyment and appreciation of park significance. Effective interpretation is achieved when visitors are able to connect concepts (intangibles) with resources (tangibles) and derive something meaningful from the experience.

Interpretive themes link the tangible values identified by the significance statements and fundamental resources and values to intangible concepts that convey the importance of the park unit. Interpretive themes serve as building blocks upon which interpretive services (e.g., exhibits, audiovisual displays, websites, publications, interpretive programs, social media, etc.) and education programs are based. The long-range interpretation plan for the park unit is a strategic plan that details interpretive themes, establishes visitor experience objectives, and recommends ways to achieve these objectives through interpretive services and education programs.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Women's Rights National Historical Park:

### **1. The Convention**

The nation's First Woman's Rights Convention marked the formal beginning of an enduring movement for equal rights for women in the United States.

## **2. The People**

Personal passion, dynamic relationships, and networks among American 19th century reformers resulted in the First Woman's Rights Convention and moved forward reforms for women's rights. Today, similar networks continue to drive social justice and human rights movements.

## **3. The Sites**

Seneca Falls became a touchstone and template for women's rights and a place of remembrance and reinvigoration for subsequent generations.

## **4. The Context**

The concept that rights, equality and justice should extend to all people without regard to sex as articulated in the Declaration of Sentiments is rooted in the language of the Declaration of Independence, has had effects far away from the activism of 19<sup>th</sup> century Seneca Falls, and today continues in active struggle.

## **FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES**

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

The most important responsibility of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. These qualities are called fundamental resources and values. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to legislative purpose, and are more specific than significance statements. Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management processes on what is truly significant about the park. If Fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The identification of fundamental and other important or related resources and values should not be interpreted as meaning that some park resources are not important. This evaluation is made to separate those resources or values that are covered by NPS mandates and policies from those that have important considerations to be addressed in other planning processes.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Women's Rights NHP:

- Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Site, 126 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton House & Grounds, 32 Washington Street, Seneca Falls, NY
- M'Clintock House & Grounds, 14 East Williams Street, Waterloo, NY
- Hunt House & Grounds, 401 East Main Street (Route 5/20), Waterloo, NY
- Women's Rights NHP Collections & Archives

## **OTHER IMPORTANT OR RELATED RESOURCES AND VALUES**

Women's Rights NHP may contain other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values. There may also be related resources and values, which are located outside the park boundary, but help interpret the park's story and should be an object of preservation.

Important resources and values identified for Women's Rights NHP include:

- Women's Rights NHP Visitor Center, 136 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY
- Declaration Park, Seneca Falls, NY

- Young House, 12 East Williams Street, Waterloo, NY
- Chamberlain House, One Seneca Street, Seneca Falls, NY

Related resources and values are those resources that are outside the park's legislated boundary or legislative scope of the park yet have interpretive or contextual value that is significant to and supportive of the park's Fundamental Resources and Values. Related resources and values associated with Women's Rights National Historical Park include:

- Historic District, Seneca Falls
- Historic Area, Waterloo
- Elements of Votes for Women History Trail Route
- Cayuga-Seneca Canal
- Seneca Knitting Mills, Seneca Falls
- Homes of Signers of the Declaration of Sentiments (1848)

## **PART 2: DYNAMIC COMPONENTS**

Part 2 consists of two components:

- special mandates and administrative commitments
- assessment of planning and data needs

These components may change after this foundation document is published and may need to be updated periodically.

### **SPECIAL MANDATES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENTS**

Many of the management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utilities, and other partnering organizations. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park, which expand on or contradict the legislated purpose of the park unit. They are park-specific legislative or judicial requirements that must be fulfilled, along with the park purpose, even if the requirements do not relate to that purpose. Administrative commitments in general are agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, such as memoranda of agreement. These agreements can form a network of partnerships designed to fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. All of these mandates and commitments either dictate some form of management action or will allow particular uses on park lands (e.g., permissible traditional uses, easements or rights-of-way, maintenance needs, use of park facilities or lands, or emergency service responses). Thus, these mandates and commitments are an essential component in the foundation document and in managing and planning for Women's Rights National Historical Park.

#### **Special Mandates**

Per the park's enabling legislation, Women's Rights National Historical Park is directed to encourage State and local governmental agencies to develop and implement plans for the preservation and rehabilitation of sites designated as part of the park and their immediate environs, in order to preserve the historic character of the setting in which such sites are located. The Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance to such agencies in the development and implementation of such plans, but financial assistance may not exceed 50 per centum of the cost thereof.

### Administrative Commitments

None.

## ASSESSMENT OF PLANNING AND DATA NEEDS

Once park purpose and significance statements and fundamental resources and values have been identified, it is important to consider what additional information and planning tasks may be necessary to aid the National Park Service in its mission. The assessment of planning and data needs identifies any inherent conditions or threats contained in the gathered information and determines whether any additional planning steps, data needs, and management efforts may be necessary to maintain or protect the existing fundamental resources and values and other important resources and values.

There are three parts that make up the planning and data needs assessment:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values
2. identification of key or major park-wide issues that need to be addressed by future planning
3. identification and prioritization of data and planning needs

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of major issues leads up to and supports the identification and prioritization of needed plans and studies.

### Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The analysis of fundamental resources and values articulates the importance of each fundamental resource and value, its current status, potential threats and opportunities, needed data, planning and management decisions, and relevant laws and NPS policies related to management of the resources.

<b>Fundamental Resources</b>	<b>Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Site, 126 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY</b>
<b>Relationship to Significance Statement</b>	The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel site is the location of the First Women's Rights Convention, 1848
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>  <b>List of Classified Structures (LCS) # 040666 (Good condition, 2004)</b>  <b>Main Building:</b> <b>Asset Priority Index (API) –87</b> <b>Facility Condition Index (FCI) –0.000 (Good)</b> <b>As of January 2013</b>	<b>Conditions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chapel, which NPS acquired in 1985, was reconstructed, using architectural fabric of the original chapel, in 2011.</li> <li>• The chapel is in good condition.</li> <li>• The heating system is located inside the building to prevent the historic foundation and historic brick walls from freezing and heaving.</li> <li>• The chapel is open to the public only for ranger/docent tours and special events.</li> <li>• The Wesleyan Chapel is listed in the Women's Rights NHP Historic District and as a contributing resource to the NR listed local historic district.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the reconstructed chapel was opened to the public as an interpretive and meeting space in 2011, evocative seating has been installed.</li> <li>• The chapel has been the site of large programs.</li> <li>• Exhibit plans are nearing completion.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats &amp; Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having been just been rehabilitated, the chapel is under no immediate threats.</li> <li>• Brick spalling in the original brick fabric continues to occurs.</li> <li>• A study has determined that the structure is subject to vibrations from traffic, especially from heavy landfill trucks, that pass outside.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a newly opened public space, the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel provides an historically resonant setting for meetings, presentations, and other special events.</li> <li>• The opportunity exists to significantly increase the number of visitors who experience the park's premier resource.</li> </ul>
<b>Desired condition</b>	The property is maintained in good condition as listed on List of Classified Structures (LCS).
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	The structure requires continued monitoring for changes in condition of its historic fabric.
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	None.
<b>Stakeholder Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Seneca Falls Historic Preservation Commission for the maintenance of the historic character of the district,</li> <li>• Friends of Women's Rights NHP for the maintenance of the site of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention</li> </ul>
<b>Laws &amp; Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy Level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park specific laws or policies</b></p> <p>Section 1601(c) of PL 96-607 establishing Women's Rights National Historical Park identifies the Wesleyan Chapel site as one of several designated sites that will comprise the park.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Conditions</b></p> <p>All cultural management activities related to projects funded by NPS are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guidelines.</p>

<b>Fundamental Resources</b>	<b>Elizabeth Cady Stanton House &amp; Grounds, 32 Washington Street, Seneca Falls, NY</b>
<b>Relationship to Significance Statement</b>	The home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, her husband Henry Brewster Stanton, and seven children from 1847 to 1862. She lived at the Stanton House (1835) while organizing the First Women’s Rights Convention (1848). Hosting many reformers, Stanton called her home “Grassmere.”
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p> <p><b>LCS# 022582 (Good condition, 2004)</b></p> <p><b>Main Building:</b> API – 80 FCI – 0.163 (Poor)</p> <p><b>Landscape:</b> API – 90 FCI – 0.000 (Good)</p> <p><b>As of January 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stanton House is located approximately one-half mile to the east of the Wesleyan Chapel/Visitor Center. The property is located immediately across the street from the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, part of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.</li> <li>• Archeological work located historic pathways, a circular driveway, the house’s north wing foundation, a well and a privy dating to the period of significance.</li> <li>• The house and landscape in good condition as reported on the LCS. Repair to the reconstructed porch is underway while repair to gables and framing and exterior painting are needed.</li> <li>• The Stanton House is open to guided tours seven days a week between March and December.</li> <li>• Annual visitation is 3,422</li> <li>• A modern prefab ranger station on the historic lot south of the main house provides bathrooms and kitchen facilities for programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff trained in historic preservation maintenance have gradually declined while cyclic maintenance projects have not been funded. The Stanton House is in need of repair.</li> <li>• Apple and pear trees, historic varieties believed to have been planted by Henry Brewster Stanton in 1849, are gradually migrating to the adjoining property.</li> <li>• Increasing interest in waterborne recreational opportunities is being met by local businesses.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats &amp; Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate staff to maintain painting and repair schedules on historic houses.</li> <li>• The horse chestnut witness tree from the time of Elizabeth Cady Stanton suffered storm damage. It is stable with an anticipated life of five to ten years. Plans are in place to propagate a replacement tree.</li> <li>• Ranger station is located on the historic lot.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fruit trees should be managed as an historic orchard.</li> <li>• Programming to tie the site to the canal would enhance local context and potential for recreational visitation.</li> <li>• Removal of ranger station.</li> </ul>

<b>Desired condition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stanton House and grounds are maintained in good condition on LCS and Cultural Landscape Inventory.</li> <li>• The historic landscape is restored including front yard features.</li> <li>• Interpretive paths to signed historic features are available as is signed access from Seneca Cayuga Canal.</li> <li>• If adequate evidence exists, reconstruct or mark the north wing of the Stanton Home on landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological investigation based on existing geophysical data should be completed to locate historic features on the historic landscape and to determine the exact dimensions and location of the north wing.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing planning documents that addressed improving access from the Seneca-Cayuga canal to the Stanton House should be revisited to provide management direction for development of water access consistent with GMP.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbors,</li> <li>• Town of Seneca Falls</li> <li>• Both are interested in the site for maintenance of neighborhood ambiance.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy Level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park specific laws or policies</b> Section 1601(c) of PL 96-607 establishing Women’s Rights National Historical Park identifies the Stanton House as one of several designated sites that will comprise the park.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Conditions</b> All cultural management activities related to projects funded by NPS are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guidelines.</p>

<b>Fundamental Resources</b>	<b>M'Clintock House &amp; Grounds, 14 East Williams Street, Waterloo, NY</b>
<b>Relationship to Significance Statement</b>	Quaker women's rights reformers and abolitionists Mary Ann and Thomas M'Clintock lived here with their family 1836-1856. The Declaration of Sentiments was drafted at the M'Clintock House (1835)
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p> <p><b>LCS# 040119 (No condition rating)</b></p> <p><b>Main Building:</b> API – 87 FCI – 0.000 (Good)</p> <p><b>Landscape:</b> API – 90 FCI – 0.000 (Good) As of January 2013</p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <p>The M'Clintocks' eldest daughters Elizabeth and Mary Ann were active in the abolitionist and women's rights movements as well. The house was also used by the Underground Railroad and is listed on the NPS Network to Freedom Database.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS acquired the M'Clintock House in 1985.</li> <li>• NPS restored the exterior of the main block in 1990 and the interior of the home in 2000 and reconstructed the missing south wing in 2004.</li> <li>• The house and grounds are in good condition although a slate well head cover dating to the historic period is broken and in poor condition.</li> <li>• The site is open to the public by ranger tours four days a week during the summer months.</li> <li>• Annual visitation is 530.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The historic neighborhood is relatively stable with little to no development pressure or change in overall character.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats &amp; Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shared driveway covers the historic corner of the lot where a carriage house, barn or privy may have been located. Status of the driveway must be monitored to preserve access to and ownership of NPS property.</li> <li>• An adjoining parking lot to the south should be monitored to assure that encroachment does not occur.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Waterloo Public Library and Historical Society/Terwilliger Museum, and the National Memorial Day Museum are located adjacent to the M'Clintock House.</li> <li>• The business block behind the M'Clintock House was built by Richard Hunt and held the M'Clintock Store.</li> <li>• Joint programming possibilities exist with all.</li> </ul>
<b>Desired condition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The M'Clintock House and grounds are maintained in good condition on LCS and Cultural Landscape Inventory.</li> <li>• Based on archeological research, historic pathways to M'Clintock Drug Store and of other historic features (privies, garden, carriage house, driveway) are restored.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	A geophysical survey and field investigation of archeological resources is needed to inform CLR/Treatment Plan.

<p><b>Identified Planning Needs</b></p>	<p>Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan</p>
<p><b>Stakeholder Interests</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village of Waterloo for tourism purposes</li> <li>• Adjacent businesses for shared driveway</li> <li>• Adjacent cultural institutions for programming.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level guidelines</b></p>	<p><b>Park-specific Laws or Policies</b>                  Section 1601(c) of PL 96-607 establishing Women’s Rights National Historical Park identifies the M’Clintock House as one of several designated sites that will comprise the park. PL 98-402 amended original enabling legislation to authorize fee simple acquisition of the M’Clintock House and related structures, 14 and 16 East Williams Street, Waterloo.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-Level Conditions</b>                  All cultural management activities related to projects funded by NPS are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guidelines.</p>

<b>Fundamental Resources</b>	<b>Hunt House &amp; Grounds, 401 East Main Street (Route 5/20), Waterloo, NY</b>
<b>Relationship to Significance Statement</b>	In 1848, plans to hold the First Women's Rights Convention were made here, the home of Jane Hunt and her husband mill owner and abolitionist Richard Hunt.
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p> <p><b>LCS# 040667 (Good condition, 2004)</b></p> <p><b>Main Building:</b> API – 85 FCI – 0.146 (Fair)</p> <p><b>Curatorial Storage Building</b> API – 63 FCI – 0.047 (good)</p> <p><b>Landscape:</b> API – 90 FCI – 0.000 (Good)</p> <p><b>As of January 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hunt House (1829), which is located three miles west of Wesleyan Chapel/Visitor Center, was acquired by NPS in 2000.</li> <li>• The house and outbuildings are in good condition. The north and east wings of the main house were removed in the 1920s.</li> <li>• A Historic Structure Report is underway as of 2013.</li> <li>• The home is not open to the public. It is used for curatorial purposes and storage.</li> <li>• Part of the collection is stored in a climate-controlled outbuilding. The outbuildings date to the 1920s or 1950s.</li> <li>• The surrounding grounds were once part of Hunt's farm.</li> <li>• The Hunt House is listed on the NPS Network to Freedom.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The advance of neighborhoods, senior housing, and strip commercial development on Route 5/20 east of the Hunt House has compromised the surrounding historic context for this large commercial farm which spanned the area from the canal to the highway to Rochester.</li> <li>• Traffic is relatively heavy on Routes 5/20, the four-lane state highway that runs in front of the house.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats &amp; Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location on a four-lane state highway has led to stress on the Hunt House from heavy truck traffic.</li> <li>• Vehicle accidents in winter resulted in damage to the property.</li> <li>• Incompatible commercial development may occur in the immediate vicinity of the property.</li> <li>• A residence to the rear of the Hunt House includes right of way across Hunt landscape.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once part of Hunt's farm, the grounds offer an appropriate place to interpret Hunt's farm and agriculture in the local economy of the 19th century.</li> <li>• The senior living centers behind the site may provide opportunities for volunteers or for programs.</li> <li>• Restoration of the interior main core of the house to the historic period for visitor use may also allow use for collections researchers, housing for visiting scholars or researchers, staff offices or potential rental for small weddings or other events.</li> </ul>

<b>Desired condition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hunt House and grounds are maintained in good condition on LCS and Cultural Landscape Inventory.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A geophysical survey with field testing is needed to locate historic foundations, wells, and outbuildings on this 2 acre remnant of a 300 acre farm.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	None.
<b>Stakeholder Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village of Waterloo,</li> <li>Community boosters,</li> <li>Neighbors and neighboring properties,</li> <li>Neighbor and relative of previous owner with right of way across property.</li> <li>The portico added to the front of the house in the 1920s is of particular interest to some community business owners.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park-Specific Laws or Policies</b> Section 1601(c) of PL 96-607 establishing Women’s Rights National Historical Park identifies the Hunt House as one of several designated sites that will comprise the park.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Conditions</b> All cultural management activities related to projects funded by NPS are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guidelines.</p>

<b>Fundamental Resources</b>	<b>Women's Rights NHP Collections &amp; Archives</b>
<b>Relationship to Significance Statements</b>	Women's Rights NHP Scope of Collections Statement states that the park collects items that support the preservation and interpretation of sites in Seneca Falls and Waterloo, New York, associated with the First Women's Rights Convention.
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Condition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The primary focus of the collection is documentation of the lives and activities of the Convention's planners and the people who signed the Declaration of Sentiments issued from that Convention.</li> <li>• Women's Rights NHP's collection has 50,000+ pieces.</li> <li>• The bulk of the collection is made up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1) artifacts recovered during archaeological investigations of park sites;</li> <li>○ 2) things created or used by families that planned the 1848 Convention (purchased, donated, or on loan from family members or other institutions), including the Hunt and M'Clintock Family papers; and</li> <li>○ 3) architectural samples selected from historic resources while researching their historical appearance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The archival collection includes a bound copy of reports of women's rights conventions attended by convention organizer Martha Wright, letters to the M'Clintock family by noted reformers, and a collection of ca. 1200 Hunt Family Papers dated ca. 1830-1860. The Hunt Family Papers have a finding aid and have been digitized for public use.</li> <li>• Pre-dating the scope of collection, the park assembled a small collection of museum objects for interpretive purposes. Some historic furnishings are on loan from the Stanton family for display in the Stanton House.</li> <li>• The collections are accessible to the public by appointment. The collections and the storage facility are in good condition.</li> <li>• The park also maintains a substantial research library on women's history.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently the park stores much of its archival collection in a climate controlled storage facility at the Hunt property.</li> <li>• A security/fire detection system is in place.</li> <li>• The facility is approaching capacity and does not meet park needs for work space, research space, or accessibility.</li> <li>• Park resource management records are scheduled for processing in 2014.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats &amp; Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the storage building is inadequate and the storage building is remote from the park administrative offices.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate room exists on the site to add a workroom to the storage facility.</li> <li>• Storage shelving could be reconfigured and expanded.</li> <li>• More items may be donated as descendants of participants in the 1848 convention are known.</li> </ul>
<b>Desired condition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain park collections to meet Museum Collections Preservation and Protection Program (MCP) standards.</li> <li>• Curatorial Storage building is maintained to support collections.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	None.
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Collection Management Plan has not been revised for ten years and requires an update.</li> <li>• A Collection Storage Plan is needed to address the need for additional and more appropriate space to curate and conserve the growing collection of archeological and archival materials.</li> <li>• An Emergency Operations Plan is needed to assess and plan for collections care in an emergency.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of Women’s Rights NHP</li> <li>• Park staff</li> <li>• Researchers with an interest in park museum collections and park records.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level guidance</b>	<p><b>Park specific laws or policies</b> No specific guidance in the park’s enabling legislation.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-level conditions</b> All cultural management activities related to projects funded by NPS are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guidelines.</p>

<b>Important Resources</b>	<b>Women's Rights NHP Visitor Center, 136 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY</b>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p> <p><b>LCS # 040666</b> <b>(Good condition, 2004)</b></p> <p><b>API – 78</b> <b>FCI – 0.065 (Good)</b> <b>As of January 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Visitor Center building was originally constructed in 1915 as an automobile showroom and garage and in 1928 it became the Seneca Falls Village Hall.</li> <li>• The NPS acquired the building in 1987 and converted it to a Visitor Center for the Women's Rights National Historical Park. Interior renovations and exhibits were completed in 1993.</li> <li>• It currently houses a bookstore, auditorium, exhibition space, restrooms and park administrative offices.</li> <li>• The visitor center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Women's Rights NHP historic district for its local architectural significance. It is contributing resource of the NR historic district in which the park exists.</li> <li>• Visitor capacity is 275.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of visitors experience only the visitor center or the visitor center and the Wesleyan Chapel.</li> <li>• Scholarship about the women's movement has significantly expanded since 1993, leaving exhibits outdated. The Interactive technology is also outdated and all exhibits show signs of wear.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats &amp; Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The roof and windows of the visitor center have experienced leakage and rapid deterioration since 1993.</li> <li>• The HVAC system is old and needs attention and possible replacement.</li> <li>• Leaking from weather or from HVAC units required plastic covers in the library and exhibit spaces.</li> <li>• Inadequate space exists for classroom type activities and staff workspace.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internships have been established to update information and data in exhibits.</li> <li>• Accessibility survey of the visitor center is planned for calendar year 2013.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Desired condition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visitor center's interiors and infrastructure are sound, efficient, and provide an inviting environment for park visitors and staff (e.g. Roof and windows are energy efficient and do not leak; HVAC is updated or replaced; building interiors are updated).</li> <li>• The visitor center and museum exhibits are physically and programmatically accessible.</li> <li>• Interpretive media (including AV equipment) is updated throughout the visitor center.</li> <li>• A dedicated education area is available to accommodate school groups and other large groups of visitor and meet interpretive program objectives.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visitor center’s security system is improved to address security concerns, (e.g. Expanded secure parking area; security cameras; key pad entry).</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Efficiency Audit.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park’s Comprehensive Interpretive Plan should be updated. New tools and techniques for updating the content of the park’s existing exhibits must be considered.</li> <li>• Accessibility Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors.</li> <li>• Seneca Falls Historic District.</li> <li>• Park Employees.</li> <li>• Seneca Falls business association.</li> <li>• Future Votes for Women Trail members.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy Level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park specific laws or policies</b> No specific guidance in the park’s enabling legislation. The building was donated to NPS by the Village of Seneca Falls in October, 1985.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-level conditions</b> All cultural management activities related to projects funded by NPS are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guidelines.</p>

<b>Important Resources</b>	<b>Declaration Park, Seneca Falls, NY</b>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p> <p>API – 72  FCI – 0.000 (Good)  As of January 2013</p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located between the Wesleyan Chapel and the Women’s Rights NHP Visitor Center, Declaration Park consists of stepped stone seating and a manicured grass lawn that slopes gently down from the chapel to a long water wall, where the text of the Declaration of Sentiments and a list of its signers are incised in brass letters.</li> <li>• Several NPS wayside interpretive panels are located along the street.</li> <li>• The park faces the three story brick wall of the adjacent visitor center.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the rehabilitation of the Wesleyan Chapel building, visual access to Declaration Park has been reduced.</li> <li>• Its location below grade contributes to lack of visibility from the sidewalk.</li> <li>• Without active park programming in Declaration Park, visitor awareness of it as an important park feature could be diminished.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less visual access to Declaration Park may also expose it to more inappropriate use, vandalism and other negative behaviors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2010 landscape treatment charrette identified options for treating the landscape to encourage more appropriate recreational use and to highlight the interpretive water wall.</li> <li>• Sidewalks around Declaration Park are used by neighbors and visitors. The potential exists to turn them into educational walks.</li> <li>• The visitor center wall could be repurposed for temporary outdoor film showings, for murals or banners, or for other outdoor visual displays in keeping with the character of the historic district.</li> <li>• The stepped seating backs to Mynderse St. and could also be used for signage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Desired condition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declaration Park serves as a first rate public art venue that offers a safe and engaging public space for gathering, education, music and performances.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Identified Data Needs</b></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>Identified Planning Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive plans for walkways, stepped seating and wall.</li> <li>• Landscape treatment plans for Declaration Park.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stakeholder Interests</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbors,</li> <li>• Visitors,</li> <li>• Designers of commemorative treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Stepped seating, lawn and water wall are used recreationally by neighbors, educationally and for free speech activities by visitors, and are a significant part of the professional history of the designers.</p>

<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy Level Guidance</b>	<b>Park specific laws or policies</b> Section 1601(c) of PL 96-607 establishing Women’s Rights National Historical Park identifies the theater site (128 Fall Street), that would later become Declaration Park, as one of several designated sites that will comprise the park. <b>NPS Policy-level conditions</b> Declaration Park is not managed as a cultural resource.

<b>Important Resources</b>	<b>Chamberlain House, One Seneca Street, Seneca Falls, NY</b>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p> <p><b>Main House</b></p> <p>API – 12 FCI – 0.323 (Poor)</p> <p><b>Landscape</b></p> <p>API – 20 FCI – 0.000 (Good)</p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located across the street from the Stanton House, the Chamberlain House was the home of Congressman Jacob P. Chamberlain, a local mill owner, friend of Stanton, and signer of the Declaration of Sentiments.</li> <li>• The Chamberlain House is located on the Van Cleef Lake portion of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal.</li> <li>• Due to lack of integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the site is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as a contributing resource to Women’s Rights NHP NR Historic District.</li> <li>• The house is documented on HABS and has a historic structure report. Archeological investigations located a missing wing.</li> <li>• Park waysides explain the importance of Chamberlain to the women’s rights movement.</li> <li>• It is used by neighbors for fishing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NPS acquired the Chamberlain House in 1996 to develop as a visitor contact station in conjunction with the Canal Corridor Initiative (CCI) which was developing harbors along the Erie Canal for recreational purposes.</li> <li>• A concept plan, archeological compliance, and NEPA/106 compliance was completed but did not advance to implementation. \$500,000 in CCI funding to develop docking was lost.</li> <li>• The building has been vacant since ca. 2000. Maintenance has been minimal. As a result, its condition has deteriorated, posing a public safety hazard.</li> <li>• Neighbors have raised concerns about the effect of this deteriorating property on their property values.</li> <li>• Per NPS policy, due to its ranking on the park’s Asset Priority Index (API) no agency money can be invested in preservation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The structure continues to deteriorate.</li> <li>• The northeast corner is less than ten feet from the waterline making it vulnerable to flooding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming to tie the site to the canal would enhance local context and potential for recreational visitation.</li> <li>• The site could provide partnership or other opportunities with canalside Seneca Falls Recreation Center and Cayuga-Seneca Canal Lock 2/3.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Desired condition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through partnership, the site is developed for recreational opportunities and for water access to the Stanton site as recommended in the park’s approved GMP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Identified Data Needs</b></p>	<p>None.</p>

<p><b>Identified Planning Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Concept Plan,</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stakeholder Interests</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Seneca Falls,</li> <li>• Seneca Falls Recreation Center,</li> <li>• Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor,</li> <li>• NYSDOT for management of canal and waterborne recreation,</li> <li>• Town of Seneca Falls Historic District Commission for management of house which is historic infill in the local (non-NR) historic district,</li> <li>• NPS Rivers, Trails, &amp; Conservation Assistance,</li> <li>• Land &amp; Water CF.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy Level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>Park specific laws or policies</b>                  Public Law 104-333 amended the legislation establishing Women’s Rights National Historical Park expanded the number of sites that comprise the park to include the dwelling at 1 Seneca Street (known as the Chamberlain House) in Seneca Falls among others.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-level conditions</b>                  The Chamberlain House is not managed as a cultural resource.</p>

<b>Important Resources</b>	<b>Women's Rights NHP Archeological Resources</b>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of seven archeological sites are inventoried in the Archeological Sites Management and Information System (ASMIS) for Women's Rights National Historical Park.</li> <li>• Only the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Home and the M'Clintock House currently meet all the criteria necessary to be considered contributing archeological sites to the Women's Rights National Historical Park Historic District.</li> <li>• In addition to archeological resources at the Stanton and M'Clintock sites, the district also has the potential to yield information about the pre- and post-contact period histories of the Seneca Falls/Waterloo region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys have been completed of all park sites but the Young property.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats &amp; Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential trenching for water or sewer lines along edges of historic lots owned by the Town of Seneca Falls or the Village of Waterloo.</li> <li>• Towns lack familiarity with federal compliance procedures for archeological resources.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional archeological field investigation has the potential to significantly increase knowledge of historic use of the Stanton landscape.</li> <li>• Geophysical surveys at Hunt and M'Clintock sites have not been completed and would provide information to target investigation to subsurface deposits.</li> </ul>
<b>Desired condition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known archeological resources associated with Women's Rights National Historical park are listed in good condition on ASMIS.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further archeological work needs to be done on the grounds of Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, M'Clintock House, and Hunt House.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	None.
<b>Stakeholder Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of Women's Rights NHP,</li> <li>• Park staff,</li> <li>• Researchers with an interest in park museum collections and park records.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy Level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>Park specific laws or policies</b> No specific guidance in the park’s enabling legislation.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-level conditions</b> All cultural management activities related to projects funded by NPS are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guidelines.</p>

<p><b>Important Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Young House. 12 East Williams Street, Waterloo</b></p>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p> <p><b>Structure</b> API -- 27 FCI – 0.242 (Poor)</p> <p><b>Landscape</b> API – 20 FCI –0.214 (Poor)</p> <p><b>As of January 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The house was built by Richard Hunt in 1836 as a rental property. His daughter Mary inherited the property, using it as a residence in the 1890s-1900 period.</li> <li>• The house abuts the M’Clintock House and together they are surrounded by parking lots on three sides and East Williams Street on the fourth.</li> <li>• The Young House was acquired by NPS in 1999 to protect the streetscape and context for the M’Clintock House. It has been vacant since its acquisition by NPS.</li> <li>• In 2012, updated National Register documentation found the Young House ineligible for listing as little historic fabric remains in the interior.</li> <li>• The building is not listed on the LCS and is not managed as a cultural resource.</li> <li>• The garage and shed are used to store lawn equipment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 30 year shingle roof was installed on the house in 2012.</li> <li>• Low API rating would indicate a low possibility for agency funding for research or rehabilitation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in local land use zoning or the climate for development could have an effect on the historic scene.</li> <li>• The house continues to deteriorate. The front and back entrances are closed due to hazardous deteriorated porch entrances.</li> <li>• Neighbors have raised concerns about the effect of this deteriorating property on their property values.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The building was separated into two apartments at some point in its history. Some interior finishes and window treatments are historic.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation would provide the park with a property that could provide interpretive space, offices, park housing, or present a historic leasing opportunity.</li> </ul>

<b>Desired condition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The exterior of the Young House is maintained to the historic period to preserve the historic streetscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As insufficient information was available to assess the possible local significance of the Young House and the park's intention is to maintain historic context, an investigation to locate and determine remaining historic fabric should be done to avoid further damage in the use of the building.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans and specs are needed for repairs necessary to return the Young House to a usable condition.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village of Waterloo,</li> <li>Neighboring businesses and properties.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy Level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park specific laws or policies</b></p> <p>Public Law 104-333 amended the legislation establishing Women's Rights National Historical Park expanded the number of sites that comprise the park to include the dwelling at 12 East Williams Street (known as the Young House) in Seneca Falls among others.</p> <p><b>NPS Policy-level conditions</b></p> <p>The Young House is not managed as a cultural resource.</p>

## Related Resources

### Historic District, Seneca Falls

The physical fabric of Seneca Falls reflects its role at the cutting edge of national revolutions in transportation, industrialization, and urbanization during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The National Register Seneca Falls Village Historic District extends roughly along State and Cayuga streets south of Butler Avenue, includes the River, Canal, and Van Cleef Lake, and ends on the south bank of the River along Canal Street. The Fall Street business district is largely the product of rebuilding after fires that occurred in 1859 and 1890. Development in the early twentieth century primarily occurred as infill construction within well-established street patterns and zones of activity. The 1991 National Register nomination describes the district as a "large and exceptionally intact village commercial and residential center that retains streetscapes and buildings illustrating the growth and development of a thriving manufacturing center between 1800 and 1930."

Early nineteenth-century development of the village related chiefly to the proximity of water power and the network of canals that transported goods and people through central New York. The advent of the locomotive in the 1840s and 1850s encouraged further growth, as several local entrepreneurs established large manufacturing complexes. The village continued to prosper as a regional manufacturing center into the 1890s, with particular success in the pump and fire engine industries. By the 1920s, the town's landscape began to feel the effects of increased automobile use.

### Historic Area, Waterloo

There is no National Register or local historic district in Waterloo, NY, though there are 9 individual properties on the National Register located on East Main and East Williams Streets in Waterloo.

### Votes for Women History Trail Route

Per the 2009 legislation amending its enabling legislation, Women's Rights National Historical Park is charged with the administration of the Votes for Women History Trail Route. The park is directed to engage in the following activities:

- (1) produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials regarding the Trail, such as handbooks, maps, exhibits, signs, interpretive guides, and electronic information;
- (2) coordinate the management, planning, and standards of the Trail in partnership with participating properties, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments;
- (3) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device to mark the Trail; and
- (4) issue guidelines for the use of the trail symbol or device.

### **Cayuga-Seneca Canal**

The Cayuga-Seneca Canal connects Cayuga Lake and Seneca Lake with the Erie Canal. The earliest canal improvements to what was originally the Seneca River date to 1813; and the connection with the Erie Canal dates to 1828. The canal was a major transportation link in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century opening up Seneca Falls to the wider world and spurring industrial development, which made the area prosperous at the time of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention. The Cayuga-Seneca Canal passes through the middle of Seneca Falls, virtually within site of the Wesleyan Chapel.

The Cayuga-Seneca Canal is owned and operated by the New York State Canal Corporation and is part of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The park has considered linking Waterloo and Seneca Falls via water transportation on numerous occasions and it appears in its existing general management plan.

### **Seneca Knitting Mills, Seneca Falls**

The Seneca Knitting Mills, located on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, operated from 1844 until 1999. In later years, they specialized in manufacturing woolen socks and were a major employer in Seneca Falls, NY. The National Women's Hall of Fame has purchased the mill and plans to renovate it and move its operations there.

The mill is historically relevant to the park due to its association with one of the key participants and signer associated with the 1848 convention, Jacob P. Chamberlain. It is also a prominent historic feature within the park's viewshed.

### **Homes of Signers of the Declaration of Sentiments (1848)**

Of the 300 people who attended the First Women's Rights Convention, 100 signed the Declaration of Sentiments. Of the 83 signers who have been identified 69% of them lived in either Seneca Falls or Waterloo. All but three others (they were visiting friends or relatives who signed) were from Central New York, between Rochester and Syracuse. According to historian Judith Wellman, five of the signers went on to become "nationally important" in the women's rights movement. The other signers reflected a deep local concern for women's rights.

The homes of many signers still exist and have been identified. It would be an interest of Women's Rights NHP to deepen understanding of the women's rights movement in Central New York by interpreting and supporting the preservation of these homes.

## **IDENTIFICATION OF KEY PARK-WIDE OR MAJOR ISSUES AND ASSOCIATED PLANNING & DATA NEEDS**

All parks face a variety of issues that must be addressed now or through future planning. An issue is a point or matter that must be decided. A key park-wide or major issue may raise questions regarding park purpose and significance. Or there may be other questions of importance that, in the judgment of NPS staff, need to be addressed in future planning.

Following are key or major issues and associated planning and data needs for Women's Rights National Historical Park:

**Improving Park Operations** – Women’s Rights National Historical Park needs to address a number of operational concerns including universal accessibility, energy efficiency and the use of alternative energy, and emergency operations.

**The Votes for Women History Trail Route** – The History Trail Route was established by Congress in 2009. Women’s Rights National Historical Park has been named as the trail administrator and charged with its implementation and oversight. Recently, the park was directed to advance the development of trail criteria. The park needs to address this change in administrative responsibilities.

**The Chamberlain House** – The Chamberlain property was acquired by the park in 1996 to serve as a ranger station associated with the Stanton property. Plans to redevelop the site never became a reality and over time the house has fallen into disrepair. While it is associated with Jacob P. Chamberlain, a U.S. Congressman and signer of the Declaration of Sentiments, it lacks historical integrity in terms of its fabric and condition. The park must address the long-term disposition of this property.

**Heavy Traffic/ Contemporary Development on Routes 5/20** – Higher volumes of heavy truck traffic on Routes 5/20 have resulted from the opening of a large regional landfill nearby. The heavy trucks often go past at speeds that generate vibrations that are having an effect on this park’s historic structures. This is particularly true at the Hunt House in Waterloo. Likewise, contemporary commercial and residential development (strip malls, senior housing) are changing the character of the Hunt House’s surrounding landscape.

### **Planning Needs for the Park**

This section prioritizes the need for future plans and studies or research for Women’s Rights National Historical Park. It provides a comprehensive review and prioritization of plans and data needed to maintain and protect the park’s fundamental (and other important) resources and values, as well as address key parkwide and other major issues. The planning and data needs were ranked according to several criteria, which are described below. Based on these criteria, plans and studies were grouped into categories of high, medium, and low priority projects. This information will be used by parks, regional offices, and the NPS Washington office to determine priorities and consider the future funding needs of the park unit. (H = High; M = Medium; L = Low; Y= Related to a Fundamental Resource or Value (FRV); N = NOT related to an FRV.)

1. **Emergency Operations Plan (H/Y)** – Women’s Rights National Historical Park does not have a current Emergency Operations Plan. A plan is needed to outline the necessary actions that must be taken by park staff in the event of an emergency. The document should be simple, flexible, and current, focusing on the key actions, resources, and organizations/individuals to be involved.
2. **Accessibility Plan (H/Y)** -- Women’s Rights National Historical Park is comprised of a series of historic sites, structures, landscapes, and collections that are distributed across several non-contiguous sites. The museum area on the second floor of the visitor center is not universally accessible. This is also the case with the park’s other historic properties. An Accessibility Plan is needed to address these physical limitations through adaptation of existing structures or development of interpretive media and programming that would address accessibility concerns.
3. **Votes for Women History Trail Management Plan (H/N)** – The trail management plan would address a number of facets in the development and administration of the Votes for Women History Trail authorized by Congress in 2009. Women’s Rights National Historical Park has responsibility for administering the trail in partnership with the participating sites on the trail. The plan would outline the roles and responsibilities of the park, participating sites, local, state, and other federal agencies, and other stakeholders. The plan would also outline the general scope of trail programs, interpretive media, publications, and other facets of the trail as directed in Public Law 111-11, Sec. 7111.

4. **Way-Finding, Circulation & Signage Plan (H/Y)** – Despite previous efforts, way-finding (particularly from major roads) and circulation among the park’s non-contiguous sites continues to be a challenge. Local conditions for water-based travel (both motorized and non-motorized), public transit, and bicycle touring have changed since the last time way-finding and circulation was considered (year?), and the time is ripe to reconsider multimodal access to the park and among its sites.
5. **Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) (H/Y)** – Since the last approved CIP was adopted in 2002, the Hunt House was acquired by the park, the archival collection has grown, the Votes for Women History Trail was created by Congress, the Wesleyan Chapel was essentially reconstructed, and a wave of change in the area of digital media has occurred. With each year, the park’s existing orientation exhibit becomes more dated. A new CIP is needed to update interpretive programming and media at the park including the park’s relationship to the new Votes for Women History Trail.
6. **Audience Development Plan (H/Y)** – The Audience Development Planning process would enable the park to evaluate its existing and target audiences, develop their goals for expanding the numbers and composition of their visitors, and suggest an array of strategies to be considered in achieving them.
7. **Collections Management Plan /Collection Storage Plan (M/Y)** – Currently the park stores much of their archival collection in a climate controlled storage facility at the Hunt property. The facility is approaching capacity and does not meet park needs in terms of work space, research space, or accessibility. An update of the park’s collection management plan is needed to address the need for additional and more appropriate space to curate and conserve its growing collection of archeological and archival materials.
8. **Geophysical Surveys/ Archeological Field work (M/Y)** – Geophysical surveys and archeological field work are needed to guide other research and management actions that may be proposed for the Hunt and M’Clintock properties. It would be important to complete this work prior to undertaking cultural landscape treatment plans for these properties.
9. **Cultural Landscape Treatment Plans (M/Y)** – The need for cultural landscape treatment plans were identified in a number of park locations including the M’Clintock House, Declaration Park, and the Chamberlain property. The treatment plans expand upon the recommendations of the Cultural Landscape Reports prepared for these properties to identify strategies for preserving and maintaining the most important character defining features of these landscapes.
10. **A Multimodal Transportation Study (M/N)** -- would consider both land and water based modes of transportation to improve connectivity among the park’s sites and links to nearby communities within the vicinity of the park. Directional signage to accommodate different modes of transportation would also be addressed in this scope of work.
11. **Partnership Strategy (M/Y)** – In the face of both new and existing responsibilities and a changing fiscal climate the park must consider ways to enhance and/or expand upon the way they engage with park partners to advance the purposes of the park. A partnership strategy would be a short-term plan (5 to 10 years) that would identify opportunities for collaboration, set priorities, define roles and responsibilities of the park and its partners, and provide an action plan.

## **PART 3: PREPARERS AND MEETING ATTENDEES**

### **PREPARERS**

#### **Women’s Rights National Historical Park**

Tammy Duchesne, Superintendent  
Anne Derousie, Ph.D., Park Historian  
Noemi Ghazala, Chief of Interpretation and Education  
Vivien Rose, Ph.D., Chief of Cultural Resources

#### **National Park Service Northeast Region Office**

Ellen Carlson, Community Planner  
James O’Connell, Ph.D., Community Planner  
Sabra Smith, Preservation Planner

### **MEETING ATTENDEES**

#### **Friends of Women’s Rights NHP**

Marilyn Bero, Seneca Falls

#### **Hobart & William Smith Colleges**

Betty Bayer, Ph.D., Chair, Women’s Studies Program

#### **Martin Van Buren National Historic Site**

Patricia West, Ph.D., Historian

#### **Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation**

Sally Roesch Wagner, Ph.D., Executive Director

#### **Middle Tennessee State University**

Rebecca Conard, Ph.D., Director, Public History Program

#### **SUNY/ Oswego**

Judith Wellman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, History Department

#### **Susan B. Anthony House**

Deborah L. Hughes, President & CEO

#### **Women’s Rights National Historical Park**

Gene Freese, Administrative Officer  
Guy “Sparky” Hock, Facilities Manager  
John Stoudt, Park Interpreter