



1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse
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August 4, 2009

Hon. Eric Massa, Congressman
massa.house.gov/?sectionid=7§iontree=4,7

Attention: Donna McLean

Dear Congressman Massa:

This is a request for your support for a Save America's Treasures grant for the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse, in Farmington, New York (SAT2009_100000182). Supported by the Farmington Town Board and many citizens throughout New York State and the country, we are working with nationally known preservation architect John G. Waite to restore the building for use as an interpretive center, highlighting the importance of these upstate New York reform movements to the entire nation.

We have also been in contact with Laurie Chimento, in Senator Schumer's office, regarding this request, and Senator Schumer written a letter of support to Save America's Treasures. We would be delighted if you would also be willing to endorse this project.

We have three main reasons for requesting funding assistance from Save America's Treasures:

1) The meetinghouse is nationally important. It helps uncover the upstate New York roots of three nationally important reform movements, for women's rights, Seneca Indian rights, and African American rights (including the abolition of slavery and the Underground Railroad).

2) The meetinghouse will provide significant economic development for the upstate region, as part of two federal heritage trails. One is the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, and the other is a women's rights history trail, to be organized under the new National Women's History Project Act.

3) The meetinghouse is in critical condition. A windstorm blew the east wall blew off this meetinghouse in February 2006, and the building currently stands open to the elements. Twice, we have stabilized the building with cables, posts, and supports. But every winter brings further deterioration. The meetinghouse needs immediate help if it is to be saved.

Owned by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation, a 501c3 organization, the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse is part of the Farmington Quaker Crossroads Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance. It is also listed on the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and the National Collaborative of Women's History Sites. Currently, the National Park Service is conducting a reconnaissance study to determine whether the Park Service would like to develop a formal relationship with this meetinghouse.

Supporters have spent about \$68,000 to stabilize, document, and insure this building. Funds have come from the Rochester Area Community Foundation, Canandaigua National Bank, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Heritage New York's Women's History Trail, New York State Council on the Arts, the Chace Fund of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and many private donors. We have resolutions of support from the Farmington Town Board, as well as petitions signed by many different groups (including Rotary Clubs, Central New York NOW, NYS Church Women United, and many local historical societies, church groups, and colleges across central New York). Our national advisory board includes historians, preservationists, and descendants of women's rights activists, Seneca people, and people who escaped from slavery.

We have also raised about \$73,500 of the \$94,000 needed to begin permanent stabilization of this building. These funds have come from the National Park Service's Network to Freedom (\$47,000), Rochester Area Community Foundation (\$14,000), Canandaigua National Bank (\$2500), and many private individuals.

Attached is a copy of our proposal for Save America's Treasures. Total cost for restoration is \$1,019,188, of which we are requesting \$455,481 from Save America's Treasures under proposal number SAT2009_1000000182. For more information, see our website at www.farmingtonmeetinghouse.org.

Many, many thanks for your help with this project.

Cordially,

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cc: Charles Schumer, Senator, New York State
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