

Georgia Women's History Initiative

The Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources established the Georgia Women's History Initiative in 1995 to address the topic of women's history in the identification, documentation, evaluation, and preservation of historic places. The mission of the initiative is to integrate women's history and the preservation of historic places associated with women into the day-to-day activities of the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.

This initiative—the first in the country to be established within a State Historic Preservation Office—has sponsored a regional women's history and historic preservation conference, "Telling Her Story: Expanding the Past of Georgia's Women Through Historic Places (1996)," a bibliography of primary source material, and a large-scale study of Georgia women and the built environment by consultants Roth Associates, Inc. and Ray and Associates. Under the leadership of

Representative Doug Teper, the Georgia State Legislature funded this study, *Georgia: A Woman's Place, A Historical Context*. The study includes a narrative history of Georgia women, National Register nominations for women-related historic properties, and special studies on the kitchen and landscapes in Georgia. The study also evaluates Georgia's Historic Resources Survey Program, museums and historic sites in Georgia, and other preservation activities for their inclusion of women's history. *Georgia: A Woman's Place* serves as a framework for the identification and evaluation of historic places relating to women and as a basis for their preservation.

One of the greatest contributions of the study is the discovery of the large number of properties with diverse historical associations related to the history of Georgia women. These places include houses, community landmark buildings, workplaces, recreational facilities, landscapes, and more.

As a result of this work, the Historic Preservation Division has a better understanding of the role women played in shaping the built environment. The Division has included women's

The mission will be accomplished by:

- actively seeking to identify and document historic places associated with women in Georgia—including specific places associated with a particular woman, group of women, or event, as well as resources that collectively reflect broad themes associated with the roles of women in the state's history;
- reinterpreting historic places already identified in Georgia based upon a better understanding of women's history in Georgia; and
- promoting the awareness, appreciation, and preservation of historic places associated with women in Georgia through publications, heritage education programs, and tour guides that will increase public awareness.

history significance within its survey and register programs and changed the way it names historic properties in Georgia to reflect both the men and women associated with properties. As a result of the Women's History Initiative, Georgia has become a national leader in the identification, documentation, and preservation of women-related historic properties.

**For more information, visit our Web site at www.georgiashpo.org or contact
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