

Change in Hours for 2009

You may have noticed over the past couple of years that we have been offering a greater variety of programs and offering them throughout the year. The goal in doing this is to make HHS more accessible and to offer programs and activities of interest to a wide variety of individuals.

This year, programs will be offered year-round. Walk-in guided tours will be offered six days a week from May through October and, in a departure from recent years, on weekends in November and December.

The DuBois Fort Visitor Center will be open from 10:30am to 5pm every day except Wednesday beginning in May and continuing through October. In November and December, the Visitor Center will be open from 11am to 3pm. The Fort will also open for special events that are part of our calendar (see page 5).

The Visitor and the Museum Shop may be reached at 845.255.1889.

DuBois Fort Roof Project Begins



Work has begun on the roof of the DuBois Fort. The cedar shingle roof of the Fort is being removed and will be replaced with a standing seam metal roof. Some have asked

about the change in materials. There are a couple of reasons. Photographs from the 1880s show the building with a metal roof. Given that there is an historical precedent and given that a properly installed standing steam metal roof can last 100 years while a cedar roof last approximately twelve years, the choice was made to go with metal.

Tuttle Construction of Greenwich, New York has been hired to do the project. The Tuttle's, who are well respected in the restoration field and highly sought after for their expertise and quality, are familiar with the site. They have worked on the several projects at HHS, including the restoration of the slate roof of the Deyo House and the repointing of the DuBois Fort. The project will be completed this year.

Work thus far has been funded by the DuBois Family Association, the O'Connor Foundation and Felicia Fund while funding to fully pay for the project without impacting endowed funds continues.



View from the Street

Mary Etta Schneider, President
Eric Roth, Executive Director

2009 promises to be an exciting, yet challenging, year for Historic Huguenot Street. Along with you, we are closely watching the current financial developments and taking action to minimize our risk in this uncertain climate. We have scaled back our work plans and reduced expenses. We have recruited more interns and volunteers, and our staff is committed to providing greater involvement in special events and tours. All programs are being closely evaluated for their ability to increase support and visitation.

While we are actively working to minimize expense, we recognize that our best chance for success lies in bold action. Historic Huguenot Street stands as a symbol of continuity, perseverance, and strength. We expect greater local and regional visitation this year as people seek entertainment and recreation closer to home, particularly in this "Henry Hudson" anniversary year. We already are seeing significant increases in visitation to our events and we are hopeful that this trend will continue throughout the year.

To commemorate the 400th Anniversary of Hudson's Voyage, we are launching a new exhibit and conference, *Before Hudson: 8,000 Years of Native American History and Culture*. We will host other exciting events such as Old New Paltz Day and Night at Our Museum, as well as several new special tours and holiday programs. And, we are honored that in 2009 the State University of New York at New Paltz will recognize Historic Huguenot Street at their annual Gala in November.

Also, in 2009 we can point to several projects that will serve to enhance the protection of this National Historic Landmark, while increasing our visibility, visitation and support. Working with the Hasbrouck Family Association, we will restore, reinterpret and refurnish the Abraham Hasbrouck House. This long-anticipated work is based on recent research and this historic home will reopen to the public in 2010. Two other important projects include the installation of a new, enduring roof at the DuBois Fort and painting the exterior of the Josiah Hasbrouck House at Locust Lawn. Furthermore, we will undertake important preservation work at the Terwilliger House and complete the Freer House historic structure report.

We greatly appreciate all your comments, suggestions and support in these trying times. You truly are the reason that Historic Huguenot Street will continue to move forward. Thank you.

Mary Etta Eric

HHS and Village Receive State Historic Preservation Award

Historic Huguenot Street and the Village of New Paltz recently received one of just nine awards presented by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The state Historic Preservation Awards honor excellence in the protection and rejuvenation of New York's historic and cultural resources. HHS and the Village jointly received the sole award for Community Achievement.

The award came as a result of the effective collaboration on the archaeology related to the sewer line that was recently run under the Deyo House lawn and just to the north of the DuBois Fort. Archaeology was an essential part of the project, which required excavation of the area nearest the Fort. As stated in the awards program: "Extraordinary efforts yielded extraordinary results when the Village of New Paltz decided to undertake extensive archaeology far beyond the usual work required for a new sewer line that had to be run through the Historic Huguenot Street District. The work generated important data about Archaic-Woodland and Contact-period Native American sites. Historic Huguenot Street, Native Americans and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation worked together to decide how to achieve mutual preservation goals. The other major find was evidence of a sunken "pit house" constructed by the



Village of New Paltz Mayor Terry Dungan, Executive Director Eric Roth and Historic Preservation Officer P.J. Preuss pose with Carol Ash, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

earliest European settlers, the first of its kind known to exist in the area. Information from the archaeological study reduced the disturbance of historic resources. The added benefit of the collaboration is a large amount of evidence that will greatly expand interpretation of local history."

Jean House Painting Played Key Role in Beginning of SUNY Collection; Featured in Current Dorsky Exhibition

Analog catalog: Investigating the Permanent Collection is one of three exhibitions currently on view at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at the State University of New York at New Paltz (SDMA). This exhibition, organized by SDMA curator Brian Wallace (who is also an HHS board member) presents objects from the museum's permanent collection displayed in a variety of groupings. Each of these arrangements is designed to provide new perspectives on the works displayed and to draw attention to the strategies that museums use to present and contextualize objects.

One of the groupings in the exhibition is that of the museum's first and most recent acquisitions. James Scott's *Hasbrouck House*, which was acquired by the university in 1939 on an extended loan from the Works Progress Administration, marked the beginning of what has become the SDMA's permanent collection. The work is a bold painting of the Jean Hasbrouck House as seen from the southeast. *Hasbrouck House* became a cornerstone piece in the museum's collection of paintings.

Analog catalog will be on view at the Dorsky Museum through June 14th. For more information about the museum, go to <http://www.newpaltz.edu/museum>.



LeFevre House Dining Room Restoration Underway



Those who visited Historic Huguenot Street last year might have noticed that the dining room in the LeFevre House was barren ... and a little bit wanting. While the Historic Preservation crew led by P.J. Preuss had removed peeling paint and cleaned the room following damaged sustained when a leak occurred in the room behind the dining room, work was put on hold until this year.

The restoration, which is being done entirely in-house thanks to the talents of our Historic Preservation crew, will repair and restore the deteriorated plaster. In addition, paint will be stripped from the mantel and mouldings, including the handsome Federal-style wainscoting that surrounds the room. The room will be repainted using information gained in an earlier chromochronology study. Work is expected to be completed by early summer.

Top: The firebox in the LeFevre House dining room awaits the replacement of the restored mantel. Plaster will also be repaired as part of the restoration

Bottom: Detail of the dentil moulding on the mantel – detail which was brought back to life as layers of paint were removed