



Farnsworth House Renamed Edith Farnsworth House

PLANO, ILL. — In celebration of its 70th anniversary, Farnsworth House, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will be renamed the Edith Farnsworth House. This official rededication asserts the formative role of Dr Edith Farnsworth (1903-1977) in the creation of the iconic structure, confirming her partnership in the home's design and recognizing her many accomplishments as a research physician, poet, translator, classical violinist and patron of art and design.

For decades, the Edith Farnsworth House, a symbol of architectural innovation, has been characterized as the achievement of one person: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969). Today, few admirers realize that the client and benefactor, Edith Farnsworth, was herself a visionary woman and a passionate supporter of the arts. Ahead of her time in the post-World War II era, Farnsworth lived an independent life of cultural and intellectual exploration and discovery. For decades, her story, as well as her pivotal role in the creation of this landmark, has not received the prominence it deserves.

This rededication serves to correct the narrative regarding the relationship between Edith Farnsworth and Mies van der Rohe and her role in the building's



creation. Edith Farnsworth's abiding interest in artistic innovation introduced her to Mies's talent and led her to commission his first residential project constructed on American soil. Thanks to her foresight, the architect was inspired to create a contemporary weekend home that was in concert with the natural environment of the Illinois countryside. Widely regarded

as an architectural marvel, the Edith Farnsworth House helped establish Mies's prominence in America.

"We hope this seemingly simple act of inserting her first name has the larger effect of inserting her into the ongoing history of Modern architecture," said Scott Mehaffey, executive director of the Edith Farnsworth House. "Without Edith Farnsworth, Mies van der Rohe's American career might have remained stalled and his stature usurped by his contemporaries. Edith was fully aware that she was both a client and a patron, and she played an active role in the design of her house, which has become a celebrated milestone in the evolution of Modernism."

In 2020-21, the Edith Farnsworth House celebrated "Edith Farnsworth Reconsidered" with exhibitions and programming focused on its namesake's life and times. The centerpiece of this project, which will run through December 19, is "Edith Farnsworth's Country House," a temporary refurbishing of the home to reflect its 1955 appearance as Edith's home. A guided tour, film and exhibits focused on the untold story of this remarkable woman are also available.

The Edith Farnsworth House is at 14520 River Road. For more information, www.edithfarnsworthhouse.org.

Historic New England Awards Six Community Preservation Grants

BOSTON — Each year, Historic New England awards one Herbert and Louise Whitney Fund Community Preservation Grant to a small-to-medium-size heritage preservation organization in each New England state.

The endowment fund is named in honor of Herbert and Louise Whitney to recognize their appreciation and love of all things New England, in particular the Bishop family farm in North Woodstock, Conn.

Historic New England is committed to telling the whole story of the region's history. This year, Historic New England awarded grants of \$1,250 to the following six organizations.

Norwich Historical Society, Norwich, Conn.

The historical society, formed in 2001, seeks to preserve, protect, and promote the rich history of the town of Norwich. The grant will be used to hire an intern to research Haitian connections to the circa 1750 Diah Manning House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. During the Haitian Revolution, the Manning family housed Haitian prisoner and refugee Jean-Pierre Boyer in their home from 1800 to 1801. Boyer went on to serve as President of the Republic of Haiti

from 1818 to 1843. The historical society would like to expand its research and explore the late Eighteenth Century history of the building and the connection to Boyer.

Rufus Porter Museum of Art and Ingenuity, Bridgton, Maine

The museum promotes and preserves the life and legacy of painter and inventor Rufus Porter. The grant supports paint and plaster conservation work in the parlor and entry at the circa 1790 Nathan Church House. It is one of Bridgton's oldest surviving buildings and home to a collection of New England murals from various New England homes, an in situ mural room, and special exhibit space. This work is part of a long-range plan for the museum campus, a significant cultural and economic driver in this community.

Lynn Museum/Lynn Arts, Lynn, Mass.

The organization offers changing exhibitions and innovative programs to engage and enrich Lynn's diverse population and has been eager to reconnect with the Khmer community. The grant supports the purchase of supplies and printing, marketing and

programming expenses for a collaborative exhibition with Khmer Identity, a platform honoring Khmer legacies and contemporary Khmer voices. Lynn has the third largest population of Cambodians in the United States.

Foster Preservation Society, Foster, R.I.



Winsor blacksmith shop, Foster, R.I.

The Winsor Blacksmith shop was built in 1870 by Ira Winsor on Winsor Road. It remained in the Winsor-Hayfield family until October 1992, when it was purchased and donated to the Foster Preservation Society in October 1993. In the spring of 1994, the build-

ing was taken apart and reconstructed in its current location. This grant supports repairs to the roof.

Greenfield Historical Society, Greenfield, N.H.

The Greenfield Historical Society, founded in 1973, preserves the history of Greenfield by collecting, researching and archiving written materials and artifacts that pertain to the town and its people. The grant funds the purchase of software to publish the first in a series of paperback books that bring the town's history to life in a family-friendly, easy-to-read, illustrated format.

Bennington Museum, Bennington, Vt.

Bennington Museum is a museum of art, history and innovation for Southern Vermont and nearby regions from the Eighteenth Century to the present. The grant supports research, plaque installation, curriculum development and related expenses to engage the community and partner with public schools on the Stopping Stones project. Stopping Stones is committed to positively and permanently affecting the lives of descendants of enslaved Americans.

For more information, www.historic-newengland.org.



Front elevation of the Dudley Digges House/Bray School in its original location on Prince George Street, Williamsburg, Va. Earl Gregg Swem photo, 1921. Courtesy Special Collections, John D. Rockefeller Jr Library, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Colonial Williamsburg, William & Mary Announce Bray School Future Location

WILLIAMSBURG, VA. — What is likely the oldest extant building in the northern hemisphere used for the purpose of educating enslaved and free Black children is relocating to Colonial Williamsburg's historic campus. Eight months after researchers from Colonial Williamsburg and William & Mary announced they had identified the original Williamsburg Bray School — and four months after the researchers conclusively verified its identity — the two organizations today announced the site of the building's future home on the

living-history museum's historic campus where it will become a central point of interpretive focus in the foundation's ongoing efforts to tell a more complete story of Eighteenth Century America.

Renovations performed over the years have obscured the original structure of the small, white building. The modern additions make it difficult to visualize the Eighteenth Century schoolhouse that has captured the attention of historians and the public alike.

That will change over the next several years when Colonial Williamsburg will remove

the modern additions to the building and transport it to its permanent home at the northwest corner of the intersection of Francis and South Nassau streets where it will be restored to its original state and used in the foundation's public history programming.

Upon its arrival, the Williamsburg Bray School will become the 89th original structure on Colonial Williamsburg's campus, and the first new addition to the foundation's cadre of historic buildings since the 1960s.

For additional information, www.wm.edu/sites/brayschool.

That will change over the next several years when Colonial Williamsburg will remove

the modern additions to the building and transport it to its permanent home at the northwest corner of the intersection of Francis and South Nassau streets where it will be restored to its original state and used in the foundation's public history programming.

For additional information, www.wm.edu/sites/brayschool.