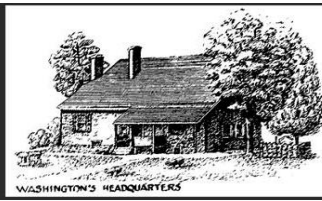


Washington's Headquarters  
State Historic Site  
Presents:



## 2026 MARTHA WASHINGTON WOMAN OF HISTORY AWARD

Each year, in honor of our original first lady, Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site presents the "Martha Washington Woman of History Award." The award recipient must be a woman who has demonstrated a contribution towards the education and preservation of history in the Hudson Valley. The recipient will receive her award at "The General's Lady," a Women's History Month program held each year in March. The recipient's name will receive a place of honor on the plaque showing past recipients of this award, and she will be invited to be part of the selection committee for future awardees.

Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site opened in 1850, making it the first publicly-owned historic site in the nation. The Commander-in-Chief, Gen. George Washington, established headquarters at Jonathan and Tryntje Hasbrouck's farmhouse from April 1, 1782 until August 19, 1783. This became the longest of his stays at any one of his over 65 headquarters during the 8½ years of the Revolution.

While here, the general, his wife, officers, and free and enslaved servants lived and worked in close quarters as guests came to meet with the Washingtons. During his time in Newburgh, Washington negotiated with a contentious congress while dealing with problems of supply, training, pay, morale and all other things that affected his troops. It was here that he rejected a suggestion of an American monarchy, defused a potential army mutiny, created the Badge of Military Merit, the forerunner of the Purple Heart medal, and offered advice on the future of the new republic later included in the constitution. On April 19, 1783, Washington's order for a "cessation of hostilities" was announced and he then dealt with the disbandment of the army.

An essential part of this equation was the presence of Martha Washington. Each winter during the war, Martha would travel to be with her husband. In Newburgh, Martha Washington relieved several responsibilities from the shoulders of her husband. She helped the aides-de-camp copy letters and orders, became the headquarters' hostess to the dignitaries and individuals looking to meet the general, embroidered her dining room chair covers for Mount Vernon, and maintained a garden.

### ELIGIBILITY and CRITERIA

Any woman who has made a significant contribution to the field of Hudson Valley history through education, promotion, or preservation is eligible to be nominated for this award. She can be someone who was involved in a project dealing with history and/or historic preservation. This individual must have been influential in promoting the study of Hudson Valley history even at its most basic or grassroots level.

All of this should be elaborated upon by way of example in the nomination form. Additional supportive material is encouraged. Linked webpages will **not** be accessible to the selection committee. The deadline for receipt of applications is **January 16, 2026**. Nominations will be reviewed by the selection committee made up of Washington's Headquarters staff and previous Woman of History Award recipients. The winner will be announced in early March and the award will be presented at "**The General's Lady**" on **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. For more information please call 845-562-1195 or email [whqshs@parks.ny.gov](mailto:whqshs@parks.ny.gov).



Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site is a registered National Historic Landmark. It is located at the corner of Liberty and Washington Streets in the city of Newburgh. The site is one of 35 historic sites within the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and is one of 28 facilities administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission in New York and New Jersey. For more information contact: [whqshs@parks.ny.gov](mailto:whqshs@parks.ny.gov) or (845) 562-1195. For more information about New York State Parks, visit [parks.ny.gov](http://parks.ny.gov).

Washington's Headquarters  
State Historic Site  
Presents:



## 2026 MARTHA WASHINGTON WOMAN OF HISTORY AWARD NOMINATION FORM

*Please answer all questions below. Please attach any additional pages and supporting materials as necessary. (Linked webpages will **not** be accessible to the Selection Committee) Application and materials will **not** be returned. Email or mail completed application and materials to:*

[whqshs@parks.ny.gov](mailto:whqshs@parks.ny.gov)

**Martha Washington Woman of History Award  
c/o Washington's Headquarters SHS  
PO Box 1783  
Newburgh, NY 12551**

*Deadline for **receipt** of applications is **January 16, 2026**.*

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How does the nominee demonstrate the characteristics of Martha Washington acknowledged by this award?

Did the nominee participate in opportunities that successfully encouraged the importance of education and promotion of history and/or historic preservation? What specific actions did she take that met with success? Has this led towards influencing the historic community to pursue further studies?

Has the nominee's actions and input benefitted the Hudson Valley historic community, generally or specifically? Have her actions culminated in a far-reaching impact?

Does the nominee do these things as part of a paid position? Is she effective beyond the scope of her position, do her job extremely successfully, or has she redefined her position?

To what degree has the nominee spent her own time, money, effort, energy and/or interest specifically towards the advancement of the Hudson Valley historic preservation movement, or towards the study of history?

Has the nominee been available to the public, via actions or words, regarding their regional history, the study of the same, its' preservation, or ultimately the passing of legislation? Will her actions leave a long-lasting impression?

What organizations or activities, if any, has the nominee been involved in that have been or may be relevant this this award? How has the nominee contributed to these programs? Please list volunteer and paid positions separately.

**Please use as many pages as necessary to answer these questions, and provide thoughts, comments, and supplemental material.**

*Thank you.*