

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



P.O. Box 1776 / RED HOOK, NEW YORK 12571

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Dear Friends,

Fall, 1983

"WHAT ARE THEY DOING WITH THAT OLD BUILDING?"

Perhaps you have asked yourself this question as you passed by the Elmendorph on Route 9 in the Village of Red Hook.

The Friends of Elmendorph, Inc., an enthusiastic not-for-profit group, dedicated to the preservation of the Inn, would like to answer this and other questions you may have.

"WHY HAVE THESE PEOPLE GIVEN SO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY TO A PLAIN OLD BUILDING?"

The Elmendorph is the oldest surviving structure in the Village of Red Hook (ca 1750-1760). It is a rare example of a simple early Hudson Valley home that served as a stagecoach stop and tavern on the Albany Post Road -- the important connection between New York and Albany. It was the community center of its day -- a place for Town Board Meetings, courts of law, the site of the FIRST Dutchess and Columbia County Agricultural Fair (1817) and the first area Kindergarten. Wide floor boards, huge beams, elaborately carved Federal mantles, early panelling, crown molding and six fireplaces are among its architectural treasures. It's history and architecture have placed it on the New York State and NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES!

"WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE?"

Since purchasing the building in 1977, the Friends have replaced the building sills, rebuilt the foundation walls and replaced first floor framing where necessary. The building is now stabilized.

During the last few months, a flurry of activity has resulted in a new look for the old inn. The shingles have been removed, exposing the old siding. The Victorian-era porches have come off, to be used on another restoration project in New York State.

"WHAT'S NEXT?"

This fall, the Friends will begin restoration of the west (front) facade, replacing the first floor windows and restoring those on the second floor. The doors will also be restored and new siding will be replaced where necessary. New gutters and leaders will be installed and the building will be PAINTED!

"HOW WILL THE ELMENDORPH BE USED IN THE FUTURE?"

The recent Folk Arts & Crafts Festival gave a taste of things to come. The Friends want the Inn to be used again to serve the community. A crafts center, meeting place for area groups, historical society headquarters, village historian's office, a Chamber of Commerce tourist information center, and perhaps, even a tea room, are among many potential uses for this wonderful old building.

"HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?"

WE WANT YOU to become part of the excitement of the preservation of this Hudson Valley landmark. By joining the Friends of Elmendorph, you will join your neighbors in showing that you CARE about saving an old Inn that was once an important part of this area's roots.

Just fill out the enclosed application -- let YOUR name become part of the building's history. If you want to be more actively involved, there is a place for you, as all the Elmendorph activities are planned and carried out by volunteers. For example, Robert T. McCarthy & Sons, Inc., will install electricity in the building for us. John Denter of Denter Sand & Gravel has donated sand, gravel and labor whenever we need him. Mel Jones of M.D. Painters has offered 100 hours of labor to paint the building. John Fish gave us a new lawn mower. Our Board of Directors volunteer their time, talents and energy.

Our "Elmendorph Etc." thrift shop is our biggest fund raiser and welcomes your donations of almost everything except clothing. Our shop is staffed by volunteers.

If you have any talents to share with us, from plumbing to baking, addressing newsletters or planning programs, there is a place for YOU!

JOIN the Friends of Elmendorph.

SHARE your time and talents

With your help, the Elmendorph will become an important community building once again.

Please fill out the enclosed application. Do it TODAY, please.

BE A PART OF IT!

Sincerely,

The Friends of Elmendorph, Inc.

P.S. Memberships and Donations are tax deductible. The Elmendorph is approved for IBM's matching two for one program.

"I AM ONLY ONE -- BUT I CAN DO SOMETHING"