

The "Queens Castle"



The building in front of you is called the "Queen's Castle." This building was a cabin built by architect Arthur Nash and completed by seven men in seven days. It was built for Elizabeth Smith Miller, and given to her by her daughter, Anne Fitzhugh Miller for her 77th Birthday (Sept. 20, 1899). It was the last building built at "Camp Fossenvue"

Today, memories of her remain strong as her initials can be found carved into the stone mantle of the fireplace.

The Queens Castle was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.



Women's Suffrage Connection...

The connection with women's suffrage and social reforms makes this building very important to the local area, as the Finger Lakes area of New York is rich in the history of the women's rights movement, abolitionism and social reform.

Elizabeth Smith Miller was the daughter of Gerrit Smith, an advocate of anti-slavery, women's rights, and temperance. He was also president of the NY Anti Slavery Society, a Congressman, and a Station Master for the Underground Railroad. His cousin was Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and she and Elizabeth were best friends.



Outdoor recreational activities for women were unheard of in the late 1800's, and it was something women of this social class simply did not do. The women that visited Fossenvue were very active in the women's suffrage movement, and engaged in theoretical, political, and philosophical discussions. Camp Fossenvue was not the norm. It was thought of as radical at the time, yet today we consider these things normal. The camp lasted for over a quarter of a century!



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