ZONE IV APPLICATION
FOR
ZONE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD
CITATION

While working in the field of Historic Preservation

Marjorie Blackman Elliott

has with vision, talent and leadership

enriched the lives of everyone around her.
To Whom It May Concern:

The Plainfield Garden Club would like to propose their member, Mrs. William P. Elliott, for The Garden Club of America Zone Historic Preservation Award. Her work in the field of historic preservation is exceptional and the results of her devoted study and interest outstanding.

She has a thorough and rounded knowledge of primitive and period furniture and of prints and paintings, costumes and early crafts.

She has an imaginative inspirational mind which seizes on a subject or project, investigates it, researches it and then she has the drive to bring it into being.

Whatever the project, it is developed into a thing of quality and interest. Witness: The Cannon Ball Museum small, but an authentic early American gem.

The project of moving the early 1760 worn- Frazee-Lee farm house saved more early American History in New Jersey from demolition! When settled on its new foundations, Marge restored every nook and cranny from iron hinges and door pulls and latches and old tin lighting fixtures, to its
original style (but it does have a new gas stove) to make it home for Judge and Mrs. William P. Elliott.

This event is now a lecture "House on Wheels" given many times over at Historical Society, Colonial Dames and Garden Club meetings. The landscaping, which sets off the house is simple, authentic and charming from the Wisteria Arbor - the original out buildings, barns and a silo moved with the house - to the round vegetable garden complete with a fence of cordon apple trees.

Mrs. Elliott was a qualified Volunteer at the Plainfield, North Plainfield Historical Society's 1746 Drake House Museum, (National Register of Historic Places) where she restored and stenciled the walls of two rooms, some of the furniture, and she stenciled rugs on the wide floor boards, "as in the old days, paint was cheaper than wool."

Mrs. Elliott became aware of the mural and wall paintings of Rufus Porter, an early New England journey-man painter. After study and research she was able to decorate the walls of two special dining rooms with "Porter style" murals at the Stage House Inn (1737) in Scotch Plains.

The Inn was a regular stop of The Swift and Sure Stage enroute on the Old Post Road from New York City to Philadelphia and now is still serving meals; the keystone in the preserved historic district of Scotch Plains.
In 1972 after many tedious meetings with the Scotch Plains Planning Board and Town Council, Mrs. Elliott (now President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historical Society) got approval to dedicate a little 1750 all original house situated on the grounds of the Town Hall as the Osborn-Cannonball Museum.

This museum is her pride and joy and the target of her affection. As Curator she has seen to it that the best available artifacts went into it and she has combed New Jersey to furnish it. She ascensioned donations and supported it, in part, with frequent Seasonal sales of jellies and condiments, breads, dried herbs - some made into wreaths, Christmas decorations and the like.

Probably the greatest effort went into mounting two outstanding, period fashion shows "Belles and Beaux" 4/7/74 and "Bonnets, Bustles, Bloomers and Bikinis" 4/12/75. The history of fashion has always been of great interest, and the depth and variety collected by Mrs. Elliott at the Cannonball is an example. It took courage, stamina and devotion to pair costumes and models and orchestrate the progression from 1700 to 1976.

Mrs. Elliott received the Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Award in 1985. Mrs. Elliott has exhibited in the International Flower Show in New York City - winning a 1st in the 1963
mailing class and five seconds between 1949 and 1960.

She won The Medal of Merit in 1976.

Throughout her many achievements she has exhibited vision, leadership, administrative ability, taste, perseverance and graciousness. We look forward to your favorable consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally L. Kroll

Mrs. Stephen A. Kroll
President
Plainfield Garden Club
March 1, 1990

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to propose Mrs. William Elliott for recognition of the many things she has done for The Historical Society of Scotch Plains-Fanwood, The Cannon Ball Museum in particular.

Marge's ideas of planting trees and adding an herb garden at the kitchen door of the 18th Century Cannon Ball House plus a grape arbor out behind are authentic to the period, tasteful, and a great addition to the House. Most important to the success of any planting is constant maintenance; a committee has been "committed" for fifteen years and the garden is always in perfect order.

Marge not only worked in the garden but she helped in the restoration, decorating, and maintenance of this unique small house which stands in the center of Scotch Plains adjacent to the Town Hall on the Village Green.

Her efforts and attachment to the small museum make it what is is, one of the finest in New Jersey!

I have worked with Mrs. Elliott on this restoration and the furnishings and I know how thorough and careful she has been in everything that has been done there.

I am sure her efforts and what has been accomplished here, will be, as they are now, appreciated for years to come.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., A.I.A.
March 1, 1990

Garden Club of America

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a distinct pleasure for me to endorse the nomination of Marjorie Elliott (Mrs. William) to be the recipient of the prestigious "Zone Historic Preservation Award". Furthermore it is my understanding that this award is for outstanding achievements in preservation and restoration of a house-public building, garden site or district of historic value within New Jersey. In my opinion Mrs. Elliott certainly qualifies and in every way answers the description of the award for the following reasons:

Mrs. Elliott has been one of the vibrant Presidents of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historic Society, and in concert with Charles Detwiller worked together to establish the Stage House Inn and Cannonball House conservation restoration project. The history of Scotch Plains is deeply interwoven with the history of our Country since the Township was settled in 1684. Having the historic Cannon Ball House (circa 1760) faithfully restored and located on the Scotch Plains Village Green passive park serves as a vivid reminder of the colonial heritage of the Township.

In addition Mrs. Elliott has put on two dramatic fashion shows from her collection of period dresses that drew statewide attention.

During the Winter many different and interesting programs have been provided during "open house" on Sunday afternoons during which antique dolls and doll houses were shown as well as old crafts were demonstrated and displayed, such as stenciling and quilting, and the making of jellies, jams and preserves.

Furthermore, Mrs. Elliott was a driving force behind the necessary funding of the project such as the sale of plants and wreaths at Christmastime, or dried flowers and herbs, all of which helped to raise additional funds for this project.
. In addition Mrs. Elliott is a recognized lecturer for historic programs, for garden clubs, and other appropriate functions.

In closing may I say that Mrs. Elliott is a grand and gracious lady who, if chosen, would lend additional stature to your very noteworthy award.

Very truly yours,

Alan M. Augustine
Deputy Mayor
Garden Club Spruces Up Cannonball House Museum

This Spring Cannonball House Museum has a new look — thanks to the Plainfield Garden Club. For their Bi-Centennial project, Garden Club members voted to help restore the landscaping around the historic Scotch Plains house as it might have looked during Colonial times.

Since 18 of the Plainfield Garden club members are Scotch Plains residents and many are also members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historic Society, the club enthusiastically committed itself to raising money for the landscaping project.

Mrs. Virginia Frost, a Scotch Plains landscape gardener and Plainfield Garden club member, drew up a master plan for the grounds around Cannonball House, and work began early this Spring. First the old hedge had to be removed from in front of the house. Next the overgrown bushes and ancient cedar trees in the backyard had to go. A new brick walk was laid leading to the front porch and a Colonial-type board fence was installed. Many new shrubs and trees were planted including four boxwoods, two holly and a dogwood. The landscaping “master plan” still has many areas to be completed such as a Colonial herb garden and back-yard trees and hedges. Officers of the Cannonball House museum have established a special “landscaping” account for money donated specifically for this purpose. Mrs. William Elliott, president of the Historic Society, hopes that clubs and other organizations within the community will be interested in supporting the landscaping project.

On Sunday afternoon, May 2, Cannonball House Museum will recognize the new plantings with a dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. Honored guests will include Mrs. Alden Locust, president of the Plainfield Garden club and the many club members who helped make the landscaping dream become a reality. Spring flowers arranged in antique containers will add a festive air to the many interesting exhibits inside the old home. Cannonball House museum is located on Front Street in Scotch Plains across the street from the Stage House Inn. The public is cordially invited to tour the grounds and the house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.
New Colonial gardens are unveiled at Village Green

A garden patch straight out of Colonial Williamsburg, debuted in Scotch Plains this week, as the local Historical Society sponsored an old-fashioned outdoor tea party to show off the recently completed garden. Ladies in the lovely pastels and flowered print dresses of summer strolled the brick and chip paths to admire the latest addition to the Village Green Park adjacent to the municipal building.

The gardens about the Cannonball Museum. Behind low white fences next to the museum is a geometric garden. Brick paths create a six-sided walkway around a center plot of geraniums, boxwood and yew. Broad corner borders are planted with impatiens and tiny boxwood. Another section of the enclosed garden includes orderly rows of herbs - wormwood, southernwood, winter savory, parsley, lambs ears, etc.

Behind the fenced garden is a second garden, with divided planting sections featuring beautiful examples of Colonial horticulture. The


Behind the Cannonball House, an arbor awaits the planting of grapes, banks of myrtle have been planted, and the old time "privy" has been enhanced with simple landscaping which includes a second large rock - a fossilized rock which had been on the grounds of the tiny museum.

The landscaping of Cannonball began as a Bicentennial project in 1976, when the Garden Club of Plainfield contributed $3,000. The initial contribution went toward gardening in front of the museum - holly tree, dogwood, and fencing. The latest formal gardens were funded as part of the total township Village Green project. Virginia Frost, a prominent Colonial landscape gardener from Plainfield, designed the gardens.

Mayor Alan Augustine in a subdued khaki suit, and Township Engineer Edward Bogan, were the two sober notes among the pastels. Augustine was highly enthusiastic about the new park and expressed his dedication to maintaining the entire new complex in "green" condition. An effort will be made to establish continuity among the maintenance staff, so that the same workmen are always assigned to Village Green. Augustine said, and the township will set the same high standards of greenskepping that now receive top priority at the municipal golf course.

Viewing the rows of Colonial herbs, Augustine quipped: "I call this "herbal renewal!"
The Scotch Plains
Tercentennial Fashion Show - Luncheon

SHACKAMAXON COUNTRY CLUB
Scotch Plains, New Jersey
April 7, 1984

Presents
“Belles and Beaux”
1684 - 1984

As a contribution to the Tercentennial Celebration of the Township of Scotch Plains the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historical Society takes pleasure in welcoming you to a show of fashions, “Belles and Beaux” of long ago. These costumes will epitomize the varied life of the area.

We thank you for participating and trust that you will feel yourselves part of the yesteryears at the “Belles and Beaux” come to life before you.

- MENU -

Fruit Cup
Chicken Kiev with Rice
Broccoli with Butter Sauce
Candied Carrots
Chocolate Parfait
Coffee - Rolls

- COMMITTEE -

Mrs. L. Bartell, Mrs. C. Bartell, Mrs. F. Caggiari, Mrs. D. Cheerington, Mrs. R. Clark, Mrs. J. Coulter, Mrs. C. Easie, Mrs. C. Fischer, Mrs. E. Goldin, Mrs. E. Greenley, Mrs. R. Hackman, Mrs. J. Hatton, Mrs. J. Hein, Mrs. V. King, Mrs. E. Krohe, Mrs. F. Leistrich, Mrs. J. Leppert, Mrs. V. Landner, Mrs. J. Nadeau, Mrs. M. Metz, Miss N. Munick, Mrs. C. N. Pend, Mrs. A.D. Sutliff and Mrs. S. Spence.
Decoupage Exhibit

SCOTCH PLAINS - An exhibit of decoupage work will be featured at the old Cannonball House on Sunday afternoon, March 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. Mrs. William Elliott of this town will have samples of decoupage. The historic museum house is located on Front Street here, directly across from the Stage House Inn. Mrs. William Elliott will sketch the steps required to make a finished piece. The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood cordially invites anyone interested in the history of our local communities to visit the Cannonball House.

Historic house tour

A Holiday House Tour, co-sponsored by six area historical societies, will be conducted Sunday afternoon, Dec. 4, to raise funds to support six area museums. Hostesses in colonial costumes will demonstrate crafts, describe the history of the individual buildings and serve refreshments. Among the houses are the Cannonball House, Scotch Plains, top, where adjacent buildings have been removed preparatory to creating a Village Green. Inside the house, bottom, Mrs. William Rupp of the Drake House Museum, Plainfield, Mrs. William P. Elliott, president of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, and Mrs. Orvil S. Gaster, chairman of the tour, inspect a pewter teapot which is on display. Other museums will include the Merchants and Drapers Tavern, Rahway; The Shottwell House, Metuchen; The Miller-Cory House Museum, Westfield; and the old farm house, Clark. Tickets at $5 for adults and $4 for senior citizens and students.

Paisley prints to be featured at Museum

Colorful, intricately designed paisley prints will be featured at the Osborn Cannonball Museum on Sat., Feb. 8. Visitors are invited to tour the museum and enjoy the exhibit from 2 to 4 p.m. Mrs. Harriet Elliott, museum curator, has assembled the interesting exhibit. Many of the items on display belong to the museum and others have been loaned by members of the local Historical Society.

One of the smaller scarves once belonged to Mrs. Stour, the historic Old Stour home stood where the Fanwood municipal building now stands. Another scarf, black with a paisley border, belonged to the Quaker granddaughter of Mrs. J.H. Hatfield, a Trustee of the Historical Society. Mrs. Emma Sampson, widow of former Scotch Plains mayor, has donated a large typed

grandfather who came to the United States from Wales many years ago. In addition to the shawl and scarf, the exhibit will include a paisley coat, hat and a skirt.

The paisley print design originated in the northern part of India, near Tibet, but the name Paisley came from a town in Scotland. This Scottish town is one of the world's largest centers for production of cotton threads. During the 1800s, paisley-patterned shawls were the town's chief product. Shawls became a necessary part of the fashion-conscious woman's wardrobe because cotton could not be worn over the heavy and brocaded dresses of the day. The Osborn Cannonball House Museum, maintained by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historical Society, is located adjacent to the Village Green.

‘Theorem’ At Cannonball

The art of ‘theorem’ painting will be demonstrated at the old Cannonball House Museum on Sunday, March 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. Mrs. William Elliott, president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historical Society, will demonstrate this early American form of decoration. Although examples of theorem painting date back to the Colonial times, it reached its peak of popularity in the Victorian period. Theorem painting was used to decorate and make more attractive, many common household articles. Mrs. Elliott will have tin ware, chairs and pictures on display that she has decorated with the theorem technique.
Mayor's Beautification Committee of Plainfield

Honors

The Plainfield Garden Club

for perfect maintenance of Park Avenue Mini-Park

1970 - 1978

December 4, 1978

Date

Mayor
It Was All Bustles, Bonnets And Bows At Shackamaxon

Scotch Plains stepped back into its past last Saturday, as dozens of models demonstrated the appropriate manner of dress through over a century years. The event was a luncheon-fashion show, entitled "From Bustles, Bonnets, Blooms to Bikinis." It was the first major undertaking of the Scotch Plains American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, and if the fall house is any clue of what's to come, Scotch Plains Bicentennial activities will be overwhelmingly supported.

The show features over 30 costumes, running the gamut from the 1700's to the present. The costumes came from local art's from Drake House Museum in Fairfiled, from old time collectors such as Mrs. Clarence Show, Mrs. Walter Van Hornes, Mrs. Alice, Deed and Mr. and Mrs. William Elliott and from such modern manufacturers as Jastman Swee Near.

Mrs. William P. Elliott was chairman of the event.

As they modeled themselves into members of the Historical Society, Women's Club afternoon, evening and junior division, College and Suburban clubs, they were described by character Mrs. Elizabeth Brown of Princeton, lecturer and a member of the Costume Society of America. She expressed the manner in which fashion reappears itself throughout the ages, pointing out the coating lengthening and shortening of styles.

There were "coats and tails" for many of the creations, from delicately embroidered 18th century gowns to modern day bikinis, topped by a colorfully red-white-blue striped suit, Catherine Devitt, wife of Charles Devitt, president of the local Historical Society, wore an 1872 gown which had belonged to her grandmother-in-law. It was a summer organdy with overlay in front and rear. Also from the 1920's or 30's was a striking dress of green with white striped and white organdy, worn by Mrs. P. Craig Burns. Fancy hooded and crocheted dresses weren't only fashions which attracted attention, however. From 1910 there was an Annipla uniform, and from 1913 era, a Wellesley gym out, Arlene Delury modeled a 1940's Hollywood original dress with shoulder pads, while Lynn Bupp appeared in a black strapless evening gown worn to a Ball at Seaport State in the 1940's. The show ran the gamut from informality, evidenced by an 1890's bathing suit and outer to a very formal black velvet and silver ball gown worn to Calvin Coolidge's inauguration in 1923.

Cannonball Museum Hosts Tea Party

"Abigail of Cannonball House cordially invites you to a Christmas tea party on Sunday, Dec. 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Victorian Room.

This is the invitation extended by Abigail, the antique doll who resides at Cannonball House Museum, to her "doll friends" owned by Mrs. Webster Sanford of Fanwood.

Abigail was acquired several years ago by Mrs. Wm. Elliott, president of the Scotch Plaun/Fanwood Historic Society. The blonde, plump-headed doll had been packed away in a trunk for many years before she was displayed in the window of Addy's Antique Shop. There Mrs. Elliott spotted her, fell in love with her and brought her home to the old museum house where she greets visitors every Sunday afternoon.

Abigail will be wearing her very prettiest party dress when she serves tea and cookies from an old Staffordshire tea set. Her guests will include a 70-year-old blonde clown-head doll wearing a pink silk organza dress, black kid slippers tied with bows, a blue hat covered with lace and carrying a matching silk parasol. Another guest will be a 100 year old doll with fixed blue eyes. She will be wearing a period wedding dress and her entire trouseau will be displayed including all her lace undergarments, laces and going-away suit. The Campbell Soup twins will also be there as will an old china doll with brown eyes and red hair. Mrs. Sandford inherited many of these dolls from family members and through the years she has added to her collection. She hopes that some of her dolls will be busy with Christmas preparations - making cookies, decorating the tree, etc.