

GOMEZ MILL HOUSE c.1714



Museum and Historic Site

The History of Our Nation is Embedded in These Walls

March 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carroll Cook

845-236-3126 gomezmillhouse@gomez.org

RUTH ABRAHAMS TO RETIRE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOMEZ FOUNDATION FOR MILL HOUSE AND GOMEZ MILL HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

Dr. Ruth K. Abrahams retires this month as Executive Director of the Gomez Foundation for Mill House and the Gomez Mill House Historic Site. Dr. Abrahams has been with the Gomez organization for 16 years. As of April 1, she will serve on the Gomez Foundation for Mill House board of trustees as secretary.

“My time at the Gomez Foundation for Mill House and the Museum has been most rewarding,” says Abrahams. “It was the perfect position to use my years of professional experience in institutional development and as a historian and educator. I look forward to serving on the board and contributing to the exciting future of this remarkable site.”

During Abrahams’ tenure, she raised over \$1.5 million from New York State, special events, foundations, corporations and individual donors. Funds underwrote capacity development and upgrades to all operations, public programs, conservation and collections management, school programs, and special projects such as the inauguration of new annual topical exhibits and, in 2014, the 300th anniversary of the Gomez Mill House. Major capital projects included site improvements and restoration of historic brick walkways, replacement of the Mill House slate roof, a new roof and improvements to the visitors’ center, stabilization and restoration of the iconic Dard Hunter Paper Mill, and a new parking lot and visitor reception area. Abrahams also conducted extensive research that led to the discovery of new, primary documentation and images that verified long-held theories and oral history about the site, and added insight into the lives and contributions of each owner.

Her recommendation to consolidate the Foundation and Mill House operations at the historic Marlboro site after her retirement was approved by the Foundation trustees in 2015. The transition is continuing with the appointment of Carroll Cook, an educator and founding director of the Saratoga Automobile Museum, as the new director of the Gomez Mill House. The consolidation and transition will be completed by the end of 2017.

The Gomez Foundation for Mill House is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) established to support the preservation, conservation, and public programs of the Gomez Mill House and Historic Site.

Gomez Mill House is the oldest surviving Jewish dwelling in North America and home to Jewish pioneer merchant Luis Moses Gomez, Revolutionary patriot Wolfert Ecker, 19th^h C Hudson Valley industrial and agricultural leaders the Armstrongs, paper craftsman and historian Dard Hunter, and social activist Martha Gruening. Located in Marlboro, New York, it is the oldest historic residence in Orange County listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information and site tour reservations, visit www.gomez.org or call 845-236-3126.

###