



A NEWLY-NAMED state historic site, Haledon Hall today houses the registration and admission office on the William Paterson College campus.

WPC's Haledon Hall Is Cited

WAYNE — A 19th Century William Paterson College building has been recognized as a state historic site by the Department of Environmental Protection's State Review Committee for Historic Sites.

Haledon Hall, a 100-year-old campus building, was once the hub of social and political functions in Pater-

son during the early 1900's, when occupied by the family of the 24th Vice President of the United States, Garret Hobart.

In conjunction with the college's ongoing bicentennial activities, the WPC Bicentennial Historic Site Committee, chaired by Ron McArthur, researched the historical significance of

Haledon Hall, formerly known as Hobart Manor House.

"Since George Washington never slept here and Vice President Hobart never even lived here, we approached the building's significance in terms of architecture," said McArthur, whose committee was named by Mrs. Virginia

Randall, retired coordinator of alumni affairs, and Mrs. Sally Burke, retired college librarian.

Having escaped destruction and the massive renovations that other such buildings have undergone, the campus structure stands as one of the last remaining "Victorian castles" in the area. Buildings of this style were once popular in northern New Jersey.

Haledon Hall now houses the college's registration, admissions, and academic advisement offices among others. The interior still reflects its past grandeur with numerous structural evidences of a 19th Century upper class home.

Most of WPC's campus grounds were once part of the Hobart family's estate, Ailsa Farms, which was purchased by the state in 1948 for \$200,000.

Haledon Hall is now being considered for recognition as a national historic site by the National Park Service in Washington.

"I think we'll get recognition since the state has approved it," McArthur, assistant director of admissions at WPC, said. "If the past can be a prologue to the future, I think we'll be named."

The college Bicentennial Committee has asked the state for funding to restore some of the refurbished parts of the building to their former appearance.