

The Berkshire Eagle - Wednesday, May 8, 1973



First Lady, Mrs. Richard Nixon and Mrs. Lawrence K. Miller of Pittsfield admire the trophy Mrs. Miller received yesterday in Washington D.C. from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in recognition for her restoration of Hancock Shaker Village. The award was designed by Arthur King of New York, and consists of crystallized white calcite set in silver.

Mrs. Lawrence K. Miller of Pittsfield, restorer and developer of Hancock Shaker Village, was one of seven persons honored today by the National Trust for Historic Preservation at its annual awards luncheon in Washington. Mrs. Richard M. Nixon presented the awards to the seven recipients.

Mrs. Miller was cited "in recognition of her energy and perseverance in rescuing, renovating and preserving Hancock Shaker Village, one of the very few communities that remain to illustrate the communitarian life, distinctive architecture and furnishings of the shakers. "When this community was finally dissolved in 1960, Mrs. Miller determined that though moribund, it was an important documentation of this remarkable sect and a way of life that should be preserved. With high standards of professionalism, discernment, a deep

commitment, infectious enthusiasm and always with grace and kindness, she set about her task. The result is the splendid restoration of Hancock Shaker Village, an achievement of significance to all of New England and to the history of the shakers of America".

Mrs. Miller's efforts to preserve and develop the century-old settlement, including the famous round barn, began in 1960, when the community was dissolved. In the 13 years since then, existing buildings have been restored, one moved here from a former colony in Maine and renovated, and the collection of Shaker artifacts greatly enlarged.

Mrs. Miller also won recognition in 1970 for her restoration of the village, when Williams College awarded her an honorary Master of Arts degree.