



Beverly Fluty – *Public Service*

Bev Fluty, a New Englander by birth, was a college trained medical technician and a historic preservationist and historian. She spent her early years in Farmington, Connecticut, earned a degree from Westbrook College, and worked in hospitals of her native state and in Boston.

Her family (husband Bill and daughters Wendy and Holly) moved to Denver in the 1960s, and there she developed a deep interest in and passion for historic preservation. She joined the Colorado State Historic Society and contributed to the design and development of Denver's Larimer Square, a project begun in 1965 to transform Denver's oldest section into what now is the city's trendiest neighborhood. Before that project could be completed, however, the family moved to Wheeling in 1968, in time to experience its bicentennial in 1969.

She quickly became involved in all aspects of Wheeling's history. In 1970, she played a role in founding the Friends of Wheeling and participated in various projects at Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum. Hers was an important voice in the newly formed Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation's efforts to promote and protect the city's historic landmarks. Her greatest contributions were devoted to restoration of West Virginia Independence Hall and the Suspension Bridge, Wheeling's National Historic Landmarks; on both projects, she partnered with Emory Kemp, the state's premier industrial historian. Together they published "The Wheeling Suspension Bridge: A Pictorial History." For 17 years, she served as president of the West Virginia Independence Hall Foundation.

She wrote the historic preservation applications for the Suspension Bridge, West Virginia Independence Hall, and the Centre Market and served as an advisor for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service.

She conducted field trips for schoolchildren, teaching appreciation for their heritage by having them just "looking up." She lectured to civic groups and area historic societies, presented preservation panels, promoted preservation in print and on television, held memberships in the Wheeling Historical Society and Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum Committee, assisted with the development of Oglebay's Glass Museum, sat on the board of the Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation, contributed pictorial research for the Junior League's "The Best of Wheeling" and "Wheeling: An Illustrated History," provided research for "The Shepherds and Their Mansion," and compiled her famous "The Final But Incomplete List of Things Made in Wheeling."

Until her death in 2009, she was, in the words of Wheeling Hall of Fame Member Hydie Friend, "an unstoppable historic preservationist." She loved her adopted city and used her talents to save its heritage. When two plots became available in the oldest section of Greenwood Cemetery, she and Bill purchased them as their final resting places. She now is forever a part of Wheeling's history.