

The Banner

Newsletter of The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

Volume 29

2nd Quarter

May 2011



Right to Left: John Lanc, BCT Advisory Council, Kurt Hirschberg, Architect for Jan Hird Pokorny, Shawn McShea, Ken McShea Contractor, Carpenter.

Photo by Neil Caplan

LONG-AWAITED BANNERMAN ISLAND RESIDENCE STABILIZATION PROJECT BEGINS!

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is pleased to announce that after much planning and anticipation, The Bannerman Island Residence Emergency Stabilization Project is under way and going strong! The project will be completed on or about the first week of July 2011. The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. received an Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Challenge Grant to stabilize Frank Bannerman's historic and endangered residence, located on Pollepel Island in the Hudson River. The grant match is funded in part by generous donations from various private foundations and individuals, as well as by grants from The Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency, Senator Stephen Saland (a member item for masonry repair), The Dyson Foundation, and Ginsburg Development, among others.

After receiving the EPF Grant, the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. advertised for preservation architects and selected Jan Hird Pokorny Associates (JPA) of New York City to design emergency measures to preserve and protect the former Bannerman residence. In 2009, following review and approval of the project design by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. advertised for construction contractors and provided a site tour to 37 representatives from various contractors/prospective bidders. The lowest qualified bid was submitted by Ken McShea House Doctor, who is currently constructing the stabilization project, under the oversight of Michael Devonshire and Kurt Hirschberg of JPA.

The Bannerman Family Residence (part of the Bannerman Castle complex) was constructed and expanded between 1908 and 1918 to resemble a Scottish castle by Frank Bannerman IV. Bannerman lived at his castle warehouse during the summer, where he stored and sold antique military equipment from the Spanish American War and the U.S. Civil War. Bannerman's business was perhaps the first 'Army Navy Store' in the country, and he is credited with saving both Civil War and Spanish American War relics.

(continued page 3)



Bannerman Residence, Circa 1918 -1920,

Photo: Anne Bannerman Collection

BANNERMAN ISLAND TOURS CONTINUE DURING CONSTRUCTION.

The Bannerman Island Hard Hat Tours begin May 7th onboard Hudson River Adventure's tour boat, The Pollepel. The boat departs every Saturday and Sunday at 12 :00 noon from Newburgh, NY (Torches Landing), and at 1:30 p.m. from the Beacon Ferry Dock, Beacon, NY. Friday tours are available starting in July.

Book directly online by going to:
www.prideofthehudson.com/pollepel-schedule.shtml
or call (800) 979-3370.

The Banner

Volume 29 May 2011

First Quarter
EDITORIAL STAFF

Editorial Staff	Neil Caplan
	Len Warner
Press Representative	D.A. Associates
Facebook Web Master	John Morzan
Website Master	Barbara Gottlock

ART AND DESIGN

Coat of Arms	Jane Bannerman
Castle Illustration	E. Virginia Donovan

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

Executive Director

Neil Caplan

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 BCT Attorney



MISSION

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is a not-for-profit "Friends" organization of volunteers working with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Trust is dedicated to bringing together resources and funding to stabilize the buildings on Pollepel Island. The Trust aims to raise awareness and educate the public and government organizations on the value and history of the island. The Trust aims to raise funds for repairing the island, creating a master plan and eventually stabilizing the structures. The Trust is working to make the island safe for volunteers and for the public to enjoy the island as an educational, cultural, historical and recreational facility promoting heritage tourism in the Hudson Valley.

Become a "FRIEND" or a Volunteer

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. invites you to become a "Friend of Bannerman Castle".

Help us preserve the castle.

For information call:

Neil Caplan, President (845)-831-6346

www.bannermancastle.org

The Banner is published by the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. All opinions expressed by contributors to The Banner do not necessarily reflect the opinions or official policies of The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

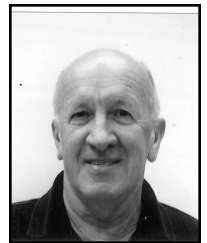
BCT WELCOMES NEW BOARD AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS!

The BCT Board of Directors is pleased to announce the election of **Robert McKenna** a BCT Director and co-founder of the BCT, to the position of Vice President.

A native of the Hudson Valley, Robert grew up in Hyde Park and graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. He is married with four children and four grandchildren. Robert and his wife, Mary Anne, have lived in New Paltz for twenty-two years. He retired in 2009 after 31 years of municipal government service. Robert holds a B.S. degree in Psychology from Fordham University and an M.P.A. in Government from Pace University. Currently, Robert works for the U.S. Census Bureau and acted as Director of Planning and Development, City of Newburgh, NY from 2002-2008. He was responsible for the city's planning and economic development programs, where he made successful applications for numerous grants, including New York Main Street and New York Department of State waterfront revitalization programs. He served as Administrative Director of the Newburgh Industrial Development Agency, overseeing the development and completion of the city's 2008 Master Plan. He also served as Acting City Manager for six months, 2003-2004. Robert was the Director of Housing and Community Renewal for the City of Newburgh from 1988-2002.

He is responsible for planning and administering the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the City of Newburgh (\$1 million annually), which funded and/or assisted in the development of over 500 units of affordable housing. He oversaw the completion and submission of the city's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan to New York State. Community involvement includes former member of Board of Directors of Amos and Sarah Holden Home in Newburgh, as well as a former member of the Parish Council (three years as president) at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in New Paltz. Robert is also a New York State High School Track and Field Officer and is one of the founding members of The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

The BCT welcomes **John Lanc** to the BCT Advisory Council. John is a principal engineer for Lanc and Tully Engineers and Land Surveyors. His firm provides municipal engineering services to the Towns of Hamptonburgh, Chester, Mamakating and Wawarsing; the Villages of Monroe, Montgomery, Harri-man; Goshen, Walden, and, the City of Beacon.



John's company have been professional consultants for Newburgh, Blooming Grove, East Fishkill, Montgomery, Wall-kill, Village of Washingtonville, City of Middletown, and Orange County. Lanc and Tully are involved in the design of municipal water supply systems, sanitary sewer systems, storm drainage, road reconstructions, and site plans for shopping centers, Orange Regional Medical Center, condos, sub-divisions and survey boundaries. John has worked with the BCT gardeners, and with his wife Melanie, spent each Wednesday clearing brush, and, last year, John oversaw a controlled burn on the island to remove brush.

The BCT would like to thank outgoing Vice President **Ray Armater** for all of his hard work. Ray is currently the Director of Montgomery Place and will continue to work with us on our Advisory Council.

The BCT welcomes **Cameron Chiusano**, our new Island Steward and boat operator. Special thanks to **Eugene Martin**, 2010 Volunteer of the Year.



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Bannerman Residence Stabilization includes new floors and a roof system
 Photos: 1. Second Floor Guest Room, 2. Living Room Fireplace, 3. Dining Room, 4. Second Floor
 Photos: 1, 4 and 5 by Thom Johnson. Photos 2 and 3 by Neil Caplan

(continued from page 1)

LONG-AWAITED BANNERMAN ISLAND RESIDENCE STABILIZATION PROJECT BEGINS!

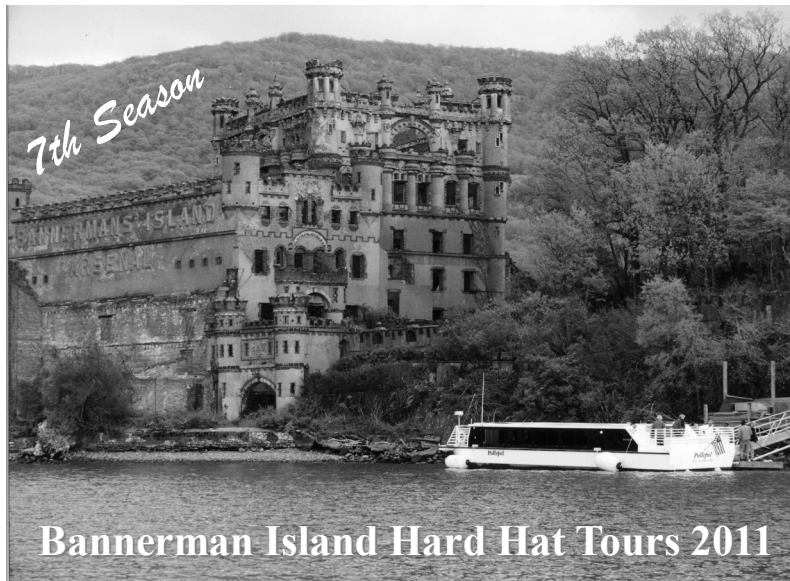
The residence was the last major structure built on the island and represents an exceptional example of Americana architecture at the turn of the century. The structures on Bannerman Island were built according to Bannerman’s unique vision and were constructed from recycled materials, including Victorian bed frames and 1901 ‘rod’ bayonets. Bannerman Castle is the only castle of its kind in the world, and without emergency measures to stabilize and preserve it, we will lose this important Hudson River landmark.

The Bannerman Residence Stabilization represents an initial phase to protect the residence and includes installation of a new roof system, new first and second floors, a set of temporary stairs, and security panels/shutters. The stabilization measures are intended to protect the structure from the elements and to reinforce the building shell. (Historic and interior finishes are not included in this project. Electrical facilities are also not included in this project, as green technology is being investigated.)

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. would like to thank all of our donors, as well as the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Grants Office; Jan Hird Pokorny Associates; Ken McShea House Doctor; Hudson River Adventures; M & T Bank, Beacon; and all of the volunteers and friends who are making this project possible.

Based on current construction estimates, there will be additional matching funds available from the EPF Grant that may be used for the emergency stabilization of the remaining tower walls (the larger ‘warehouse’ castle on the island) that survived the tragic 2009/10 collapse. We need to raise an additional \$120,000 that can be matched in order to design and initiate a shoring and bracing system to secure the iconic tower wall. You can help by making a tax-deductible donation online via our website.

DONATE ONLINE
www.bannermancastle.org.



'Discover the Mystery', 'Explore the History' onboard Hudson River Adventure's vessel, THE POLLEPEL. Your Bannerman Island adventure begins at the Newburgh or Beacon waterfront. Every Saturday and Sunday, May through October, the Pollepel departs Torches Landing at the Newburgh waterfront at 12:00 noon and from the Beacon Ferry dock in Beacon, NY at 1:30 p.m. Book your Bannerman Island walking tour directly online by going to: www.prideofthehudson.com/pollepelschedule.shtml

**Call Zerve to book by phone at
1-800-979-3370**

CHECK OUT OUR BCT COMMERCIAL ON CABLEVISION

The BCT has created two fifteen second commercials to promote the preservation of Bannerman Island. The first asks for donations and the second promotes Bannerman Island Hard Hat Tours. The commercials can be seen in western Westchester and in Dutchess County, including Cold Spring in Putnam, and Highland and Lloyd in Ulster, from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight. Let us know if you spot one. Special thanks to Cablevision for producing commercials for us. You can also view commercials on You Tube.

DONATE TO STABILIZE THE REMAINING TOWER WALLS ON BANNERMAN ISLAND

With the completion of Bannerman Residence Phase One Stabilization, please help us save what is left of the iconic tower walls that face the west side of the Hudson River. Make a tax-deductible donation, by going to our website at www.bannermancastle.org, or fill out the application on page five. If everyone in the Hudson Valley would donate \$10.00 we would have enough to save and preserve these unique Hudson Valley landmarks. For further information on how to help, call Neil Caplan at 845-234-3204.

VOLUNTEERS WORK TO REBUILD A DONATED DOCK FOR THE EAST SHORE

An old floating dock was refurbished by BCT volunteers Thom Johnson, Neil Caplan and Cameron Chiusano. BCT Advisory Council Member John Lawrence secured the donation of the dock so it could be used on the east side of the river across from Bannerman Island to ferry Bannerman volunteers and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation officials to Bannerman Island. The lumber for the project was donated by John Lawrence. This dock will make it easier to get back and forth to the island from the east side.

Special thanks to *John Lawrence, Thom Johnson* and *Cameron Chiusano* for their efforts.



Floating dock at the work yard at Lawrence Farms.

Photo by Thom Johnson

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is working to expand our membership with new friends, as well as having our faithful members continue their renewals. They currently support the work of the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. and for that we are grateful. Our goal is to build our membership by adding a minimum of 200 *new* Friends a year. We ask that past Friends renew their membership. We have added more benefits this year for current members. If you receive a complimentary copy of *The Banner*, we ask that you help with a donation of membership to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

The Banner will be delivered online. Only current members will receive a hard copy. Those individuals who want to continue to receive our newsletter and event information will have to go to www.bannermancastle.org. Since we have not delivered online before, we do not have e-mail addresses for everyone on our list. Please send your e-mail address to neilcaplan@aol.com. (Please put Bannerman Membership in subject line.)

SPECIAL THANKS TO M&T BANK OF BEACON for their support for the Bannerman Residence Stabilization.

THE BANNERMAN RESIDENCE IN ITS HEYDAY

1.



Photo 1. Frank and Helen Bannerman entertain “The Manly Boy’s Club of Brooklyn” in the living room of their residence on Bannerman Island. Every summer, Mr. and Mrs. Bannerman would host underprivileged youths for a day of fun at Bannerman Island.

Photo 2. An early view of the residence which started as a one-story summer home.

Photo 3. View of the North Trail from the residence shows railing detail and wooden bridge to the summit.

Photo 4. Frank Bannerman IV stands on the residence terrace at picture window. Circa 1918.

Photo 5. The Residence West Wing was the last structure built on Bannerman Island. The structure included a sleeping porch on the top floor, a sunporch on the main floor, and a basement that housed the heating system.

2.



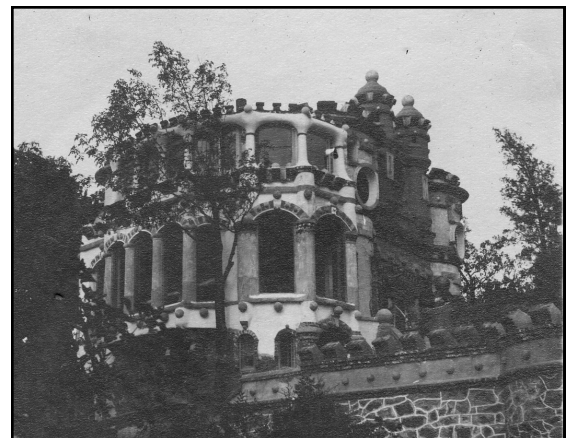
3.



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How To Help Preserve Bannerman Island? Get Involved!

Take a Private Tour of Bannerman Island!

Become a ‘Friend of the Castle’

Include Your Company’s Matching Grant Application
With Your Donation

Become a Corporate Sponsor or Donor

Consider a ‘Legacy Gift’ in Your Estate Planning

Have a Milestone Birthday or Anniversary
Fundraising Party for the Preservation of
Bannerman Island

Want to have a special event? Call us and let us know what you have in mind and we will be happy to discuss the possibilities and how we can help.

For Information Call:
Neil Caplan at 845-234-3204

**May 28, July 23
and October 22**



Photo by
Mary Ann Glass

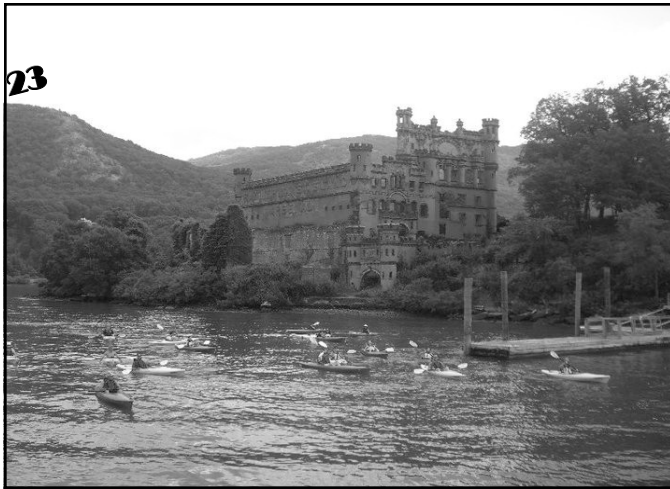
2011 EVENTS SCHEDULE

**Bannerman Island Photo Shoot with Thom Johnson
and Mary Ann Glass and Linda T. Hubbard
May 28, July 23 and October 22**

Join Thom, Mary Ann and Linda for a three-hour photo shoot on Bannerman Island. Includes boat ride on The Pollepel and a light lunch. Donation is \$110 per person.

Reservations are required. Call 845-234-3204

July 23



The Great Bannerman Island Kayak Race

Sponsored by **STORM KING ADVENTURE TOURS**
A Race Around Bannerman Island to Raise Funds for
Preservation

July 23, 9:00 a.m., Cornwall-On-Hudson

Sponsored by **M&T Bank and Storm King Adventure Tours,**
Kris Seiz, Chair.

The race will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Donohue Park in Cornwall and participants will race around the island and back to Donohue Park. There is a \$20 entrance fee. Kayakers are asked to raise pledges of \$100 or more. Contestants who raise \$100 or more will get their \$20 entrance fee back. Kayaks are available for rent through SKAT for \$30, which includes a parking pass. Other participants please note that there is a \$5 fee for a one-day parking pass at Donohue Park.

Reservations are advised. To reserve your space in the race, call **845-234-3204** or contact **SKAT at 845-534-7800**

Summer Performance Series on Bannerman Island!



**Rex Harrison in
Hollywood**

July 16th

**A One-Man Play
By CAREY HARRISON**

Carey Harrison

REX HARRISON IN HOLLYWOOD

Carey Harrison, youngest son of the stage and screen idol Rex Harrison, brings to life the golden years of Hollywood, as his father and his film star mother, Lilli Palmer, lived them. Carey Harrison tells stories both hilarious and heart-rending about growing up in the shadow of the movie business. As a child, he sat on Greta Garbo's knee (uncomfortable), played table tennis against Noel Coward (a good loser), and experienced a long sequence of glamorous stepmothers during his father's six-times-married life.

Anecdotes about famous movie stars abound, but the best of all are about Rex Harrison himself, famously arrogant, witty and charming. The wit and charm have been inherited by his son, who is himself an internationally celebrated playwright and actor, currently Professor of English at the City University of New York.

*Alexander Cartwright calls Carey Harrison
'The Next Spaulding Grey'*

July 16, 2011 Sponsored by BILL DIAMOND Productions
Tickets are \$55 and include Bannerman Island Tour, cruise to island and show. BCT Paid Friends \$50 call 845-234-3204
Limited Seating. For Reservations call 1-800-979-3370

September 10th



DINNER ON BANNERMAN ISLAND

**With Noah Sheetz,
Executive Chef for
the Governor's
Mansion in Albany**

Join us on September 10, 2011 for the Second Hudson Valley Fresh Five-Star, Five-Course Gourmet Feast on Bannerman Island!

Help us preserve Bannerman Castle by enjoying one of the best meals in the Valley, prepared by Noah Sheetz and four other top chefs in the Hudson Valley. We sold out last year, so please book in advance.

Limited Seating

For required reservations call 845-234-3204

2011 Kayak Fundraising Tour Schedule

Enjoy a great day on the Hudson River and a Guided Hard Hat Tour given by one of our BCT historians. Your Bannerman Island Kayak adventure includes kayak instruction, kayak equipment and a 1 1/2 hour tour of Bannerman Island. Pick a tour from one of our professional kayak operators.

Hudson Valley Outfitters \$130.00
Departs from Cold Spring
 Sunday 5/29 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday 6/18 10:30 a.m.
 Saturday 7/2 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday 7/17 10:00 a.m.
 Saturday 8/13 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday 8/28 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday 9/11 8:00 a.m.
 Saturday 10/1 11:00 a.m.
 Hudson Valley Outfitter Tours include a box lunch.
For Tickets Call: 845-265-0221

Mountain Tops Outfitters \$120.00
Departs from Beacon
 Sunday 5/29 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday 6/25 2:30 p.m.
 Saturday 7/23 12:30 p.m.
 Sunday 8/21 11:00 a.m.
 Saturday 9/3 11:00 a.m.
For Tickets Call: 845-831-1997

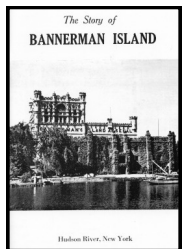
Mountain Valley Guides \$120.00
Departs Cornwall-on-Hudson
 Sunday 5/29 3:00 p.m.
 Saturday 6/18 3:00 p.m.
 Sunday 7/24 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday 8/28 3:00 p.m.
 Sunday 9/11 3:00 p.m.
For Tickets Call: 845-661-1923

Storm King Adventure Tours \$120.00
Departs from Cornwall-on-Hudson
 Sunday 6/12 2:00 p.m.
 Sunday 6/26 2:00 p.m.
 Saturday 7/9 2:00 p.m.
 Sunday 7/17 2:00 p.m.
 Sunday 7/24 2:00 p.m.
 Saturday 7/30 2:00 p.m.
 Sunday 8/7 2:00 p.m.
 Saturday 8/13 2:00 p.m.
 Sunday 8/21 10:00 a.m.
 Saturday 8/27 1:00 p.m.
 Sunday 9/4 10:00 a.m.
 Saturday 9/10 1:00 p.m.
 Sunday 9/18 10:00 a.m.
 Saturday 9/24 1:00 p.m.
For Tickets Call: 845-534-7800



BECOME a BCT "FRIEND OF THE CASTLE" or a BCT SPONSOR!

Join The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. and receive a complimentary copy of The Story of Bannerman Island, by Charles S. Bannerman. You will also receive a subscription to The BCT newsletter, *THE BANNER*, along with a friendship card. See member article.



I WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF "THE BANNERMAN SUPPORT SYSTEM" and make a tax-deductible donation to the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>\$ 25.00 Individual Friend _____</p> <p>\$ 40.00 Family Friend _____</p> <p>\$ 50.00 Institutional _____</p> <p>\$100.00 Sustaining _____</p> <p>\$500.00 Contributing _____</p> | <p>\$ 2,500.00 Freshman Sponsor _____</p> <p>\$ 5,000.00 Junior Sponsor _____</p> <p>\$10,000.00 Senior Sponsor _____</p> <p>Your Donation \$ _____</p> <p>Renewal Friend Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>New Friend Yes _____ No _____</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

NAME: _____ COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

Please make your tax-deductible donation check payable to:

THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC., PO Box 843, Glenham, NY 12508 You can charge your donation to your credit card.

Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____



The Banner

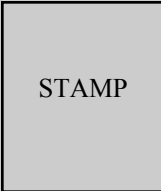
THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

PO Box 843

Glenham, NY 12527-0843

845) 831-6346

www.bannermancastle.org



Bannerman Residence Phase I Stabilization Has Begun!

Ken McShea House Doctor is working to complete floor and roof installation within eight to ten weeks.

Photo Right: The Bannerman Residence. Circa 1930s
Photo Below: Bannerman Residence first floor installation, April 25, 2011



HELP US SAVE A HUDSON RIVER LANDMARK

Donate online at
www.bannermancastle.org
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BECOME A "FRIEND" OF THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Join Today! Help Preserve a Hudson River Icon!

Please Note: The Bannerman Castle Trust Inc. has acquired a special activity permit from NYSOPRHP for all BCT on-island events. The island is otherwise closed to the public for safety reasons, and landing is prohibited.

A copy of our latest annual financial report may be obtained by writing to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. or to the Attorney General's Office, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.



