

In the nineteenth century the Hamilton family compound of ten acres included "The Old House," residence of Emerine, "The White House," home of Edith and Alice, and "The Red House" in which Agnes lived.

Within the compound were a cow pasture and a yard distinguished by its lilacs, roses, and ivy covered out buildings.

The three granddaughters were nurtured in their pursuit of knowledge and understanding by their grandmother Emerine who was by nature an enthusiastic reader. She often gathered Edith, Alice, and Agnes together and read to them. Close family relationships were important in the lives of the women.



Emerine Jane Holman Hamilton was extraordinary. Devotion to her "heavenly Father" and "stability of purpose" defined the character of the seventeen year-old Emerine who arrived, as the bride of Allen Hamilton, in Fort Wayne, in 1827. A pioneer activist

for the cause of women's suffrage, she was also a philanthropist who sponsored new church development, including the first African-American congregation and made possible the establishment of the city's first free public library, named the Emerine Hamilton Reading Room.



Emerine was a vice president of the Twelfth District Women's Suffrage Association when Susan B. Anthony addressed its annual convention in 1887. At the National-American Convention of 1890 tributes of respect were paid to eleven people, friends and supporters of suffrage, who had passed away that year. Emerine J. Hamilton was among those honored.



Assisting emerging congregations in Fort Wayne was a special interest of Mrs. Hamilton. In 1867 she had furnished the funds to secure land for a Presbyterian Sunday School mission (later to become Third Presbyterian Church) on the northeast corner of Calhoun and

Holman Streets and she and her family were founding members and leaders of First Presbyterian Church.

Because of its small numbers, the Fort Wayne African Methodist Episcopal church was unable to support a full time minister or secure a church building. By 1869, however, the congregation exhibited sufficient potential that a resident pastor was assigned. When St. John's German Reformed Church proceeded to build a larger house of worship on its property, the A.M.E. officers purchased the twenty-four-year old frame church and moved it down Jefferson Street to a lot donated by Emerine Hamilton. This modest edifice was then renamed Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church.



Emerine was dedicated to educational opportunity for her fellow citizens and from her own library collection started the city's first public reading room. This "room" was the forerunner of the Allen County Public Library.

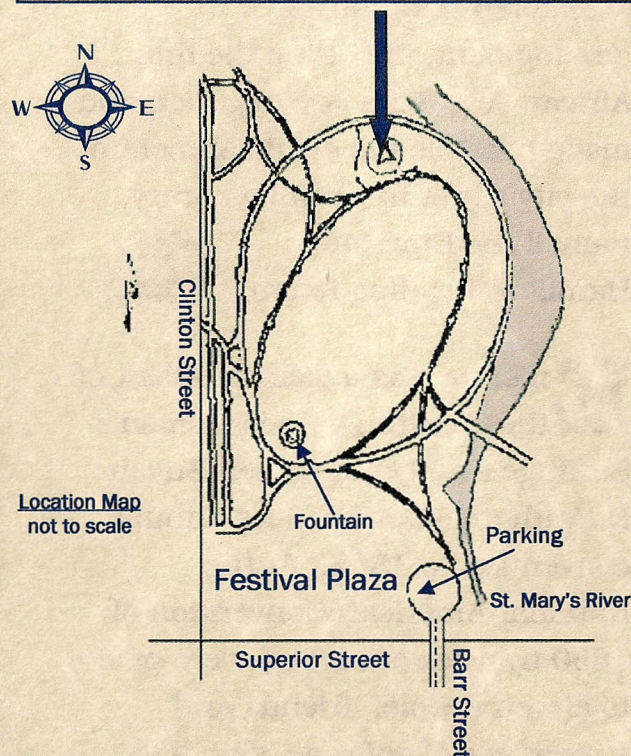
HAMILTON SCULPTURE GARDEN

Near the banks of the St. Mary's River in Headwaters Park on the East side of Clinton Street is a gardenscape designed and planted as a tribute to Emerine Hamilton.

This natural monument celebrates her personal elegance and her achievements. Embracing a small plaza, in which stand statues of granddaughters Edith, Alice, and Agnes, the garden symbolizes Emerine's values and virtues which have inspired her descendants as well as those who now enjoy the garden's benefits.



Hamilton Sculpture Garden



For More Information :
Headwaters Park
260. 425-5745

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HAMILTON SCULPTURE GARDEN

HEADWATERS PARK
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



1810 - 1889
EMERINE JANE HOLMAN HAMILTON
GARDENSCAPE

The three figures,

Edith Hamilton - Scholar,
Agnes Hamilton - Settlement Worker,
Alice Hamilton - Industrial Physician,

were sculpted by Tony Frudakis and
the plaza and gardenscape were
planned by Schaldach Design Group.