

Town House Living Available for Resident Caretaker at Historic Home

Van Wickle House
1289 Easton Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873



The Meadows Foundation is a non profit corporation founded 32 years ago to save one historic Dutch house. It has since grown to five Historic homes, each with its own Resident Caretaker's apartment. Located in the Somerset Section of Franklin Township, these homes are all on the New Jersey & National Historic Registers. They vary in age from 116 years to 287 years. Their styles vary from Dutch Frame to Italianate and Dutch Revival. Each historic site has an apartment on site, some in a neighborhood setting and others in a country setting. These historic structures are open to the public for special events throughout the year and by appointment. Of course, the private apartments are not open to the public.

If you enjoy history and are handy at dealing with the problems of living in your own residence, this might be an opportunity for you to put the "Care" in Caretaker. Each Resident Caretaker must look upon their historic site as they would their own property. These historic homes are a part our National Heritage and irreplaceable. By taking up residence in an historic house, you become a part of its history. As Resident Caretaker you would become one of the Meadows Foundation's ambassador to the public.

There is a monthly housing fee, comparable with rents for current commercial apartments and townhouses, but includes water and heat. Electric, cable connection and telephone are not included. Resident Caretakers receive a monthly stipend for defined responsibilities living in this historic Dutch homesite. In effect, you are the "Super" of your site and must deal with any problems that may occur there. You would be an employee not a tenant. You would not be entirely on your own either, as there is a House Committee and Chairman for each house. If you are interested in living in an historic home and are particularly skilled at maintaining or repairing things, there may be opportunities to receive income to off-set the housing fee. This would entail taking on clearly defined small projects at your site. This would **not** be deducted from the housing fee, but paid to the Resident Caretaker. As with all historic buildings, there would be some restrictions, e.g., no flames of any kind, no smoking or pets, etc.

One new position is available currently. This is at our flagship historic site, the Van Wickle House (circa 1722). The apartment is on the second floor and has its own entry door. The apartment has windows on three sides and occupies the total second floor of the main house. There is a living room, bedroom with separate toilet, large kitchen/eating area, large closet and bathroom. This house has the most visitors and events during the year of any of our historic sites. Its close proximity to the Raritan Canal lures people to our public rest room in the Vergano Interpretive Center. There is parking near the house for the Resident Caretaker. If you have an interest, would like to see this historic site and residence, call (732) 846-3345 and ask about becoming a Meadows Foundation Resident Caretaker. During your visit, we can furnish you with a packet of more detailed information. In the meantime, you can learn more about the Meadows Foundation at: www.themeadowsfoundation.org

