

Historic House Finds Friends Of Preservation

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La Grange's historic Faison House, part of which dates back to the 1840s, has a new group of friends and supporters.

The Faison Preservation Society's purpose is to help maintain and document the house and its furnishings, which are owned by the La Grange Garden Club.

The club bought the historic property, then in a state of disrepair, in 1961 and did the initial restoration.

Garden Club trustees and FPS directors held a joint meeting at the La Grange Chamber of Commerce Wednesday to formulate plans for fund raising and restoration projects.

Founded last May by Dan Gilmore, Marie Watts and Suzy and Arnold Romberg, the FPS is planning a major fund raising effort. Their goal is \$300,000, one third of which will provide an endowment for

maintenance and upkeep of the property.

"It really was a matter of somebody stepping up and doing something or just letting it go," said Arnold Romberg.

Suzy Romberg is both a Garden Club trustee and an FPS director.

FPS director Marie Watts told the group that 501(c)3 status has been granted to the new organization by the Internal Revenue Service which means donations are tax deductible. A listing on the National Register of Historic Places is being sought, she said.

Administration and management of the house will be a collaborative effort between the Garden Club and the FPS.

The Faison Preservation Society is an open membership organization, Arnold Romberg commented.

People with an interest in historic preservation are encouraged to contact a director if they are interested in participating.