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### Obama bus tour visits Seneca Falls historic site

By Justin Sink - 08/22/13 04:15 PM ET

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President Obama on Thursday detoured from his higher education bus tour to visit Seneca Falls, the New York town that has become synonymous with the women's suffrage movement.

While there, the president visited Women's Rights National Historical Park, a seven-acre site that hosts the Wesleyan Chapel, where the first Women's Rights Convention was held. The park also includes the homes of suffragettes Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Jane C. Hunt, as well as the home where the Declaration of Sentiments — a women's rights document modeled on the Declaration of Independence — was penned.

Obama presented the park service employees there with a signed copy of his remarks from a ceremony to sign the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the first bill he signed as president.

"It's an honor to visit Seneca Falls and recall the righteous struggle that found expression here," Obama wrote on the document. "I'm also proud to add an example of Lilly Ledbetter's leadership to your collection. Thanks for all you do to honor the character and perseverance of America's women."

While there, Obama also purchased souvenirs for his daughters, including copies of the Declaration of Sentiments,

according to the White House

The 1848 Seneca Falls Convention is viewed as a pivotal event in the women's suffrage movement. and the participation of top abolitionist leaders — including

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Frederick Douglass — helped corral support behind demands for equal treatment under the law. The 19th Amendment, which ensured the right of women to vote, was ratified in 1920.

Earlier Thursday, Obama stopped at Magnolia's Deli and Cafe in Rochester for lunch and an informal roundtable discussion about the college affordability proposal he debuted earlier in the morning.

- This post was last updated at 4:50 p.m.

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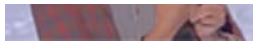
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