



2014: An Award-Winning Year

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Annual Report

2014: An Award-Winning Year

A message from the director

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs was deeply honored to be the recipient of four national honors from the American Association for State and Local History during 2014. These honors—in the form of a History in Progress Award, two Leadership in History Awards and a certificate of graduation from the association’s Standards and Excellence Program for History—provided explicit recognition from our peers of the high-quality programs and services that the division is providing to Delaware’s residents and visitors.

Also recognized was the division’s successful completion of the Core Documents Verification Program, a key milepost on the road to accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums; and the Department of State’s Employee of the Third Quarter Award which was presented to our physical-plant-maintenance supervisor.

What is even more rewarding, however, is the implicit recognition and respect that the division is accorded when we are entrusted with the preservation, care and management of so many of Delaware’s cultural resources.

Recognition is implicit in the dedication of our volunteers who contributed over 14,000 hours of service to the agency during the past year.

It was implicit when the National Park Service entrusted the division with administration of the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Assistance Grants for Historic Properties program.

It was implicit when two division-run sites—the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark and the John Dickinson Plantation—were included in the newly expanded and renamed First State National Historical Park which already included the New Castle Court House and Green.

It was implicit when the division was entrusted with the redesign of the public garden at Woodburn, the governor’s official home.

And perhaps most importantly, it was implicit when 90,691 people chose to visit our museums during the year.

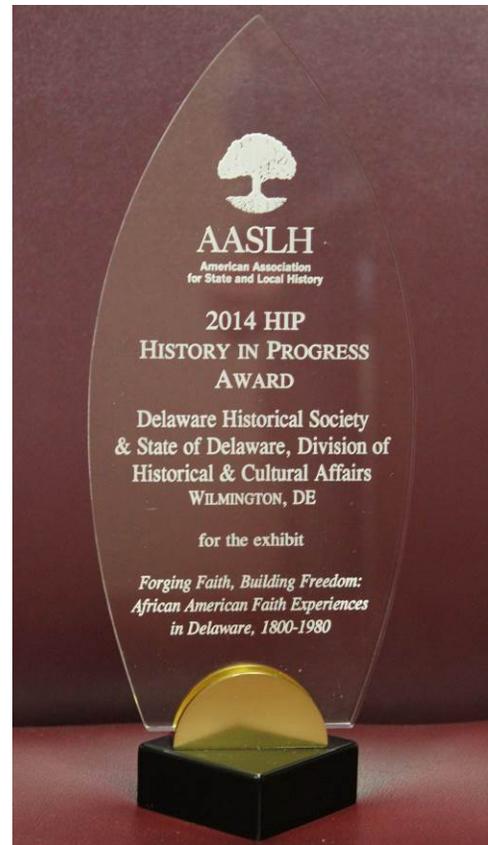
Following is a series of eight vignettes that illustrate the many achievements of the division’s staff, volunteers, partners and friends who helped to make 2014 an award-winning year.

Tim Slavin
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Division honored with prestigious History in Progress Award

On Sept. 19, 2014, the [American Association for State and Local History](#) presented a prestigious History in Progress Award to the Delaware Historical Society and the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs for their collaborative exhibit “Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800–1980.” The award, a component of the association’s [Leadership in History Awards](#) program, was presented for projects that are highly inspirational; exhibit exceptional scholarship; and/or are exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships or collaborations, creative problem-solving or unusual project design and inclusiveness. Only four projects in the entire nation were honored with the award in 2014.

“[Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800–1980](#)” explored Delaware’s black community, its faith experiences and its contributions to the development of religion in the United States including a commemoration of the bicentennial of the African Union Methodist tradition and the August Quarterly, the nation’s oldest African-American religious festival.



On display from Sept. 27, 2013 to June 14, 2014 at the Delaware History Museum, a unit of the [Delaware Historical Society](#) located at 504 N. Market St. in Wilmington, Del., the exhibit was created through a partnership between the society’s curatorial staff, which researched and wrote the exhibit narrative and organized loans of exhibited objects; and the division’s [Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits \(CARE\) Team](#) which designed, fabricated and installed the exhibit.



Section of the exhibit “Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800–1980.”

The American Association for State and Local History initiated the Leadership in History Awards program in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation and interpretation of state and local history throughout America. In 2014, the association conferred 77 national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, books and organizations.



Visitors enjoying a tour of the DeBraak hull as part of the program “The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”

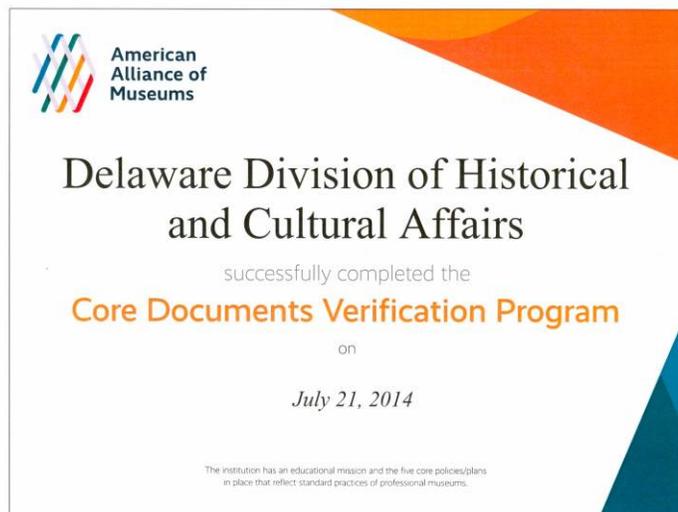
In addition to the History in Progress Award, the “Forging Faith” exhibit was honored with an Award of Merit which recognizes excellence in history programs, projects and people when compared with similar activities nationwide. The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs was also the recipient of an Award of Merit for the “[The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World](#),” a multi-dimensional interpretive program on the British warship that sank off the coast of Delaware in the late 18th century.

In addition to its three Leadership in History awards, the division was recognized as a graduate of the association’s [StEPs](#) program (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) which helps small- and mid-sized history museums assess policies and practices, manage daily operations and plan for the future.

Division takes major step toward accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums

On July 21, 2014, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs received notification that it had successfully completed the [Core Documents Verification Program](#), a key milestone on the [Continuum of Excellence](#) that will lead to accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. As part of the verification program, the division was required to develop or revise five core documents related to the operation of the agency’s museums, historic sites, collections, site-interpretation and related support-services. The completed core documents included a long-range institutional strategic-plan, a mission statement, a collections-management policy, a code of ethics and a disaster-preparedness/emergency-response plan.

As the museum field’s mark of distinction, [accreditation](#) from the American Alliance of Museums offers high profile, peer-based validation of a museum’s operations and impact. Accreditation also increases a museum’s credibility and value to funders, policy makers, community and peers; and is a powerful tool to leverage change and facilitate loans between institutions. The division has been participating in the accreditation process since 2011.



Ed Gillespie named Department of State Employee of the Third Quarter

On Oct. 27, 2014, the Delaware Department of State announced that Ed Gillespie, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' physical-plant-maintenance supervisor, had been selected as Employee of the Third Quarter.

According to the nomination letter, submitted by one of his co-workers, Gillespie's "work ethic and positive attitude, even during emergency situations, has been an example to his team." In May 2014, the division's physical-plant-maintenance superintendent went out on extended leave and Gillespie stepped into the breach by accepting leadership of the [Preservation-Maintenance Team](#). During that time, Gillespie not only made sure that daily work assignments were completed and emergency situations addressed, he also found time to mentor two new employees in electrical and heating-ventilation-air-conditioning procedures.

On multiple occasions, Gillespie has worked into the night and on weekends when emergencies have arisen at division-administered sites. During a single period in August 2014, he was confronted with concurrent electrical emergencies at the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and at Woodburn, the governor's home. In a deliberate and clear-headed manner, Gillespie took control of the situation, supervising contractors and making sure that repair work was completed properly. His quick reaction and calm leadership helped protect the buildings and the people who use them.

Gillespie has served as the division's physical-plant-maintenance supervisor since April 2014. Prior to that time, he served for 10 years as a physical-plant-maintenance mechanic.

The Department of State's employee-recognition program provides agency personnel with opportunities to be recognized for significant contributions, individual achievements and exceptional overall performance attained through their daily work and/or community service.



Presentation of the Department of State Employee of the Third Quarter award to Ed Gillespie. (From left) Delaware Secretary of State Jeffrey W. Bullock, Gillespie and Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Director Tim Slavin.

Hours logged by division volunteers skyrockets by 271 percent

During fiscal year 2014, volunteers working for the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs logged 14,070 service hours or the equivalent of \$280,000 in donated labor. This represents an increase of 271 percent over the 5,188 hours worked in fiscal year 2013. Division volunteers provided a wide variety of services including work as museum docents, assisting with collections management, conducting marketing activities, processing artifacts from the [Roosevelt Inlet Shipwreck](#), assisting with the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations, processing digital-research files, conducting historical research, development of special museum-programs, and assistance with property maintenance, administrative tasks and events.

As part of an end-of-the-year success event on Dec. 15, 2014, division Director Tim Slavin honored the volunteers' service by presenting certificates of recognition to Arnold Leftwich for 697.5 volunteer hours, Charolenne Shehorn (609 hours), Kent Slavin (606 hours), Howard Fulcher (602 hours), Jim Schilling (407.5 hours), David Perlmutter (294 hours), Laura Herbin (218.5 hours), Gene Modzelewski (157 hours), Caroline Dworkin (115 hours), Carolyn Apple (114.5 hours), Valarie Shorter (87 hours) and Larry Watkins (83.5 hours).



Volunteers honored at the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' end-of-the-year success event on Dec. 15, 2014. (From left) Larry Watkins, Valarie Shorter, David Perlmutter, Carolyn Apple, Laura Herbin, Jim Schilling, Caroline Dworkin, Gene Modzelewski, Arnold Leftwich and Howard Fulcher. Division Director Tim Slavin is at the far right.

The division's [Volunteer Program](#) assists staff members in addressing the agency's goals of protecting and promoting the First State's historical and cultural legacies. Division volunteers possess an extensive assortment of skills and experience that are utilized in every facet of the agency's operations.

Delaware awarded \$1 million for Hurricane Sandy disaster-relief assistance for historic properties

On July 29, 2014, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs announced that three Delaware sites—the Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse in Lewes harbor, the Milford New Century Club and the Phillips Potato House in Laurel—had been awarded funding under the [Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Assistance Grants for Historic Properties](#) program.

The program is funded under the [Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013](#), passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in response to the effects of the destructive hurricane that struck the East Coast of the United States in late October 2012. As part of the act, \$50 million was appropriated to the [National Park Service](#) to cover the costs of preserving and/or rehabilitating historic properties damaged by the storm. Subsequently, the Park Service allocated \$1 million for Delaware’s component of the program which is being administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. The purpose of the program is to help return damaged historic properties to useful condition, preserving the state’s cultural heritage for future generations.

The division received three applications for funding under the program. A technical-review committee found that all three of the applications qualified for support according to the selection criteria and application requirements. Because the applications did not exhaust the full amount of funds awarded to Delaware, the division may elect to hold another round of grant applications. Additionally, in accordance with its agreement with the Park Service, the division plans to apply some of the remaining funds toward improving data on the location and nature of historic properties in areas vulnerable to such storm events, thereby assisting in disaster planning.

Following are profiles of the funded projects:

- ◆ The **Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse**, situated on the outer breakwater in Lewes harbor, was built in 1926 and listed in the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1989 as a contributing structure within the National Harbor of Refuge and Delaware Breakwater Harbor Historic District. Owned by the non-profit [Delaware River and Bay Lighthouse Foundation](#), the structure continues to serve as an active aid-to-navigation.



Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse with intact dock (left), and dock after being damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Wind-driven water and waves from Hurricane Sandy caused significant damage to the site's dock and stairs. As a result, the Lighthouse Foundation was awarded up to \$360,000 for the replacement of those structures, and for an assessment of the overall condition of the lighthouse. The grant-funded work will define the critical preservation steps necessary to maintain and preserve this iconic landmark, and will restore proper access to allow such work to occur and to further the foundation's public interpretation and educational programming.

- ◆ Built in 1885, the **Milford New Century Club**, located at 18 N. Church St., was individually listed in the National Register in 1982 as part of a multiple-property nomination for the city of Milford. The non-profit-owned building is significant for its architectural features and for its long-standing use as a community center. As a result of damages caused by Hurricane Sandy's high wind, wind-driven rain and rising water, the club was awarded up to \$60,000 for the replacement of the facility's heating-ventilation-air-conditioning system; replacement of the building's roof; exterior painting; and associated interior and exterior repairs. The grant-funded work will secure the building's exterior to prevent further damage and deterioration, and will allow the structure to again be used year-round for civic projects and as rental space for local events.



Milford New Century Club after Hurricane Sandy.

- ◆ The **Phillips Potato House** was built circa 1900 and individually listed in the National Register in 1990 as part of a multiple-property nomination for sweet potato houses, a specialized agricultural outbuilding in Sussex County. The potato houses reflect the modernization of agricultural practices in southern Delaware during the first half of the 20th century including the emergence of truck farming.

Located at 7472 Portsville Road in Laurel, the privately owned structure was damaged during Hurricane Sandy by high wind, wind-driven rain and water run-off. As a result, the property



Phillips Potato House after Hurricane Sandy.

owner was awarded up to \$42,000 for the removal of damaged asphalt siding and repair of wood siding and trim, window repair, foundation repairs and the removal of metal roofing and restoration of wood shingles. The grant-funded work will secure the building's exterior to prevent further damage and deterioration, and provide an opportunity for returning the building to agricultural use and/or for an adaptive reuse to include public interpretation of agricultural practices.

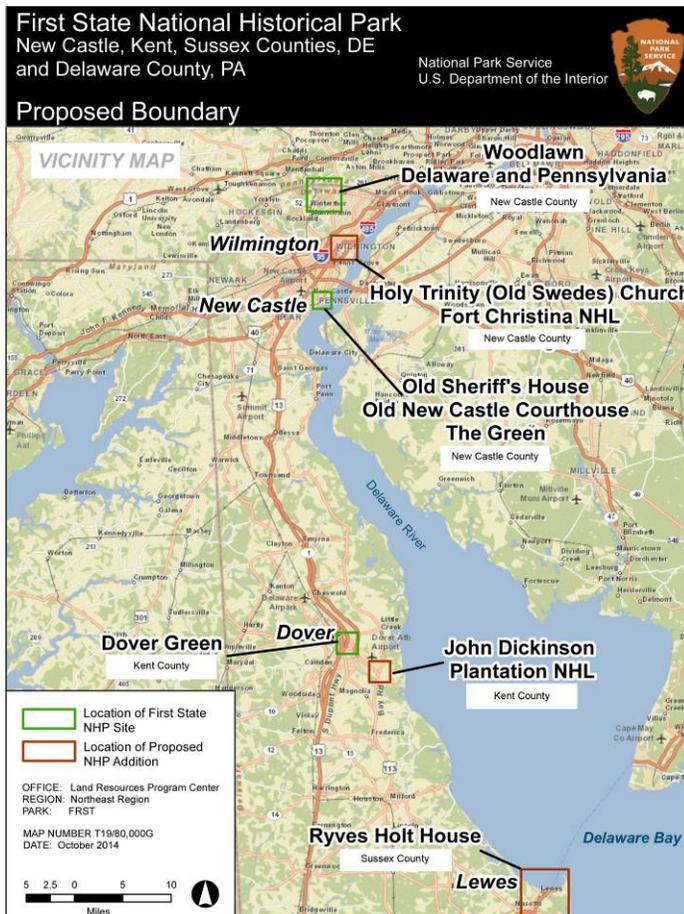
First State National Historical Park signed into law

In a ceremony held at the [New Castle Court House](#) on Dec. 18, 2014, Gov. Jack Markell, U.S. Sen. Tom Carper and U.S. Rep. John Carney celebrated the creation of Delaware's first national park which shines a spotlight on the state's early Dutch, Swedish and English settlements and its role in the events leading up to the founding of the United States as a nation.

Earlier in the month, the U.S. House of Representatives, followed by the U.S. Senate, passed legislation that authorized the First State National Monument to be renamed the [First State](#)

[National Historical Park](#), and expanded the new park to include sites in all three counties of Delaware. The legislation that was passed mirrored bills introduced by Sens. Carper and Chris Coons and Rep. Carney in the [First State National Historical Park Act of 2013](#).

Proclaimed by President Obama in 2013, the First State National Monument was originally comprised of three historic areas including the state-owned New Castle Court House and Green which are administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs; the Woodlawn property in the Brandywine Valley; and the Dover Green. The newly created national historical park will include all of those sites plus the following: [Old Swedes Church National Historic Landmark](#) in Wilmington, the [Ryves-Holt House](#) in Lewes and two more sites administered by the division—[Fort Christina National Historic Landmark](#) in Wilmington and the [John Dickinson Plantation](#) in Dover.



Proposed sites of the First State National Historical Park.

In the future, park headquarters will be based in the Sheriff's House, a former division property in New Castle that was transferred to the federal government in 2013 as part of the process of creating the national monument.

In a written statement, Sen. Carper noted, "For over a decade, I have been working with federal officials, state officials, community leaders and everyday citizens to establish a national park in Delaware. I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate for approving this legislation. Now, Delaware has a national park that preserves and teaches the lessons of our state's heritage and our country's history. I cannot wait for the day when families from all across this country and the world will plan their vacations around the First State National Historical Park to learn how Delaware helped launch the most enduring experiment in democracy that the world has ever known—the United States of America."

Woodburn public garden opens

On Oct. 23, 2014, Gov. and Mrs. Jack Markell celebrated the opening of the redesigned public garden at [Woodburn](#), the governor's official residence in Dover. The redesign was accomplished through a public/private partnership between the state of Delaware and the non-profit Friends of Woodburn which raised more than \$250,000 for the project including a \$100,000 matching grant from the [Longwood Foundation](#).



Redesigned parterre garden at Woodburn.

Located at 151 Kings Highway, Woodburn is one of Delaware's most historic homes and an outstanding example of late-18th-century Georgian architecture. The house was built in 1798 by Charles Hillyard, III (1759–1814), a fourth-generation Delawarean from a family of affluent landowners who were frequently active in the governmental, social and economic life of Kent County. Woodburn has served as the home of Delaware's governor since it was purchased by the state in 1965. It was listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs has been responsible for the care and conservation of Woodburn since August 2009. The division's charge includes repair and maintenance of the building; design and upkeep of the property's garden and horticultural displays; and furnishing of the home.

During the Oct. 23, 2014 ceremony marking the opening of the redesigned Woodburn garden, Gov. and Mrs. Markell welcomed Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs personnel who worked on the project. (Back row, from left) Delaware first lady Carla Markell; horticulturalists Dan Davis, Thomas Ratay and Jack Wisniewski; Gov. Jack Markell; and former Horticulture Team manager Ken Darsney. In the foreground is Dover High School student Catrena Moore who served as a volunteer horticulturalist for the project.



Work on Woodburn's garden complex began in December 2013 as the final segment of a comprehensive exterior-improvements project launched in May of that year. The new complex, designed by landscape architect [Rodney D. Robinson](#) of Wilmington, includes a Colonial-inspired [parterre garden](#) that will feature a rose-covered arbor that provides the principal point of entry through a six-foot-tall evergreen hedge. Once inside, visitors encounter four square-beds, separated by brick and crushed-shell paths. Each bed is edged in boxwood and planted with a single crabapple tree, mixed ground covers and spring bulbs. A small pool with fountain serves as a focal point at the center of the garden. While colonists had no water to spare for pools and fountains, their inclusion at Woodburn adds character and ambiance to the space.

The parterre garden is framed on three sides by large planting-borders of seasonally flowering shrubs and perennials. At the corner nearest the house is a small wooden pavilion set within the border. This location affords a dramatic view of the garden, while providing a convenient and more private entrance from Woodburn. Beyond the parterre garden is the kitchen garden with vegetables, herbs and fruit trees. Woodburn's redesigned garden includes several rare plants and trees [donated by the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens](#).

In addition to the garden redesign, improvements to Woodburn included enhanced accessibility for people with disabilities; upgrades for pedestrian- and vehicular-safety including repair and/or replacement of sidewalks and driveways; installation of lighting; and infrastructure enhancements to the property's electrical and storm-water-management systems. These improvements have helped to unify Woodburn's campus making it a better home for current and future residents and an even better asset for guests, public visitors and the city of Dover's historic district.



Section of Woodburn's parterre garden.

Attendance up at the state's museums

The [six museums of the state of Delaware](#) recorded 90,691 visits in fiscal year 2014, an increase of 4.27 percent over fiscal year 2013. Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the museums tell the story of Delaware's contributions to the history and culture of the United States.

The increase in public visitation was due, in large part, to the more than 200 special events, exhibits and displays that were presented at the museums during 2014 including the following:



Willis Phelps portrayed Pvt. James Elbert at The Old State House on Feb. 1.

- ◆ “[Ready to Fight for Freedom: James H. Elbert](#),” a performance at Dover’s Old State House on Feb. 1 in which living-history interpreter Willis Phelps portrayed the Polktown, Del. resident who enlisted and fought with the United States Colored Troops in the American Civil War.
- ◆ [Sculpture by Charles Parks](#), a new display of works by the noted Wilmington artist that opened at the New Castle Court House Museum in November.
- ◆ “[Pioneers in the Music Industry: Emile Berliner](#),” an Oct. 4 program at Dover’s Johnson Victrola Museum in which Oliver Berliner, grandson of inventor Emile Berliner, discussed his grandfather’s life, his inventions (including the gramophone) and his major contributions to society.
- ◆ “[With Malice Toward None...Delaware Life During the Civil War](#),” the 16th annual Chautauqua tent show that took place at Lewes’ Zwaanendael Museum in June.
- ◆ “[An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware](#)” explored the First State’s role in the fight against slavery by showcasing the actions of Delawareans Thomas Garrett and Samuel D. Burris who followed their consciences rather than what they viewed as the unjust laws of the state and nation. The exhibit, which was on display at Dover’s First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries, closed in December after a successful run.



The Swordmasters performed during “A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation” on Oct. 11.

- ◆ Held on Oct. 11, “A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation” featured food, entertainment and hands-on activities from colonial trades to hearth cooking at the Dover home of the “Penman of the Revolution.”

Looking forward

After beginning the process of implementing the goals and objectives identified in its [strategic plan](#), which was released to the public on Jan. 27, 2014, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will delve even deeper into realizing the plan during 2015. Objectives slated for completion during the year include revamping of the [Cultural and Historical Resource Information System](#) (CHRIS), development of a marketing plan, implementation of an agency-wide disaster-preparedness plan, realization of the division's employee-recognition program and progress on receiving accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. Full implementation of the strategic plan will take place through 2019.

About the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is an agency of the state of Delaware, organized as a division within the Department of State. The division enhances Delaware's quality of life by preserving the state's unique historical heritage, fostering community stability and economic vitality and providing educational programs and assistance to the general public on Delaware history and heritage.

The division's diverse array of services includes administration of the state historic preservation office, operation of museums and a conference center, conservation of the state's archaeological and historic-objects collections and management of historic properties across Delaware. Primary funding for division programs and services is provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware General Assembly and grants from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, a federal agency.

For more information about the division and its programs, visit the agency's [website](#).



Historical and Cultural Affairs

Mission statement

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs serves Delaware residents and visitors by identifying, preserving, and interpreting Delaware history. Our activities foster strong communities, engaged citizens, economic vitality, and a deeper understanding of Delaware's role in world history. We do this in public trust for current and future generations.

Vision

Our audiences are actively engaged in learning (in many ways) and understand how Delaware history is meaningful to their lives.

Our audiences are actively exploring a diversity of historical and cultural perspectives to inform and influence decisions about the future.

Our audiences feel welcomed, valued, and encouraged to question and explore.

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is a trustworthy, ethical, and reliable partner with organizations, agencies, and individuals with whom we have common goals.

All division staff and volunteers will consistently make use of each other's knowledge and skills, building professional relationships across teams.

Core values

◆ Communication

We are committed to an open, proactive, and thoughtful exchange of information and ideas that promotes trust and understanding in our internal and external relationships.

◆ Professionalism

We are committed to conducting ourselves in a professional manner to co-workers, partners, and the public in order to be recognized as a reputable and reliable resource.

◆ Creativity

We are committed to supporting innovative thinking and nurturing a creative environment. Our passion for history inspires us to risk taking new approaches.

◆ Knowledge

We are committed to the growth and professional development of staff and volunteers in order to ensure that all of our activities are strongly grounded in scholarly research, current and reliable best practices, and relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

◆ Discourse/dialog

We are committed to open debate and discourse on subjects relevant to the past, present, and future of Delaware.

◆ Community involvement

We are committed to actively listening to, and communicating, collaborating, and partnering with, the community in the development of our programs and services.

◆ **Stewardship**

We are committed to the responsible management of the division's assets, seeking to exceed best practices.

◆ **Cooperation**

We are committed to developing and maintaining trust and respect amongst co-workers, partners, and our audiences to provide a positive and collaborative atmosphere to achieve common goals.

Goals

◆ **Improving access**

We will improve access to our collections, research, and historic places.

◆ **Innovative learning**

We will create and support an innovative learning environment.

◆ **Engaging audiences**

We will strengthen our connections with Delaware residents, organizations, and visitors.

◆ **Enhancing preservation**

We will enhance the preservation and management of our historic properties and collections, and will share our knowledge, experience, and resources to inspire others to value and preserve their cultural assets.

◆ **Achieving excellence**

We will develop a culture of collaboration and respect to optimize our management of organizational resources.

Appendix

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs fiscal year 2014 accomplishments

Partnership development

- ◆ Received a grant from the National Park Service that enabled the New Castle Court House Museum to expand public visitation hours to seven days a week during the 2014 summer season. In addition, the division provided training as part of the First State National Monument Ambassadors Program, a community volunteer-group that welcomes visitors to the city.
- ◆ Worked with the [Delaware Museum Association](#) to strengthen the museum community through an active association for collaboration, communication and promotion.
- ◆ Partnered with the Delaware Historical Society by providing staff assistance with preliminary program planning for the [Center for African American Heritage](#) which is scheduled to open in 2016.
- ◆ Initiated an [agreement](#) with the New Castle Historical Society for the purpose of operating the Arsenal in New Castle as a meeting and event facility, and completed building improvements and new finishes at the site. The facility enhancements and local management provide a much needed venue for public gatherings in the historic town center.
- ◆ The division's Affiliates Program included nine member-organizations in fiscal year 2014: the [Middletown](#), [Laurel](#), [Seaford](#), Bethel and [Rehoboth Beach](#) historical societies; [Rehoboth Art League](#); Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware; [Overfalls Foundation](#) and the [Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame](#). These partnerships enable the division to expand opportunities to showcase state collections in areas not served by division-owned properties and help to promote local historical resources. The division assists affiliates with graphic design, exhibit planning and technical guidance on collections care and management.
- ◆ Collaborated with the Middletown Historical Society to transform the society's gallery into a new public venue for exhibitions, and provided collection items, guidance on interior finishes, lighting and design in the creation of the exhibit, "[Middletown Goes to War](#)," which examines the contributions of this small Delaware town to the American war effort from the Revolutionary War forward.
- ◆ Focused on the ongoing development of friends groups to support division properties. These groups—Friends of Woodburn, [Friends of Belmont Hall](#), [Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion](#), Friends of Prince George's Chapel and the Barefoot Gardeners and [New Friends of Fenwick Island Lighthouse](#)—offer increased use, programming, visitation and operational support to their corresponding historic sites.

Improving access

- ◆ Made significant progress in the upgrade of the Cultural and Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS), a web-based mapping application that provides users with information and images of Delaware’s historic properties. CHRIS is accessed by preservation professionals, planners, government agency staff, project developers, researchers, historic-property owners and the general public. The innovative new system utilizes [ArcGIS online](#) and cloud-based data storage. It will increase the amount and types of digital information on historic properties that can be remotely accessed, and will allow customers to provide the division with updated information online. The new system is scheduled to be launched in early 2015.

Innovative learning

- ◆ Co-chaired, with the University of Delaware and other partners, an [international conference on comparative colonialism](#). Held at the University of Delaware, this innovative forum, one of the key events commemorating the 375th anniversary of New Sweden, featured a live video-feed of concurrent sessions at the University of Lund in Sweden. Over 100 scholars and students presented papers on a wide variety of topics. The Swedish ambassador to the United States spoke to the attendees at the plenary session.
- ◆ Created the Professional Development Work Group to plan and coordinate professional-development opportunities for all division employees with a special focus on creating regular workshops to be held at division sites. Four all-staff meetings and additional special workshops examined a variety of topics including interpretive training, customer service, code of ethics, collections management and a wide range of business practices. This initiative is part of a comprehensive training-plan currently in development.
- ◆ Offered teacher in-service training in coordination with the [Delaware Teacher Center](#). The 2014 program, “Exploring Slavery, Manumission and Abolition in Delaware,” helped participants learn about the types of documents that historians study to chronicle the history of African Americans in Delaware.
- ◆ As a member of the [Lewes Education Coalition](#), provided a summer education-workshop exploring the city’s potential for educational activities, not just in history, but also in science, technology, engineering, math and the arts.
- ◆ Expanded programming with the [Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay](#) for merit badges that are components of the Keys to Leadership goals, and worked with the Boy Scouts on merit badges for citizenship in the community and in the world.
- ◆ “[Make a Splash](#),” a partnership between the John Dickinson Plantation and the St. Jones Reserve, provided an opportunity for more than 700 students to explore the St. Jones River and the use of water as a natural resource.

Engaging audiences

- ◆ During fiscal year 2014, the division welcomed 90,691 visitors to its museums and galleries, and more than 36,425 people participated in programs and activities sponsored by nonprofit organizations that lease [division-owned historic properties](#). In addition, the division supported the [First State Heritage Park](#) in welcoming 41,224 visitors.
- ◆ The [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#) exhibit, “An Illegal Activity: Delaware and the Underground Railroad,” welcomed nearly 8,000 adults and 2,000 school children since it opened in October 2013.

- ◆ During fiscal year 2014, the [Buena Vista Conference Center](#) welcomed 10,010 guests, and held 22 events hosted by members of the general public and six community events in partnership with the [Delaware Nature Society](#). Guests conducted business, discussed policy, participated in educational programs and enjoyed a variety of special events and celebrations.
- ◆ Initiated development of an agency-wide marketing plan to improve communication with the public and promote the division's facilities, programs and services.
- ◆ Electronically published 12 issues of the division's e-newsletter. This publication forms the core of the agency's communications activities providing updated content for the division's webpage, [blog](#) and [press releases](#). The publication, distributed monthly to 1,824 individuals, features a variety of history- and preservation-related articles, calendar information and links to press articles on relevant subjects. The newsletter has been recognized for its high-quality journalistic style and eye-catching photographs.
- ◆ Expanded the timeline of the division's event calendar so that it is distributed to the media at least four months in advance of listed events. This is helping to increase coverage of division events in publications with long-advance deadlines.
- ◆ The Buena Vista Conference Center enhanced its online social-media presence by revamping its [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) sites. In addition, accounts are being established on WeddingWire.com and Eventective.com, designed to connect event planners to vendors.
- ◆ The 16th annual Chautauqua tent show, "With Malice Toward None: Delaware Life During the Civil War," drew a total attendance of 2,323 guests during its week-long run in Lewes. Coordinated by the division in partnership with the Lewes Historical Society, City of Lewes, Lewes Public Library, Lewes Presbyterian Church and local merchants and community leaders, the event featured historical vignettes, musical performances and interactive talks. Funding was provided by the Delaware Humanities Forum and the Delaware Heritage Commission.
- ◆ In September 2013, the division and the First State Heritage Park partnered with the [Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware](#) for a Lenape Homecoming, bringing nearly 800 visitors to the park.

Enhancing preservation

- ◆ Applied to the National Park Service for Hurricane Sandy Preservation Recovery Funds and was awarded a \$1 million grant to cover the costs of preserving or rehabilitating historic properties affected by the storm. During fiscal year 2014, the division developed program guidelines, solicited applications and received Park Service approval to sub-grant funds for three projects: Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse condition assessment and dock replacement; Milford New Century Club heating/cooling system, roof replacement and associated repairs; and exterior repairs to the Phillips Potato House. In addition, the grant will fund disaster-planning initiatives to improve identification of historic properties in areas vulnerable to such storms.
- ◆ Awarded \$5 million of available [state historic preservation tax credits](#) for improvements to 26 historic properties which included owner-occupied, non-profit owned and income-producing properties. Conducted a public workshop on the program in partnership with the [Lewes Historic Preservation Commission](#). Amended the program's regulations consistent with new state law which allowed for the creation of downtown development districts and providing incentives, such as the historic preservation tax credits, to support this initiative.

- ◆ Received for review and comment 378 new [environmental-review](#) projects that included federal undertakings from the U.S. departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development and Education; the Federal Highway Administration; the Federal Emergency Management Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Communications Commission; as well as State [Preliminary Land Use](#) service projects. The division closed 90.2 percent of these projects. The remaining cases, complex and lengthy in nature, are proceeding through stages of activity.
- ◆ To further streamline project review, division staff successfully negotiated programmatic agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its Community Development Block Grant programs in New Castle and Sussex counties, and with the Federal Highway Administration and the Delaware Department of Transportation. In addition, the division assisted in the development of a regional programmatic agreement with the National Park Service governing project review under the Hurricane Sandy grant program.
- ◆ Four properties were approved by the [State Review Board for Historic Preservation](#) for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places: Adams Home Farm (near Greenwood); [Burton-Blackstone-Carey](#) Store (Millsboro), [Union Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church Complex](#) (near Clarksville) and [St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church](#) (Harrington). Staff is working with numerous constituents throughout the state on nominations that will be submitted for review during fiscal year 2015. To assist and encourage property owners to explore their own property history and complete nominations, the division conducted a National Register research workshop in collaboration with Delaware Public Archives.
- ◆ Worked in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and agencies within the Department of State in developing strategies for improving the resilience of department facilities and operations and identifying best practices consistent with requirements of [Executive Order 41](#) relating to climate impacts.
- ◆ Completed capital-improvement projects at the division's historic properties throughout the state, including accessibility improvements and garden enhancements at Woodburn; site enhancements at Darley House; repair and renovation projects at Fort Christina, New Castle Arsenal, The Buena Vista Conference Center and Delaware Breakwater Lighthouse; a planning study for collections-curation housing; heating-ventilation-air-conditioning system and controls improvements at Buena Vista and John Dickinson Plantation; roofing inspections; and other improvements statewide.
- ◆ The division's in-house trades specialists completed 1,750 service requests providing carpentry and plumbing repairs, mechanical equipment installations, repairs to furnishings in state collections, preservation treatments and special fabrications and finishes to maintain the division's historic structures.
- ◆ Accessioned several items of historical or artistic value into the state's collections including a Spanish American War uniform, USS Delaware button, heirloom quilts and personal items associated with Delaware families.

Achieving excellence

- ◆ Partnered with the Delaware Historical Society to create the award-winning “Forging Faith, Building Freedom” exhibit exploring two centuries of diverse faith experiences and the story of freedom and equality for African Americans in Delaware. This project afforded a rare opportunity for professional and community collaboration on a thematic topic of great significance, both locally and nationally, and to present it in the city of Wilmington where it was viewed by more than 2,000 people. The exhibit received the American Association for State and Local History’s History in Progress Award and its Award of Merit.
- ◆ Received the American Association for State and Local History’s Award of Merit for “The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World,” which showcases His Majesty’s Sloop DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast in 1798. Held one day a week from late spring through early fall, program activities included a lecture, video and exhibit at the [Zwaanendael Museum](#) and an interpreter-led tour of the ship’s surviving hull section at a division-managed facility in Lewes.
- ◆ The division’s Preservation-Maintenance Team enhanced its core skills allowing for more repair- and fabrication-work to be done in-house; and expanded its preventive-maintenance practices to include annual applications of preservatives and finishes to prolong the life of existing building fabric and furnishings; replacement of bulbs in lighting fixtures with more energy-efficient compact fluorescents and light-emitting diodes. In addition, the team created a more efficient schedule of property inspections to ensure that problems are identified and addressed early.
- ◆ Published the “[2013 Annual Report: Planning for the Future, Striving for Excellence](#),” which focused on the division’s strategic-planning and museum-accreditation efforts as well as highlighting several of the division’s 216 free and low-cost public programs, special events and exhibits.

Special services and volunteer initiatives

- ◆ Volunteers provided 14,070 hours of service interpreting the division’s museums, installing exhibits, processing artifacts, cataloging collections, completing horticulture inventories, conducting historical research on a wide range of topics, assisting with preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations, processing digital research files, providing assistance with property maintenance, graphic design, administrative tasks and special events. These efforts augmented division staff and provided learning and skills-building opportunities for the volunteers.

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