

CAPITALIZING ON THE FUTURE



 **HCA**
DELAWARE HISTORICAL
& CULTURAL AFFAIRS

2019
ANNUAL REPORT

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Capitalizing on the Future

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs 2019 Annual Report

A message from the director

Thanks to generous support from Gov. John Carney, Secretary of State Jeff Bullock and the Delaware General Assembly, 2019 was a watershed year for the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs marked by the construction of the Delaware Center for Material Culture, the new home of the multi-million-item collection of historical materials owned by the State of Delaware.

Likewise, 2019 marked a year in which the division completed, began, or was in the process of planning nearly 40 capital-improvement projects at its properties across the state. From the Weldin House in northern New Castle County, to the Octagonal Schoolhouse in Kent County Dover, to the Delaware Breakwater-East End Lighthouse in Lewes, preservation activities at these historic places is a long-term investment in Delaware's quality of life.

Our work in preserving Delaware's historical legacy capitalizes on a natural, deep-seated human need for rootedness—of being part of a community that existed before us and one that will continue to exist after we are gone. It reflects our elemental longing for a connection to the past and a desire to pass on that connection to future generations.

At the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, we are committed to both preserving Delaware history and sharing our historical legacy with others. Through our historic preservation efforts, museums and historic sites, educational and interpretative programs, and especially through our dedicated staff, the division is committed to helping make Delaware a better place to live, work and visit.

Following is a series of eight vignettes that explore more fully our 2019 achievements. We are looking forward to capitalizing on these achievements in future years.

Tim Slavin
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Delaware history preserved through rehabilitation and new construction

During 2019, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, working in partnership with the [Division of Facilities Management](#), continued its stewardship of Delaware's historical legacy by completing construction and capital-improvement projects at sites that it administers across the state.

Following are highlights of some of the completed projects:

◆ Construction completed on the Delaware Center for Material Culture

Groundbreaking in August 2018. Completed in July 2019

Located at 1351 W. North St. in Dover, this 66,000-square-foot facility is leased to both the division and the [Delaware Department of Insurance](#). The division's 35,000-square-foot portion of the site has been named the Delaware Center for Material Culture and will house the multi-million-item collection of historical materials owned by the State of Delaware including museum objects, archaeological artifacts, works of art, and library and archival materials.

Over the years, the acquisition of new collections items had pushed the division's previous facilities to near capacity. As part of the process by which its museum system was [accredited by the American Alliance of Museums](#), the division committed to moving all of its collections into one, state-of-the-art location.

Designed according to professional standards

advanced by the alliance, the Delaware Center for Material Culture has greatly improved physical control of the state's collections through upgraded storage and the latest in fire-suppression, climate-control and security technology. Migration of the collections to the new facility began in October 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in early 2020.



Empty shelving in the Delaware Center for Material Culture on Sept. 30, 2019. Transfer of the State of Delaware's collections to the site began in October 2019.

◆ **Interior refurbishment of Hall House**

Project begun in October 2018. Completed in August 2019

Located at 181 Kings Highway in Dover, Hall House was built between 1886 and 1887 by Thomas W. Wilson, Jr. who at one time served as the state librarian. The Victorian-style home was purchased by the state in 1983 to serve as an annex for [Woodburn, the Governor's Residence](#). It was officially re-named Hall House in honor of former Gov. John W. Hall.



Improvements included floor refinishing, removal of wallpaper followed by room painting, new window treatments and electrical work. After the improvements were completed, the house was re-furnished with a mix of furniture from the State's collections plus new items acquired through a partnership between the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and the Friends of Woodburn.

Room in Hall House after refurbishment

◆ **Octagonal Schoolhouse improvements**

Project begun in August 2018. Completed in July 2019

Located at 6926 Bayside Drive east of Dover, the Octagonal Schoolhouse was built in 1836 and is one of the earliest examples of a one-room school in Delaware. It remained in use until 1930 when it became a community center.

Thanks to state Rep. William J. Carson, transportation funding was allocated to install a compacted-gravel roadway on the property in place of the overgrown, muddy and rutted lane that once led to the historic building. In addition, Carson made arrangements for DelDOT to clear thick brush and trees from the side of the road and the grounds surrounding the school.

Currently closed to the public, plans for future improvements to the property include, among others, repairs to the building's exterior wood features and stucco walls, and replacement of interior flooring.

State Rep. William J. Carson Jr. at the Octagonal Schoolhouse on Sept. 24, 2019. (From left) Carson; Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' Preservation Maintenance Team members Greg Buchman and Scott Hayes; and Division Director Tim Slavin. In the foreground is a section of the compacted-gravel roadway that was recently installed at the site.



Upcoming capital improvement projects at division properties

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is currently conducting, or is planning, nearly 40 capital improvement projects at historic sites that it administers across the state including Darley House in Claymont; Weldin House in New Castle County; the Kaiser property adjacent to Fort Christina, in Wilmington; the Cooch property in Newark; the Academy, Arsenal, [Buena Vista conference/event center](#), and [New Castle Court House Museum](#) sites in New Castle; [Belmont Hall](#) in Smyrna; the John Dickinson Plantation, Johnson Victrola Museum, Octagonal Schoolhouse and Woodburn in the greater-Dover area; [Abbott's Mill](#) in Milford; [Zwaanendael Museum](#) and Delaware Breakwater-East End Lighthouse in Lewes; and the [Fenwick Island Lighthouse](#) keeper's house.

Following are highlights of some of the upcoming projects:

◆ [John Dickinson Plantation](#)

Located at 340 Kitts Hummock Road southeast of Dover, this property was the boyhood home of John Dickinson, one of the founding fathers of the United States, signer of the Constitution and "Penman of the Revolution."

As part of a public/private partnership with the [Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion](#), plans call for the construction of a new visitor center; repairs to existing structures; blazing of trails down to the banks of the St. Jones River; and archaeological investigations at several locations on the property including former landing sites along the river, and the possible location of unmarked cemeteries.



Mansion house at the John Dickinson Plantation

◆ [Delaware Breakwater-East End Lighthouse](#)

Built in 1885 as a navigational aid for ships entering the Delaware Bay, the Delaware Breakwater-East End Lighthouse is located at the eastern end of the inner breakwater in Lewes. Surrounded by water, tours of the site have been conducted in recent years by [Cape Water Tours](#). Exterior painting of the lighthouse is planned for 2020.



Delaware Breakwater-East End Lighthouse

◆ **Weldin House**

Thanks to a \$750,000 appropriation from the state’s Asset Preservation Fund, the division has begun the process of rehabilitating the Weldin House located at 302 Philadelphia Pike north of Wilmington. The original section of the house was built circa 1790 and was



Weldin House

enlarged on several occasions by succeeding generations of the Weldin family who became some of the most prosperous farmers in Brandywine Hundred. The house began to fall into disrepair in the second half of the 20th century with deterioration continuing to the present day.

The division has recently begun remedial actions at the property including site clean-up of rubble and construction debris, tree work, re-establishment of utility service, installation of exterior safety lighting, and treatment of lead paint and asbestos. An assessment with recommendations for how to rehabilitate the building for future use as well as proposals for repairing the parking area, land managements and reconnecting utilities are all underway.

◆ **Kaiser property**

In October 2019, the division acquired the Kaiser property, a former industrial site located at 1122 E. 7th St. in Wilmington. The property is an “in-holding” that separates the [Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard](#) from the state-owned [Fort Christina National Historic](#)



[Landmark](#) which marks the site where a group of Swedish and Finnish settlers landed in 1638 to found the colony of New Sweden, the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware Valley.

Plans call for the clearing of structures from the former Kaiser property, brownfield remediation, and the joining of the three properties, together with an adjacent city-owned property, into a unified cultural site that will interpret Wilmington’s early settlement history. The division will retain ownership of the Fort Christina and Kaiser properties, leasing them to the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation for programmatic use.

Swedish Tercentenary Monument in the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark

Advertising campaign attracts visitors to museum programs

During 2019, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs continued its advertising campaign which is designed to attract visitors to the [five museums of the State of Delaware](#). Rack cards for [tours of the hull of His Majesty's Sloop DeBraak](#) were distributed to visitor centers across the state; and digital and print advertisements for a wide variety of division programs appeared in the Cape Gazette, Delaware State News, Dover Post, Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitor's Bureau annual travel guide, and the News Journal.

Following are examples of the advertisements. Click on the images to learn more about the museums and events:

JOHN DICKINSON PLANTATIONS
18TH CENTURY TRADES DAY
 Explore Colonial-era job opportunities at the home of the "Penman of the Revolution!"
SATURDAY, OCT. 12, 2019
 10:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

- Dye cloth 1700s style
- Preserve food in the smokehouse
- Enjoy carpentry and blacksmithing demonstrations
- Mold bricks out of clay

FREE ADMISSION

John Dickinson Plantation
 340 Kitts Hummock Road
 Dover, DE 19901
 302-739-3277
<https://history.delaware.gov/trades2019>

HCA DELAWARE HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

- DELAWARE'S 21ST ANNUAL CHAUTAUQUA TENT SHOW -

THE 1960s IN DELAWARE:
 A DECADE OF TURMOIL AND TRANSFORMATION

FREE ADMISSION!

HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19
 BEGINNING AT 11:45 A.M.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
 SEPT. 20 AND 21
 BEGINNING AT 1 P.M.

- Ⓞ Thursday, 6-8 p.m.: Actor-historians portray Martin Luther King, Jr. and Lyndon B. Johnson
- Ⓞ Friday, 7:15 p.m.: *Good Ol' Freda*, a film about the Beatles' secretary
- Ⓞ Saturday, 6 p.m.: Concert/dance with the Fabulous 60's Revival Band

All programs at the Lewes History Museum, 101 Adams Ave., Lewes, Del.
 For information, call 302-645-1148 or visit <https://history.delaware.gov/chautauqua>

HCA DELAWARE HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS **delaware humanITIES**
 Saving Delaware History

William Penn Day
 In New Castle

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019
 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Historical theatre, film,
 Baroque concert, tours and more

Free Admission!

Click to find out more!

HCA DELAWARE HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Thursdays & Saturdays 2019

The Zwaanendael Museum presents

Lost off Lewes

The British warship *DeBraak*

LEWES, Del. May 26, 1719
 During the sudden squall experienced yesterday, the British Ship of War *DeBraak*, of guns, sank to the bottom of the sea. Its company and wares to her sinking was a Spanish prize and crew captured by the *DeBraak* off the coast. Its cargo of copper and ivory is said to be worth £60,000. The *DeBraak* was in company of the fleet of merchantmen, recently departed these waters, and having been separated from the coast since April. Cape J. One of the *DeBraak* might to take on drinking water here before continuing on. Shortly after a pilot boarded her off Cape J. and she was wrecked on the shore of Lewes. Many lives were lost.

Join a special tour that explores the 18th-century history, artifacts and the surviving hull section of this shipwreck.

2019 TOUR DATES

THURSDAYS AT 9 A.M.
 JUNE 13, 20, & 27
 JULY 11, 18, 25
 AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
 SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19, & 26

SATURDAYS AT 5 P.M.
 JUNE 29, JULY 27,
 & AUGUST 31



CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

and the
 Lenape Indian Tribe
 of Delaware

SEPTEMBER 2, 7, AND 14

Located at The Old State House & Johnson Victrola Museum, Dover, Del.

- Music
- Drumming
- Crafts
- Dancing
- Lectures

FREE PROGRAMS!
 For complete schedule of activities visit
<https://history.delaware.gov/lenape2019/>
 or call 302-744-5054



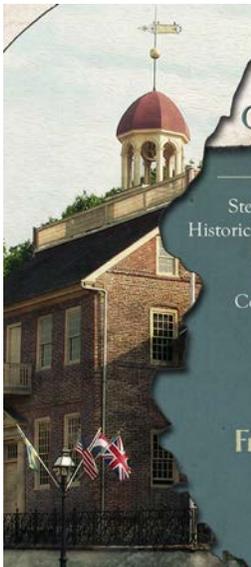
First Capitol in the First State NEW CASTLE COURT HOUSE MUSEUM

Step back in time at this 1732 National Historic Landmark that served as Delaware's first court and state capitol. Here in 1776, New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties declared their independence from Pennsylvania and England creating the Delaware State.

Tues - Sat: 10 am - 4:30 pm
 Sun: 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Free General Admission


 211 Delaware St., New Castle, DE 19720
 302-323-4453
history.delaware.gov/museums



FIRST IN HISTORY

<http://history.delaware.gov/museums>
 Museums of the State of Delaware in Dover

John Dickinson Plantation

History comes alive while touring the P.O. mission and farm of John Dickinson, one of the founding fathers of the United States and signer of the U.S. Constitution.

340 Kitts Hummock Road
 Dover, DE 19901 | 302-739-3277

Johnson Victrola Museum

Listen to 78-rpm records, revel in the sound of early phonographs and learn about the development of the sound recording industry and the achievements of E.R. Johnson, founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company.

375 S. New St.
 Dover, DE 19901 | 302-739-3262

The Old State House

Explore the trials and tribulations of a new state at this 1791 architectural masterpiece that served as Delaware's capitol during the United States' early years as a nation.

25 The Green
 Dover, DE 19901 | 302-744-5054

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

 DELAWARE HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
 Saving Delaware's History



Know Your Rights!

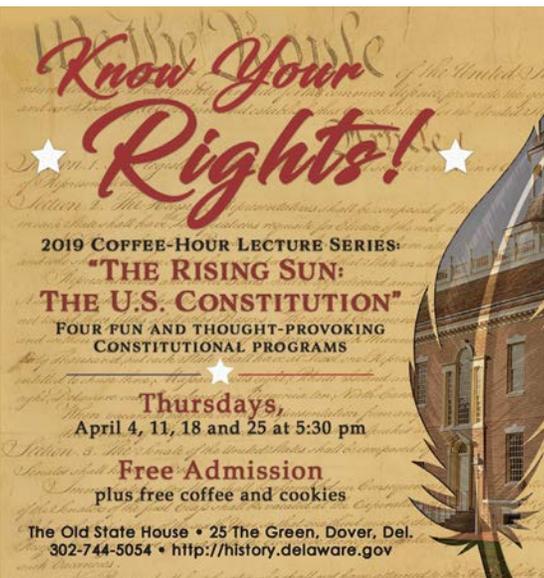
2019 COFFEE-HOUR LECTURE SERIES:
**"THE RISING SUN:
 THE U.S. CONSTITUTION"**

FOUR FUN AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING CONSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS

★
 Thursdays,
 April 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 5:30 pm

Free Admission
 plus free coffee and cookies

The Old State House • 25 The Green, Dover, Del.
 302-744-5054 • <http://history.delaware.gov>



Division sponsors 320 special events and exhibits

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' five museums, the Buena Vista conference/event center; and the agency's affiliate, lease and partner sites sponsored 320 special events and exhibits during fiscal year 2019. These activities, attended by 148,687 people, helped inform both state residents and out-of-state visitors about Delaware's unique contributions to the history and culture of the United States.

Following is a sampling of some of the activities presented in 2019:

- ◆ **"The Evolution of Black Recorded Music**, a Feb. 9 program at the Johnson Victrola Museum that explored companies from the early days of the record industry that recorded black artists
- ◆ **ArCH Field Days**, hands-on activities on the Dover Green in April and May 2019 that helped fourth-grade students understand and appreciate historic preservation as well as Delaware's arts, culture and heritage resources
- ◆ **"Separation—Freedom for Delaware**," a June 9 celebration at the New Castle Court House Museum marking the 243rd anniversary of Delaware's split from Great Britain and Pennsylvania to form the Delaware State
- ◆ **"Campfire at the John Dickinson Plantation**," July 2 and Aug. 1 events in which visitors joined staff around the campfire and played a game of Jeopardy based on the St. Jones Reserve and John Dickinson
- ◆ **The schooner A.J. Meerwald**, a partnership between the Zwaanendael Museum and New Jersey's Bayshore Center at Bivalve that presented a series of programs and sailing trips in Lewes during the summer of 2019
- ◆ **"Movie Night on the Lawn**," a family-friendly evening on Aug. 3 at the Buena Vista conference/event center. Activities included screening of the film "How to Train Your Dragon—The Hidden World" plus food trucks and a photo booth
- ◆ **"The Scorched Pamphlet: Sherlock Holmes Returns to Delaware**," a theatrical performance on Aug. 17 at The Old State House in which Sherlock Holmes, on his second trip to the First State, was called upon to solve a grisly case at Delaware College. Based on an actual New Castle court case
- ◆ **Hale-Byrnes holiday open house**, a Dec. 7 program in which the home where George Washington held a war council in 1777 celebrated the holidays
- ◆ **"Delaware Day Competition**," a display at Legislative Hall of works by participants in the Delaware Department of State's 18th annual Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition which challenges students to illustrate and explain the U.S. Constitution



The First Delaware Regiment conducted demonstrations in New Castle as part of the "Separation—Freedom for Delaware" program on June 9, 2019.

Historic preservation and archaeology symposia look to the future ... as well as the past

During 2019, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' [State Historic Preservation Office](#) sponsored two symposia which addressed, respectively, issues related to the future of historic preservation in the state, and the search for information on Delaware's early Colonial history.



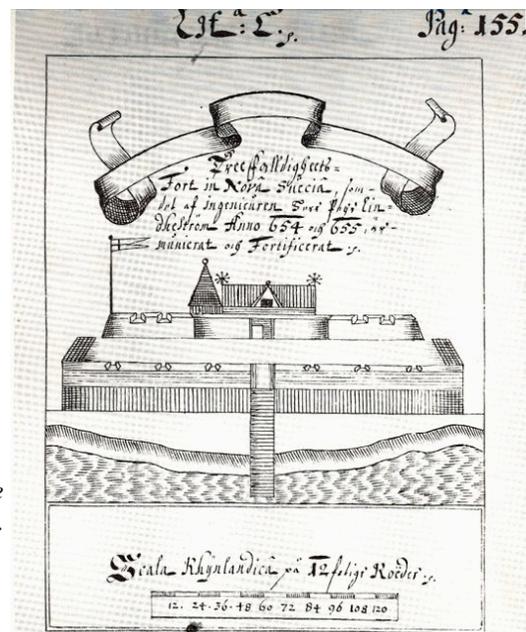
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Tim Slavin addresses attendees at the Historic Preservation Symposium

Sixty-five people attended the [Historic Preservation Symposium](#) that took place at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover on June 26. Sponsored in collaboration with preservation partners the Friends of the

John Dickinson Mansion and Preservation Delaware, Inc., the event featured speakers from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service who discussed the threats to historic properties posed by climate change, disaster preparedness and issues regarding elevating historic properties in flood-prone areas, as well as strategies for writing successful nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

The "[Delaware Valley Archaeology and History Symposium](#)", held on Dec. 7 at the New Castle Historical Society's headquarters in the Arsenal building in New Castle, featured scholarly presentations on the history and archaeology of the lower Delaware Valley including new research and recent updates on the Avery's Rest archaeological site in Sussex County, Del., and the search for Fort Casimir in New Castle, Del. More than 50 people attended the event.

Image of Fort Casimir after it had been captured by the Swedes, improved and renamed Fort Trefalldighet.



Four new additions to the National Register of Historic Places

During 2019, four Delaware properties were added to the [National Register of Historic Places](#), the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Staff members from the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' State Historic Preservation Office provided vital assistance to the property owners, consultants and volunteers in the preparation and submission of their nominations.

◆ [Downtown Harrington Historic District](#)—Listed June 20, 2019

The historic district of this Kent County town is an example of a prominent railroad crossroads community representing development patterns associated with the arrival and growth of the Delaware Railroad. The commercial and residential architecture within the boundaries of the district reflects local, regional and national trends in late-19th and early-20th century Romantic and Victorian styles including Italianate, Gothic Revival and Queen Anne; as well as examples of Art Deco, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Bungalow and American Foursquare buildings.



Commercial buildings along Commerce Street in Harrington

◆ [Richard Allen School](#) (316 Railroad Ave., Georgetown)—Listed June 20, 2019

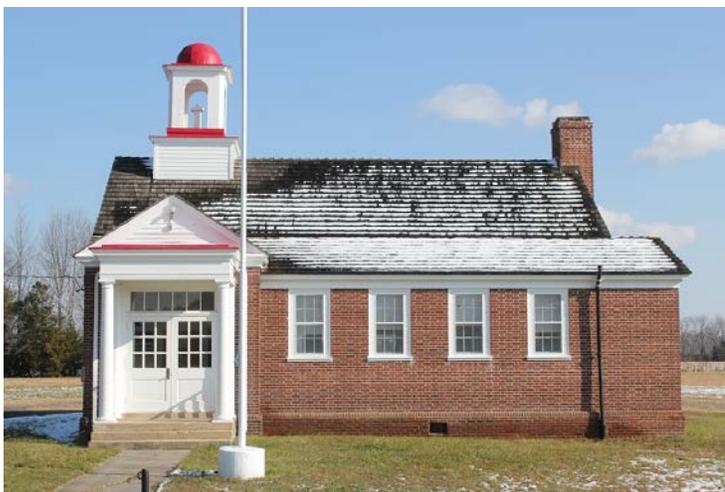
Identified originally in school records as the Georgetown School #23C ("C" designated it as a colored school), the site's three construction phases embody historical periods of change reflective of segregation and integration issues in Delaware's public education system during the 20th century. The school's initial 1923 construction, as a segregated facility, was funded by Service Citizens of Delaware, a civic organization that was working to improve the condition of the state's school buildings. In 1954, the building was expanded to double its size as part of Delaware's equalization strategy to maintain a segregated education system. The third expansion, in 1964, coincided with the integration of schools across the state.



Richard Allen School

◆ **Taylor's Bridge School** (121 Flemings Landing Road, Blackbird Hundred, New Castle County)—Listed June 20, 2019

Constructed in 1925 and used as a primary school until 1948, this one-room, one-teacher school is a scarce survival from an era of progressive educational reforms that markedly improved the education of rural school children as championed by philanthropist Pierre



S. du Pont and the Service Citizens of Delaware. Its forward-looking architecture and design embodied a new public awareness of the social importance of public education and the welfare of children and is reflective of the philosophies of its architect James Betelle, a prominent civic architect from Newark, N.J. who believed that architectural style could have a strong influence on a community.

Taylor's Bridge School

◆ **Parker's Dairy Palace** (2 Jay Drive, New Castle)—Listed Oct. 15, 2019

Built in 1954 as a Dairy Queen franchise, this vintage ice cream stand was acquired by Vince and Joyce Parker in 1956 and has remained a family enterprise ever since. After learning that Dairy Queen corporate officials wanted to modernize their existing buildings, the Parkers chose to purchase their franchised property in 1970 with an eye toward preserving its original appearance. Today's Dairy Palace retains the Dairy Queen enterprise's original characteristics including a modern-looking one-story building with a façade characterized by a large plate-glass window wall, a flat roof featuring overhanging eaves, an iconic neon sign featuring a tilted ice cream cone with a swirl on top, a parking lot and walk-up customer service windows. After severing ties with Dairy Queen, the Parkers replaced the word "Queen" with the word "Palace" on the building's main signage.



Parker's Dairy Palace

Division names three employees to its leadership team

During 2019, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs added three new members to its leadership team that is steering the work of nearly 100 staff members who are serving the agency in its efforts to “Save Delaware History.”

- ◆ Support Services Administrator [Samantha Angle](#) is responsible for managing the division’s Business Services Team which provides a fiscal and administrative support-network that is the foundation for all of the agency’s activities. The lifelong resident of Sandtown, Del. holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting and finance from Wilmington University and an associate degree in accounting from Delaware Technical and Community College. Prior to joining the division, she worked for the Delaware Division of Accounting, the Delaware Department of Transportation and in private business.
- ◆ Historic Sites Program Manager [Dan Citron](#) is responsible for coordinating programming and visitor engagement at the State of Delaware’s museums and historic properties. A Delaware native who grew up north of Wilmington, Citron holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Pennsylvania State University and has 17 years of interpretive and programmatic experience with historic sites and museums in the state. Most recently, he served for four years as executive director of the New Castle Historical Society. Prior to that, he served as historic-site manager at the Auburn Heights Preserve and Fort Delaware State Park, and as a historic-site interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg.
- ◆ Curator of Education [Vertie Lee](#) is a native Delawarean and the holder of a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Delaware. Over the past year, she served as acting site manager at the Buena Vista conference/event center, and, prior to that, spent 14 years at the John Dickinson Plantation as lead historic-site interpreter. Her new role as curator of education focuses on providing direction, support and management of educational services at the division’s five museums. As part of her responsibilities, she will provide leadership in the development of the division’s interpretive plan, and ensure that program research, development and evaluation are conducted according to nationally accepted best practices and standards.



We miss Jim days

By Jackie Collins, historical interpreter at the Johnson Victrola Museum and The Old State House

I know that I speak for all the historical interpreters who work at the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#)—for Susan Emory, Chris Hall, Gavin Malone, Steven Mumford, Site Supervisor Nena Todd and myself—when I say that we truly miss “Jim days”—our self-described name for Thursdays, the day of the week when our beloved volunteer Jim Schilling worked at the site. After nine years of service, Jim recently “retired” from the museum where he enjoyed conducting tours and participating in a variety of museum-related events. He was an integral member of the Johnson Victrola Museum family and will be greatly missed.

Of course, Jim didn’t really “retire” from the museum. His actual retirement came in 2006 after a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Air Force including a stint in Vietnam from 1967 to ’68. I first met Jim in 2011 at the old Dover Public Library where I was staffing a booth looking to recruit volunteers to work at the museum. It was a rainy day and I believe Jim was the only person who talked with me about serving. It was the beginning of a friendship that I cherish to this day.

Jim was no ordinary volunteer. His outgoing and friendly personality and his sense of humor quickly won over the museum’s staff and visitors alike. Extremely reliable, Jim liked to work when the museum first opened in the morning noting that “it would get his day started in a good way.” He was always eager to learn and quickly picked up all the interpretive information necessary to conduct lively tours of the entire museum.



Johnson Victrola Museum staff on Dec. 11, 2017 when Jim Schilling was awarded an Extra Mile Award by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. From left: Susan Emory, Chris Hall, Jackie Collins, Schilling, Nena Todd and Steven Mumford

One of my favorite memories of Jim was that he liked to keep the grounds of the museum looking attractive. As he would say, “We need to make a good first impression.” To that end, Jim would head out with a large bag and a “grabber” tool that he used to pick up litter. Not content to simply clean the immediate surroundings of the museum and its parking lot, Jim took it upon himself to beautify the entire block. He would then take an often very large bag of refuse home where he would dispose of it.

Over the course of his career at the museum, Jim logged well over 1,000 volunteer hours. His efforts were acknowledged on Oct. 6, 2015 when he and four other Johnson Victrola



Volunteer staff of the Johnson Victrola Museum honored at the 2015 Governor’s Outstanding Volunteer Awards ceremony. From left: volunteers Howard Fulcher, Arnold Leftwich and Jim Schilling; and Gov. Jack Markell

Museum volunteers—Howard Fulcher, Laura Herbin, Arnold Leftwich and David Perlmutter—were awarded an [Outstanding Volunteer Award](#) by Gov. Jack Markell. As Markell noted in reference to all those honored at the ceremony, “These volunteers recognize that it’s not about them. It’s about the people they serve.” I can’t think of a better description of Jim. He cares deeply about his community and gives generously of himself to make it a better place.

Editor’s note: *The entire staff of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs wishes Jim Schilling and his wife Wendy all the best as they move forward with the next chapter of their lives.*

Looking forward

In 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be building on the successes of 2019 by completing the migration of all the State of Delaware's collections to the Delaware Center for Material Culture and by carrying out planned maintenance and rehabilitation projects at sites across the state. In addition, the agency will continue developing master plans for major capital-improvement projects in the Cooch's Bridge Historic District; and at the John Dickinson Plantation, Kaiser property and Weldin House. Implementing the division's goals and objectives will be a mix of seasoned veterans and recent hires who will create a new synergy in the agency's ongoing efforts to preserve and promote Delaware history.

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](#).



The Kirk/Short Building, a contributing property to the Dover Green Historic District and main office of the Division of 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.



Nipper Corner at the Johnson Victrola Museum

- ◆ **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.



Formal garden at Woodburn, the Governor's Residence, installed and maintained by the division's Horticulture Team

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 2019 accomplishments

Partnership development

- ◆ Partnered with the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation and the First State National Historical Park to offer [summer visitation hours](#) at Fort Christina National Historic Landmark
- ◆ Joined with [First State Heritage Park](#) and the [Friends of Folk](#) to present six free evening concerts at [The Old State House](#)
- ◆ Partnered with the Lenapé Indian Tribe of Delaware to offer a [month-long celebration](#) of the tribe's heritage
- ◆ Partnered with the Archaeological Society of Delaware to develop a scope of work and archival-research agenda for the [Avery's Rest](#) archeological site. Work on this project will continue in 2020
- ◆ Partnered with the [Sussex Gardeners](#) who created decorations at the Zwaanendael Museum
- ◆ The John Dickinson Plantation and [St. Jones Reserve](#) worked together to create joint programs at their sites
- ◆ The Zwaanendael Museum partnered with the Lewes Historical Society and the Lewes Chamber of Commerce to present "[All Aboard: Delaware and the Railroad](#)," Lewes' 20th annual Chautauqua Tent Show
- ◆ The New Friends of Fenwick Island Lighthouse, which leases the lighthouse complex from the division, began a private fund-raising campaign to raise funds for both operations and capital improvements at the site



Improving access

- ◆ Utilized [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to shine a spotlight on items from the State of Delaware's collections that have not been accessible to the public through exhibits and displays
- ◆ Uploaded 12,852 files and added 597 new points to the [Cultural and Historical Resource Information System](#) (CHRIS), the division's Web-based geographic information system on historic properties that are located in the state

Innovative learning

- ◆ Served over 800 students, teachers and chaperones for the "Make a Splash" event at the John Dickinson Plantation in partnership with the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve

- ◆ In partnership with First State Heritage Park, the First State National Historical Park and many other agencies and organizations, presented the fourth annual ArCH (Arts, Culture and Heritage) field-day programs which featured hands-on activities focused on Delaware arts, history, archaeology and cultural heritage. The event was designed to meet Next Generation science standards and Common Core state standards for art and history for fourth graders. Participants included 825 students and 117 teachers and chaperones
- ◆ Engaged 530 students, from 19 schools, in the study of the U.S. Constitution as part of the annual Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition

Engaging audiences

- ◆ Welcomed 148,687 visitors via 320 special events, school programs, meetings, exhibits and displays at the division’s five museums; the Buena Vista conference/event center; and the agency’s affiliate, lease and partner sites across the state
- ◆ Created three new exhibits/displays: [Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport](#),” an exhibit at the Zwaanendael Museum which explores the history of rail travel and transport in the First State; [“When Janie Comes Marching Home: Women’s Fight to Serve,”](#) a display at Legislative Hall that explores the participation of women in America’s armed conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present; and [“The Path to Freedom: A History of the Underground Railroad in Delaware,”](#) an exhibit at the New Castle Court House Museum that explores Delaware’s role in the clandestine network that transported American slaves to freedom in the period before and during the Civil War
- ◆ Organized the [“Queenstown and the Early Colonial Delmarva: An Archaeological and Historical Symposium”](#) at the New Castle Court House Museum
- ◆ Posted 98 articles on the division’s [blog](#) and 247 tweets; registered 214,229 visitor sessions on its website, an increase of 78 percent; attracted 6,505 “likes” on its seven Facebook sites, an increase of 12 percent; and increased Twitter followers by seven percent to 1,933
- ◆ Published electronically 12 issues of the division’s e-newsletter, a digest of history- and preservation-related articles, calendar of events and links to press articles on relevant subjects. Distributed monthly to 2,065 individuals, the newsletter is distilled from content published in the division’s blog, social media, webpage and press releases
- ◆ Published the division’s [2018 annual report](#)
- ◆ Purchased print and digital advertising for the division’s museums and programs in the Delaware Beachcomber, Delaware State News, Dover Post, Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitor’s Bureau annual travel guide and the News Journal
- ◆ Distributed throughout Delaware promotional rack cards for the division’s five museums and for tours of the hull of His Majesty’s Sloop DeBraak
- ◆ The opinion editorial article, [“Narcissists? Nope, we Delawareans are just rightly proud of our history,”](#) written by division director Tim Slavin, was published in the Wilmington News Journal



Enhancing preservation

- ◆ Released “[Partners in Preservation: Planning for the Future—Delaware’s Historic Preservation Plan, 2018–2022](#)” which provides a guide for citizens, organizations and agencies working together to preserve Delaware’s heritage for the future
- ◆ Added six listings to the National Register of Historic Places: [The Ball Theatre](#) and [Godwin School](#) in Millsboro, Downtown Harrington Historic District, [Homestead Hall](#) in Appoquinimink Hundred, Richard Allen School in Georgetown and Taylor’s Bridge School in Blackbird Hundred
- ◆ Awarded \$8 million [in State Historic Preservation Tax Credits](#) for repairs and improvements to historic properties, including owner-occupied, nonprofit-owned and income-producing properties
- ◆ Reviewed multiple applications for the [Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive program](#) which is often used in concert with the state program
- ◆ Received for review and comment nearly 367 new [environmental-review](#) projects. Over 77% of these reviews have since been completed. The projects reviewed were undertaken by entities applying for funding or permitting from a wide variety of federal agencies, as well as projects that are being reviewed through the state [Preliminary Land Use Service](#) process
- ◆ Re-granted \$54,199 from the federal [Historic Preservation Fund](#) to support preservation-related activities conducted by Delaware’s [Certified Local Governments](#)
- ◆ Acquired historic property at [Cooch’s Bridge](#), the site of the state’s only Revolutionary War land battle. The site will become a public resource for future generations of Delawareans to learn the story of the battle and the broader history of the surrounding area
- ◆ Completed several rehabilitation/repair projects at the Buena Vista conference/event center including restoration and renovation of the circa 1825 brick stable as a support building for the pole-shed event pavilion; restoration and repair of the playhouse; library woodwork repair; upgrading of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system and shift to a new water line in the mansion house; installation of storm doors on the mansion’s main public entrances; repairs to the greenhouse; and conversion of a section of the property’s garage to serve as a storage location in support of conference center functions
- ◆ Completed capital-improvement projects at division-owned historic properties throughout the state including miscellaneous repairs at Dayett House, [exterior rehabilitation](#) of the keeper’s house at the Fenwick Island Lighthouse, mechanical upgrades and exterior repairs at the Old Brick Church and replacement of the roof at Reith Hall



Restored brick stable at Buena Vista

Achieving excellence

- ◆ [Jason Bakke](#) received a 2018 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award for his work in developing programming at the Zwaanendael Museum and expanding its outreach beyond Lewes into Sussex County
- ◆ For the second year in a row, the Zwaanendael Museum was voted [Best Museum in Sussex County](#) by the readers of Coastal Style magazine
- ◆ [Carlton Hall](#), division cultural preservation specialist and historian, spoke at the "Shaking Up Preservation" session of the 2019 New York Statewide Preservation Conference in Rochester, N.Y. which featured the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "40 Under 40" honorees
- ◆ Bid farewell to five long-time employees including archaeologist Faye Stocum who retired after 45 years of service; [Beth Gott](#), lead historic-site interpreter at the Zwaanendael Museum, who retired after 30 years; physical plant maintenance/trades mechanic Melvin Mitchell who retired after 25 years; historian [Beverly Laing](#) who retired after 28 years; and archaeologist [Craig Lukezic](#) who departed after 15 years

Special services and volunteer initiatives

- ◆ The division's 227 [volunteers](#) provided 10,058 service hours, valued at over \$255,000, interpreting at State of Delaware 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 nominations, processing digital research files, providing assistance with property maintenance, graphic design, administrative tasks and special events

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NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

Front cover photos: (Clockwise from top) Cooch House, New Castle Court House Museum, Hall House, Octagonal Schoolhouse, Delaware Breakwater-East End Lighthouse and the mansion house at the John Dickinson Plantation

Rear cover photo: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs staff members gathered in the Delaware Center for Material Culture on Sept. 30, 2019.

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