

Delaware Division
of Historical and
Cultural Affairs



2016 Annual Report



Historical and Cultural Affairs

**Preserving Historic
Buildings of the Past;
Building Audiences
for the Future**

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Preserving Historic Buildings of the Past; Building Audiences for the Future

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs 2016 Annual Report

A message from the director

In 2016, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs brought to fruition several major initiatives that go to the heart of our mission to both preserve Delaware history and to share that history with current and future generations.

In the first instance, we completed capital-improvement projects that have helped to preserve and maintain some of the most historic places in the state including the Green, Arsenal, Academy and Court House in New Castle, and the Old Sussex County Court House in Georgetown.

At the same time, we produced a comprehensive marketing/communications plan that is guiding us in our efforts to retain current audiences and build new audiences for the future. Marketing and publicity alone, however, are not enough to make our offerings stand out in an overcrowded field of leisure activities competing for the public's attention. We also need to produce high-quality programming that not only entertains, but also educates and enlightens our audiences. In this regard, I am happy to report that the division produced more than 200 public events, exhibits and displays in fiscal year 2016 that attracted more than 170,000 visits to museums and historic sites across Delaware—an increase of 7.4 percent over fiscal year 2015.

These achievements help to illustrate the circular nature of the division's mission—by helping to save our state's historic properties, we provide concrete locations where people can learn about Delaware history in the place where it actually happened. This, in turn, helps people become more aware of the importance of preserving historic sites that are in danger of being lost.

Following is a series of eight vignettes that illustrate how the division is living up to its motto, "Saving Delaware History."

Tim Slavin
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

\$350,000 in capital improvements completed at state-owned historic properties in New Castle

Visitors to historic New Castle can now see the impressive results of a year-long, \$350,000 [capital improvement plan](#) that the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs implemented at four state-owned historic properties that the agency administers in Delaware's original capital city. Implementation of the plan began in March 2015 with all improvements completed by April 2016. On June 1, 2016, the [New Castle Historical Society](#) recognized the completed project when it presented its [2016 Bamberger Historic Preservation Award](#) to the division for the "sensitive and appropriate restoration of the Court House, Arsenal, Academy and Green."



Before and after photos of repairs to the New Castle Academy's garden wall.

Founded by the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant in 1651, the town that would later be called [New Castle](#) served as Delaware's Colonial and state capital from 1704 until 1777. The city's well-preserved historic district retains many original structures built between 1698 and 1873 representing a wide variety of architectural styles including Dutch Colonial, Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival. New Castle now serves as the headquarters of the [First State National Historical Park](#), the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [New Castle Green](#) are among seven components of the park which includes sites in all three of Delaware's counties.

Following is a summary of the completed projects:

Capital improvements to the **Arsenal**, located at 30 Market St., included reworking the building's south entry door and renovation of the first-floor restroom in order to meet current accessibility standards for people with disabilities, completed in April 2016; and wood repairs and painting of the building's cupola and metal roof, completed in the fall of 2015. Constructed in 1809 by the United States government as a storage place for weapons and ammunition, the Arsenal has served as a school building, restaurant and currently, as the headquarters of the New Castle Historical Society.



The Arsenal with newly painted and repaired cupola and roof.



New Castle Academy

Reconstruction of the **New Castle Academy's** deteriorating garden wall was completed in December 2015. The reconstruction consisted mainly of reusing the good facing bricks from the original wall supplemented, where needed, with newer matching bricks. As much of the original wood, stone and brick materials as possible were used in the reconstruction. Located at 31 E. Third St., the Academy was built in 1799 and served as a public school until 1930. The building is currently leased to [Immanuel Episcopal Church](#) which utilizes it for many church-related and community activities.

As part of ongoing pedestrian-walkway maintenance, three sections of the **New Castle Green** were improved in late fall of 2015 including two areas of sidewalk along Third Street and one area of walkway on The Green near Delaware Street. The removal of existing pavers, leveling and preparation of the sub-grade and reinstallation of pavers is intended to address broken bricks, cracks and uneven surfaces and create a safe and stable walking surface on this town commons that was laid out by the Dutch in 1655.



Repaired sidewalk on the New Castle Green.



New Castle Court House Museum with new roof.

Completed ahead of schedule in mid-July, 2015, capital improvements to the **New Castle Court House Museum** included replacement of the structure's deteriorated terra-cotta roofing system, as well as cupola renovations, lightning-protection enhancements and weathervane gilding. Located at 211 Delaware St., the building was constructed in 1732 and later served as Delaware's first court and state capitol. It now houses a division-administered museum.

Restoration work completed at Old Sussex County Court House

As part of [Return Day](#) festivities on Nov. 10, 2016, state and local officials participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the rededication of the recently restored [Old Sussex County Court House](#) located at 10 S. Bedford St. in Georgetown, Del. Owned by the State of Delaware and managed by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the property recently underwent a \$307,000 rehabilitation that included both a major exterior-restoration and interior refurbishment of the site's first and second floors. These improvements were funded by appropriations from the State of Delaware's Minor Capital Improvements and Equipment program.



The building was originally constructed in 1791 after the Sussex County seat was moved from Lewes to Georgetown in order to provide a more centralized location for county governmental and judicial functions. In 1837, the structure was moved from its original location on Georgetown Circle to make way for the current court house which still occupies the site. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Sussex County Court House is still used occasionally for special court functions. It is now leased to the [Georgetown Historical Society](#) which opens it for public visitation at various times throughout the year.



Photos of the Old Sussex County Court House before (top) and after restoration work.

Recent improvements to the property include removal of all the wood-shingle siding on the exterior of the building; repointing of the masonry chimneys; repair of existing wooden windows, doors and raised-panel shutters; repair of the existing wood-shingle roof where needed; application of liquid-membrane waterproofing to the existing metal cupola-floor; restoration of the chime for the cupola's bell; refurbishing of all existing metal window-, shutter- and door-hardware; painting existing wooden windows and doors; staining new exterior wood-shingle siding; stabilizing interior plaster walls where needed and whitewashing all interior plaster walls; and the application of an oil finish on all interior woodwork exclusive of the floors.

Hale-Byrnes House awarded \$47,610 grant from the Longwood Foundation

On Nov. 18, 2016, the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities was notified that it had been awarded a \$47,610 grant from the [Longwood Foundation](#) for repair of deteriorating mortar joints in the brick façade at the gables and chimneys of the [Hale-Byrnes House](#), located at 606 Stanton-Christiana Road in Newark, Del.



Leased to the antiquities society by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Hale-Byrnes House was built in 1750 and used in 1777 as a meeting place for Gen. George Washington and his staff between the Battle of Cooch's Bridge in Delaware and the Battle of Brandywine in Pennsylvania. The house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.



(Top) Deteriorating mortar joints at one of the gables of the Hale-Byrnes House. (Bottom) Exterior view of the historic home.

In recent years, significant investments in water-control have been completed at the property including the replacement of the septic system by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, and improvements made by the [Delaware Department of Transportation](#) that prevent road runoff from entering the property.

Fort Christina National Historic Landmark reopens thanks to community partnerships



On July 19, 2016, Sen. Tom Carper and a group of dignitaries including Gov. Jack Markell, Delaware Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock, First State National Historical Park Superintendent Ethan McKinley and [Kalmar Nyckel Foundation](#) President Robert Harra, Jr. conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the re-opening of the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark.

Sen. Tom Carper (center) cuts the ribbon celebrating the re-opening of the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark. Pictured (from left) are state Rep. James Johnson, Wilmington City Councilman Justen A. Wright, First State National Historical Park Superintendent Ethan McKinley, Wilmington City Councilwoman Maria Cabrera, Carper, Wilmington City Councilwoman Hanifa Shabazz, state Rep. Stephanie T. Bolden, Gov. Jack Markell, Wilmington City Council President Theo Gregory and New Castle County Executive Tom Gordon.

Located at 1110 E. 7th St. in Wilmington, Del., Fort Christina National Historic Landmark is situated on the approximate site where a group of Swedish and Finnish colonists from the ships Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip landed on a natural wharf of rocks in 1638. Named [Fort Christina](#) after the then 12-year-old queen of Sweden, it was the first Swedish settlement in America and the first permanent non-native settlement in Delaware. A partner site in the First State National Historical Park, the landmark is owned by the State of Delaware and administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Due to safety/security concerns and financial-resource constraints, Fort Christina had been closed to the public for over 10 years. However, thanks to a partnership between the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the First State National Historical Park and the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, it was re-opened for the summer of 2016.

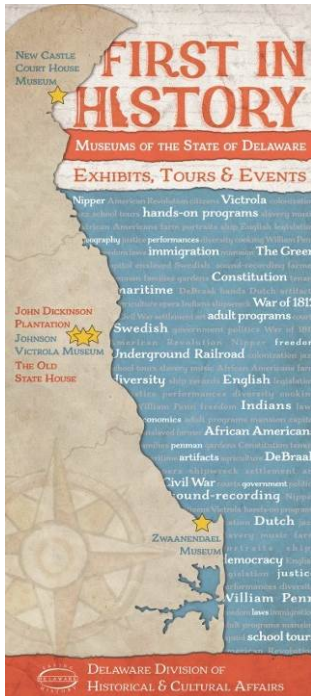


Fort Christina as it appeared in 1939.

The re-opening of Fort Christina National Historic Landmark is part of a larger effort to create a first-class historical and cultural destination on Wilmington's East Seventh Street peninsula. This effort includes integrating and developing the historic and cultural attractions of the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard, Fort Christina, Old Swedes Church and the Hendrickson House, along with the Christina River water taxi and other Riverfront attractions. Organizations working to bring this dream to fruition include the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, the [National Park Service](#), [Old Swedes Foundation](#) and the [Riverfront Development Corporation](#).

Division's new marketing plan helps build audiences for the future

In June 2016, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs completed a comprehensive marketing/communications plan designed to better advertise the agency's programs and services, and to stimulate public awareness of the value of history and historic preservation.



Identified as an objective in the division's fiscal year 2015-2019 [strategic plan](#), the marketing/communications plan was developed by the Community Engagement Committee, a group of employees and volunteers representing the division's Business Administration; Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits (CARE); Preservation; and Site Management [teams](#).

In developing action steps for the plan, the committee identified marketing/communications activities for both the division as a whole, and for individual units within the division (individual museums, [State Historic Preservation Office](#), [Volunteer Program](#), etc.). Similarly, the committee developed a two-pronged approach to audience outreach, developing marketing activities directed to a broad, undifferentiated public on the one hand; and, on the other, to five specifically identified demographic groups—tourists, educators and their students, African-Americans, families and retirees.

Rack card printed in July 2016 to advertise the division's museums.

Marketing/communications activities currently in use by the division include Facebook pages for each of the agency's [five museums](#), a [website](#), [blog](#), newsletter, [Twitter feed](#), posters, [rack cards](#), brochures, annual reports and [on-line calendar of events](#).

Additionally, the division maintains a comprehensive database of media contacts, community points of contact, policy makers involved in history and historic preservation and individuals interested in the programs and services of the agency. This database is utilized for a variety of communications activities including press releases, mass e-mail advertising and newsletter distribution.



Link to the division's online calendar of events.



Link to the division's blog.

Activities slated for implementation during the remaining four years of the marketing/communications plan include development of a new brand for the agency; decentralized marketing activities for each of the division's subunits; strategies that reach out to specific target-markets; creation of agency-wide Facebook and Instagram feeds; development of a campaign that promotes the value of history and historic preservation; and communication with selected targets regarding rental of division sites.

Attendance up 7.4 percent at division venues

Visitation to the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' five museums, the [Buena Vista Conference Center](#); and the agency's affiliate, lease and partner sites rose from 158,478 in fiscal 2015 to 170,201 in fiscal year 2016, an increase of 7.4 percent.

This increase in visitation was due, in large part, to the more than 200 public events, exhibits and displays that were presented at the sites during 2016 including the following:

- ◆ **“[Listen Up!](#),”** a year-long series of programs at the division's downtown Dover museums in which local youth, working with Delaware spoken-word artists, utilized poetry, theater, dance and song to create their own compositions that celebrated different aspects of Delaware history.
- ◆ **“[School of the Soldier](#),”** a weekend of programs on April 2 and 3 featuring the [2nd Delaware Volunteer Infantry](#), a group of Civil War re-enactors. The event was held at [Belmont Hall](#) in Smyrna, a division-owned property leased to the Friends of Belmont Hall.
- ◆ **“[Middletown Goes To War](#),”** an exhibit that spotlighted the contributions of Middletown's veterans from the Revolutionary War to the present. Designed by the division's [CARE Team](#) as part of an Affiliates Program partnership with the Middletown Historical Society, the exhibit closed on June 30.
- ◆ **“[Lantern Tours of the Plantation](#),”** an Oct. 21 program that explored the parties, games, dances and entertainment that would have abounded at Dover's [John Dickinson Plantation](#) during the nighttime in the 18th century. The night's festivities also included wagon-ride guided-tours conducted by staff of the [St. Jones Reserve](#) which explored the nocturnal life of the St. Jones River estuary.
- ◆ **“[William Penn Day](#),”** a series of programs held at the New Castle Court House Museum on Oct. 22 that commemorated the 334th anniversary of Penn's disembarkment at New Castle, his first landing in the New World.
- ◆ **“[Land and Sea Christmas](#),”** the Buena Vista Conference Center's annual holiday-open-house on Dec. 10 that featured tours of one of Delaware's most historic homes decorated for the season plus craft activities for children.
- ◆ **“[Wine and Spirits in Delaware: Producing, Preserving, and Presenting](#),”** an exhibit that opened at the [Zwaanendael Museum](#) in Lewes on April 2 which features objects and graphics from the 18th to the 21st centuries that illustrate Delaware's wine and spirits trade.



Preservation50 celebrated the golden anniversary of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

Throughout 2016, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' State Historic Preservation Office worked with several Delaware organizations and individuals to develop programs in support of [Preservation50](#), a nation-wide celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the passage of the [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#). The act established programs and funding that assist states, Indian tribes and local communities in identifying and protecting places that embody their cultural heritage.



More than thirty Preservation50 projects and activities were conducted in Delaware during 2016 with the goal of connecting communities and citizens with the tools needed to make a difference in preserving the state's heritage. Program highlights include the following:

- ◆ [“Archaeology in Delaware,”](#) a video produced by the division as part of the [Making Archaeology Public Project](#) highlights how archaeological studies have enhanced our understanding of Delaware's history.

- ◆ [The Dover Days Festival](#) based its May 5 to 7 activities on the theme of historic preservation.

- ◆ **The Arts, Culture and Heritage (ArCH) field-day program**, developed through a partnership with the First State Heritage Park, First State National Historical Park and 15 other organizations across the state. On May 11, 18 and 20, a total of 922 fourth-grade students participated in program-related field trips where they learned about the value of historic preservation in conjunction with activities exploring Delaware arts, culture and heritage. The ArCH program is scheduled to be repeated in 2017.



Students participating in the May 11 ArCh field day.

- ◆ [“Making the First State Shine: 50 Years of Historic Preservation in Delaware,”](#) Delaware's 18th annual Chautauqua which took place in Lewes from June 19 to 23.
- ◆ [A resolution commending the National Historic Preservation Act](#) was passed by the Delaware General Assembly on July 1.
- ◆ [“Historic Preservation Celebration: Past, Present and Future,”](#) an Oct. 7 program at the Painted Stave Distillery in Smyrna that marked the close of Preservation50 in Delaware. The program featured talks by top historic-preservation professionals and the presentation of a certificate of recognition to historian Kim Burdick who led a grassroots effort to promote Preservation50 and engage the public on preservation issues.

World War II Through the Lens of William D. Willis” photographic exhibit displayed across the state



William D. Willis

Throughout 2016, images from the William D. Willis World War II Photographic Collection were displayed at a variety of sites across Delaware. The collection includes more than 600 photographs taken by Dover, Del. native William D. Willis and his colleagues who served as official military photographers during service in Western Europe between 1943 and 1945. The collection surfaced after Willis’ death and was brought to the attention of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs which accepted it into the permanent collections of the State of Delaware in 2012.



Willis collection photograph of two P-51 Mustang fighter aircraft.

Several photographs from the collection were presented to the public through a series of displays created by the division’s Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits (CARE) Team and exhibited at Legislative Hall in Dover between March 2015 and February 2016. Photographs from these displays were combined to create “[World War II Through the Lens of William D. Willis: a photographic exhibit](#)” that was on view at the Seaford Historical Society between Feb. 13 and May 31, 2016, and has been on display at the Middletown Historical Society since August 2016.

The division’s partnerships with the Seaford and Middletown historical societies are components of the agency’s Affiliates Program which utilizes professionals from the division staff—including exhibit designers, curators, editors, museum managers, trades-people, archaeologists and historians—who work with history- and heritage-based organizations throughout Delaware to develop joint programs and exhibits, including potential display of items from the state’s collections. “World War II Through the Lens of William D. Willis: a photographic exhibit” was curated by Carolyn Apple, a retired Dover physician and CARE Team volunteer who has been deeply involved in the Willis collection from processing its initial donation to researching, documenting and curating photos; writing display text; and assisting in the installation of the exhibits. In a ceremony on Oct. 19, 2016, Apple was presented a [Governor’s Outstanding Volunteer Award](#) for her work with the collection.



Carolyn Apple receiving her Outstanding Volunteer award from Gov. Jack Markell.

Looking forward

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is planning several significant projects for 2017, most notably, spearheading the development of a new historic-preservation plan for the State of Delaware; and conducting a thorough inventory of the state's historical and archaeological collections in preparation for the relocation of the collections to a new physical space for long-term curation.

In addition, the division will continue to improve and refine its management of state cultural assets through the use of the [AssetWorks](#) property-management program; increase person-to-person engagements at its museums and historic sites through school programs, special events, exhibits and displays; strengthen its partnerships with the National Park Service and local organizations to increase access to Delaware's history and public spaces; and continue the process of electronically mapping the locations of historical Delaware properties in the agency's [Cultural and Historical Resources Information System](#) (CHRIS).

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.



Mansion house at the John Dickinson Plantation.

- ◆ **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.



Flower bed on Legislative Mall in Dover created by the division's Horticulture Team.

Appendix

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs fiscal year 2016 accomplishments

Partnership development

- ◆ Celebrated the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act by joining private and public partners across the country in presenting programs and activities in local communities focused on history and heritage and highlighting the importance of identifying and preserving significant historic properties.
- ◆ Developed new programs with the state of Maryland and the National Park Service focused on the topic, “[Find Your Freedom: Exploring Slavery and the Underground Railroad on the Delmarva.](#)”
- ◆ Collaborated with Evergreen Exhibitions, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the [Delaware Museum of Natural History](#) to create and present two exhibits featuring His Majesty’s Sloop DeBraak and the China Wreck artifacts and research for display at the museum. The exhibit introduces biology, chemistry, geology and history, demonstrating the critical role that technology plays in exploring our world.
- ◆ Joined with the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, Old Swedes Foundation, Riverfront Development Corporation and the National Park Service to create the 7th Street Riverfront Coalition for the purpose of raising the profile of the historic and cultural sites in this area, including Fort Christina, as visitor destinations and supporting improvements and enhancements at the sites.

Improving access

- ◆ Partnered with the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation for the summer reopening of Fort Christina National Historic Landmark.
- ◆ Completed a marketing plan for the division and launched an on-line calendar of events of the division’s program offerings.
- ◆ Developed and distributed throughout the state new promotional rack cards for the state’s five museums and for [tours of the hull of His Majesty’s Sloop DeBraak](#).
- ◆ Prepared a video for the Making Archaeology Public program, a national initiative to highlight the contributions and public benefits of archaeological research conducted under the auspices of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Rack card advertising DeBraak tours.



Innovative learning

- ◆ Coordinated “Listen Up!,” a year-long program in which participating Delaware youth (ages 10 to 18) researched and developed their own spoken-word compositions based on events in Delaware history.
- ◆ Created an innovative new ArCH (Archaeology, Culture and Heritage) field-day program in partnership with First State Heritage Park and 14 other organizations which featured hands-on activities focused on Delaware arts, history, archaeology and cultural heritage. The three-day event was coordinated with the Social Studies Coalition and designed to meet [NextGeneration science standards](#) and [Common Core state standards](#) for art and history. Participants included 922 fourth-grade students and 93 teachers and chaperones.
- ◆ Supported Delaware State University’s [Integrated Service Learning project](#) offered during the summer session for incoming freshman students. Students researched, created and conducted public programs at local museums covering the American Revolution and early spy-rings, the Dickinson house fire of 1804 and comparison of early recording artists with contemporary singers.
- ◆ Presented a program to the [Cab Calloway School’s summer camp](#) on the history of Delaware and the earth. The session focused on the themes of paleontology and archaeology, socio-economic history of the 17th and 18th centuries, and maritime history, including piracy.
- ◆ Engaged 1,200 students in a study of the U.S. Constitution as part of the annual [Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition](#).

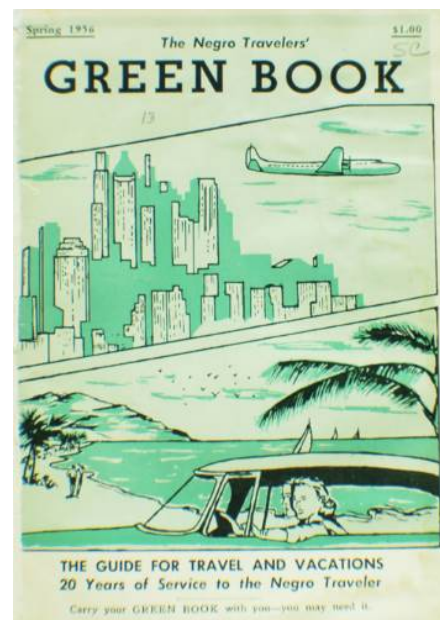
Detail from a display created by students from Bunker Hill Elementary School as part of the Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition.



- ◆ Served over 700 students for the “[Make a Splash](#)” event at the John Dickinson Plantation in partnership with the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve. The program targeted fourth-grade science and history standards.
- ◆ Presented a workshop on the care and exhibition of historical and archaeological collections for the [Delaware Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society](#), providing guidance on handling and preserving family objects of historical value.
- ◆ The division’s horticulture manager served on the [Capital School District’s](#) Career and Technical Education Advisory Board and shared her expertise related to training needs and worker competencies. [Dover High School’s](#) horticulture class provided six volunteers each week to assist at division sites.

Engaging audiences

- ◆ Welcomed 170,201 visitors to the division’s five museums; Buena Vista Conference Center; and the agency’s affiliate, lease and partner sites. Visitor engagements track the number of opportunities the division had, using various techniques, to share the story of Delaware’s history. They include programs, school tours, special public and private events, and exhibits.
- ◆ Produced 180 special events, exhibits and displays at the division’s five museums.
- ◆ Exhibited the story of Delaware’s wine and spirits trade from European settlement to the present day with displays on 19th- and 20th-century distillers, local producers of apple jack and wine, and 21st-century manufacturers of beer and spirits.
- ◆ Joined with First State Heritage Park and the [Friends of Folk](#) to bring more than 600 guests to [The Old State House](#) for six free evening concerts.
- ◆ Coordinated the Chautauqua tent show, “Making the First State Shine: 50 Years of Preservation in Delaware,” with partners in Lewes bringing 1,070 visitors to events highlighting the importance of historic preservation.
- ◆ Worked with the [Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware](#) in presenting the Lenape Homecoming Celebration, a month-long series of events and lectures which attracted 765 visitors.
- ◆ Hosted four new special public events at Buena Vista and developed new historic tours to attract new audiences.
- ◆ Created exhibits and displays of images from the William D. Willis World War II Photographic Collection at Legislative Hall and the Seaford Museum.
- ◆ Shared new research on “The Negro Travelers’ Green Book.” This travel and vacation guidebook for people of color during segregation contained advertisements for properties in Delaware. The division gave multiple presentations around the state and engaged with audiences about other African-American-owned businesses of the era and about experiences living with the Jim Crow laws in the state.
- ◆ Published 12 issues of the division’s historic preservation and museums e-newsletter, posted 73 articles on the division’s blog and produced an annual report on the division’s activities.
- ◆ Enhanced Buena Vista’s social media presence to showcase the site’s amenities, events and activities, and to promote it as an event destination to engage potential new markets.



Lectures on the “Green Book” were presented at sites across Delaware in fiscal year 2016.

Enhancing preservation

- ◆ Completed capital-improvement projects at division-owned historic properties throughout the state including accessibility improvements at [Prince George's Chapel](#) and the New Castle Arsenal; sidewalk stabilization and partial garden-wall reconstruction at the New Castle Academy and Green; energy-efficiency improvements at Buena Vista including boiler replacement and lighting change-outs to LED; exterior restoration and interior improvements at the Old Sussex County Court House; site drainage and accessibility improvements at the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#); exterior-envelope conservation at the Kirk/Short building; design and bid package development for capital improvements at Buena Vista; and roofing and gutter inspections, masonry repairs, painting and preventive-maintenance statewide.
- ◆ Implemented an integrated property management system (AiM by AssetWorks) designed to track and maintain property asset records, capital projects and associated financial expenditures while also improving planning, budgeting and scheduling of capital improvements, renewals and replacements, and production of relevant reports.
- ◆ Listed three properties in the National Register of Historic Places: the [Adams Home Farm](#) in Greenwood, the [Evans-West House](#) in Ocean View and [Grantham-Edwards-McComb House](#) in New Castle County, and received review board recommendations for three additional property nominations that were sent to the National Park Service for consideration.
- ◆ Awarded all \$4.3 million of available [state historic preservation tax credits](#) for improvements to 31 historic properties which included owner-occupied, nonprofit-owned and income-producing properties. Several of these properties are located within downtown development districts in Wilmington and Dover.
- ◆ Supported efforts to establish a historic marker to honor Samuel D. Burris, conductor on the Underground Railroad, and hosted a [public ceremony](#) at The Old State House in which Gov. Markell officially pardoned Burris. The event drew 140 guests, including Burris family members, and attracted national and international press coverage.
- ◆ Negotiated a Programmatic Agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to address concerns for historic properties when there is a federally-declared natural disaster. The agreement establishes procedures and timeframes in advance to allow for timely consultation and review.
- ◆ Assisted [Hurricane Sandy Historic Preservation Fund](#) grant recipients in completing rehabilitation of storm-damaged historic properties.
- ◆ Received for review and comment 411 new [environmental-review](#) projects that included federal undertakings from the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development; the Federal Highway 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 81 percent of these projects.



Kirk/Short Building, main office of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Exterior-envelope conservation was conducted on the building in fiscal year 2016.

Achieving excellence

- ◆ The [Governor's 2015 Outstanding Volunteer Award](#) was presented to five Johnson Victrola Museum volunteers for their years of service to the museum.
- ◆ The division's disaster recovery team received a special acknowledgement from Delaware Secretary of State Jeffrey W. Bullock for their work in response to the 2015 Legislative Hall fire. The division had numerous artworks, furnishings and objects from state-museum collections on display in the building. The team assessed, triaged and removed 160 items for safekeeping, cleaning and conservation treatment.
- ◆ The division received the Bamberger Preservation Award from the New Castle Historical Society for preservation work at the New Castle Court House Museum, the Arsenal, The Green and the Academy.
- ◆ [Edward McWilliams](#), manager of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits (CARE) Team, was awarded the Management Development Certificate from the State of Delaware's Office of Statewide Training and Organizational Development.
- ◆ Division archaeologist [Alice Guerrant](#) was awarded the H. Geiger Omwake Award by the Archaeological Society of Delaware for outstanding contributions to the society.
- ◆ Expanded the employee recognition program to include special awards for advanced education and outstanding customer service.
- ◆ Replaced all fluorescent bulbs in decorative lighting fixtures at Buena Vista with more energy efficient LED bulbs.

Special services and volunteer initiatives

- ◆ The division's 769 volunteers provided 11,652 service hours interpreting at state 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.
- ◆ Initiated a joint program with the National Park Service to share volunteer services in New Castle.
- ◆ Established an internship program for those interested in curation, arts and exhibits.

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NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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Cover photo: The Arsenal building in New Castle.