

HCA 2020

21 The Green
Dover, DE 19901

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs 2020 Annual Report



savingdelawarehistory

...



35 likes

savingdelawarehistory Delaware 🌈🌸 We are in this together! We hope this puts a smile on someone's face. It's a beautiful day today!



DELAWARE HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Saving Delaware History



Front cover photo: March 26, 2020
@savingdelawarehistory Instagram
featuring a chalk drawing on the
sidewalk in front of the division's main
office at 21 The Green in Dover created
in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Director's message

- 1 Message by Timothy A. Slavin

Division's response to COVID-19

- 2 Division museums closed
- 3 Division museums reopen on modified schedules
- 4 Delaware Digital History Museum

Race and equity initiatives

- 5 Division statement in support of racial justice
- 5 Division creates Race and Equity Committee
- 6 Video explores the lives of four enslaved people and an abolitionist
- 7 Last Delaware whipping post removed from public display

Virtual programs

- 8 Virtual programs replace public activities
- 9 "At Home Concert Series" features 16 virtual concerts
- 10 Genetic background of Colonial-era Delawareans

Preservation

- 11 Collections transferred to the Delaware Center for Material Culture
- 12 Capital improvement projects completed
- 14 Three new additions to the National Register of Historic Places

Volunteer Program

- 16 Volunteers respond to storm damage at Belmont Hall

Looking forward

- 17 Division's plans for 2021

About the division

- 18 Mission statement
- 19 Vision, goals and core values

Appendix

- 20 Fiscal year 2020 accomplishments

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

At the beginning of 2020, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs looked out on a bright horizon. All seemed right with our world.

In 2019, the agency had completed construction of a new, state of the art, collections facility — the Delaware Center for Material Culture. As the new year turned, we were on the cusp of completing the transfer of millions of State-owned artifacts and historical objects into that facility and opening up our collections for use in exhibits and for researchers studying the state's history.

Likewise, we looked forward to building on the nearly 150,000 visitors who had attended the programs and exhibits presented by our museums and historic sites during 2019.

And then COVID-19 changed everything.

The response of our staff members was inspiring. They sprang into action creating opportunities for people to experience Delaware history safely from their homes through social media and through the creation of online resources such as the Delaware Digital History Museum. When the museums were later allowed to re-open on abbreviated schedules, our staff was ready with proper social distancing and hygienic procedures that kept people protected.

On another front, the mass movement calling for racial justice that erupted across the country in 2020 challenged our traditional approach to telling history. Once again, our staff responded rigorously. We issued a strongly worded statement in support of racial justice and backed it up with the creation of programs and online resources that reflect a more inclusive history that strives to tell the stories of all of Delaware's people. We also created a Race and Equity Committee, comprised of division staff members, that is working to put principles into practice at our sites, in our collections and in our day-to-day work.

Albert Einstein once said, "In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity." I believe this is certainly true of the crises that the division faced in 2020. In the end, I believe they made us more flexible and better able to respond to rapidly changing circumstances. From a technical point of view, they moved us inexorably toward greater use of electronic communication in how and where we work, and how we present history to the public. And finally, from an interpersonal perspective, they made us more empathetic and better able to see history from a variety of perspectives. Nothing will be the same after this year.

Following is a series of vignettes that highlight the division's accomplishments during the remarkable year that was 2020.

Timothy A. Slavin
*Director and State Historic
Preservation Officer*

**"IN THE MIDST OF
EVERY CRISIS, LIES
GREAT OPPORTUNITY."
— ALBERT EINSTEIN**

Division's response to COVID-19

Division museums closed; public encouraged to
engage with Delaware history via social media

Since the outbreak of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), the State of Delaware has mounted a determined [response to the disease](#) designed to both protect the health and safety of the state's residents, and to safeguard Delaware's economy and quality of life. Like all Delaware state agencies, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs remained open to serve the public since the beginning of the pandemic while, at the same time, following recommended social distancing and hygienic practices.

In contrast, non-essential businesses in the state, including the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' [five museums](#) and the [Buena Vista](#) conference/event center were closed as per Gov. Carney's [stay-at-home order](#) which went into effect on March 24, 2020. Although the division's museums were closed, staff members continued to work



providing opportunities for the public to engage with Delaware history from home via social media and other online venues.

In May, restrictions began to be loosened for some businesses and on June 1, Gov. Carney issued [Phase I guidance for reopening the state](#). These guidelines allowed businesses and other entities including the division's museums and Buena Vista to reopen while continuing to take all recommended steps to safeguard public health. As of the publication date of this report, Delaware is adhering to [Phase II guidance](#).



Chalk drawing on the sidewalk in front of the division's
main office at 21 The Green in Dover

Division museums reopen on modified schedules

In keeping with Gov. Carney's Phase I guidance for reopening the state, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' museums began accepting reservations on June 1, 2020 for self-guided tours scheduled for Fridays through Sundays beginning on June 5.

With museums across the state closed since March 24, the division's team of site managers and historical interpreters spent several weeks retooling tour programming in anticipation of reopening. The new self-guided tours presented each museum's historical content in a way that allowed for effective social distancing.

A limited number of 30-minute tours were scheduled each day with enough time between tours for thorough cleaning according to guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tours were limited to four to six visitors, depending on the museum, with cloth face coverings required at all times by staff, volunteers and patrons. Reference materials were available for each visitor and were accessible via smartphone or in single-use printed form.



Guests visiting the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes on Oct. 28, 2020.



Interior of The Old State House in Dover.
The division's five museums began reopening on June 5, 2020.

After the implementation of Gov. Carney's Phase II reopening guidance on June 15, the division's museums gradually expanded public visitation opportunities by including a guided-tour component, increasing the length of tours to 45 minutes and adding Thursdays, and later Wednesdays, to their days of operation before shifting to [winter schedules](#). Go to the following for [current tour information](#).

Delaware Digital History Museum provides opportunities to experience Delaware history ... from home



Historical cleaning and disinfecting products from **the collections of the State of Delaware. The items are** explored in the digital museum's Virtual Collections section and on the [DelawareHistory Instagram account](#).

On April 27, 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs launched the [Delaware Digital History Museum](#), a new, creative platform that provides a wide variety of electronic opportunities for people to engage with the state's history from home.

Available on the division's website, the online museum showcases items from the State's collections of art and objects, as well as digital exhibits, virtual tours of museums and historic sites, and videos and images of historic landmarks and architecture.

[Online jigsaw puzzle](#) featuring a poster from the State of Delaware's collection of items from the Victor Talking Machine Company. The puzzle is part of the digital museum's "Museums From Home" section.

The museum also includes a collection of "Museum From Home" learning activities for school-age children, designed by division museum- and educational-staff.



[Online exhibit](#) chronicles the Hawkins family's 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania.

RACE AND EQUITY INITIATIVES

In response to the renewed [calls for racial justice](#) that surged across the nation beginning in May 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs published this **statement on June 6.**

We support the elimination of racial injustice, racism, discrimination, and exclusionary history. We believe that Black lives matter.

We strive to practice inclusive history. History is not a series of one-sided, happy stories. It is a combination of uncomfortable truths, differing perspectives, and difficult narratives. At the John Dickinson Plantation in Dover, for example, we tell the story of the enslaved, indentured, and free Black men, women, and children who worked, and died, on the plantation. We welcome the difficult conversations that come from interpreting the land of a founding father who wrote of freedom and liberty for all while holding human beings in bondage.

We struggle with how to tell Delaware's more troubling history. We are stewards of Delaware's history. This history includes stories of pain, courage, and defeat. We will not shrink from the pain of our shared history.

We are listening. We want people to be heard and to know that we are listening. Your voices will give shape to how we collect, interpret, preserve, and present history to the public.

We need your help. We can't do this on our own. We want to be an active participant in the force for change in our communities.

We are here. We will be undeterred in bringing forth diversity in our stories and we want all voices to be heard. We strive to be a safe place for difficult conversations and uncomfortable truths.

We promise to preserve and share Delaware history, commit to expanding the parameters of that history, and preserve the history of this movement for current and future generations.

-Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Division creates Race and Equity Committee

In August 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs issued a call for staff members to serve on a to-be-formed Race and Equity Committee that would put into action the declarations noted in the agency's racial justice statement, and to help affect true change in the division's organizational culture.

The committee's first meeting, held online on Sept. 30, featured a forum led by representatives of the Delaware Division of Human Relations. The forum explored issues of racial injustice in the United States and outlined a

process for engaging in race-related issues in order to further develop racial equity within the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

In its subsequent meetings during 2020, the committee created sub-groups to discuss race and equity issues and their impacts within the division; considered ways that the agency could instill positive change among its employees and teams; and discussed potential changes to procurement and hiring practices, interpretation, programming, collections and community outreach.

VIDEO EXPLORES THE LIVES OF FOUR ENSLAVED PEOPLE AND AN ABOLITIONIST

In celebration of Delaware Day on Dec. 7, 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs released “[Delaware Day 2020 — Expanding the Delaware Story](#),” a five-part video that explores the experiences of four enslaved individuals and an abolitionist who lived during Delaware’s Colonial and early-statehood time periods.

Produced by division staff, including members of the Race and Equity Committee, in collaboration with the [Government Information Center](#), the video features community members and employees from the division telling the real-life stories of Delawareans whose lives are invaluable in understanding the state’s complex history. The five segments of the video were originally published in serialization with a new segment appearing daily on the division’s website between Dec. 2 and 6, 2020. During that period, the videos garnered more than 2,400 views resulting in over 680 engagements across the division’s social media channels.



Delaware Day honors the anniversary of Delaware becoming the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution on Dec. 7, 1787. Traditionally, the day’s activities focused on the five Delaware signers of the Constitution — Richard Bassett, Gunning Bedford Jr., Jacob Broom, John Dickinson and George Read. As members of the remarkable group of men who founded the United States, their lives and accomplishments have been celebrated and well documented in the historical record.

In 2020, however, the division sought to expand the Delaware Day narrative by spotlighting the lives of five other people who contributed to Delaware’s early history and whose stories also deserve to be told and preserved — Dinah, James Summers, Bishop Richard Allen, Warner Mifflin and an unnamed man who was one of the first people of African origin to live in Delaware.

LAST DELAWARE WHIPPING POST REMOVED FROM PUBLIC DISPLAY

On July 1, 2020, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs staff members and contractors removed a whipping post that had been displayed on the grounds of the [Old Sussex County Court House](#) at 10 S. Bedford St. in Georgetown, Del. The artifact was later transported to the division's collections facility in Dover where it was placed with other historical objects including a whipping post that once stood near The Green in Dover.

The decision to remove the whipping post was made in response to calls from the community and in recognition of the violence and racial discrimination that its display signified to many Delawareans.

"It is appropriate for an item like this to be preserved in the state's collections so that future generations may view it and attempt to understand the full context of its historical significance" said division Director Tim Slavin. "It's quite another thing to allow a whipping post to remain in place along a busy public street—a cold, deadpan display that does not adequately account for the traumatic legacy it represents, and that still reverberates among communities of color in our state."

The division intends to work with historians, educators and leaders of the African American community in Delaware to explore plans for future display of this artifact in a museum setting where it can be properly contextualized and interpreted.

This whipping post was originally located on the grounds of the [Sussex Correctional Institution](#) south of Georgetown. The facility was established

in 1931 but the exact date when this particular post was installed is unknown. In 1992, the warden donated the post to the division, and it was installed for public display at the State-owned Old Sussex County Court House site in September of 1993.

The history of corporal punishment in Delaware goes back to the earliest days of Colonial settlement and included the use of the whipping post and the pillory in all three counties into the 20th century. These punishments were imposed for a variety of crimes throughout history and were disproportionately applied to persons of color. Those sentenced to the whipping post could be lashed up to 40 times for a single offense.

The last use of the whipping post in Delaware took place in 1952. Delaware was the last state to abolish the whipping post, removing the penalty from State law in 1972 through an act of the General Assembly signed by Gov. Russell Peterson.



The whipping post formerly located on the grounds of the Old Sussex County Court House in Georgetown, Del.

Virtual Programs

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' museums began creating virtual programs in September 2020 to replace public activities that has been cancelled in keeping with the State's COVID-19 guidance. Following is a sampling of some of the online programs that were offered free to the public during 2020.

[“22nd Annual Chautauqua Tent Show: ‘Women’s Work: Campaigning for Social Change,’ ”](#) a four-day series of



Pat Jordan of the American Historical Theatre portrayed suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt on Sept. 19.

September programs from the [Zwaanendael](#) and the [New Castle Court House](#) museums which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote. As a warm-up for the Chautauqua, the New Castle Court House Museum created [“19 Days of Suffrage,”](#) a series of 19 Facebook posts about the women’s suffrage movement in Delaware and the nation.

Additional opportunities for the public to virtually enjoy scenes from Delaware’s historic towns were offered in the [“Uniquely Lewes”](#) and [“Uniquely New Castle”](#) photo contests that were held via the Facebook pages of the Zwaanendael and New Castle Court House museums in July and October, respectively. In one of the unique ways that these contests were conducted, Facebook followers were asked to “vote” for the winning photographs by “liking” or reacting to the individual photos. The photos with the top number of reactions were deemed the winners.

Finally, on Dec. 7, members of the 287th Army Band of the Delaware National Guard [visited Buena Vista](#) south of New Castle to video-record segments of their virtual holiday-concert-series, “The 12 Days of Christmas.” Featuring online performances by a wide variety of ensembles from within the band, the 12-part series was posted on the band’s social media sites as a holiday gift to people who could not go out for live performances.

[“Civil War Band of Brothers: Four Men of the First Delaware Regiment”](#) a lecture from [The Old State House](#) on Oct. 22 that explored the true stories of four men — a doctor, a chaplain, a soldier and an Irish immigrant — who served in the Union Army’s First Delaware Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

[“Mischief Managed: Throwing a Hotsy-Totsy Halloween Bash,”](#) a historical-theater presentation from Dover’s [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) on Oct. 30 that served as the ultimate 1927 guide to throwing the perfect Halloween party.



Members of the 287th Army Band “finger synching” on the porch of Buena Vista.

“AT HOME CONCERT SERIES” FEATURES 16 VIRTUAL CONCERTS

On Nov. 16, 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (HCA) posted, on its [YouTube channel](#), the final segment of the “[At Home Concert Series](#)” which featured 16 performances by local musicians who were video-recorded between April 24 and Sept. 1 in the warm acoustics of four division-owned historic properties across the state.

The series was created to provide safe cultural experiences for people in keeping with the State’s response to COVID-19. It was a partnership between the division and the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#), a Dover-based nonprofit that supports folk music and folk musicians on the Delmarva peninsula and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.



YouTube of Cathy Jane and Adam Clifton performing at the Zwaanendael Museum as part of the “At Home Concert Series” on July 21, 2020.

Commenting on the series, John Kidd, president of the Friends of Folk’s board of directors, wrote that “Many of the musicians ... are dependent on playing out several times a week if not more. The Covid-19 pandemic forced them to cancel essentially all their shows in the spring and summer. ... HCA Director Tim Slavin contacted us and suggested a series of videos featuring local out-of-work artists performing inside HCA’s historic places, with the division providing a professional videographer and a small stipend for the artists. Having presented acoustic music for over 25 years, Friends of Folk was familiar with the wide range

of talent available in Delaware and the series fell together rather quickly. We are pleased to help showcase Delaware talent in Delaware’s historic places.”

Recorded and processed by Ed Larrivee of the division’s [Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits](#) (CARE) Team, each video begins with an introduction by Kidd who served as master of ceremonies for the entire series.

The “At Home Concert Series” is not the only collaboration between the division and the Friends of Folk. Annually since 2014, the division has worked with the group and the [First State Heritage Park](#) to present “The Old State House Concert Series,” a set of free live performances held in the historic capitol building on the second Friday of each month between October and March. Plans call for the series to resume in the 2021–2022 season.

VIDEO EXPLORES GENETIC BACKGROUND OF EIGHT WHITE AND THREE BLACK PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN EARLY COLONIAL DELAWARE

On Sept. 28, 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs released “[Results of the Avery’s Rest Bioarchaeological Investigations](#),” a video presentation that it had commissioned by Raquel Fleskes, a doctoral candidate in biological anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. Fleskes is lead author of the research paper “[Ancient DNA and bioarchaeological perspectives on European and African diversity and relationships on the colonial Delaware frontier](#)” which was published in the October 2019 edition of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology.

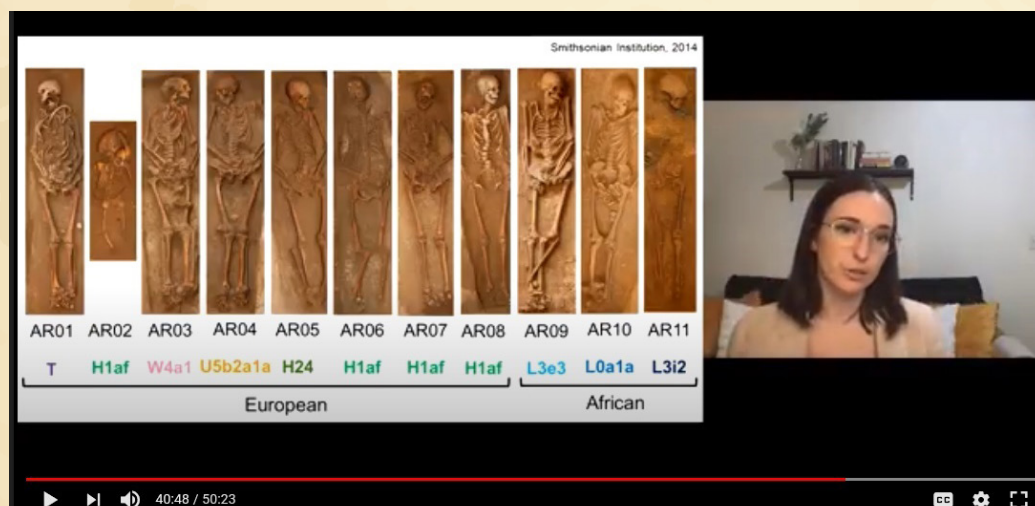
Avery’s Rest is located near the shore of Rehoboth Bay in Sussex County, Del. Beginning in 2006, the site was investigated by a team led by Dan Griffith of the [Archaeological Society of Delaware](#) in collaboration with the division. Archival research revealed that the first documented occupation of the site was by John and Sarah Avery and their children in A.D. 1674.

In 2012, eleven sets of human remains were discovered at the site which were later determined to have been interred

between the late 1600s and early 1700s. In keeping with Delaware’s [Unmarked Human Remains Law](#), three known descendants of John Avery were identified. With their consent, the State engaged [Dr. Douglas Owsley](#) of the Smithsonian Institution to conduct [osteological](#) and [mitochondrial DNA](#) analyses of the remains.

Subsequently, Owsley asked Fleskes to conduct [DNA sequencing](#) on samples from each of the 11 sets of remains which she conducted at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville’s [Molecular Anthropology Laboratories](#). The results of both the osteological and DNA research revealed that eight of the individuals were of European descent while three were of African descent — the earliest known discovery of remains of enslaved people in Delaware.

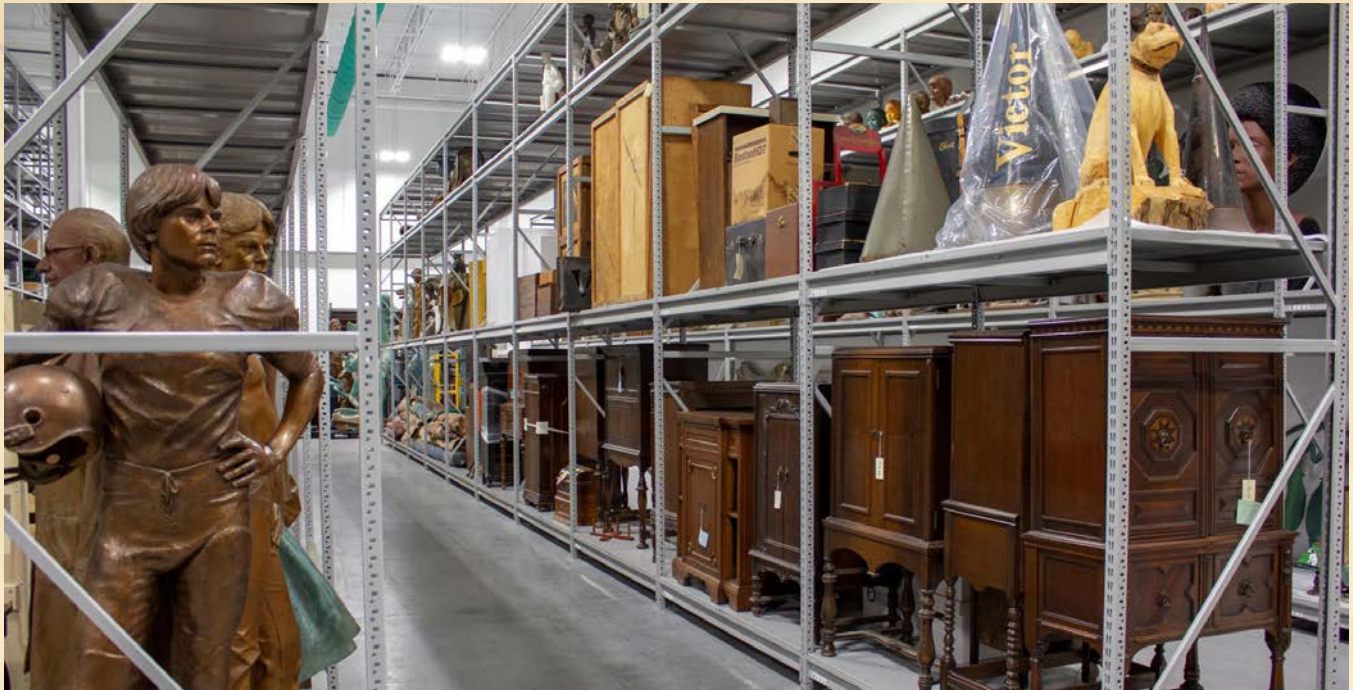
DNA sequencing further suggested a number of intriguing insights, most notably that several of the European-descended individuals were maternally related while the individuals of African descent, genetically linked to present-day western, central and eastern regions of Africa, were not.



**Screenshot from Raquel Fleskes’ presentation
“Results of the Avery’s Rest Bioarchaeological Investigations”**

Note: Committed to learning as much as it can about the lives of the people who lived at Avery’s Rest, the division, in partnership with the archaeological society, hired the consulting firm Richard Grubb Associates to research land ownership and occupation of the Avery’s Rest site. Part of the research focused on dating buttons found with one of the site’s burials. A final report is expected in 2021.

Collections transferred to the Delaware Center for Material Culture



Some of the collections items housed at the Delaware Center for Material Culture

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In March 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs completed the transfer of the entire multi-million-item [collection](#) of historical materials owned by the State of Delaware to its new collections facility — the Delaware Center for Material Culture.
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Located at 1351 W. North St. in Dover, the center is part of a 66,000-square-foot building leased to both the division and the [Delaware Department of Insurance](#). The center's 35,000-square-foot portion of the site now houses more than 4 million archeological artifacts that document Native American cultures prior to European contact as well as post-contact societies; and more than 90,000 historical objects dating from the Colonial period to the present including museum objects, works of art, and library and archival materials. In July, members of the division's Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits (CARE) Team completed updating collections information in the [PastPerfect](#) museum-collection software program.

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.

Although the building was closed to the public in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, future plans call for its use as a research center for the study of Delaware history.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMPLETED

During 2020, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs continued its stewardship of Delaware's historical legacy by completing construction and **capital-improvement projects at several sites that it administers across the state.**

Following are highlights of some of the completed projects:

New Castle Academy garden wall repaired

Project begun and completed in June 2020

Located at 31 E. Third St., the New Castle Academy was built in 1799 according to a design by Peter Crowding, a Philadelphia master builder. It served as a public school until 1930 when the New Castle High School was built. The property is currently leased to [Immanuel Episcopal Church](#) which utilizes it for many church-related and community activities.

Repairs to the property's garden wall consisted of cleaning, raking, repointing and repairing the stone and brick on both sides of the wall to restore its appearance and condition. The repairs complement similar work that was [completed on the Third Street portion of the wall](#) in December 2015.



Harmony Street section of the New Castle Academy
garden wall after repairs



Division completes exterior rehabilitation of the Zwaanendael Museum

Project begun in June 2020

Completed in September 2020

Located at 102 Kings Highway in Lewes, Del., the Zwaanendael Museum, one of the five museums administered by the division, was built in 1931 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the state's first European colony, Swanendael, established by the Dutch in 1631. Modeled after the town hall in Hoorn, the Netherlands, the

museum's exhibits and presentations provide a showcase for Lewes-area maritime, military and social history.

Rehabilitation work included cleaning of the entire exterior of the building with attention paid to its ornamental-design features, replacement of weather-damaged shutters and repainting all remaining window frames and shutters according to existing colors and design.

Façade of the Zwaanendael Museum after rehabilitation work was completed.

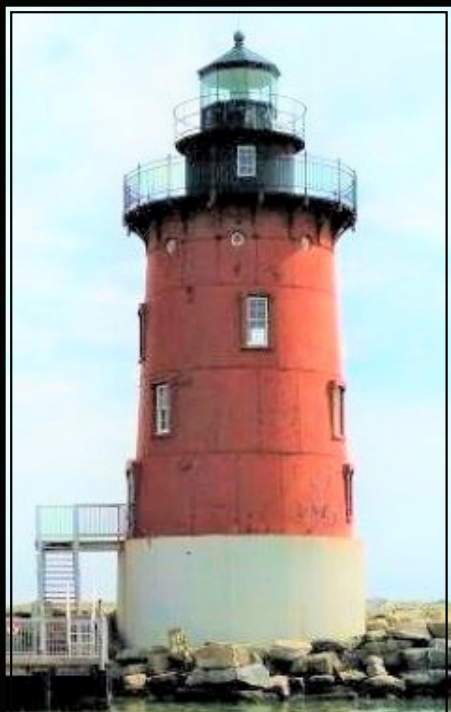
Delaware Breakwater East End Lighthouse repaired and painted

Project begun early summer 2020

Completed in November 2020

Located in the harbor of Lewes, Del., the [Delaware Breakwater East End Lighthouse](#) was built in 1885 as a navigational aid for ships entering the mouth of the Delaware Bay off Cape Henlopen. The lighthouse is situated on the original inner breakwater that was authorized by Congress in 1825 and completed in 1841 to create a safe harbor for ships seeking refuge during storms.

Rehabilitation work included repair of a concrete pylon, restoration or replacement of windows including those in the light tower, removal of old paint and rust, and repainting the entire exterior of the structure including its iron work and concrete foundation.



1 Delaware Breakwater
East End Lighthouse
before painting



2 Delaware Breakwater
East End Lighthouse
during painting



3 Delaware Breakwater
East End Lighthouse
after painting

Three new additions to the National Register of Historic Places

During 2020, three First State properties were added to the [National Register of Historic Places](#), the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office provided vital assistance to the property owners, consultants and volunteers in the preparation and submission of their nominations.

FLORENCE AND ISAAC BUDOVITCH HOUSE, 4611 Bedford Blvd. northeast of Wilmington. Listed Jan. 30, 2020

Created by New York architect Edgar Tafel, an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright, and completed in 1956, the design of this [Contemporary](#) style dwelling is realized through the open planning and multi-level zoning such as in the sunken living room, master suite situated a half-story above the main level and second floor bedrooms linked via an open hall and central stairway. The structure's Prairie School and Wrightian roots are evident in its massing and form — low-pitched, hipped roof with deeply overhanging boxed eaves; and bands of plywood board and batten, all of which emphasize the horizontality of the dwelling. Tenets of organic architecture are manifested in the



successful integration of interior and exterior spaces of the home, especially through the many large windows and sliding glass doors on the main level that allow for abundant natural lighting and visual continuity between the indoors and outdoors.



Built of stone in 1845 and remodeled in 1906 in [Late Gothic Revival](#) style, this church served a wide range of religious groups for nearly 300 years including Quakers, Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans and non-denominational Christians.

NEWARK UNION CHURCH AND CEMETERY, 8 and 20 Newark Union Public Road northeast of Wilmington Listed Feb. 6, 2020

The church's interior has remained largely unchanged from its 1906 appearance. The vestibule's interior is faced with stained wood wainscoting on the lower section and taupe-pink-painted plaster on the upper, matching the interior of the nave. The lancet windows are decorated with a three-part tracery in the upper, pointed sash.

The pulpit is a low wood platform with a knee-level wood chancel with turned spindles topped by a rail and set back several inches from the platform lip. Though worship services are not currently held

in this historic edifice, the building is in the process of being restored.

The cemetery, which remains active, lies on approximately two acres of ground north of the church building. It is

enclosed by a parged, uncoursed fieldstone wall and contains about 500 marked burials dating from the mid-18th century to the present, as well as unmarked burials associated with the initial period of Quaker settlement in the late-17th and early-18th centuries.

AMERICAN VULCANIZED FIBRE COMPANY — WILMINGTON PLANT
700 Maryland Ave., Wilmington. Listed Oct. 19, 2020

Constructed in five phases between 1902 and c. 1910, this comprehensive, multi-story manufacturing complex was designed by local architects William Draper Brinckle and John Dockery Thompson Jr. for the American Vulcanized Fibre Company which specialized in the production of heavy sheet fiber made from cotton rags that, once processed, created a strong and flexible insulating material used for electrical and mechanical purposes. The vulcanized fiber industry was exclusively located in Wilmington through the 19th century and the city became a major production center during the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

The American Vulcanized Fibre Company's Wilmington plant was designed as a comprehensive, multi-story manufacturing complex utilizing the latest in construction materials and techniques. It remains an intact example of



EXTERIOR DETAIL FROM THE AMERICAN VULCANIZED FIBRE COMPANY — WILMINGTON PLANT SHOWCASING THE BUILDING'S LARGE BANK OF WINDOWS.

industrial architecture from the early 20th century that emphasized a shift from heavy timber frame construction, with limited architectural embellishments, to a minimalist, reinforced concrete system.



The property's current owner has expressed interest in obtaining [historic preservation tax credits](#) to redevelop the abandoned manufacturing complex for residential use in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's [Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#).

INTERIOR SECTION OF THE BUILDING

Volunteers respond to storm damage at Belmont Hall

By Jennifer Bowman, [Volunteer Program](#) coordinator

On the sunny autumnal morning of Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, a group of 23 volunteers gathered at historic [Belmont Hall](#) in Smyrna to help clear storm damage in observance of [National Cleanup Day](#).



Downed and damaged trees at Belmont Hall following Tropical Storm Isaias.

On Aug. 4, 2020, [Tropical Storm Isaias](#) caused significant damage to the property's grounds including many of its mature trees. The house and buildings were thankfully spared. Dedicated volunteers from the local community, including Harmony Lodge No. 13, state Sen. Bruce Ennis and the [Friends of Belmont Hall](#) gathered with tools, gloves, masks and determination to assist with the restoration of the ornamental landscape to its former beauty.

The division sincerely appreciates Sen. Ennis' help in spreading the word about the opportunity to help at Belmont Hall. Volunteers of all ages showed up with enthusiasm to enjoy some fresh air while removing branches, splintered trees and debris, collectively putting in over 80 hours of work! The division's [Horticulture Team](#) plans to replace the downed trees with two for every one that was lost utilizing the Delaware Forest Service's "[Recommended Trees for New Planting](#)" guidelines.

Thank you to everyone who was able to lend a hand!



Downed tree at Belmont Hall



Volunteer Tyler Thompson hauling away fallen tree limbs at Belmont Hall.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2021, staff members of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, like people around the world, will continue to remain vigilant in the face COVID-19, while at the same time, working toward a time when the disease has been eradicated and life returns to normal. For the division, normalcy will mean administering all of the agency's museums and facilities on new and revised operating schedules and again offering live public programming that will allow visitors to fully engage with Delaware history.

At the same time, the division is moving forward with strategies to further save and preserve Delaware's cultural legacy by presenting more inclusive history that tells the stories of all the state's diverse people and by further expanding electronic engagement through its website and social media vehicles. In addition, the agency will be implementing master plans that

will expand public enjoyment at the Cooch's Bridge Historic District in Newark, the Kaiser property in Wilmington, and most notably, at the [John Dickinson Plantation](#) south of Dover. Initiatives at the plantation call for creating an [area of reflection](#), opening more sections of the property to public access, increasing the areas of interpretation through public archaeology programs, adding paths through the cultural landscape, utilizing agricultural fields for the demonstration of 18th century farming techniques and crops, and, most significantly, constructing a new visitor center with a large exhibit space.

Finally, 2021 will mark the beginning of a process that will lead to the development of a new five-year strategic plan for the agency.



Log'd dwelling at the **John Dickinson Plantation**. The building is a reconstruction of the type of housing inhabited by the enslaved people at the plantation as well as its tenants and indentured **servants**. The site's mansion house is in the background.

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



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

provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware General Assembly and grants from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, a federal agency.



**DELAWARE HISTORICAL
& CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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DOVER, DE 19901
302-736-7400**

HISTORY.DELAWARE.GOV

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 exploring a diversity of historical and cultural perspectives to inform **and influence decisions about the future.**

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

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.**

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.

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.

APPENDIX

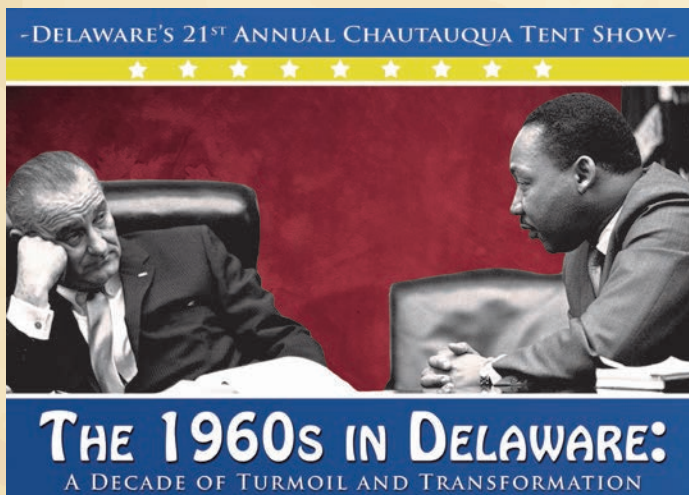
DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FISCAL YEAR 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IMPROVING ACCESS

- Issued a statement supporting the elimination of racial injustice, racism, discrimination and exclusionary history
- Launched the Delaware Digital History Museum on the division's website featuring the agency's virtual collections, digital exhibits, virtual tours, natural history and videos
- Utilized the Collections Program's Instagram account to showcase 47 objects that have not been accessible to the public through exhibits and displays

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Partnered with the Archaeological Society of Delaware to hire Richard Grubb Associates to research land ownership and occupation of the [Avery's Rest archeological site](#)
- Partnered with the Delaware Department of Transportation to [install a compacted-gravel roadway](#) at the Octagonal Schoolhouse in Cowgill's Corner
- Partnered with the [Sussex Gardeners](#) who provided holiday décor at the Zwaanendael Museum
- The Zwaanendael Museum partnered with the Lewes Historical Society and the Lewes Chamber of Commerce to present "[The 1960s in Delaware: A Decade of Turmoil and Transformation](#)," Lewes' 21st annual Chautauqua Tent Show
- Partnered with the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation and the First State National Historical Park to offer [summer visitation hours at Fort Christina National Historic Landmark](#) in Wilmington
- Partnered with the Archaeological Society of Delaware and the New Castle Historical Society to present the "[Delaware Valley Archaeology and History Symposium](#)" at the Arsenal in New Castle
- Joined with First State Heritage Park and the Friends of Folk to present six free evening concerts at The Old State House
- Launched the digital "At Home Concert Series," a partnership with the Delaware Friends of Folk, which featured videoed performances of musicians from across the state recorded at division-owned venues
- Partnered with the Lenapé Indian Tribe of Delaware to offer a [series of programs](#) celebrating Native American heritage
- The John Dickinson Plantation and St. Jones Reserve partnered for several programs including "Lantern Tour of the Plantation" and bayberry candle workshops
- The Zwaanendael Museum partnered with the schooner A.J. Meerwald, New Jersey's official tall ship, to present a series of programs and sailing trips in Lewes



ENGAGING AUDIENCES

- Attracted a total of 36,728 public engagements via 214 school activities, special events, meetings, tours, exhibits and displays at the division's five museums, historic sites and Buena Vista; and through division participation in festivals and other public events. Highlights include "[Movie Night on the Lawn](#)" at Buena Vista, "[18th Century Trades Day](#)" at the John Dickinson Plantation, "[William Penn Day](#)" at the New Castle Court House Museum, "[Seams From the Past](#)" at the Zwaanendael Museum, a [Holiday Open House](#) at the Hale-Byrnes House in Stanton, "[The Women's Suffrage Movement: Below the Color-Line](#)" at The Old State House and "[Country Music: A Woman's Voice](#)" at the Johnson Victrola Museum

- Engaged nearly 400 students, in 18 teams from 15 schools, in the study of the U.S. Constitution as part of the annual [Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition](#) including, for the first time, a [display of student work](#) at Legislative Hall in Dover

- Increased followers of its seven Facebook pages by 25 percent to 8,730 with over 9,000 total engagements and "likes" rising by 24 percent. Increased Twitter followers by five percent to 1,933 with 266 tweets published generating over 112,400 organic impressions. With the addition of accounts at the New Castle Court House, Johnson Victrola, and Zwaanendael museums, which brought the agency's total Instagram accounts to six, the division saw explosive growth in Instagram usage with a 418 percent increase in posts to 301, and a resultant 309 percent increase in followers to 3,321

- Created the "Museum Minutes" video series that highlights the history of the Lewes-Cape Henlopen region

- Created the "[Details in Delaware](#)" Instagram series spotlighting architectural details of properties throughout the state

- Hosted 295 events serving 6,156 guests at Buena Vista

- Published 94 [news articles](#) and registered 278,697 total pageviews and 163,618 visitor sessions on its website. Nearly 11,000 of these sessions were attributed to social

media, particularly Facebook, which drove over 10,000 sessions representing 93 percent of all traffic to the website from social media

- Commissioned an audit of the division's social media and website by [Miles Partnership](#) which resulted in several recommendations which are now being implemented

- 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 2,183 individuals, the newsletter is distilled from content published in the division's blog, social media, webpage and press releases

- Published the division's [2019 Annual Report](#)



- Purchased print and digital advertising for the division's museums and programs in the Cape Gazette, 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

ENHANCING PRESERVATION

- Added three listings to the National Register of Historic Places: [Parker's Dairy Palace](#) in New Castle; the Florence and Isaac Budovitch House and the Newark Union Church and Cemetery, both located in New Castle County north of Wilmington
- Re-granted \$56,534 from the federal [Historic Preservation Fund](#) to support preservation-related activities conducted by Delaware's Certified Local Governments
- Conducted a workshop in Milton for historic preservation commissioners of [Certified Local Governments](#) highlighting the benefits of the Delaware Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program
- Reviewed multiple applications for the [Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive program](#) which is often used in concert with the State program
- 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
- Received for review and comment over 330 new [environmental-review](#) projects. Nearly 70% 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 and comprehensive plans that are reviewed through the State [Preliminary Land Use Service](#) process
- Added over 300 new survey-area polygons 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

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- The division's 138 volunteers provided 9,757 service hours, valued at over \$265,384, interpreting at State of Delaware museums, installing displays, 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

STAFF MILEPOSTS

- Bid farewell to five long-time employees including Curator of Collections [Ann Baker Horsey](#) who retired after 44 years of service; downtown Dover museums site interpreter [Jackie Collins](#) who retired after 25 years; planner Lynne Riley who retired after 25 years; New Castle Court House Museum Lead Interpreter Brian Cannon who retired after 22 years; accountant Dominique Martucci who accepted another state position after 15 years; and Old State House site interpreter [Latecia Prophet](#) who passed away after 10 years of service

STEWARDSHIP

- Completed transfer of the State's collections to the Delaware Center for Material Culture
- Completed updating information on the State's collections in the PastPerfect museum collection software program
- Acquired the Kaiser property, a brownfield site located at 1122 E. 7th St. in Wilmington next to the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark, for the purposes of remediation and creation of future public use
- Acquired the Weldin House, a late-18th-century structure located at 302 Philadelphia Pike north of Wilmington, with intention to renovate and restore the space for future use



- Master plans in process for major capital-improvement projects at the [Cooch's Bridge campus](#), John Dickinson Plantation and Kaiser property
- Completed a variety of miscellaneous repairs at Belmont Hall, Buena Vista, Cooch's Bridge campus, John Dickinson Plantation and Zwaanandael Museum
- Completed capital-improvement projects at division-owned historic properties across the state including structural repairs in the Abbotts Mill building in Milford; interior refurbishment of Hall House in Dover; roof replacement at Hale-Byrnes House; drainage and grading improvements at the New Castle Academy and at the Robinson House in Claymont, and repair of the academy's garden wall; and pre-restoration enhancements and repairs at Weldin House including the clearance of several tons of debris including hazardous trees and ground brush
- The division's in-house trades specialists completed 976 service requests providing carpentry and plumbing repairs, mechanical-equipment installations, repairs to furnishings in the State's collections, preservation treatments, and special fabrications and finishes in order to maintain the agency's historic structures
- Identified and conducted a risk assessment on 151 trees at the John Dickinson Plantation

MUSEUM OPERATIONS

- Closed the division's museums on March 24, 2020 as part of a declaration of emergency issued by Gov. John Carney to combat COVID-19. The museums responded by providing numerous opportunities for the public to engage with Delaware history from home via social media
- Reopened the division's museums on an abbreviated schedule beginning on June 5, 2020 in accordance with Gov. Carney's guidance regarding COVID-19



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



Barraud Studio Corner at the Johnson Victrola Museum