

2022



# ANNUAL REPORT

Saving Delaware History

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# A message from the director

During 2022, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs experienced an invigorating sense of renewal – a fresh start on how we go about serving the public, and fundamentally, how we look at history itself.

Part of this sense of renewal was structural – during the past year, Deputy Director Amy Golden-Shepherd and I moved into new positions of leadership within the division, and the agency itself moved into new headquarters in historic Richardson Hall located at 29 N. State St. in Dover. At the same time, we began implementing our [2022-2026 strategic plan](#) which sets out the goals and objectives that we will pursue over the next five years.

But, there was also a sense of renewal in how we present Delaware’s history.

Since Native peoples first encountered European explorers and colonists, Delaware has increasingly become home to people from every corner of the world. However, recognizing and evaluating different historical perspectives, and understanding their significance and meaning have not always occurred at our museums and historic sites. We are working hard to change that.

Delaware’s history, like the history of the United States, has never been easy. It is filled with contradiction and paradox. From the soaring words of freedom and liberty in our founding documents which reflect our nation’s optimism, sense of opportunity, dynamism, and hope for a better future – to the expulsion, enslavement and exploitation of many of our people – our history has been complicated, to say the least. As the state agency charged with preserving and sharing Delaware history with our citizens and visitors, we are committed to examining our state’s complicated history in all its intricacies.

Following is a series of eight vignettes that explore our 2022 achievements – from serving as conscientious stewards of Delaware’s historical and cultural legacies to finding new ways to reach out to visitors, to telling different stories, and to presenting new and different perspectives. We look forward to building on these achievements in the coming years.

**Suzanne Savery**

Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

# A change in leadership

On July 1, 2022, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs welcomed **Suzanne Savery** as its new director succeeding Tim Slavin who departed the agency after 17 years of service. The division's first female director, Savery had served as the agency's deputy director since 2012.

Over the last decade, Savery has been involved in all aspects of the division's operations – from fiscal to capital and grounds to collections and museum programming. A native of Wilmington, she holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Delaware and a master's degree in museum studies from the University of Washington. Before joining the division, Savery held several positions at various institutions including the Valentine Museum in Richmond, Virginia; the Petersburg Museum in Petersburg, Virginia; and the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She also is an alumna of the Museum Management Institute, a program run by the American Federation of Arts and the J. Paul Gerry Trust designed to enhance the leadership of experienced museum professionals.



Suzanne Savery

In September 2022, **Amy Golden-Shepherd** joined the division as deputy director. Golden-Shepherd, who had worked for the agency since the summer of 2021 as a diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility consultant, brings nearly three decades of experience as an educator to her new role. Prior to joining the division, she worked for 18 years at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown, where she was a school librarian and the director of diversity, equity and inclusion. She holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood and elementary education from Temple University and received a certificate in diversity and inclusion leadership from Cornell University in 2018. As noted by Savery, Golden-Shepherd's "experience in education and diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility training tie to key components of our strategic plan which focus on addressing the complicated, and often difficult, history of Delaware."



Amy Golden-Shepherd

Looking to the future, Savery commented that she is excited to be "working with staff and partners to explore opportunities to expand the stories of Delaware's history at our state museums and historic sites, in our collections, and documented through the work of the State Historic Preservation Office. From programs to capital projects, I am looking forward to the division's next chapter."

# Division headquarters moves to a new location

In April 2022, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs completed the move of its administrative offices to Richardson Hall located at 29 N. State St. in Dover. The new offices are just a few blocks away from the division's previous home at 15/21 The Green which was purchased by the [Biggs Museum of American Art](#) in the fall of 2021.

Completed in 1882, Richardson Hall was the home of Harry Richardson and his family for many years. Richardson ran his father's business ([Richardson & Robbins Canning Company](#), Dover's major employer at the time), was the First National Bank president and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1907 where he served until 1913. Richardson Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 as a contributing resource within the Victorian Dover Historic District.

Although additions were made to the historic home, the building has not changed much in the last 140 years. The wrap-around porch existed by 1897 and other alterations in the rear of the residence were made after the turn of the century. These expansions and renovations point to Richardson's changing needs for entertainment and social functions related to his political endeavors.



Richardson Hall

Later owned by Wesley College, the building once contained classrooms and eventually housed a college dormitory. Before the division's restoration efforts, the complex was threatened by neglect and possible demolition. So far, the division has restored the interior of the building and is in the process of work on the exterior.

The renovation and adaptive reuse of both Richardson Hall and the Kirk/Short building illustrate the division's commitment not only to the preservation of Delaware's historic landmarks, but also to the revitalization of the state's historic capital. The division's acquisition of Richardson Hall was made possible, in part, by funding from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's [Open Space Program](#).



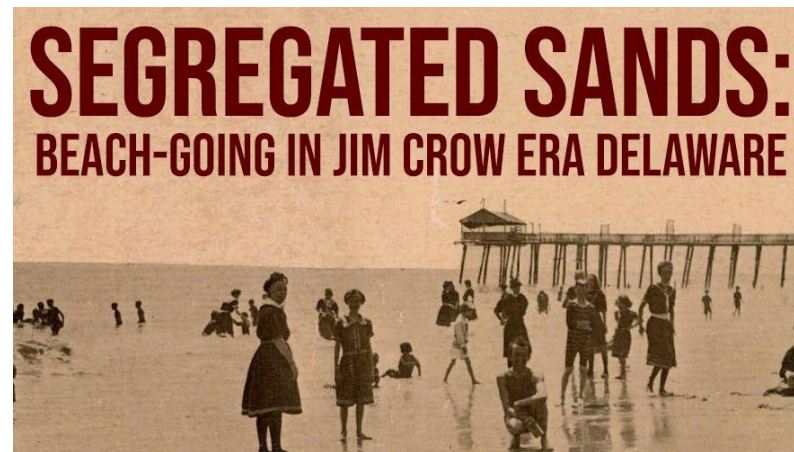
Kirk/Short building, 15/21 The Green, Dover

# Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI) initiatives

As noted in the Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion goal identified in its 2022–2026 strategic plan, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs seeks to ensure “that all feel welcome and heard and can see themselves and their culture’s history represented in our work.” In keeping with that goal, following are some of the initiatives that the division undertook in 2022:

## Virtual exhibit and oral history project focus on Delaware’s segregated beaches

In February 2022, the division’s Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes published “[Segregated Sands: Delaware’s Segregated Beaches During the Jim Crow Era](#),” an online exhibit that explores the history and stories of the Indigenous and African American experience at Delaware’s beaches during the segregation era. The exhibit was created by museum staff members and intern [Kelli Racine Barnes](#), a doctoral candidate at the University of Delaware studying late-18th and early-19th-century African American history. As part of her internship, Barnes conducted most of the research, writing and design of what was to become the exhibit. The team behind the digital presentation of “Segregated Sands” earned recognition as the Department of State’s employees of the first quarter in 2022. In addition to Barnes, the team included Bridget Warner and Kaitlyn Dykes of the Zwaanendael Museum, and Amber Weeks and Kathy Szczesny of the Government Information Center.



As a companion to the exhibit, the museum is conducting “[Recapturing Black Beaches: A Shared Story Project](#),” an oral history initiative that aims to gather and memorialize the stories of people of color who visited Delaware’s segregated beaches throughout history. Information gathered during the oral history project, as well as a plethora of other research efforts, will be incorporated into the “Segregated Sands” virtual exhibit.

gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning and many other sexual orientations and gender identities.

“Delaware’s LGBTQ+ Community: A Research & Digital Engagement Project” will culminate with an online digital platform that will include a historical overview, photographs and maps, along with other resources and tools that will be identified during the research process. The digital platform itself will be a work in progress and is designed to be easily updated over time. The platform is expected to be accessible to the public in mid-2023.

## Research project launched on Delaware’s LGBTQ+ community

In August 2022, the division launched a new project that aims to be Delaware’s first holistic effort to capture the stories and important moments in the history of Delaware’s LGBTQ+ community, and to make those stories more accessible to the public.

A team including Meg Hutchins, project lead and the division’s Engagement and Collections manager, and professional researcher Carolanne Deal, have been gathering available information on key stories and moments in history that matter to Delawareans who identify as [LGBTQ+](#) — an acronym that stands for lesbian,

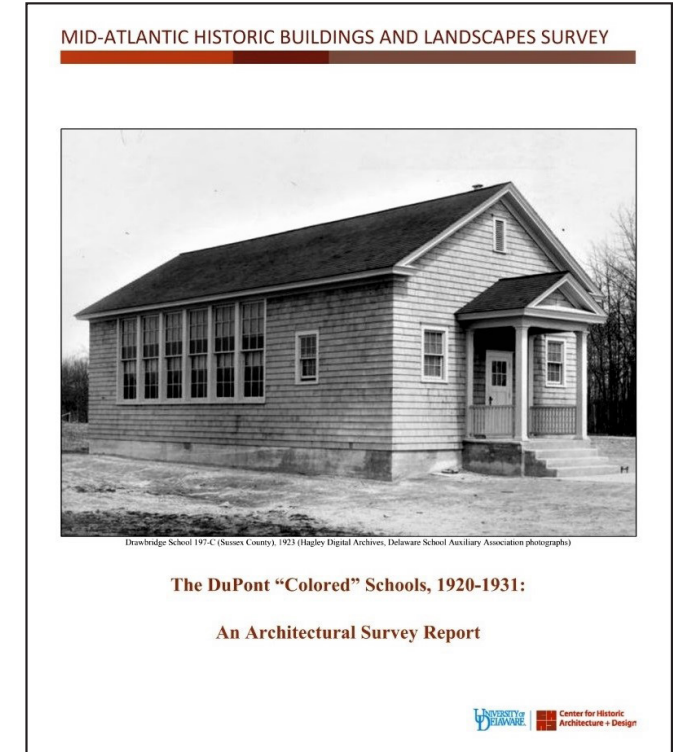
## Two reports published on DuPont schools for people of color during segregation

During 2022, two division-supported reports were released that explore the history of the schools built by industrialist and philanthropist Pierre S. du Pont for African American and Native American students during the segregation era.

Prepared by Preservation Delaware and completed in December 2021, the first report, entitled “[DuPont Colored Schools Oral History Project](#),” included interviews with 26 alumni of six DuPont Schools. Subsequently, Preservation Delaware [created a video](#) exploring the report and featuring the recorded voices of former students speaking of a bygone era of institutionalized and forced segregation in Delaware’s public schools.

The second report, “[The DuPont ‘Colored’ Schools, 1920-1931: An Architectural Survey](#),” was produced by the University of Delaware Center for Architecture and Design and completed in March 2022. It includes a context study and architectural survey, discussing the history, current condition and significance of the DuPont schools which were located in all three of Delaware’s counties.

While 90 schools were originally built, only 84 could



be located through this comprehensive survey which also collected the information needed to recommend some of the sites for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Of those 84, only 48 buildings still exist. Eight of the surviving schools are already recognized by the National Register and more than half of the remaining schools could be eligible for listing. More work, including outreach to property owners and assessment of the interior of the buildings will be needed to make those recommendations.

## 2nd year of Diversity in Delaware History webinar series

The [Diversity in Delaware History webinar series](#) returned in 2022 as a way for people to better understand the diverse stories found throughout the First State’s history. The series began in 2021 and continues as a partnership between the Delaware State Education Association and the division to provide

historical context to the complex and often difficult role race has played in the history of the state and nation. The six sessions, which ran monthly between January and June 2022, dug deeply into historical resources and stories to build an inclusive view of Delaware history.

# John Dickinson Plantation projects earn awards

During 2022, two projects which investigated the lives of the free and enslaved Black men, women and children who lived, worked and died at the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' John Dickinson Plantation southeast of Dover were presented with awards for excellence at the state and national level, respectively.

On May 3, 2022, Gov. John Carney presented a [Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service](#) to three division employees — Annie Fenimore, Gloria Henry and Vertie Lee — who, along with former employee Sakinaa Rock, were the main team members behind the development of the [Plantation Stories Project](#) which is currently presented to the public as a [searchable online database](#) containing the names of free and enslaved Black people associated with the site.

Building on decades of research into legal documents including bills of sale, manumission papers, indentured servant contracts, account-book records, ledgers and personal writings of Dickinson family members and tenant farmers, the project has so far been able to identify, and restore the names of, 128 free and enslaved people who were previously lost to history.

On June 15, 2022, the [American Association for State and Local History](#) announced that it has presented a prestigious [Award of Excellence](#) to the plantation for the project, "Search, Discovery, and Interpretation of the African Burial Ground at the John Dickinson Plantation." The Award of Excellence is part of the Association's Leadership in History Awards, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation of state and local history.



(Clockwise from top left) Vertie Lee, Annie Fenimore and Gloria Henry were honored with a Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

In the late summer of 2020, a concerted [effort to find the burial ground](#) at the plantation began. In March 2021, after utilizing research from surviving documents, aerial photography and archaeology, the African Burial Ground was discovered. Project development began with decisions on how to interpret this culturally sensitive and historically significant site. The goals for interpretation included delineating the historical context of enslaved peoples' lives, recognizing African Americans in the cultural landscape and locating those with ties to the burial ground. Initial programs included [public visitations to the African Burial Ground](#), a virtual visitation for school children and an [online panel discussion](#) with Gov. John Carney.



Stakes mark the location of the African Burial Ground in a field at the John Dickinson Plantation.

# Cooch's Bridge Historic Site initiatives

[Acquired by the State of Delaware](#) from the Cooch family in 2018, the Cooch's Bridge Historic Site, located south of Newark, is administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs with the ultimate objective of preserving and developing it into the sixth museum in the state-museum system. The property is comprised of two major components: the Cooch Homestead and the Cooch-Dayett Mill complex. The homestead, a 10-acre parcel containing the historic home and outbuildings, was the focal point of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, the only Revolutionary War battle fought on Delaware soil. The 60-acre mill complex, located across the Christina River from the homestead, includes the circa-1830s mill, miller's house, outbuildings and mill race, as well as floodplain, meadows and a leased agricultural field.



Cooch Homestead and grounds

Following are some of the Cooch's Bridge initiatives that took place in 2022:

- Continued the division's fruitful partnership with the [Friends of Cooch's Bridge](#), a nonprofit group which was created in 2018 in order to support the restoration and maintenance of the property. During fiscal year 2022, the group contributed more than 1,000 volunteer hours and raised \$415,000 in support of the site.
- In January 2022, the division hired Kaitlyn Dykes, former Zwaanendael Museum lead interpreter, to serve as the first site supervisor for the Cooch's Bridge property. In December 2022, Annie Hicks was added to site staff as a historical interpreter. They joined Patti Remedio who has served as property manager for the site since 2019.

In May 2022, staff began conducting public tours of the site's homestead focusing on individuals who lived on the property, how they shaped the land and how the location's landscape contributed to national history. The tours, which were offered twice on the second Saturday of each month, attracted capacity attendance.

Beginning in July 2022, division and site staff worked with cultural-institution consultant Robert Forloney on the process of developing a comprehensive interpretive plan for the property. As part of the process, staff conducted several public meetings and stakeholder sessions designed to assess the needs of the site — from administration and management, to visitor experience, to community and stakeholder engagement, to design options. Noted Dykes, "The goal is to create a site where the interpretation is really community driven and includes the more expansive history of the site while putting a laser focus on what people want to see and hear from us as we build from the ground up. Most places don't get to do that because most historic sites are already established by the time they reach out to the community... We get to reach out to the community first to build the foundation."

# Additions to the State collections

During fiscal year 2022, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs accessioned 43 objects into the State of Delaware's Historic Collections and 13 sets of objects into the Archaeological Collections. Administered by the division's Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits (CARE) Team, the [Collections Program](#) preserves, and holds in public trust, a record of Delaware's heritage by acquiring objects made in the First State or used by Delawareans throughout history.

In recent years, the division has made a determined effort to diversify the types of objects accessioned into the Historic Collections in order to provide a fuller, more complete view of the state's complicated history. Several objects added to the collections in 2022 also reflect the agency's interest in "rapid response collecting" — acquiring objects representative of significant moments in recent history.

Following are some of the objects added to the State's collections in fiscal year 2022:

## Collection donated by state Sen. Marie Pinkney

In 2020, Marie Pinkney became Delaware's first African American LGBTQ+ state senator when she was elected to represent the 13th District which encompasses an area from the Christina River south to Red Lion Road.

The objects donated to the State's collections, given "in memory of little Blacks everywhere," include a burgundy suit that Pinkney wore when she was sworn in; a list that once sat on her desk of influential people and personal qualities about those people that she admires; a copy of Ta-Nehisi Coates' book "Between the World and Me"; a campaign sign; and her vote count document for Senate Bill 13 which bans questions regarding one's criminal conviction on a college or job application.

**Objects donated by state Sen. Marie Pinkney. (Suit: 2020, wool, polyester, spandex, 2022.004.001. Note: 2020, paper, 2022.004.002. Book: Ta-Nehisi Coates, "Between the World and Me," 2015, 2022.004.003.)**



43  
Objects  
Accessioned



## Rainbow wig, gala dress and "My Rainbow" book

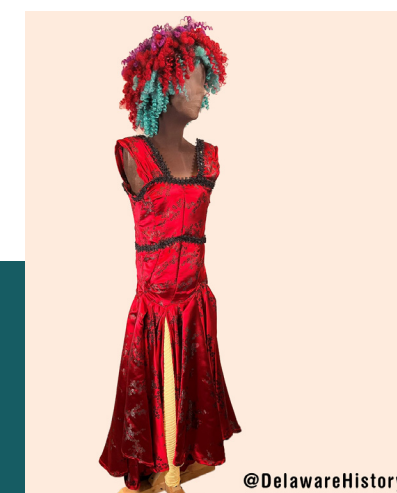
In 2022, the mother-daughter duo, DeShanna and Trinity Neal, donated a group of objects to the State's collections that represent Trinity Neal living as her true self, and her mother's efforts to raise awareness for transgender rights and access to gender-affirming healthcare. Trinity Neal, assigned male at birth, knew she was a girl by age four, but because she was living as a boy, experienced extreme depression. After consulting a psychiatrist and child-care professionals, she was diagnosed with gender dysphoria, a form of psychological distress marked by incongruence between one's expressed gender and the gender assigned at birth.

DeShanna Neal worked tirelessly to obtain gender-affirming care for their daughter including a dispute with Medicare which had initially refused to pay for treatment.

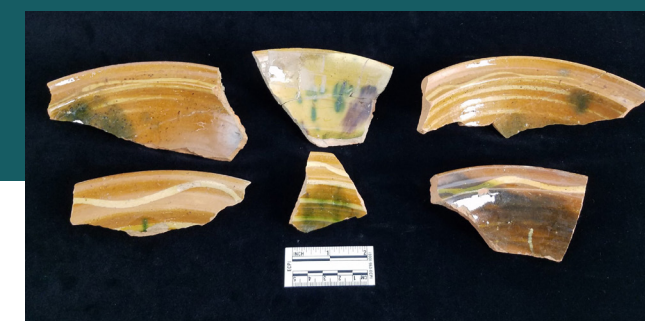
Neal appealed the decision to Gov. Jack Markel, the director of Medicaid, the insurance commissioner and

state health officials, citing the denial as a violation of the Affordable Care Act which prohibits denying care on the basis of gender identity. After eight months of appeals, Trinity Neal became the first minor in Delaware to have Medicaid cover gender-affirming care, setting a precedent for other low-income transgender children.

The objects donated to the State's collections represent the Neals' personal story and reflect significant moments in their lives. The wig, handmade by DeShanna and second son Lucien Neal, reflects Trinity Neal's natural curls, while the colors teal blue, dark pink and purple represent a rainbow. The dress, also handmade by her mother, was worn by Trinity Neal at the 2017 Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbian and Gays "Straight for Equality" Gala. "My Rainbow," written by Trinity and DeShanna Neal, documents their story, and is centered around the time when the rainbow wig was created. The book honors Black transgender youth and neurodiversity, raising visibility of the multifaceted lived experiences of populations typically underrepresented, misunderstood and marginalized.



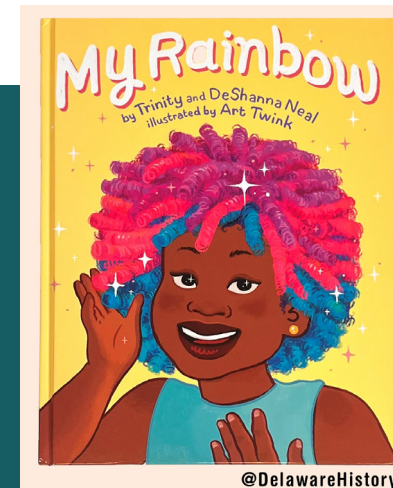
**Objects donated by DeShanna and Trinity Neal. (Rainbow wig: 2007, synthetic fiber, 2022.002.001. Dress: 2017, silk, ribbon, tulle, 2022.002.003.)**



## Green Pottery collection

Thanks to a donation from a private collector, the division now curates an assemblage of well over 1,000 fragments of redware pottery produced by Green Pottery at Duck Creek Cross Roads, now known as Smyrna. Charles Green Jr., and later, his son William, operated the pottery

**Trinity and DeShanna Neal, "My Rainbow," 2020, 2022.002.002.**



## Decorated bowl fragments from the Green Pottery collection.

from the early 1780s until 1817. The collection, which originates from an archaeological investigation that took place at the site in 1991, includes food preparation and storage vessels such as milk pans, pots, jars and jugs; food service wares like pitchers, bowls, plates, mugs and cups; and a chamber pot used long before the invention of indoor plumbing.

# Division programming

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' five museums, the Cooch's Bridge Historic Site and the Buena Vista conference center sponsored 93 special events during fiscal year 2022. These activities, attended by 38,457 people, helped inform both state residents and out-of-state visitors about Delaware's unique contributions to the history and culture of the United States.

Following is a sampling of some of the activities presented in 2022:

- ["Details in Delaware,"](#) presented via the division's webpage and social media sites, spotlighted Delaware's unique architectural features and landmarks
- [African American History Month,](#) five February programs that celebrated the invaluable contributions that the Black community has made to American culture and history
- ["The War of 1812: Over Two Centuries Later,"](#) The Old State House's Coffee Hour Lecture Series in April explored the United States' second war with Great Britain
- [Buena Vista spring event](#) on May 14 invited visitors to learn about the gardens and agricultural history of the farm, enjoy educational programs by the Sunshine Plein Air Artists and Bluebird Society, and participate in outdoor children's games
- ["That's Entertainment,"](#) Delaware's 24th annual Chautauqua tent show held between Sept. 8 and 11 at the Zwaanendael Museum and New Castle Court House Museum explored entertainment, and the artists who brought it to life
- ["18th Century Trades Day,"](#) a day-long series of activities at the John Dickinson Plantation on Oct. 8 explored occupations of the 1700s including preserving food in the smokehouse, dyeing fabric, carpentry, candle dipping and an 18th century musket presentation
- ["Share Your Ideas for Historic Preservation,"](#) presented on behalf of the division and Preservation Delaware, Inc., the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration hosted two virtual public forums on Sept. 21 which sought public input for advancing historic preservation in the First State
- ["The Wooden World Revealed,"](#) the Zwaanendael Museum's day-long series of activities on May 21 commemorated HMS DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the coast of Delaware on May 25, 1798
- [Free New Castle History Camp,](#) held between July 25 and 29, invited children ages 10 to 13 to explore the storied past of one of America's most historic towns. Presented in partnership with the First State National Historical Park, New Castle Historical Society, New Castle Public Library, and Read House and Gardens



# Two additions to the National Register of Historic Places

During 2022, two First State locations 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 which were subsequently reviewed by the [State Review Board for Historic Preservation](#) prior to submission to the National Park Service.



## [Milton Historic District](#) boundary increase and additional documentation *Amended listing, July 21, 2022*

Located in Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Milton was founded in 1763 and incorporated in 1865. The town has a long history associated with various maritime commercial activities including shipbuilding, shipping and milling. Due to analysis and research by the University of Delaware's [Center for Historic Architecture and Design](#), in collaboration with Milton's Historic Preservation Commission, the original historic district was amended and expanded to include a period of significance up to 1962, an updated survey of properties and a revised boundary which includes two additional streets

## [Dauneport, 420 Old Kennett Road](#) southwest of Centreville *Listed Sept. 8, 2022*

The country estate of industrial heiress and philanthropist Amy du Pont, this home, built in 1932, is New Castle County's only known example of a private dwelling designed and constructed as a replica of Mount Vernon, the historic home of George and Martha Washington. Dauneport was designed by Mary McLaughlin Craig, one of the most prominent architectural designers during the 1920s and 1930s and a personal friend of du Pont. It represents the only known architectural collaboration between a female patron and female architect for a country house in northern Delaware during the early 20th century. The National Register nomination was prepared by the Center for Historic Architecture and Design on behalf of New Castle County and the property owners.



# Looking forward

## Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

### PLEDGE OF EXCELLENCE

The Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs pledges that, in fulfillment of our educational mission, we will strive to operate according to national standards and best practices to the best of our abilities and in accordance with our resources.

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In addition to ongoing programming and services, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will continue to implement its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan which sets out a series of concrete action-steps that will enhance its stewardship of public funding and public lands; extend its collection, interpretation and preservation of Delaware's history; and continue its commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion in all of its activities.

Of particular note, the division is planning several significant capital projects for 2023 at its museums and historic properties including numerous projects and studies as part of a master plan that will include repairs to two historic outbuildings, the carriage house and the granary at the [Cooch's Bridge Historic Site](#) in Newark; second-floor rehabilitation of the Darley House in Claymont, home of the noted illustrator [Felix Darley](#); exterior repainting and recoating of the lightkeeper's house at the [Fenwick Island Light House](#), including repairs to the historic fabric of the house's windows; engineering studies and repair plans for [Fort Christina Park](#) in Wilmington; and completion

of exterior repairs and launch of interior work at the [Weldin House](#) in New Castle County north of Wilmington.

In Dover, capital projects include the installation of a new boiler and associated equipment at the [Biggs Museum of American Art](#); and construction of a [new trail system](#) and continued planning for the building of a new visitor center at the John Dickinson Plantation.

Finally, in New Castle, work will include repointing of the conference center, repairs to windows, and roof replacement at [Buena Vista](#); and installation of a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at the [New Castle Academy](#).



Aerial view of the New Castle Green. In the foreground is the New Castle Court House Museum, followed counterclockwise by the Arsenal, Immanuel Episcopal Church, and the Academy. The Court House, Arsenal, Academy, and the Green itself, are division-owned properties. Photo by Bruce Burk.

# 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.

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
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<https://history.delaware.gov>



Richardson Hall, a contributing property to the Victorian Dover Historic District and administrative office of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs



# Vision

- We actively engage individuals to share how Delaware history is meaningful in their lives. We provide opportunities for communities to explore a diversity of historical and cultural perspectives that inform and influence decisions about the future.
- We collect and preserve, for future generations, the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of all Delawareans, and the material culture of Delaware history.

# 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.

- We create an environment where all people feel welcome, valued, and encouraged to question, explore and share.
- 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.



Displays at the Johnson Victrola Museum

- **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.

# Mission

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



Senate chamber in The Old State House

# Goals

- **Engagement and Outreach**  
Cultivate an inclusive environment that supports educational and collaborative opportunities for the public and professionals alike to broaden understanding of Delaware's history and cultural resources.
- **Stewardship**  
Foster a more complete understanding of humanity through the lens of all of Delaware history and the collection and preservation of our shared cultural assets.
- **Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion (DEAI)**  
Ensure all feel welcome and heard and can see themselves and their culture's history represented in our work.
- **Visibility and Awareness**  
Promote the division's resources and programs to the public, scholars, and potential partnering institutions.
- **Strengthening Staff**  
Enhance our professional capacity to meet the increasing demand on the division's resources.

# Appendix

## Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs fiscal year 2022 accomplishments

### Engaging audiences

- Division museums [resumed standard hours](#) in keeping with Gov. John Carney's lifting of the COVID-19 state of emergency on July 13, 2021
- Welcomed 38,457 participants to the division's museums and historic sites via 93 live and virtual events, tours, school programs, meetings and off-site events
- Hosted 149 events/meetings serving 3,977 guests at Buena Vista
- Challenged amateur photographers to submit images of what makes Delaware's first capital city unique in the "[Uniquely New Castle](#)" photo contest
- Utilized the Collections Program's [Instagram account](#) to showcase 19 objects that have not been accessible to the public through exhibits and displays
- Utilized "Details in Delaware" to shine a spotlight on Delaware's unique architectural features and landmarks via the division's webpage and social media sites
- Between Dec. 3 and 12, 2021, visitors were encouraged to explore the division's five museums, learn about Delaware history, submit photos of their visits and win prizes as part of the [Delaware Day Adventure](#)

### Visibility and awareness

- Published 567 posts on the division's six Instagram accounts resulting in a 24 percent increase in followers to 6,132
- Increased followers of its seven Facebook pages by six percent to 11,058
- Increased Twitter followers by two percent to 2,134 with 218 tweets published generating nearly 40,000 organic impressions
- 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 2,137 individuals, the newsletter is distilled from content published in the division's blog, social media, webpage and press releases
- Welcomed Madeline Goss as newsletter's editor in December 2021
- Published the division's [2021 Annual Report](#)
- Published 98 [news articles](#), and registered 403,746 total pageviews and 277,287 visitor sessions on its website, an increase of 11 and 66 percent respectively. Over 6,000 of these sessions were attributed to social media
- Attracted 109 division-related articles in local and national media outlets including the Baltimore Sun, Cape Gazette, the Delaware State News, the History Channel, the News Journal, USA Today, and other regional television and radio stations



- Purchased advertising for the division's museums and programs in Coastal Style Magazine, the Delaware Beachcomber newspaper, Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitor's Bureau annual travel guide and Kent County Tourism's 2018/2019 visitor guide
- Zwaanendael Museum named [best museum in Sussex County](#) by Coastal Style Magazine and [best downstate museum](#) by Delaware Today

## Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion initiatives

- The division's [Race and Equity Committee](#) continued putting into action the declarations noted in the agency's [racial justice statement](#), and to help affect true change in the division's organizational culture
- Partnered with the Delaware State Education Association to create the Diversity in Delaware History Webinar Series
- Engaged the University of Delaware Center for Architecture and Design (UD-CHAD) to complete "The DuPont 'Colored' Schools, 1920-1931: An Architectural Survey," a context study and survey of African American schools in Delaware; and began work on a story map that will enhance the public's access to this information
- Engaged Preservation Delaware, Inc. to complete an oral-history project related to African American schools in Delaware
- Produced the virtual exhibit, "Segregated Sands," which explores Delaware's segregated beaches during the Jim Crow era. The team behind the exhibit earned recognition as the Department of State's employees of the first quarter in 2022
- Launched "Recapturing Black Beaches: A Shared Story Project," an oral history initiative designed to document the experiences of people of color at Delaware beaches during the segregation era

### Cooch's Bridge Historic Site initiatives

- Hired Kaitlyn Dykes as the first site manager for the property
- Partnered with the Friends of Cooch's Bridge, a nonprofit group dedicated to the site's restoration and maintenance
- Launched tours of the Cooch's Bridge Homestead in May 2022
- Partnered with the University of Delaware's Museums Studies Program which offered a [course at Cooch's Bridge](#) in which students were introduced to what it takes to interpret and manage historic properties, including structures, monuments and landscapes



### John Dickinson Plantation initiatives

- On Aug. 31, 2021, the initial posting of the Plantation Stories Project, featuring the names of 128 individuals, was added to the John Dickinson Plantation website. The project is intended to collect the stories of the enslaved and free Black people who lived, worked and died on the property. The main team behind the project earned the title of Department of the State employees of the year for 2021 and were recipients of the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service
- [Received a \\$5,000 grant](#) from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Henry A. Jordan, M.D., Preservation Excellence Fund to facilitate staff training and an initial public meeting to work with the plantation's descendant community
- Received an Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History for the project, "Search, Discovery, and Interpretation of the African Burial Ground at the John Dickinson Plantation"
- Between Sept. 17, 2021 and Feb. 26, 2022, 119 people took part in visitations of the property's African Burial Ground
- On Dec. 8, 2021, Delaware Gov. John Carney hosted an online panel discussion on the African Burial Ground at the John Dickinson Plantation
- University of Delaware interns [Olivia Boon](#) and [Samantha Side](#) worked on projects during the summer of 2021 that have helped tell the stories of African Americans who lived on the site in the 17th and 18th centuries

## Partnership development

- Partnered with the [Sussex Gardeners](#) who provided holiday décor at the Zwaanendael Museum
- “Make a Splash,” a partnership between the John Dickinson Plantation and the St. Jones Reserve, provided an opportunity for 439 students to explore the St. Jones River and the use of water as a natural resource
- Partnered with the Friends of Folk to present [six free evening concerts](#) at The Old State House
- Partnered with the University of Delaware in [hosting three E. Lyman Stewart interns](#) who worked at division sites during the summer of 2021

## Enhancing preservation

- The [African Union Church and Cemetery of Iron Hill](#), located southwest of Newark, was added to the National Register of Historic Places
- Reviewed multiple applications for the [Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive program](#) which is often used in concert with the State program
- Received, for review and comment, over 400 new [environmental-review](#) projects including federally-assisted undertakings from the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Communications Commission, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as state [Preliminary Land Use Service](#) projects

## Planning

- Published the division’s strategic plan for 2022 through 2026 which sets a course for preserving Delaware’s historical places and spaces for all ages and abilities to learn about local history
- Continued planning and design partnership with the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation for properties owned by the division and the foundation on Wilmington’s historic Seventh Street peninsula including the Kaiser property and Fort Christina National Historic Landmark
- Completed design for a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system at the New Castle Academy which will allow for year-round use of the property



Friends of Folk concert in The Old State House

- Awarded [State Historic Preservation Tax Credits](#) for repairs and improvements to several historic properties, including owner-occupied, nonprofit-owned and income-producing properties
- Re-granted funding from the federal [Historic Preservation Fund](#) to support preservation-related activities conducted by Delaware’s [Certified Local Governments](#)
- Digitized over 100,000 documents, including photographs, slides, paper files and maps
- Completed design for a new a new boiler system at the Biggs Museum to replace the 30- year-old boiler and ensure proper climate control of the museum’s collections
- Finalized design plans for trails at the John Dickinson Plantation
- Completed a feasibility study for Belmont Hall including a proposed pavilion for events
- Continued assisting community partners in the preservation and planning of use for the Nassau School including surveys and remediation recommendations

## Stewardship

- Moved the division’s main office to the historic Richardson Hall building located at 29 N. State St. in Dover in the spring of 2022
- Sold the division’s former office at 21 The Green in Dover to the Biggs Museum of American Art in the fall of 2021
- Completed [installation of a sprinkler system](#) and renovation of visitor restrooms at the New Castle Court House Museum



New Castle Court House Museum

## Horticulture Team initiatives

- Maintained and/or oversaw the outdoor spaces for over 28 sites including several museums, two formal gardens, two vegetable gardens, dozens of planted landscapes, and hundreds of acres of lawn, wooded areas and wetlands
- Planted 2,500 spring flowering bulbs and over 600 summer annuals at sites across the state
- Provided landscape support for exterior construction projects at Woodburn; eliminated several species of invasive plants at Woodburn and the John Dickinson Plantation; and conducted woody plant removal and weed clearance to make room for structural repairs at Richardson Hall

Tulip display behind the Zwaanendael Museum created by the division’s Horticulture Team.

- The division’s in-house trades specialists completed nearly 2,200 service requests providing carpentry and plumbing repairs, mechanical-equipment installations, repairs to furnishings, preservation treatments, and special fabrications and finishes in order to maintain the agency’s historic structures. One of the team’s biggest projects was cleaning out the division’s previous office at 21 The Green and orchestrating the move into Richardson Hall
- Ongoing rehabilitation at Weldin House
- Installed a new HVAC system at Woodburn
- Completed restoration and repairs of the [Lorde and Burnham Greenhouse](#) at Buena Vista
- Completed carpentry, painting and structural-repair projects at Belmont Hall, Abbott’s Mill and Buena Vista
- Accessioned 43 objects into the State of Delaware’s Historic Collections and 13 new Archaeological Collections

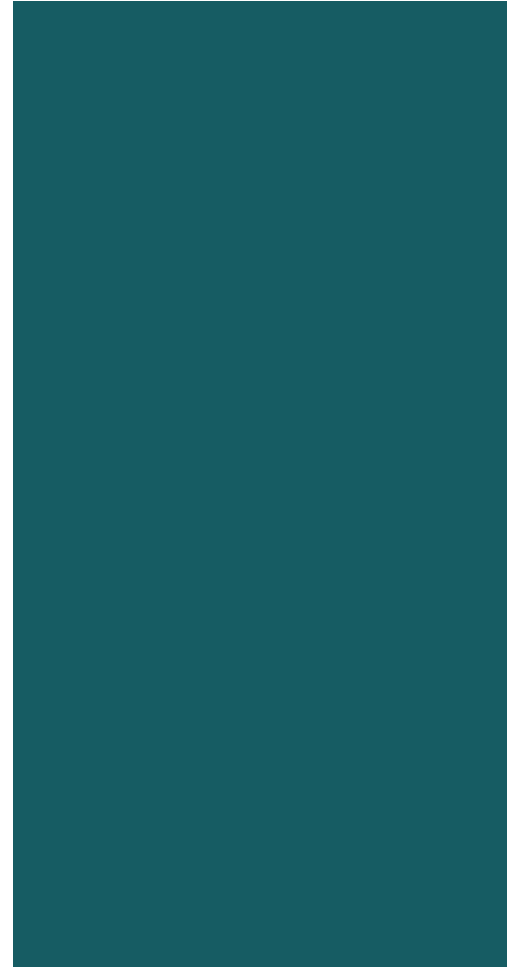


# Volunteer Program

- The division’s 353 [volunteers](#) provided 8,688 service hours, valued at \$247,956, assisting with educational tours of historic sites, historical record keeping, transcription research, maintenance of resources and buildings, special sewing projects, creating educational videos, administrative assistance, greeting visitors, cleaning sites and props, helping to run interactive programs, and conducting presentations with virtual and in-person audiences
- Partnered with a variety of volunteer groups that provide operational services at State-owned, division-managed, historic properties including the Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site, Fenwick Island Lighthouse, Hale-Byrnes House, the John Dickinson Mansion and the Milford Museum. Each year, these supportive and generous groups of individuals contribute thousands of volunteer hours offering tours; raising funds; hosting events; and providing educational enrichment, outreach, meetings and basic care of the historic spaces
- Hosted a [Girl Scouts Silver Award community service project](#) in the fall of 2021. Working with Collections Program staff, members of Girl Scout Troop 513 from Newark sewed 50 archival padded hangers for use with the historic garment collection
- In April 2022, division volunteers participated in the [30th Annual Christina River Watershed Cleanup](#) helping to remove hundreds of pounds of trash and debris from the waterways that run through the Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site
- Division volunteers helped run Buena Vista’s Spring Event on May 14, 2022



Buena Vista



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## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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