

NCHC Report – September 22, 2021

Division of Archives and Records

On behalf of the Division of Archives and Records, I am pleased to submit some highlights of division programming and activities since my March 25 report to the Commission. I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our division staff who have continued to find innovative ways to meet patron research needs, serve our state and local government stakeholders, and create engaging outreach opportunities for the public to learn more about our collections. Their efforts are especially notable during the challenge of working under pandemic restrictions. I value their assistance when I was performing dual management duties for the division and the Office of Archives and History.

As pandemic related restrictions on capacity were lifted this summer, we have gradually expanded our on-site reference hours. Currently we are open for research from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Outer Banks History Center and Western Regional Archives are open from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Beginning October 11, the Raleigh hours will expand to 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. These hours mirror those of the State Library. We are discussing the return of Saturday hours later in the fall. Social distancing of researchers is encouraged, and masking required. In-person visitation remains much lower than before the pandemic, but it is steady. We continue to emphasize remote reference with expanded patron research interactions through email. As the department began a phased plan to return to on-site work, a pilot telework policy was developed. Many division staff have opted to request a telework agreement allowing some hybrid schedules that include office and telework days.

In major staffing news, the Collections Services Section chief, Debbi Blake, retired August 31 with 30 years of service to the state. We anticipate filling the position soon. The division welcomed Brooke Csuka to the outreach team, Chauna Carr to the Digital Services Section, and Carolina Waller to the Government Records Section.

Across the division, outreach programming remains strong in all sections. Staff can be found hosting or collaborating on programs with agency partners and outside stakeholders. The outreach team aims to develop at least one virtual program a month. Those include a

quarterly North Carolina history trivia night hosted in conjunction with the State Library. Other recent online programs have covered colonial court records, preservation of family records, and the Variety Vacationland tourism campaign. Staff have provided presentations for the Museum of History's "History and Highballs" series and the City of Raleigh Museum. Spectrum News featured segments on our audio-visual collections and recent acquisitions. Staff delivered presentations and programs for professional conferences including the Society of North Carolina Archivists, American Institute of Conservation, Society of American Archivists, and the Best Practices Exchange. That conference centers around the management of electronic records. The Outer Banks History Center developed an online exhibit about the Pirates Jamboree festival. The Western Regional Archives created an eight-panel exhibit called "Decades of Difference: Nursing at Oteen." As in previous reports, the Records Description Unit delivered an impressive number of online workshops and training opportunities for custodians of public records in state and local agencies. From April-August of this year the hosted 32 workshops for over 1,400 participants.

Outreach through social media, blogs, and digital collections complimented the active virtual programming. I encourage you to follow our blogs, such as [History for All the People, G.S. 132](#), and [Where History Has a View](#), the blog of the Western Regional Archives. Staff use these blogs to post entries about new collections, upcoming programming, and themed entries. A recent theme on the History for All the People Blog has been the "Talk Like a Local" series which celebrates the diversity of names and place name pronunciations in North Carolina. The departmental blog [Stories of Service](#) highlights stories of our state's citizens involved in the military. Our military collections archivist writes several posts for this blog each month. These blogs provide a good space to highlight some of our collection acquisitions and new digital collections.

Recently the Digital Access Branch completed the digitization of selections from the [Good Neighbor Council](#) materials. Established by Governor Sanford in 1963, the Good Neighbor Council consisted of 24 citizens appointed by the governor. The two main missions of the council were to encourage the employment of qualified people without regard to race, and to encourage youth employment readiness. Governor Sanford also encouraged the creation of local councils by counties and localities. 54 such municipal biracial groups were

created by 1964. By 1975 the Good Neighbor Council turned into the Human Relations Council, the forerunner of today's Human Relations Commission. The [digital collection](#) contains selections of materials such as regional meetings files, correspondence, workshop materials, newspaper clippings, and speeches sponsored by the Good Neighbor Councils.

Another important digital collection added to our online resources is the digitized audio of the [North Carolina Senate, 1993-2005](#). Funding for the digitization of these fragile recordings came from the Council on Library and Information Resources grant, made possible by funding by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Many of these recordings were on endangered media that could not be digitized with our equipment. Other digital collections in progress include the digitization of the district colonial court dockets, selection of Aycock Brown photographs from the Outer Banks History Center, and a selection of school images from the Department of Public Instruction. These school images are of Rosenwald and other African American schools, and the emphasis will be on schools that are not a part of Risk University's Rosenwald Collection.

Our oral history collections continue at a steady pace. Because oral history interviews can take some time to record, our oral historian developed a methodology for capturing quality interviews remotely. In the last six months our records analysis unit partnered with our new oral historian to develop a program aimed at the preservation of stories from state agency leaders talking about how they adapted agency operations and services during the pandemic. To date they have reached 12 agencies and completed 23 interviews. We also add interviews to other oral history collections, including veterans' oral histories and women nominated for the She Changed the World collecting initiative featuring North Carolina women. It is exciting to see our oral history program grow and expand. We look forward to fostering additional oral history collecting initiatives, both for our collections and in an advisory capacity for communities interested in doing similar work.

In support of a NC Humanities Council grant received by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), our military collection archivist is working to turn three major blog posts about NC veterans into booklets that will help promote the efforts of our agency and the DMVA to preserve the military histories of our citizens. The blog posts featured the

stories of the veterans along with highlights of their collections at the Archives. These blogs also were used to submit nominations for the newly formed Military Hall of Firsts.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) funded grant to support our work on colonial court records wrapped up at the end of July. The grant funded an archivist to process and develop finding aids and research guides for our earliest colonial court records. Previously these materials had received only basic processing in the early 1960's and had no finding aids available online. All colonial and district superior court records now have detailed finding aids and collection data in our online catalog. We digitized selections of criminal and civil action papers and put them in TranscribeNC, our online transcription portal. In addition, we created public programs on the court records and transcription of colonial court materials. The outreach team piloted some teaching aids for high school students using the records, and additional resources to assist educators in using these primary sources in classrooms are being finalized.

The TranscribeNC platform used for the colonial court records, contains several other collections ready for crowdsourced transcription. There are 10 active collections on the site now, including the colonial court records, General Assembly Session Records, and letters from World War I and World War II. Between March 1 and August 31 of this year we had 908 registered transcribers with an average of 50 active users a month. During that period, we added 2,680 new pages of content, and our transcribers provided 5,987 hours of time in transcription. This virtual volunteer opportunity has proved to be a valuable one, and we continue to seek ways to expand our use of the tool. In conjunction with several other state archival programs, we contributed to funding that supported the expansion of the software to allow transcription of records in ledger and list formats. This will greatly expand the pool of records we can add to TranscribeNC. We hope to pilot the addition of tax lists in the coming months. The idea of TranscribeNC started with our colonial court records processing grant as a way to increase access to these materials online. It has developed into an important component of our volunteer programming, and we anticipate it will continue to grow. With several sister state archival programs also using the platform, the ability to collaborate on expansion opportunities for the software has proved invaluable as well.

Space and facility issues continue to be a major challenge. Recently we learned that the air handler serving the stacks at the Old State Records Center can no longer provide the temperature and humidity required for archival records storage, and the unit may not be able to be repaired. This has accelerated the evaluation of all collections stored at the facility and the preparations to relocate any we feel may be damaged by the sub-par environmental conditions. This puts a further strain on our already limited collections storage space in Raleigh, a challenge I know my colleagues in other division face, too.

The Government Records Section will soon publish the new general functional schedule and program schedule for local government offices. Since the development of the functional schedule for state agencies, boards, and commissions, the local schedules have been the focus of our attention. All local schedules are systematically being overhauled, combined where needed, and retention periods brought into alignment with those in the state functional schedule. The new format for local schedules will match that used for state agencies. When the project is completed, all local government offices will follow the general functional schedule for types of public records common across any office. That would include financial, human resources, legal and information technology records. Local offices will also have a program schedule for the records unique to their function with each elected or appointed office having an individual schedule for those records. Examples of those types of offices include registers of deeds, sheriffs, boards of education, and public health departments. Program functions that are common to county and municipal offices, such as police departments, tax offices, and GIS programs, will be combined into one schedule as well.

The State Historical Records Advisory Board completed a strategic planning effort this spring, adopting the final plan at their June meeting. A work plan to accompany the strategic plan will be finalized at the upcoming October meeting of the board. The board has a current grant from NHPRC to support the continuing work of the Traveling Archivist Program (TAP). You may recall in my March report that I highlighted the videos produced by the TAP program. Aimed at covering some basics of archival management for smaller cultural heritage collections, the videos were produced with grant support. The TAP program also selected 6 institutions for consultations and training. The team working on the TAP

program has been conducting remote and in-person consultations, started delivering some archival storage supplies, and is developing training aimed at specific needs of the TAP recipients. In addition to the videos and consultations, the TAP developed two recent virtual training sessions for the NC Community College Archivists Association. These sessions covered promotion of collections, and archival policies.

Expanding out from our division activities, I would like to touch on some archival advocacy work I have been involved with working in conjunction with several major archival associations. The Society of American Archivists, Council of State Archivists, Regional Archival Associations Consortium, and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators collaborate on a committee called the Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness. For the last year I have chaired that committee on behalf of the Council of State Archivists. The group met with a representative of the Biden transition team to elevate issues of importance to archival institutions across the country. Recently we have turned our attention to advocacy in support of federal funding for archives. This idea has been in discussion over the last decade. Often it is referred to as the Preserving the American Historical Record or PAHR program. It would be a block grant sent to the states for use in the preservation of and access to archival materials in all states and territories. Members of the Joint Working Group and its member associations feel that the time may be right to push for this type of funding, similar to what is provided to libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act. With the upcoming America250th commemorative period drawing closer, it is even more evident that the documentary heritage of the country is at risk without more direct support for state and local archival programs. As the Joint Working Group and its associated member organizations begin to reach out to partner advocacy groups in the humanities field, I will certainly keep you apprised of opportunities you may have to support this advocacy work on a national level.

Finally, allow me to provide a brief update on America250 planning within the state. At the June meeting I shared a bit about our departmental planning, as well as the work of the statewide committee working on collaborative opportunities for this commemoration. I also shared our executive summary of departmental program plans. In conjunction with LeRae Umfleet, we have been attending meetings of statewide coordinators organized by the national

America250 Commission. We hope to have a partnership agreement with the national commission ready soon. We have been reaching out to partners across the state and coordinators in our neighboring states to discuss potential programming opportunities. I anticipate we will organize a meeting soon to discuss the possibility of a multi-state wayside program to highlight battles and skirmishes in the South. We continue to develop grant applications to support our work, as well as to seek appropriated funds. A grant application for short educational videos centered in Historic Halifax is in development. LeRae made a presentation on the America250 planning efforts at a recent Commission of Indian Affairs meeting. A DNCR website has been launched and a programming calendar created. We expect to begin an America250 blog soon. Planning and organizational efforts for this major commemoration will continue to accelerate as we move toward 2022.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the programming and services of the Division of Archives and Records. Sarah.koonts@ncdcr.gov

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah E. Koonts

**Report of Division of Historical Resources
To the North Carolina Historical Commission
September 22, 2021**

Ramona M. Bartos, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Transition to telework; continuing our work

During the earlier pre-vaccine phases of the pandemic, our Division proceeded with its work under maximum teleworking. Over the summer, our team eagerly embraced the more formal teleworking arrangements offered by the Department, and we adopted a teleworking protocol that allows most job classifications the ability to telework at least part of the week.

Site visits in the field have also continued, albeit with continued social distancing and outdoors as much as possible. Virtual meetings allow us to connect well and efficiently with one another and with our many constituents and partners statewide and even nationally, certainly a new way of doing business from now on.

Staff continues to be productive and engaged, and constituent demand for our services seems unabated despite the ups and downs of the pandemic. We lead among our peers in other states for the digital infrastructure already in place in March 2020 – or that we quickly brought about with the help of our IT colleagues – and our ability to further continuity of government for our public programs has been one marked by teamwork and professionalism.

Since our March meeting, we have experienced several vacancies:

- Both Preservation Architect David Christenbury (April 2021) and Eastern Office Regional Supervisor Scott Power (August 2021) retired after a combined half century of state service.
- Western Preservation Specialist Annie McDonald resigned after a decade of state service to take a position in the private sector with a preservation consultancy.

We are taking steps now to fill these critical positions.

Western Office

- **Unwelcome Visit from Tropical Storm Fred.** On a weekday evening on Tuesday, August 17, State Capitol Police called Western Office Regional Supervisor Jeff Futch with notification that the building had apparently lost power due to severe weather from Tropical Storm Fred. In addition to being without power for approximately 20 hours, the building experienced unabated downpours of around 6” of heavy rain in a short period of time, causing the elevator shaft to flood, and filling several rooms in the basement with 2” to 3” of standing water. Fortunately, this water receded as fast as it entered and by early morning

the next day, only puddles remained, outside of approximately 1500 gallons that was pumped out of the elevator shaft by a local disaster recovery vendor. After all the remaining water was removed, fans and dehumidifiers were deployed and by Sunday, August 22, the basement was completely dry.

While there was no damage to items stored in the basement, the unwelcome visit from a tropical storm tracking from the south and west is a cautionary reminder that our western mountains are as susceptible to hurricane damage as any coastal site.

Many thanks to our Chief Deputy Secretary Staci Meyer, who facilitated immediate aid from the Department of Administration and our budget staff.

- **Renovation and Repair Funds.** In FY 2020-2021, the Western Office was awarded **\$65,000 in Renovation and Repair funds**. Most of these funds will be used for much needed repairs and replacement of several sections of concrete driveway, including a section directly in front of the main entrance door that has become a tripping hazard. The regional supervisor has been working with DNCR Capital Projects staff to obtain quotes from paving vendors. The remaining funds will be used to upgrade the office's handicapped entrance, complete needed dormer window repair and re-painting, and investigate adding dehumidification capability to several air handles that serve the Western Regional Archives storage stacks and HPO/OSA file room.
- **Western Office as agency's western hub.** There are now **19 DNCR staff members who call the Western Office "home"**. The three newest positions include Zoe Van Buren, Folklife Director for the NC Arts Council, and Kaili Sullivan, a graphics designer with the State Library, and Kristen Byrnes, who is working part-time for the survey program of the State Historic Preservation Office. This count is by far the most staff members present in the history of this regional office, which does truly function as the western hub for our department's many programs and services.

Historical Research Office

- **Highway Marker program.** The section continues to review highway historical marker essay content and is working with the State Library to create a more user-friendly marker website. The Highway Historical Marker program endowment, with support from the NC Literary and Historical Association, successfully raised funds to support reinstalling three damaged markers. With financial support from the Department, the marker program has ordered several other markers that were approved more than two years ago, but the purchase of which was left unfunded by NCDOT in the interim. We thank agency management for identifying funds to make up for the shortfall earlier this year.

On a limited basis, we have therefore held some long-delayed highway marker installation ceremonies, including one this month in Black Mountain for **noted Spanish building engineer and craftsman Rafael Guastavino, an Ellis Island immigrant**, who settled in Black

Mountain and is most known for his development of a self-supporting arch and architectural vaulting system using interlocking terracotta tiles and layers of mortar. His work can be seen throughout New York City (Grand Central Station, Grant's Tomb, Carnegie Hall, the Great Hall at Ellis Island, among many other noted buildings), the Boston Public Library, the US Supreme Court, and Biltmore House, which precipitated his move to the Asheville area. He settled and died in Black Mountain in 1908.

With fingers crossed for restored funding, we hope to re-initiate Marker committee meetings this fiscal year.

- **America 250.** The office is building capacity around the America 250 commemoration and has begun work on two manuscripts about Revolution-era North Carolina, as well as participating actively in our agency's A250 committee.

As current board president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Ramona Bartos is also serving on two advisory councils of the National Semiquincentennial Commission: Policy and Legislation, and Parks, Preservation, and Public Spaces.

- **Colonial Records and Governors' Papers.** The selected records of colonial Governor Dobbs and WWI-era Governor Bickett (with annotations) have been published through the MosaicNC platform as the latest work products of the Colonial Records and Governor Papers' projects. Upcoming projects will focus on the Regulator movement as well as early 20th century Governor Locke Craig.
- **Flyleaf online interviews.** As part of our "COVID lemons make lemonade" and embrace of virtual outreach, the Historical Publications unit of the Historic Research Office continued its Flyleaf podcast series via Youtube with a June discussion with Deputy State Archaeologist Chris Southerly (NC OSA) and archaeologists Charles R. Ewen and Erik Farrell to talk about their article on the discovery of a "gold signet ring" in the fall of 1998 at an archaeological site on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Dr. Ewen and Mr. Farrell's article "'All that Glitters': A Reassessment of a 'Lost Colony' Artifact" was published in the October 2019 *North Carolina Historical Review*, published by our division. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHwqRMEGF8s>.

Additional spring and summer episodes included William McKinley's relationship with North Carolina African-American leaders (May); Civil War Trails (April); a discussion of the Church of England records in the Colonial Records series (July); 19th century hairwork (August); and *Early American Rebels: Pursuing Democracy from Maryland to Carolina, 1640-1700* (September).

More Flyleaf episodes here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLfbnzwVhldW10LIEnzUY2Q/search?query=flyleaf>.

Office of State Archaeology

- **Submerged North Carolina year-long webinar series.** In 2021, the Office of State Archaeology in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration developed a series of webinars that focused on exploring North Carolina's Underwater Cultural Heritage. The ***Submerged NC* project has reached over 5,000 individuals and/or groups throughout 50 countries since January 2021.** These lectures are closed captioned for the hearing impaired. Over the last four decades, NOAA and the OSA have worked together to document, preserve our collective maritime history. Webinar archive here: <https://monitor.noaa.gov/gallery/webinar-archive.html>.
- **Brunswick Town investigations.** Recently, the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology's Underwater Archaeology Branch in partnership with Carolina Beach State Park, East Carolina University Maritime Studies Program and Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site undertook a three-day maritime investigation that utilized both Geophysics and in-water diving. This investigation located a possible heretofore unknown wharf that may have been associated with the Confederate earthworks, the Steamer Wilmington (1890-1922) or docking pilings associated with pulpwood harvesting.
- **109 E. Jones Street block archaeological investigations.** Before construction begins for Freedom Park on the northwest quadrant of the 109 E. Jones Street block – literally behind the Archives and History building – the Office of State Archaeology will undertake a few days of limited ground truthing to determine the location of earlier buildings associated with the now demolished circa 1850 Hogg residence, including potentially the appurtenant structures that may have housed enslaved persons.

This kind of work was not undertaken at the time the Archives and History Building was constructed around 1964 because of the dearth of laws at that time to govern such activities. It is hoped that information gleaned from these investigations along with archival research being undertaken in concert with the Historical Research Office will aid in future interpretation of the site.

Historic Preservation Office

Survey / National Register branch

- **June National Register Advisory Committee meeting.** On June 10, we held our thrice-annual statewide National Register Advisory Committee meeting to advise the State Historic Preservation Officer on proposed nominations for the National Register of Historic Places. The places considered and recommended by the NRAC for nomination included:
 - St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, a historical African American house of worship in Lexington;

- South Asheville Cemetery and St. John 'A' Baptist Church in Asheville, both key landmarks of the African-American community in Asheville;
- the John N. Smith Cemetery in Southport, a key African American burying ground in North Carolina's Gullah Geechee Corridor; burials include US Colored Troop veterans of the Civil War;
- three residences in Salisbury, Lewisville, and Raleigh; the Graves-Fields House in Raleigh was built circa 1884 by African American residents of the Oberlin community and is now the headquarters for the statewide nonprofit Preservation North Carolina;
- four historic districts (Enfield, Robbinsville, Sanford update, and Zebulon);
- Webb Memorial Library and Civic Center in Morehead City; and
- Pilot Hosiery Mill in Pilot Mountain.

The Keeper of the National Register has listed all submitted properties from the June meeting, with exception of the proposed Zebulon historic district. In mid-August, the City sent a formal objection to the Keeper, with concerns regarding the size and scope of the district, which would include mid-century properties up to 1971; this objection in turn triggered a more substantive review by the National Park Service, the results of which we will likely know by the September 22nd meeting of this commission.

- **NCSHPO National Designation Working Group.** At Ramona Bartos' urging, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers has convened a working group to study the issue of national designations, particularly the issue of integrity. That working group started its work in April 2021, and is hoping to have a white paper on its findings, observations, and recommendations to the National Park Service by spring 2021. Inquiries include listening sessions with national stakeholder organizations, review of the last 50 years of scholarship, and analysis of current policy and procedures. We also hope to have interviews with international counterparts and now retired members of HPO staffs from throughout the country.
- **NPS Civil Rights Grant for study of NE NC.** This project is now underway to identify places and people associated with the **Civil Rights movement in northeastern North Carolina**; it is designed to yield both properties to survey and potentially nominate to the National Register as well as information to inform the interpretation of the Golden Frinks Home, now part of the Edenton State Historic Site. It was awarded as a \$50,000 competitive grant by the National Park Service in 2020 and projected to be completed by September 2022.

Grants

- **Hurricane Grants.** Several internal projects are getting underway in earnest, including our clutch of **architectural surveys in Polk, McDowell, Montgomery, Hoke, Person, and Vance Counties, as well as mast repairs to the USS NORTH CAROLINA.** NPS has completed its NEPA and other regulatory compliance for our other internal projects and subgrants, and we look forward to **signing subgrant agreements soon** with our 20+ local recipients.

The ESHPF projects also include the use of a data collection program called CRSurveyor that may significantly change our fieldwork methods; the grant projects provide an exciting opportunity to test the program, developed by NPS and to be used nationally.

Survey Specialists (Jeff Smith in the Raleigh office and Audrey Thomas in the Asheville office along with temporary survey specialist Kelly Lally) have made significant contributions toward completing multiple survey projects underway.

- **Certified Local Government grants.** Over the summer, we awarded ten FY 2021 Certified Local Government grants totaling a little over \$182,000, and subgrant agreements are in the process of being prepared so the projects can get underway, including the following:
 1. **City of Burlington design guidelines update**
 2. **Bethabara Historic Structure Reports**
 3. **Korner's Folly Kitchen Rehabilitation**
 4. **Forsyth County Survey Manuscript for publication**
 5. **Greensboro Downtown National Register Nomination update**
 6. **Mooreville Water Pump and Filter Station National Register Nomination**
 7. **Swansboro architectural survey update**
 8. **Raleigh survey of African American resources**
 9. **Old Oak Grove Cemetery Archaeological Survey, Elizabeth City (African American cemetery)**
 10. **Wake Forest Historic Preservation Plan**

Local Government work

- **New Certified Local Governments.** Late last year, we welcomed Swansboro as our latest Certified Local Government, and we are excited to have submitted paperwork to the National Park Service for **Alexander County, which we are working to architecturally survey, including the county seat of Taylorsville.** We look to hear from NPS any day now.
- **Summer 2021 Certified Local Government Preservation Commission training.** The State Historic Preservation Office began recording training sessions for the Summer 2021 NC HPO Virtual CLG training a few weeks ago. Six new training videos will be released through fall 2021 with sessions posted to the NCDNCR YouTube channel.

In order to meet federal CLG training requirements, staff and at least two commission members need to view a minimum of three sessions each and submit a brief synopsis of each session to our office. This effort marks our second year of virtual training, following on a well-received inaugural 2020 effort.

HPO Summer 2021 Training topics include:

- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery (filmed and available as of July 2021)

- Identifying, Recording, and Preserving Historic Cemeteries
- CLG Grant Idea Roundup
- The Basics of Modern Architecture in North Carolina
- Beyond the COA: Other Powers of the Historic Preservation Commission
- Sustainability for Historic Buildings

CLG training videos are available here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0D3Ny2CaPzmP4GfScj_X80_I3NYk0Nba

Environmental review branch

- **Review statistics; MOAs.** Between March 30 and August 31, 2021, Team ER has reviewed 1675 projects with 1,273 new and 402 on-going. During her tenure as Acting State Historic Preservation Officer between January and August 2021, Deputy SHPO Bartos signed 5 MOAs to resolve Adverse Effects to historic properties, including the demolition of the Alligator River Bridge on US 64 to the coast, helping to improve a major hurricane evacuation route.

Restoration Services branch

- **State budget.** We eagerly await the finalization of the state budget; one version has a complete repeal of the 2024 sunset on the state historic tax credit along with a renewal of the old 2015 mill credit. We understand news one way or the other should be forthcoming later this fall.
- **UNC-Greensboro field school / training the next generation of preservationists.** During three weeks in May, the branch assisted in the UNC-G Field School, led by Jo Leimenstoll and which our office has been involved with over 20 years. Restoration Specialists Brett Strum, John Wood, Reid Thomas, and Branch Supervisor Mitch Wilds of the staff participated as presenters and instructors. The program included practical hands-on work in Wilson using a vacant deteriorated shotgun house owned by a graduate of the UNC-G Historic Preservation program. The UNC-G Field School has been extremely important in exposing preservation students to the building arts. Most of the students have not had a background in construction; exposure to the preservation crafts such as masonry, roofing, plastering, paint analysis, metal smithing, and window restoration benefit young preservationists and the greater historic preservation community.

- **Historic Tax Credit statistics of interest.**

State Fiscal Year 2019-2020

213 historic tax credit applications to NPS including:

- 53 proposed projects with \$153 million in rehab costs
- **47 completed projects with \$199 million in rehab costs**

State Fiscal Year 2020-2021

211 historic tax credit applications to NPS including:

- 57 proposed projects with \$164 million in rehab costs
- **37 completed projects with \$162 million in rehab costs**

Notable historic tax credit projects completed and approved within the last year:

- Colonial Inn in Hillsborough, renewed as a regional inn and restaurant for \$2.4 million
- Granite Mill in Haw River, 175 market-rate apartments for \$36 million
- **Proximity Print Works Mill in Greensboro**, 217 market-rate and **affordable apartments** for \$51 million
- **Edenton School in Edenton**, **38 affordable apartments** for \$3.2 million
- Orpheum Theater in Oxford, special events venue for \$1.7 million
- Golden Belt Mill #1 in Durham, mixed-use commercial for \$33 million
- Spencer's Mill Buildings 11-13 in Mount Airy, 63 market-rate apartments for \$11 million
- **Gray Hosiery Mill in Hendersonville**, 35 market-rate and **affordable apartments** for \$7.2 million
- Weatherly Candy Factory in Elizabeth City, 43 market-rate apartments for \$6.2 million
- Highland Park Mill #1 in Charlotte, mixed-use commercial for \$41 million

Division of State History Museums report to the North Carolina Historical Commission

September 22, 2021

Even during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the museums have continued to be busy with new exhibits, virtual educational programs, and on-line activities. Visitation at all the museums is increasing. Although the numbers are not pre-Covid, they are steady, despite the rise of the Delta variant. For instance, at the Museum of History, August 2019 (pre-COVID) saw 25,718 visitors while August 2021 saw 16,323 visitors.

Website activity has been at an all-time high for all the museums.

Museum Updates

NC Museum of History

Since the last report in March, we have recently raised the capacity for the Museum of History from to 30% (300 visitors at one time) to 100% capacity. In addition, we have been able to fill several positions that have been open for a long time, including Deputy Director and Associate Director for Exhibitions.

Maria Vann is the new Deputy Director of the NC Museum of History. She was the former Executive Director of the East Hampton Historical Society in New York and its five museums, including national historic landmarks. Maria holds an MA in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and a BS in History from the State University of New York, where she also taught as an adjunct history professor. She spent time as Director of the Maritime Museum at Battleship Cove and Director of the Iroquois Indian Museum. Maria has published several academic articles and lectured at conferences including AASLH, the International Congress of Maritime History in Belgium, and the Hakluyt Society in the Netherlands.



Dan Spock joined the North Carolina Museum of History as the newly created Associate Director of Exhibitions. Dan spent 20 years as the Director of Exhibitions for the well-respected Minnesota Historical Society. There, he led the creation of numerous exhibitions for the museums and the 26 historic sites. Dan oversaw the creation of all the exhibits for the new Mill Museum that the Society opened. Dan also worked at the



Children's Museum of Boston and on the project creation team for the Imagination Museum. Most recently Dan was Senior Vice President for Audience Engagement at the Levine Museum of the New South. Dan is well known in the museum industry and has done consulting for other

museums on exhibit creation and design. Dan has a BA degree in Fine/Studio Art from Antioch College.

The Museum continues to work on its expansion project. More funding is needed before construction drawings can be completed. We have asked for \$8M this legislative session to get us through construction drawings. In the meantime, we have begun interviewing exhibit design firms for the new exhibits that will be part of the expansion.



If more planning money is appropriated, we would expect design to be complete by the end of 2022. Construction would begin in the spring of 2023 if building funds are appropriated. We would hope to complete the project by the end of 2025 or the beginning of 2026. The museum will be closed to the public during that time.

New Exhibits

The Museum of History opened two new exhibits in April.

Answering the Call: Experiences of North Carolina Military Veterans, 1898–1945

This free permanent exhibit opened on April 6, produced by staff members of the North Carolina Museum of History, will lead visitors on a voyage of discovery related to the military experiences of North Carolinians who served. Moving through time, visitors will learn about the lives of soldiers during each conflict—from the Spanish-American War (1898) through World War II (1941–1945)—using artifacts, vignettes, graphics, video clips, and oral histories.

Are We There Yet ? North Carolina's Variety Vacationland 1930's to 1970's

, this photography exhibit, which opened on April 30, looks back at an era when tourism boomed thanks largely to a state-run marketing effort called "Variety Vacationland." The Variety Vacationland campaign was successful in creating a unified tourism industry in North Carolina from the 1930s to the 1970s by depicting our state as both modern and progressive, but with strong ties to its past. However, true to the Jim Crow era, most sites promoted were marketed (and accessible) to White tourists only; people of color were neglected and even exploited at times, an attitude this exhibit attempts to point out where possible.

Upcoming exhibits include:

Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge 1718 – Opening September 18

The traveling exhibit *Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge: The Legend of Blackbeard*, created by the North Carolina Maritime Museum, offers a fresh look not just at Blackbeard himself, but at the men who sailed with him, and his flagship—*Queen Anne's Revenge*. In addition, the exhibit examines why men (and sometimes women) adopted a life of piracy, and why that life was often a short one, usually with a violent ending. Featuring artifacts from the wreckage of the QAR, the exhibit shows what "a pirate's life for me" actually entailed, and it delves deeper into the history of the QAR itself—including its pre-Blackbeard days as the slave ship *La Concorde*.

Dressing the Abbey - OPENING OCT. 23, 2021

Experience original costumes worn by the stars of *Downton Abbey* that depict fashions of the British aristocracy in the early 20th century. ***Dressing the Abbey*** showcases the turbulence and changes in the late Edwardian era through the 1920s through the fashions of the period while evoking fans' favorite moments.

Educational Programs

LONGLEAF FILM FESTIVAL

2021 was year 7 for Longleaf Film Festival, an annual, juried program of the Museum which screens indie films with NC connections; festival dates were May 14-15. [Virtual online events](#) included: [Official Selection](#) Announcements; Awards Program; and on May 15, three live virtual programs--*Black Lives in the Carolinas 1938-1978*, *Legal Basics for Indie Filmmakers*, and *Conversations with Filmmakers*. Together, these events were watched, attended, or viewed by 675 people. Additionally, the *One Last (Virtual) Viewing Event* provided online access to 59 films, including all 17 Award-Winning movies. Longleaf's [website](#), including the screening page, garnered about 2,500 individual hits during the festival, from the US and 14 other countries.

The museum produced many digital programs during the past few months, including:

[History at High Noon: *Variety Vacationland: Behind the Scenes*](#)

Katie Edwards, Curator of Popular Culture, North Carolina Museum of History

Edwards discussed the new photography exhibit, *Are We There Yet? North Carolina's Variety Vacationland, 1930s–1970s*, which looks back at an era when tourism boomed thanks largely to a state-run marketing effort called “Variety Vacationland.”

[Juneteenth, a Story of Freedom](#). Governor Roy Cooper welcomed the participants to the program. Chrystal Regan and Earl Ijames discussed Juneteenth’s history, importance, and examined North Carolina’s connections to the event. Over 400 people watched Regan and Ijames virtually launch the Juneteenth commemoration and celebration via Zoom.

[Building the White House: Irish and Scottish Connections](#)

Stewart D. McLaurin, President, White House Historical Association

McLaurin uncovered some of the stories behind the construction of the White House, including contributions of immigrants—detailed in *James Hoban: Designer and Builder of the White House* and *A White House of Stone: Building America’s First Ideal in Architecture*.

McLaurin has been president of the White House Historical Association, which supports conservation and preservation at the White House with nongovernmental funding, since 2014.

[Answering the Call: World War II Lecture Series—“Nazi” POWs in the Tar Heel State, 1942–1946](#)

Robert D. Billinger, Author and Professor Emeritus, Wingate University

More than 10,000 German prisoners of war were interned in 18 camps across North Carolina during World War II, working at military bases, on local farms, and in agricultural industries—especially pulpwood harvesting—when civilian labor was not available. Yet, apart from the guards, civilian workers, and FBI and local police who tracked escapees, most people were—and remain—unaware of their presence. Billinger chronicled the German POW experience in North Carolina during WWII to reveal a fascinating story.

[Coffee with a Curator: “Glory” Hancock: New York Socialite to WWI Nurse](#)

Charles R. Knight, Curator of Military History, North Carolina Museum of History

Knight examined the colorful life of Madelon “Glory” Hancock, of Asheville. Hancock was the first North Carolinian to volunteer for service in World War I, and her contributions as a nurse on the battlefields of Europe entitled her to be named the most decorated woman of the war.

[Grove Park Inn](#)

Bruce Johnson, Author, and Historian.

230 participants enjoyed a filmed walking tour of this historic Arts and Crafts–based property and a live Q&A session with Johnson.

Other museum events included:

- On Thursday, July 22nd, the museum partnered with North Hills Midtown Events and Come Hear NC -and- made a splash at the Embers Concert that evening. Beach music exhibit coasters were delivered to the bars and restaurants, apartments, and the

Cardinal – all of which surround the North Hills Midtown concert space. A tent, shared with Come Hear NC, was staffed by the North Carolina Museum of History and DNCR. The tent featured drawings from Come Hear NC's game wheel and the Museum Shop. Beach balls were distributed among the crowd. They floated in the air throughout the concert with the NC Museum of History branding. Ken Howard, Craig Woolard, and the emcee promoted the [Beach Music](#) exhibit throughout the evening. We are grateful for this partnership with Come Hear NC!

- The North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame held their induction lunch Friday, July 23rd at the North Carolina Museum of History. The 57th annual induction ceremony and gala was held that evening at the Civic Center. The 2021 induction class included Debbie Antonelli, Mack Brown, Dennis Craddock, Dr. Charles Kernodle Jr., Mac Morris, Trot Nixon, Julius Peppers, Bobby Purcell, Judy Rose, Time Stevens, and Donnell Woolford. Julius Peppers, among others, mentioned [the Sports Hall of Fame](#) exhibit during their acceptance speech and noted its importance for North Carolina.
- ***Sweet Tea & Cornbread Grill & Eatery has reopened to the public!***
At the helm of *Sweet Tea & Cornbread* is Tonya Council, granddaughter of Mildred Council, or "Mama Dip," as she was affectionally known. The restaurant offers classic southern staples with daily specials and is open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Sunday and Monday. State Employees receive a 10% discount.

Museum of the Albemarle (MOA)

Educational Programs

During the pandemic, the museum has developed several new virtual lectures to reach a wider range of audiences with a variety of speakers and topics. MOA has continued to work on both Virtual and Hybrid Educational Programming, including but not limited to:

- Hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunches:
 - "The Tie That Binds: Rehoboth Methodist Church and 300 Years of Worship Along the South Shore of the Albemarle Sound" and
 - "It's the Little Things That Count – Small Finds from Khirbet el-Maqatir"
 - "Accepting Inevitability: The Desegregation of Schools in Pasquotank County, 1954 - 1969" .
 - "A Fortress and its Weapons from the Times of Joshua and Jesus: The Archaeology of a Biblical Site"
 - "Beyond the Midway Lights: 168 Years of State Fair Growth.
- Summer Fun Day – Down on the Farm

- Completion of three (3) promotion videos for “Welcome to Your Museum”, “How You Can Support Your Museum” and “Welcome to Our Story: Life in the Albemarle”.
- Exhibit Opening: 1619: Arrival of the First Africans

Mountain Gateway Museum

Although MGM continues to operate on reduced hours (from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday) because of the COVID pandemic, the museum’s staff and its Friends group have been hard at work the past few months developing new exhibitions, hosting outdoor activities, creating new educational videos, and planning special events for (hopefully) later this year.

Mountain Gateway Museum’s Mauney House and garage are no longer blue! Both buildings received a fresh coat of yellow paint in May, thanks to R&R funding. The museum also replaced its 16-year-old state van with a new “used” van, which will allow staff to do more outreach programs.

Education programs, exhibits and events included:

- On June 12, Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort opened a new, in-house exhibit titled *Udderly Intriguing: Dairy Farming in Western North Carolina*. It will run through February 2022.
- During the month, volunteers installed the museum’s long-awaited new sign for its parking area.
- MGM hosted several “Third Thursday” events, featuring such things as an ice cream-making demonstration and a performance by *Possum Creek* bluegrass band as part of its weekly Farmers’ Market. The market was organized to give area farmers and crafters a free, convenient place in downtown Old Fort to sell—and for area residents and museum visitors to buy—locally grown foods and traditional, handmade mountain crafts. The market operates from 3 to 6 p.m. every Thursday from early May to early October on the museum’s grounds.
- The museum’s creek-side amphitheater provided the setting for Old Fort Elementary School’s 5th-grade graduation celebration.
- The exhibit ***Waking Rip Van Winkle: Gold, Gem, and Mineral Mining in Western North Carolina*** opened on March 27. This exhibition examines various types of mining in the mountain region—from gold used for currency to iron needed for building to precious stones set into jewelry—and considers how this industry helped awaken North Carolina from its economic slumber in the mid-1800s.
- ***Udderly Important: Dairy Farming in Western North Carolina*** opened in early June, which is National Dairy Month. This in-house exhibition looks at the history, as well as the future, of dairy farming in the state’s western region. Pet Milk in Charlotte agreed to provide free pints of milk to the first 100 visitors to this exhibit.

- On July 3, staff served free ice cream and watermelon to an estimated 350 guests at the museum's annual Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social. And on July 24-25, MGM welcomed more than 600 cyclists and their families for Blue Ridge Adventures' annual two-day mountain bike races in Old Fort.
- On August 14, MGM hosted the Old Fort Community Forum's town-wide scavenger hunt. National Park Service ranger William Caldwell captivated guests with his August 21 program about the Overmountain Victory Trail. And the staff honored MGM's dedicated volunteers with an annual appreciation dinner on August 30.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

The museum was able to bring two more part-time employees on staff. The historical complex was then able to expand hours and days open to visitors. The museum is now open to visitors Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Tours of the 1897 Poe House are available at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Tuesday – Friday, with tours on the hour on Saturday beginning at 10:00 (last tour begins at 4:00) and on the hour on Sunday beginning at 1:00 p.m. (last tour beginning at 4:00).

Leslie Leonard joined the museum staff as Curator of Education replacing the retiring Leisa Greathouse.

Educational Programs

The museum did offer its annual summer camp this year. Instead, grant funds from the Summertime Kids grant program of Cumberland Community Foundation were used for a “take it and make it” project kit for children. Each week, beginning in June, parents could bring children to the museum and get a kit to take home and enjoy. Education staff spent May getting the materials for the kits and assembling them. The event occurred for 5 weeks during June and July.

Exhibits

The travelling exhibit **Freedom! A Promise Disrupted, North Carolina 1862-1901** was on exhibit through May 30, 2021. This exhibit is from the NC Museum of History.

The museum hosted the traveling exhibit *Navigating Jim Crow: The Green Book and Oasis Spaces in North Carolina*, from June 12 – July 9. This exhibit was created by the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The museum showed the Smithsonian Channel documentary, “The Greenbook Guide to Freedom” on its Facebook page the week before the exhibit opened. The museum also hosted an on-line discussion program on June 10, via Zoom.

Events

The North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center hosted a dedication of their renovation of three historic structures in Arsenal Park as their history village education center. The event was also the groundbreaking for the next phase of the project, the construction of a picnic pavilion and interpretive boardwalk alongside the foundations of the western wall of the arsenal. In attendance at the event were former NC Governor Jim Hunt and elected officials from the state, Cumberland County and City of Fayetteville and around 150 in the audience.

Rentals Return. The museum was able to host its first rental on the grounds after more than a year. This event was a small wedding and reception on the 1897 Poe House porch and in the backyard on June 26 for around 100 guests.

Maritime Museums Updates

Even during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Maritime Museums have continued to be busy with new exhibits, virtual educational programs, and on-line activities. Visitation at all the Maritime Museums exceeded expectations

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

- Design of the permanent exhibitions at the Museum has been approved by the State Construction Office and is now ready for to go to bid dependent upon funding in this year's State Budget.
- Education Curator Mary Ellen Riddle created a PowerPoint children's story on Richard Etheridge for the Smithsonian's Civic Season Project.
- An historic Krupp naval gun (1898 -1900) from a World War German warship has been donated to the Friends of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. The gun is believed to have been taken from one of the German warships sunk by Gen. Billy Mitchell in 1925 to prove the power of aircraft in naval warfare. The gun had been displayed in front of Wakestone, the house of Josephus Daniels, for more than a century. The gun was taken to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center Clemson University in Charleston, S.C. It will undergo treatment for the better part of a year and will then be mounted outside at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras early in 2023. The Friends of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum are providing \$16,000 for conservation.

NCMM Beaufort

In addition to the normal education programs the museum provided other highlights included:

- To help support the state's #TakeYourShotNC campaign, staff and volunteers in Beaufort filmed a short [video](#) — posted to Instagram and Twitter — sharing some of their individual reasons why they chose to be vaccinated.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Sciences has awarded the Museum / Friends of the Museum a \$99,209 grant to expand the conservation lab. Conservator Michelle Crepeau will use the funds to purchase an array of new equipment to treat larger and more complex items in-house and to hire a paid intern to help with conservation tasks. The Friends of the Museum is generously providing \$20,000 in required matching funds.
- The museum was awarded a \$20,000 (the maximum amount) marketing grant from the Carteret County Tourism Development Agency.
- Museum field programs got off to a successful start with guided Kayak the Marsh Sound and Exploring Coastal Habitats excursions welcoming visitors back for the first time since 2019.
- The Town of Manteo's Roanoke Island Maritime Museum sent a shad boat to the Watercraft Center for repair. Staff and volunteers repaired the transom and rudder post and applied fresh bottom paint.
- The museum was one of the sites selected to be featured in the Carteret County Tourism Development Authority's upcoming marketing campaign.
- Photographers from *Our State* Magazine stopped by the Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center for some images for an upcoming feature on the tradition of boatbuilding along the North Carolina coast.
- The museum partnered with the American Red Cross on another successful blood drive. The Museum welcomed 20 donors and collected 22 pints of blood. The next drive is scheduled for October.

NCMM Southport

- The Museum is the host site for the NC Maritime History Council Conference November 4 – 6, 2021. The theme this year is “Hidden Histories of Maritime Carolina.”

- The Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport raffled a kayak, and the final net profit was \$5,197. Funds will go toward moving the Civil War exhibit and creating From Net to Plate: Commercial and Recreational Fishing in the Lower Cape Fear.
- One of the museum patrons donated \$10,000 specifically to help educate children. These funds will go to programming, educational interactives, outreach, and classroom supplies.
- The museum received \$2,000 from the Southport Lion's Club to create tactile tour maps for the Blind. In addition, the club has committed to contribute \$1,000.00 each year to sustain the project
- The museum started a volunteer recruitment campaign using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, our volunteer Facebook group and website. A press release went out to print media, radio, and TV; and all local news outlets have shared info on the campaign. The museum had seven new volunteers from our new website form and homepage popup request alone. The Museum's Facebook page and newsletter, The State Port Pilot newspaper, and St. James social media have also led to more recruits.
- Curator of Education Katy Menne has been selected as a finalist in the Rising Star Category for WILMA's 2021 Women to Watch Awards. We will have the results in October. Katy was previous selected as the SEMC Emerging Museum Professional in 2020.
- The museum received the Golden Pineapple Award for excellent customer service from the Southport – Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. One nominator commented that the museum has "friendly, well-informed staff and volunteers [who] work hard to provide a fun learning experience for kids and adults about the rich history of the Lower Cape Fear region."

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties

Michelle Lanier

*We would invite all commissioners to begin perusal of this update by viewing our "Healing on the Land" series, which is one of the Division's efforts to be a resource for education, inspiration, and comfort during the Pandemic. Here is the link to "Healing on the Land": <https://historicsites.nc.gov/resources/healing-land>. This effort was made possible by the NC Humanities Council and Cares Act funds.

*Additionally, recovery efforts continue at Vance Birthplace, which had its water supply impacted by Tropical Storm Fred. Staff have been innovative in finding ways to reopen while repairs are underway.

*Architecture and design professors at NC A&T State University and NC State University are partnering on a joint course featuring community development opportunities, with Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum as its anchor.

*The waterfront restoration project at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site will be awarded the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association's (ASBPA) Best Restored Shores Award for 2021. According to the ASBPA, "this award honors the Best Restored Beaches in America annually to help build awareness of the value of America's restored beaches." The award presentation will occur at the National Coastal Conference in New Orleans on September 30. This is the second major award the project has received, it received the American Council of Engineering Companies of NC award for Engineering Excellence on November 8, 2018. Earlier this year the project was featured in the US Army Corps of Engineers' book Engineering With Nature: An Atlas, Vol. 2.

*The N.C. Transportation Museum is pleased to announce "The Life of a Brakeman" opened Saturday, August 28 and focuses on the story of Black Mountain, N.C. resident and Southern Railway brakeman George Winslow Whittington. This addition explains how the difficult job of brakeman changed from the era of steam to diesel locomotives. The exhibit also sheds light on some of Whittington's experiences and challenges as a Black man working during segregation. "The Life of a Brakeman" was created with the content curation aid of Regina Lynch-Hudson, the granddaughter of George Winslow Whittington,

and contributions by his son Les Whittington, as well as other descendants. Matt Skeen, NCTM exhibit designer and Xavier Klonowski, NCTM curator worked to create a multi-faceted installation which features two large graphic panels with images and text about Whittington and an interactive brake wheel allowing visitors to experience how brakes were, and still are, set on trains. Visitors will also see a small selection of artifacts from the Museum's collection on display, connecting to brakemen and to Whittington himself. A short video, provided by Regina Lynch-Hudson about the life of George Winslow Whittington, also accompanies "The Life of a Brakeman."

*Civil Rights and ERA grants from the Department of the Interior continue to impact work related to Tea House and Carrie Stone Cottage at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum and the Golden and Ruth Frinks Freedom House at Historic Edenton.

*Staff, while more fatigued than ever, are currently involved in a Division-wide Strategic Planning process; True Inclusion planning for long-term Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion goals; Digital Engagement Team efforts, and a comprehensive evaluation opportunity from the Lord Cultural group.