

Report for Meeting of the North Carolina Historical Commission, September 3, 2020

Prepared by Angela M. Thorpe, Director, NC African American Heritage Commission

ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF CHANGES

- Adrienne M. Nirdé joined the NC African American Heritage Commission (AAHC) as Associate Director this spring. In this role, Mrs. Nirdé will lead the organization's communications strategy as well as programs and initiatives.
- Kimberly "Kyma" Lassiter's role was adjusted to reflect her duties more realistically. As such, she currently serves as the Arts and Outreach Coordinator for the AAHC.

COMMISSIONER RE-APPOINTMENTS

- Reverend Dr. Pierre Crawford (Gaston County)
- E. Charles Robinson (Durham County)

GENERAL PROGRAMMATIC AND INITIATIVE-BASED UPDATES

- ***My NC from A-Z***

In February of 2020, the AAHC released its first children's book in partnership with the NC Office of Archives and History: *My N.C. from A to Z*. Written by Michelle Lanier and illustrated by Dare Coulter, this book celebrates pride of place, creates connections to North Carolina's rich African American heritage and teaches children about human equality and social justice.

This book release was celebrated by a series of public programs in February. Digital educational resources have been developed to support the book, including an educator's guide edited by Dr. Valerie Ann Johnson and created by the N.C. Government & Heritage Library and the NC Arts Council's A+ Schools Program. A virtual program series centered on the book will launch this fall at four libraries across the state.

Finally, *My N.C. from A to Z* will serve as North Carolina's selection for the National Book Festival this September.

- **Partnership with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)**
The NMAAHC is leading an effort to transcribe the Freedman's Bureau records, starting in North Carolina. AAHC staff collaborated with NMAAHC staff to develop an awareness campaign in North Carolina. This campaign, which was set to launch this spring, aims to (1) make North Carolinians aware of the project (2) encourage North Carolinians to get involved in the transcription process via crowdsourcing and (3) to connect key HBCUs and other educational institutions to the project. Due to COVID-19, we have adjusted the execution of this campaign to align with the digital realm. The campaign will launch this fall. Currently libraries in Cumberland, New Hanover, Wake and Wayne counties, as well as Fayetteville State University, are slated to be engaged in this project.

- **Strengthening relationship with the State Historic Preservation Office**

The AAHC continues to strengthen its relationship with the SHPO. The division finds itself increasingly engaged in conversations and technical assistance efforts in partnership with this office, particularly issues centering African American cemeteries and African American heritage spaces. This work has resulted in a budding African American Cemetery Preservation initiative.

GRANT UPDATES

WILLIAM G. POMEROY FOUNDATION—NC CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

In the spring, the AAHC received funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to develop and launch the NC Civil Rights Trail in partnership with Visit NC and the NC Office of Archives & History. The project will identify and mark (digitally and physically) North Carolina sites key to the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, or critical to advancing civil rights in the state. Ultimately, this project will yield one interactive digital map of North Carolina civil rights sites and fifty physical, community-based markers by January of 2023. The project launched to great acclaim in August of 2020. The first round of markers will be awarded in February 2021. For more details about the project, please visit:

<https://aahc.nc.gov/programs/civil-rights-trail>.

NORTH CAROLINA HUMANITIES COUNCIL CARES RELIEF FUNDING

The AAHC received funding from the North Carolina Humanities Council CARES Relief grant program for a project entitled: “Sustaining North Carolina’s African American Heritage Institutions During COVID-19”. The project will offer a six-part Zoom webinar series designed to address the concerns and needs of AAHC stakeholders as they respond to, and pivot in light of, COVID-19, leveraging the expertise of public humanities practitioners from across the U.S. The project will also enable AAHC staff to build COVID-19 response and recovery content for stakeholders on several digital platforms.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NETWORK TO FREEDOM GRANT

This funding will enable digital educational resources centered on freedom seeking in North Carolina to be developed in partnership with Edenton State Historic Site and Carolina K-12, a program of Carolina Public Humanities (UNC). Educators in Northeastern North Carolina will receive training on how to apply these resources to the classroom.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM & LIBRARY SERVICES GRANTS

“Green Books’ ‘Oasis Spaces’: African American Travel in NC, 1936-1966”

(Awarded July 2017; Concluded August 2020)

- The public components of this project have launched in phases since March 2020. These launches included two identical traveling exhibitions, which initiated their travels at Hayti Heritage Center (Durham) and the International Civil Rights Center & Museum (Greensboro) in March. Though the traveling exhibit schedule has been disrupted due to COVID-19, we are hopeful that the exhibitions can begin traveling again in early 2021. A series of public programs have taken place physically and digitally from March to August and will continue into the fall. These programs include a series of screenings of the Smithsonian Channel’s “Green Book Guide to

Freedom” documentary and a special UNC-TV [“Black Issues Forum”](#) filmed at the NC Museum of History and hosted by Deborah Holt-Noel. Finally, the Green Book Web Portal will launch to the public in September of 2020.

- Over 500 constituents were engaged around the Green Book Project at various events across the state, including HBCU homecomings, African American cultural festivals, grassroots community informational sessions and library and university programs.
- Over fifty oral histories related to African American travel and business ownership were completed by the project team. These oral histories will ultimately live on the Green Book Web Portal.
- A project white paper will be available in September of 2020. The AAHC will be pleased to share this document with the North Carolina Historical Commission.

“A Tale of Two Ships: Developing a Research & Interpretation Plan for Revealing Hidden Histories of One Ship with Two Identities” (Awarded July 2018)

- Project Research Fellow Hannah Francis (PhD Candidate in History, Rice University) and HBCU History Research Intern Natash’ja Hunter (Undergraduate Student, Fayetteville State University) completed critical research to move this project forward in 2019.

Ms. Francis worked in Greenville, NC and Nantes, France to perform artifact and archival research, and to begin developing a collections research and interpretation plan. As a result of her work, a critical research report by Jacque Ducoin (which has been un-translated since it was written in 2001) was translated from the French to the English. As a result, we have a clearer understanding of *LaConcorde*: its origins, its crew, what took place during its capture, and more. Hannah Francis also shared valuable recommendations as it relates to additional research and re-vising web content related to LaC/QAR that has since been incorporated.

Ms. Hunter worked in Greenville, NC to support the work of Ms. Francis, and to develop an interactive community engagement tool designed to share the story of *LaConcorde* with diverse audiences. Ms. Hunter’s digital content—particularly her written blog pieces—gained quite a bit of popularity with institutions across the country. Additionally, her work helped re-shape the walking tour that is offered at the QAR Conservation Lab to be more inclusive of the LaC narrative. Ms. Hunter was able to offer her revised walking tour during “Saturday at the QAR Lab” in the fall of 2019.

- Research work was presented at multiple conferences, including the Association for the Study of African American Life and History Conference in Charleston, SC (October 2019) and The Society for Historical Archaeology 2020 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Boston, MA (January 2020).
- The project team secured a one-year extension for the project, shifting the completion date from March 2020 to March 2021.

- Project Co-PIs Angela Thorpe and Dr. Sarah Watkins Kenney have begun drafting the project research and interpretation plan. Angela Thorpe will lead focus groups with several departmental staff to gain more insight into future interpretive and research possibilities related to LaC/QAR. These conversations will help to shape meaningful portions of the project research and interpretation plan.

“Africa to Carolina: Next Steps in the Journey” (Awarded July 2020)

- The AAHC is thrilled to be moving forward on their “Africa to Carolina” project. This grant award will help the organization to fill some of the gaps that were outlined for Commissioners during the last meeting of the North Carolina Historical Commission.
- This award will fund a graduate research fellow to perform additional research on the slave trade in the colony of North Carolina.
- The research fellow will also work to develop one introductory exhibit centering on the relationship between the Transatlantic Slave Trade and North Carolina. The exhibit will consist of 5-6 panels, and cover:
 1. Details about the Africa to Carolina Project
 2. The Slave Trade in the Colony of North Carolina
 3. Details regarding what we currently know about the Slave Trade at North Carolina disembarkation points
 4. Lives and legacies of enslaved African Americans in North Carolina

Slightly variable versions of this exhibit will be installed at Bath State Historic Site, Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site, Edenton State Historic Site, Somerset Place State Historic Site, Tryon Palace, Roanoke Island Festival Park, and the NC Maritime Museum at Beaufort in 2022.

- The project also funds the development of an “Africa to Carolina” web portal. This website will be designed to showcase information and resources that we know and have currently, with the intention of building upon it after the conclusion of the project in alignment with the larger goals of the Africa to Carolina initiative.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The Society for Historical Archaeology: 2020 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology

Boston, MA (January 2020)

Panel: “Telling a Tale of One Ship with Two Names: *Queen Anne’s Revenge* and *La Concorde*”

Presenters: Dr. Sarah Watkins-Kenney and Hannah Francis

Association of African American Museums Virtual Conference (August 2020)

Panel: “Oasis Spaces: Shifting and Sharing North Carolina’s ‘Green Book’ Narrative”

Presenters: Angela Thorpe, Karen Ipock, and Michelle Lanier

Report to the North Carolina Historical Commission

Tryon Place

June through August 2020

Since the last report to the Historical Commission, Tryon Palace opened its gardens to the public on June 3, 2020 on a ticketed basis. Similarly, the Museum Store was opened under the guidelines for retail operations in both locations – in the North Carolina History Center and the auxiliary store on the Palace grounds.

In mid-August, three part time temporary staff members were rehired using private funds. This allowed Tryon Palace to open the gardens 7 days a week and the Store 6 days a week. Five staff members volunteered to learn the ticketing software and to run the retail operation. The added staff provides Tryon Palace with more back-up in the case of illness, and planned or unplanned absences

Visitation has fluctuated without a clear pattern emerging. Ticket staff record zip codes (if guests are willing to give it) so we learned that most of our guests this summer were from out-of-town or out-of-state. Many expressed frustration that the Palace was not opened.

To stimulate visitation, interpretive programs are being offered on the grounds with proper distancing. A four-week rotation of topics related to the life of a soldier have proven very popular. And the musket firing always draws people. Textile crafts, like felting, and drum demonstrations (from our Fife and Drum Corp) have been added to the schedule and additional craft demonstrations will be added when the weather cools. This has been a very hot and very rainy summer for New Bern which makes outdoors demonstrations more difficult.

In June, we learned of our success in securing a National Endowment for the Humanities grant of \$150,000. The grant application process was aided by department staff and the funding will run through the department's budget. The primary focus of the grant is to return laid off employees in humanities. For Tryon Palace, this was our part time interpreters and the funds will return 14 employees through December 31st. During this time, the temporary staff will be learning new crafts, producing training videos for future interpreters, creating video tours for school groups, developing tour routes that meet crowd size and distancing requirements, and learning more history of Tryon Palace and New Bern especially in the area of African-American and Native American history in the region.

Rather than postpone for a second time, the Tryon Palace symposium of the 35th United States Colored Troops will be held virtually. The live broadcast will be Saturday, September 12th from 9 am until noon. Three sessions with three panelists each will be presented along with two short videos on the 35th USCT. Watch social media for a link to the broadcast.

William J. McCrea

Executive Director

NCHC Report-September 3, 2020

Division of Archives and Records

On behalf of the Division of Archives and Records, I am pleased to highlight a few division activities since my May 29, 2020 report to the Commission. These are some selected highlights of programming, outreach, and other projects from across the division. Most division work continues to be conducted remotely with exceptions for essential services requiring access to collections and division facilities.

In major staffing news, the division was able to hire Adrienne Berney to fill the position vacated by Andrea Gabriel upon her retirement. This position manages the programming of the State Historical Records Advisory Board and other outreach programming for the division. Adrienne is a great fit for this position having recently managed the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies and the statewide Cultural Resources Emergency Support Team (CREST). Until her old position is filled, Adrienne has continued to manage Federation programming. We anticipate the CREST management to remain with our division and Adrienne's office.

At the end of August veteran Office of Archives and History employee, Donna Kelly, retired. She completed 36 years of full-time service, as well as several years' worth of part-time Saturdays in the Search Room while she was in college. Some members of the Commission may recall that in addition to her service in the Archives, most recently as head of the Special Collections Section, Donna also served as the head of the Historical Publications Section from 2001-2014. We thank Donna for her work on behalf of the Archives, Historical Publications, and the entire Office of Archives and History. We wish her all the best in retirement.

Outreach programming: As outreach programming moved online exclusively, one of the most active groups in delivering virtual workshops, meetings, and training sessions has been the Records Description Unit in the Government Records Section. In July alone they conducted six workshops, including: 1 Digital Communications Workshop for Regional Councils of Government with 50 attendees; two chief records officers' "brown bag" lunch meetings about COVID-19 records created by state agencies with 36 attendees; 1 records management workshop for the Society of American Archivists for 133 attendees; 1 records management workshop for local government employees with 107 attendees; and 1 functional schedule workshop for the Department of Commerce with 12 attendees. In August they held the following online workshops and meetings: a chief records officers' meeting for universities with 20 participants; a records management workshop for women's health nurse consultants with 8 participants; and a program for the Society of American Archivists' Local Government Records Section with 60 participants. Because the advertised workshops for September are already at capacity, they are adding additional dates.

Other highlights of outreach programming include a June program by Heather South for the Swannanoa Valley Museum History Café Series called, "Oteen and Community Connections." In August she presented a virtual preservation workshop for the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site staff and volunteers. Donna Kelly participated in an online program for the Charlotte Museum of History about the history of the suffrage movement in North Carolina. Samantha Crisp of the Outer Banks History Center was interviewed for an upcoming podcast about the art and activism of Frank Stick. Some online Federation workshops were held in June and July. Those included two member sessions where discussions on the intersection of race and public history programming. Advisory board member Sara Blanchette of the High Point Museum answered questions through her own perspective as an African American public historian. In July the Federation hosted a webinar on "[Rapid-Response Collecting](#)" with panelists including Vann Evans from the State Archives and others from the Cape Fear Museum, Chapel Hill Historical Society, and Greensboro History Museum. This was well received with about 30

participants and an additional 60+ viewers tuning into the recording on YouTube. The audio-visual archivist, Vann, presented a program in August for the Greensboro Museum of History via Zoom.

The division's Social Media Outreach Committee continues to develop new online content, including two "behind the scenes" tour videos. Tours of the Archives had become a popular activity prior to the pandemic, so one video was designed to provide the public a little peek into our collections from home. The second video was done at the request of an elementary school in Alamance County. It is aimed at the K-12 audience level. Links are here: <https://youtu.be/g84B9Edp63Y> for general audiences and <https://youtu.be/RlsaRI9Bbvg> for the K-12 audience. In connection with that virtual tour, we will offer "Ask an Archivist" sessions for school groups this fall <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/educators/virtual-tours>.

The division was featured in the #DiscoverSummerNC hashtag throughout the summer with a focus on the "From the Archives" week at the end of July. We continue providing puzzles drawn from our materials; to date, we've posted 28 puzzles on our blog and other social media accounts: <https://ncarchives.wpcomstaging.com/tag/jigsaw-puzzle/> Another social media program called "Did You Know?" featured fun facts about our operations and collections. Other recent online content highlights from Raleigh include additional images to the WWII and Korean War Flickr albums, two new Flickr albums (1920's Raleigh firefighters and "Food, Cooking and Recipes"), and 6 blog posts for the *Stories of Service* blog managed by the department. One of the most recent posts was "Hidden Soldiers: Black Service Individuals in NC Camp Newsletters," featuring advice on how to locate information on black service individuals in the recently digitized North Carolina WWII camp newsletters. <https://medium.com/nc-stories-of-service/hidden-soldiers-black-service-individuals-in-nc-camp-newsletters-6b4389087fc2>

The Outer Banks History Center has been posting clips from the AV.5247 Beach TV Recordings on Facebook each week. This was a local channel that aired local interest pieces, commercials, and news coverage back in the late 1980s-1990s. A large majority of the Outer Banks population remembers, comments on, and shares the posts, so it has resulted in a surge in followers.

A TranscribeNC Colonial Court Records transcription training with Diane L. Richard of Mosaic RPM and Anna Peitzman of the State Archives on July 28, 2020. TranscribeNC is the platform the division uses for crowd sourced transcription projects. This training is part of a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to increase access to our colonial court records. The grant deliverables include processing of the records, increased online access through new finding aids, and digitization of select court records. Prior to that event, we added digitized Colonial Court materials to TranscribeNC: <https://fromthepage.com/ncdcr-ncarchives/colonial-court-records>. The video of the training is available at <https://youtu.be/YsKz-JD9GAo>.

As we are slowly allowing staff limited time in the office, some digitization projects for online access are restarting. One notable digitization project where scanning has been completed is the Maud Hayes Stick Collection from the Outer Banks History Center. This is a collection of personal papers, correspondence, and photographs from the Stick Family, including with her husband Frank and son David. We anticipate restarting additional digitization projects this fall.

Major projects: Many division projects were able to be transitioned to remote work. I applaud the staff for their creativity and flexibility in getting much of what we do completed via telework. In the Government Records Section, the records analysts have completed the annual update to the functional records schedule for state agencies, boards, and commissions. They also led the division in the implementation of DocuSign, an online signature software platform, to move our signature schedule process to an electronic format. They are partnering with the Digital Services Section to develop a best practices guide on digital records destructions. This will be aimed at custodians of public records who will be destroying electronic public records according to approved records schedule. They also have drafted a document called *Transition Guidance*. It will be provided to state agency officials who will be leaving office at the end of the election cycle. As noted earlier in the report, the analysts have also been conducting robust outreach online to their stakeholders in state and local government offices.

Public Services staff continue to manage all inquiries via email where possible. Two staff members alternate coming to the building to fulfill records requests in person, as well as complete complex legal research inquiries. Between June 1 and August 26, they responded to 893 remote inquiries and 279 transcript requests were fulfilled.

Work on the current State Historical Records Advisory board grant continued. This grant from NHPRC has among its deliverables, the development of online tutorials about the basics of archives. Developed for those staff and volunteers working in local historical societies and archives, these tutorials have been scripted and will be in production this month. The division also has a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), an independent non-profit organization, to digitize some endangered records of Senate sessions. These recordings were made on Dictaphone tapes between 1993-2005. Because we have no way to play these recordings now, they will be digitized by an outside vendor. The digitized copies will be placed online for immediate access by patrons. That digitization work began in August.

As the state migrates to a new platform for websites, our digital access staff have been planning for the migration of our website resources. We anticipate this work getting underway this month. Additionally, the digital access staff have been testing a new tool for our online digital collections. Called Collection Builder, this tool was developed at the University of Idaho Libraries. It is designed to work with CONTENTdm, our online digital collections platform, to provide additional ways for patrons to search and find collections beyond traditional search boxes. Because we utilize CONTENTdm in partnership with the State Library, their staff are also involved in this testing.

Online oral history access is being enhanced with a couple of volunteer and staff driven projects. Biographical notes about military oral histories are being added to recently digitized interviews. Summer interns completed work on the transcription for all the oral histories collected for the "She Changed the World" initiative.

The private collections archivist, along with her volunteers and contract staff funded by the Friends of the Archives, have been researching manuscript and account book collections that contain deeper information about enslaved and free people of color in North Carolina. Often this information was not included in traditional paper finding aids or bibliographic collection notes. This research has been underway for a while with the goal of an online digital collection tying these materials together virtually. Relevant collections are being identified and metadata created for the online collection. As this online collection is started, we will continue to add materials to it.

A remote working environment has not hindered work on a collaborative project being developed by the division, the African American Heritage Commission, the State Library, and Wilson Library at UNC Chapel Hill. This project envisions the development of a statewide survey of collections to locate materials related to African Americans in North Carolina. Post-survey outcomes may include the development of resources for the preservation of collections, resources to increase access to collections, and an outreach campaign about repositories actively collecting in this area. The project steering committee hopes to have a survey working group and advisory board identified soon with the goal of a survey for distribution in June of 2021. We are also identifying potential grant funding sources to assist with this work.

Our conservator, under the supervision of State Historic Sites, and in conjunction with conservation staff from the Museum of History and the Office of State Archeology, has been participating in the conservation efforts on the materials recovered from the cornerstone of the Confederate monument on the grounds of the State Capitol. Despite heavy damage to the box and the incursion of water and mud, a few materials in the cornerstone were recovered. Conservation assessments are underway, and treatment will proceed according to plans developed by State Historic Sites. The conservator has also been working with the Office of State Archeology to provide consultative services for other recently opened cornerstone boxes.

Collection development continues during the pandemic, although it is a little delayed for the donation of non-digital materials. The “Your Story is North Carolina’s Story” initiative has received 112 submissions offerings to date. Archivists in Special Collections are in the process of evaluating submissions, contacting donors, completing acquisition paperwork, and referring potential donors to other collections where appropriate. Additional highlights of recent collection donations and transfers are listed after the written report.

New remote projects: Some areas of our division are not able to fully complete work that requires regular access to collections. To replace the time that would have been spent on arrangement and description projects or working with patrons in the search room, a number of new projects that can be completed remotely have been undertaken. We are fortunate to have so many activities that can be done remotely, particularly since all of these telework projects will increase patron access to our resources and collections. One project from the Western Regional Archives involves transcriptions of the Annie Logan Brown collection of diaries. The preliminary work has been completed, and the work is now being reviewed and noted for any additions.

Several of these projects involve data clean up in our new online catalog. The merging of old databases into the new system generated some data that did not map to new fields accurately, but we have had the ability to get a strong start on the data clean up and restructuring. Some archivists are also adding additional data on collections into the system, including more box level descriptions. All this work will provide for a more robust searching experience by patrons. Reference staff have been taking old card catalogs and putting the data into spreadsheets for ease of remote access. Those include the NC Supreme Court case index and the legislative biographical index. The photo lab scanned all the hundreds of microfiche for the marriage bond indices. Reference staff will now start on data entry to move those names to a spreadsheet for online access. I anticipate this will be a popular project with our patrons who are frustrated they cannot visit us in person just yet. The longer, printed Archives Information Circulars or AIC’s are also undergoing revisions. Reference staff are also working on additional website resources, including new website frequently asked questions about our remote reference services.

State Archives and Equity in Archival Access and Collecting: In the days following the death of George Floyd, the staff began having some conversations of the impact of racism on our profession and professional practices. The division issued a Statement on Equity in Archival Access and Collecting: <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/about/statement-equity-archival-access-and-collecting> This has been posted on our website. Staff received it, as well as several other professional statements (Society of American Archivists, Society of North Carolina Archivists, and other divisions from the Office of Archives and History). It is not an easy thing to review your professional practices and find them lacking in some areas, but the management team has taken the conversations to heart, searching for ways to make meaningful progress in improving the equity in our collecting and the access to our materials. There is much work to be done to realign our finding aids and collection resources to de-emphasize the traditional focus on whiteness. Fortunately, we can start building some best practices by accessing a growing body of professional literature and working with colleagues undertaking similar redescription projects. A working group called “Conscious Description” has been formed comprised of staff from across the division. Their first charges from the management team include a survey of our historic description practices, environmental scan on professional best practices and pilot projects for this work, and the recommendation of professional development programs for all staff to learn more about these best practices and how they will impact our work going forward.

A second working group called Community Building Team will seek to pick up some work identified on a division strategic plan a couple of years ago that had not been fully addressed. It will identify current partnerships with outside organizations, as well as review groups and communities with whom the division could be working more closely. The charges for this team will include the inventory of current relationships, identification of new groups for partnerships, as well as a staff development program on the role community building plays in our profession.

There is more work to be done to build a more diverse and inclusive archival program for our state, as well as in the broader profession. We anticipate continuing to draw on work and conversations being held in the profession both from colleagues within other state archives, as well as the broader profession, to help us chart our path forward. This work coincides with a growing movement within the profession to broadly reexamine some of our long-held beliefs about the structure of finding aids and collection descriptions. I look forward to the progress that we can make for our state within our operations at the State Archives.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time regarding the programming and projects of the division. I can be reached at sarah.koonts@ncdcr.gov

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah E. Koonts

Collection Acquisition Highlights (excludes “Your Story” acquisitions)

- PhC_275, Sampson County Turpentine Manufacturing Photo Collection, taken by G. S. Worth, 1889–1890.
- PC 367 F. Roy Johnson addition - two shipments of photo negatives and a few prints, believed to be chiefly from Johnson’s work as newspaper publisher and publishing company owner, ca. 1938–1970. These will be added to his private collection.
- 242 original photographs taken or collected by James Wilson Setzer of Maiden, NC. In WWII, he served in the U.S. Army in the 29th Engineer Topographic Battalion in the Pacific Theater, where he worked as a photographer with the battalion.
- Military papers of Lt. Col. Marshall Tigner Wiggins of Atlanta, GA, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1946. He was the Control Officer at the Army Ground & Service Forces (AG & SF) Redistribution Station in Asheville, NC, in late 1944–1945. He oversaw operations, finances, and station personnel. Collection includes scrapbook of operations at Asheville Station, operations and statistical manuals, newsletters, and typed history of the station. Largest and only known collection of materials in the U.S. outside of the National Archives documenting the operations of the Asheville Redistribution Station.
- Negotiated the acceptance of the Dare Minority Coalition Records, primarily documenting a demonstration following the death of George Floyd.
- The WRA collaboration with the Swannanoa Historical Society on the program “Oteen and Community Connections” yielded an offer of a collection about Oteen from a couple in Florida.
- Completed transfer of Governor McCrory electronic files to Archives. Transfer from Department of Information Technology storage.
- Continued identification and collection of COVID-19 related URLs for addition to the NC Government Website Archive.

Report of Division of Historical Resources
To the North Carolina Historical Commission

September 3, 2020

Continuity of government work for State Historic Preservation Office and Office of State Archaeology

Since our last report in May, our entire division continues to be in teleworking mode and carrying on vital constituent service. Constituent demand for digitization of reports and the like for environmental review work requires staff to conduct scanning onsite, underlining our need for additional funding for a more holistic approach for digitization of hard copy legacy files and reports, representing decades of work in the archaeological and architectural survey fields in North Carolina.

Staff for the most part universally have state VPN-capable laptops and we communicate via video conference most days. In some ways, teleworking has gained us greater efficiencies and blocks of time for greater productivity. In other ways, we find ourselves missing the camaraderie and engagement of being in the office together, but have managed nonetheless to maintain a strong collegiality, sense of mutual respect, and heightened communication between ourselves.

As mentioned in May, it is important to note that we have *not* closed for business and are maintaining our division's contribution to the continuity of government.

Constituent service via digitization and virtual visits. Site visits are rare and only conducted when mission critical. We also "visit" virtually with constituents but there is often little substitute to visit a building or archaeological site for a consultation. When we have engaged in this activity, we are sporting facial coverings, meeting outside in a wide, socially distanced circle, and able to tour buildings unaccompanied. Constituents are understanding and likewise practicing similar behaviors but still clamor for the personal constituent service that is the pride of our division under normal circumstances.

Environmental Review Branch. The high volume of demand for our environmental review branch continues unabated, demonstrating in our mind strength in our state's economy in the fields of real estate development, infrastructure, and energy projects.

We have also filled the vacant Environmental Review Assistant position, responsible for choreographing the mostly now digital paperwork for constituent response, and glad to welcome Devon Borchardt to that role, who was promoted from an archaeological technician position with the Office of State Archaeology.

Survey / National Register branch. The National Register program continues likewise to be popular, and given local government meeting cancellations that affected our legal notification process, we opted to postpone our June National Register Advisory Committee meeting to

August 20, and successfully held that day our first ever virtual, distance meeting via GoToMeeting. Following the expiration of the terms of Chair David Maurer and Lee Gray (we thank them for their service), we welcomed through Dr. Cherry's appointment two new members, Raleigh architect Fred Belladin and Old Salem alumnus and architectural historian David Bergstone of Winston-Salem, and Dr. Cherry appointed Dr. Alicia McGill of the public history program at NC State as chair.

Historic Tax Credits. Our office's historic tax credit program continues to have a **robust demand for services**, helping to facilitate re-use of abandoned or underutilized historic buildings statewide through the federal and state historic tax credit program. These buildings are often catalysts for further investment in North Carolina's communities, from the metro cities to regional centers to very rural places, and bolster local property valuation and use of existing utility and road infrastructure.

We had over \$112 million of investment in the months of April, May, and June alone in proposed and completed projects. (The same period in 2019 saw around \$35 million of proposed or completed investment in contrast.)

- **COMPLETED PROJECTS:** Between April 1 and June 30, 2020, we saw **10 completed rehab projects** ("Part 3s") that represent **\$41.2 million** of private investment in National Register historic buildings in a wide swatch of the state. Many were very large projects that will be gamechangers for the fortunes of communities, including the following:
 - **ELIZABETH CITY: Perry Motor Company / Weatherly Candy Factory (\$6.1 million investment** for 42 market rate apartments in downtown Elizabeth City)
 - **FARMVILLE: old East Carolina Railway Office and Freight Station (\$2 million investment** for commercial and institutional use)
 - **WILSON: Watson Center Brick Warehouse (\$18.4 million investment** for 90-unit apartment complex within former tobacco warehouse)
 - **HENDERSONVILLE: Grey Hosiery Mill (\$7.2 million investment** for market rate apartments in downtown)
 - **FRANKLINTON: Sterling Cotton Mill (\$16 million investment** for 96 workforce housing rental units) (March 2020)

- **PENDING PROJECTS:** Between April 1 and June 30, 2020, we processed **15** rehabilitation plans ("Part 2s") that represent **\$71.6 million of private investment** in National Register historic buildings in a wide swatch of the state. Examples include:
 - **CLAYTON: Clayton Cotton Mills** (projected \$6.3 million investment for 25 residential rental units)
 - **EDEN: Nantucket Mills** (projected \$18 million investment for mixed commercial / rental use)
 - **WAYNESVILLE: former Haywood Hospital** (projected \$8 million investment for 54 low-income rental units)

- **ASHEVILLE: Flat Iron Building** (projected \$19.8 million investment for hotel use)
- **Rural MACON COUNTY: 1935 Glen Choga Lodge, Tipton** (projected \$700,000 investment for rehab of vintage mountain hotel)
- **NEW PROJECTS: Between April 1 and June 30, 2020**, applicants initiated **14 new projects**, many of which are slated for residential rental or commercial use in North Carolina downtowns, including:
 - **FOREST CITY, Florence Mill**
 - **VALDESE, Valdese Weaver's Mill**
 - **CONCORD, Norcott Mill**
 - **NEW BERN, former Craven County Health Department**
 - **ELIZABETH CITY, former Cluff-Pool Store**

Local Government Assistance program. Our newly minted Local Government Coordinator **Kristi Brantley** has likewise led us into the world of virtual technology by converting our in-person, regional local government training days into a six-module training program, recorded and available through Youtube. Special thanks to Kristi and to our colleagues Matt Zeher and Tom Normanly with our agency's marketing department who added that special production touch to the recordings, which are very professional and informative. We have also bundled our previous disaster recovery videos into this "channel".

The videos are available here: and include the following topics:

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

- #1 Architectural History**
- #2 Local Preservation Enabling Legislation**
- #3 African American Heritage Commission and Local Preservation Commissions**
- #4 Comprehensive Community Preservation**
- #5 Secretary of the Interior's Standards**
- #6 Historic Tax Credits**

Office of State Archaeology. The Office of State Archaeology continues its role with the environmental review process, and has filled the vacant Western Office archaeologist position (new incumbent to begin on September 15). Constituent interest in the services of our cemetery specialist Melissa Timo continues unabated.

Hurricane Florence historic preservation aid package. As you know, at last report, we applied in early October for \$25 million for the special congressional appropriation for historic preservation recovery monies for Hurricane Florence and Michael relief, citing the widespread need for repair, resiliency, and planning projects. The National Park Service awarded North Carolina \$17 million, two million more than their own planning figure for our state. At this point:

- Hurricane Grants Manager Dan Becker initiated a call for constituent subgrants for brick and mortar projects for damaged properties (\$8.5 million available) as well as planning projects (\$750,000). **There is a statutory role under NC GS 121-12(c) for the Commission to vet subgrant proposals, likely September 23, 2020.**
- We are also beginning to work on internal brick and mortar project scopes for the \$4.5 million earmarked for that work; potential projects include mast repair to the USS North Carolina and work on the Douglas complex at Tryon Palace.
- We have identified preliminarily several architectural and archaeological survey projects to undertake in eligible counties.
- Finally, our recruitment effort for the remainder of the hurricane grant program staff have yielded an administrative / preservation specialist as well as an architect to aid with the subgrant program; they will be starting within the month as long-term temporary employees.

Historical Research Office

Historical Publications. Two of Historical Publications' new titles – *My N.C. from A to Z* by Michelle Lanier and illustrated by Dare Coulter, and *Grand Illusions: Historic Interior Decorative Painting* by Laura A. W. Phillips – were recognized by *Library Journal* as 2019 Notable Documents. This is the second year in a row that the Historical Research Office's publications were recognized.

Highway Historical Marker Program. Because of existing financial difficulties at NCDOT prior to the pandemic, the program is in suspended status, but we continue to monitor maintenance needs and ask for NCDOT assistance for damaged markers. We have had a great deal of constituent interest in updating or in fact, removing markers; these requests are governed by a provision of the state administrative code. We have also begun a process of reviewing and assessing the supporting marker essays and making an effort to update them with additional information as appropriate.

Western Office. The office itself is closed to public at this point but staff continues work from home.

Ramona M. Bartos, Division Director
August 25, 2020

Division of State History Museums

Report to the North Carolina Historical Commission – August 26, 2020

At this time all the museums remain closed and we have no idea when we will be allowed to reopen. As noted in the last report, the closure has not only affected visitation, but more importantly it has affected finances. It is possible the museums will not open before year end. If so, the Museum of History in Raleigh alone, will have lost over \$100,000 from cancelled rentals and the donation box by year end. In addition, the support groups for the museums lost revenue from memberships, fund raising events and gift shop sales. By year end, the NC Museum of History Associates, who help fund the exhibits, programs and general operations of the Museum of History will have lost over \$600,000 in membership fees, gift shop revenues and donations from their fundraiser, the Spring Frolic, which was postponed until 2021.

Even with this loss of funding, the museums have been able to continue with some projects begun before the museums closed. The Museum of History is continuing work on its Beach Music exhibit which will be completed by early September. When the museum does open, we will at least have one new exhibit to open with. We have decided to leave open several exhibits beyond their closing date. Our exhibit on Woman's Suffrage had only been open a few weeks when the Museum closed, and we are going to leave open the exhibit on the 200th Anniversary of the NC Supreme Court for several more months as well.

However, there are some bright spots on the funding side. I am pleased to announce that as a result of the efforts of the Museum of History Foundation's lobbyist, the Legislature has awarded \$400,000 from the Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to the Department for use by the NC Museum of History for creating on-line programming and on-line access to the museum's historical content. The exact wording is as follows:

"\$400,000 to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, to allocate to the North Carolina Museum of History for (i) the development and implementation of and access to virtual history programs for statewide student educational purposes and (ii) online public access to the historical content of the North Carolina Museum of History during the closure of facilities due to the impact of 'stay at home' orders."

These funds will be used to create new programs to augment our History at Home web page resources as well as our teacher resources and add to the programs we already have like our educational films. We will also use these to update our on-line Civil Rights exhibit as well as possibly create new on-line exhibits. We will also explore digitization of some of our collection.

A committee of various museum staff has been formed to help determine what programs or projects will be funded. This is a great opportunity for us to add to and improve our on-line educational presence.

In addition, the Museum of History has also received a \$20,000 grant from the North Carolina Humanities to create a 360 degree virtual tour of the museum's permanent exhibit, The Story of North Carolina. This will allow the public as well as students to take a more detailed virtual tour of the Story of North Carolina exhibit.

Being closed to the public does not mean the staff at the museums have not been working hard. All of the division museums have continued doing virtual and digital programming to the public on their websites. The Museum of History's **History at Home** web page has been well received. The museum staffs have all been very creative with on-line programs and activities for adults, families, and children, including the Museum of History's twice monthly on-line evening lectures, **History and High Balls**. This lecture series begins with instructions on mixing that evening's featured cocktail and continues with an interesting lecture on various topics. On the **History at Home** webpage, as well as the web pages of the other examples of offerings included virtual tours of exhibits, educational films produced by staff, podcasts, downloadable activities, including lesson plans, coloring pages, craft activities and even recipes !

HISTORY at HOME

How Was Your "History at Home" Experience?



History at Home!

Experience the North Carolina Museum of History digitally!

The response from the public to all the museums social media activities has been incredible. The Maritime Museums now have over 25,000 followers on Facebook and over 5,000 followers on Instagram. The Museum of History has almost 38,000 Facebook followers, 22,000 followers on Instagram and almost 13,000 followers on Twitter. The Museum of History's website has been viewed over 17,000 times in the last 2 weeks alone with viewers coming not only from across the US, but also from around the world including the UK, France, Canada, and Australia.

The State Archives and the Museum of History continue working on a joint project to collect stories and artifacts from people across the state regarding their experiences and memories of the Coronavirus Pandemic. In addition, the Museum of History is collecting artifacts from the Black Lives Matter movement, including gathering some of the plywood panels covering broken windows that were painted on with various slogans.

Capital Projects

There have been several capital projects going on at the various museums. The Civil War and Reconstruction History Center has completed work on all three historic houses that were moved to a section of the property. These buildings are to be used for education programs, a digital media center and office space. The Circa 1832 Culbreth House will be used for college level education courses, research, office space, and contains a library of books on the Civil War and Reconstruction. The Circa 1850 Arsenal House will be a digital media center for broadcasting classes to classrooms across the state, and the Circa 1855 Davis House will be used as a mini museum telling the story of the Arsenal.



The Maritime Museum in Beaufort has completed installation of a new roof as a result of hurricane damage. Work has been completed at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum on changes to their front entry as well as changes to their HVAC system.

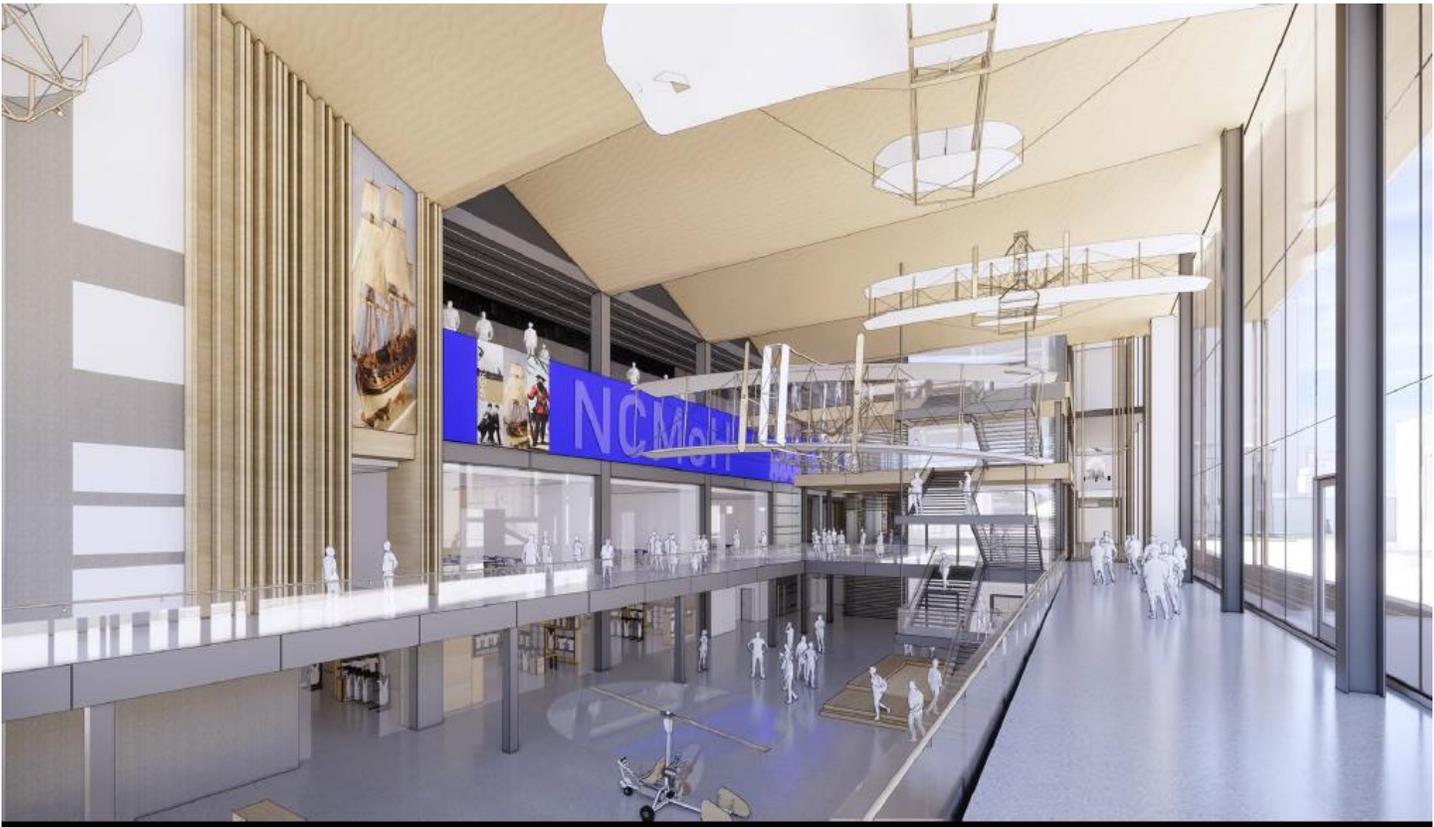
Design work continues on the NC Museum of History expansion project. Design efforts are focused on the expansion and renovation of the currently building. The project has been broken down into phases to accommodate the proposed funding that may become available at some point. Currently, we do not anticipate any capital project construction funding coming through in the next year. The architects continue work on the interior design of the new Atrium entrance and the redesigned current lobby. The most recent drawings are shown below.

I would like to thank the Commission for all their support during this trying time. We continue to prepare to open the museums to the public as soon as the Governor orders. We have revised our cleaning procedures, removed touch items from exhibits and come up with ways to let the visitors safely use some of the video interactives. We have signs throughout each museum reminding people to keep a safe distance apart, wear facial coverings and wash their hands often. Only staff necessary to be on site to support the public are currently at the museum. The remainder of the staff continues to telework from home.

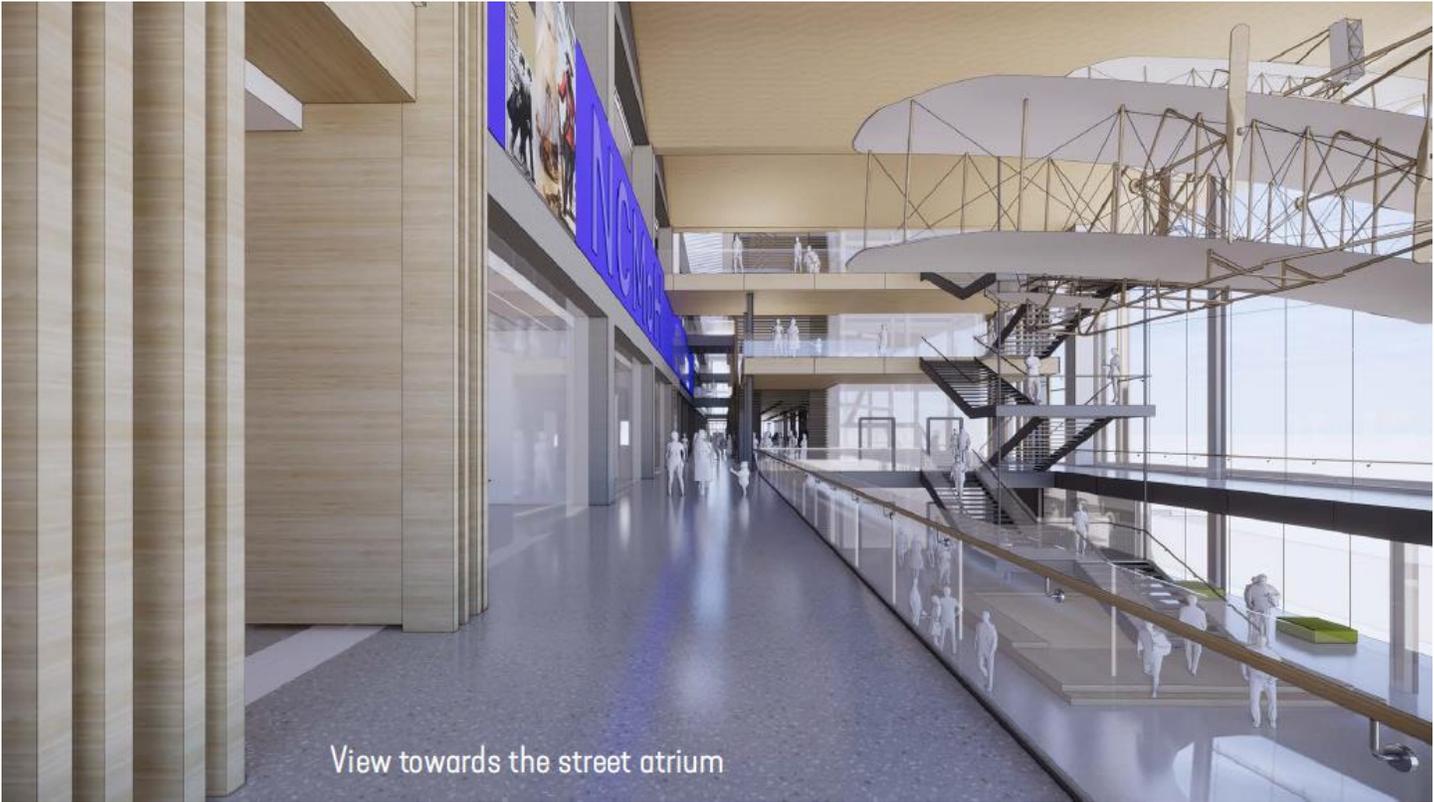
Respectfully submitted.

Ken Howard
Director, Division of State History Museums





Atrium view from mezzanine looking East



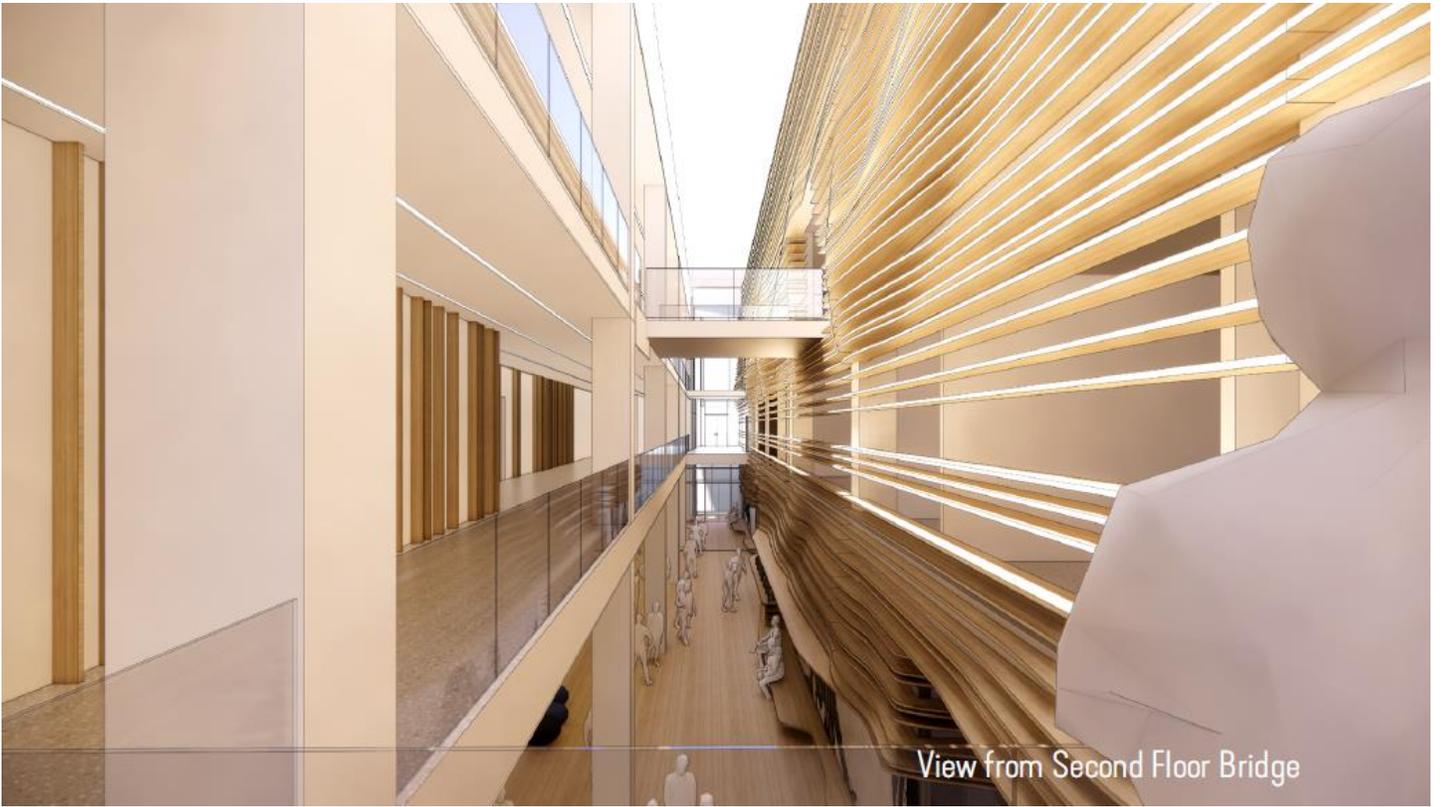
View towards the street atrium



View from Wright Brothers Gallery



View entering Main Street



View from Second Floor Bridge

Mailing Address:
4620 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4620

Physical Location:
430 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 2050
Raleigh, NC 27603-5926
Office: 919.814.7150



Roy Cooper, Governor
Susie H. Hamilton, Secretary
Michelle Lanier, Director

I have begun this letter more times than I can count.

And I am afraid that this will be quite long, because I must take my time. And because this is personal for me.

This is personal for all of us.

Louder and louder, we hear a crying out of the names George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, along with the words "Black Lives Matter," and "Say Their Names."

What is this moment to the keepers of memory? Do we begin to prepare an archive for George Floyd, born in Fayetteville?

How are we called to act? Do we open up our common spaces as wailing walls for grief and outrage and gathering grounds for healing and reflection?

Yes.

This and much, much more.

For guidance and inspiration, I have turned to many sources of late.

I have sought out, again, my own sense of self in the woods that surround Historic Stagville, one of my ancestral touchstones, where I reflect upon, mourn, and marvel at the enslaved lives of my people.

I have also sought wisdom in the words of peacefully enraged (yes it is possible) protesters, who currently gather in the midst of monuments they both decry, yet imbue, by their presence, new meaning, new declarations of equity and human equality.

I have also sought words of resonance from Harriet Jacobs, John Hope Franklin, David Walker, and Pauli Murray.

And lastly, I have also sought out the oral histories of my own family.

One particular story keeps calling to me, beckoning me to lean in. A story some of you have heard before.



Allow me to share it again.

In the summer of 1946, my maternal grandfather, Gustave Hamilton Caution, Jr. (yes this is his real name) had just turned 16 years old. At this time, he and his mother lived in Philadelphia, though born in Wilmington and Fayetteville, respectively.

Nearly six weeks after my grandfather's birthday, two African American couples (George W. and Mae Murray Dorsey, and Roger and Dorothy Malcom) were brutally, sadistically murdered by a lynch mob, near Moore's Ford Bridge in Georgia.

One of the two women was pregnant. (I will spare you the details, in this moment, but encourage your own deeper exploration of the unborn baby's fate.)

One of the men was a recently returned veteran, in the Pacific Theater of WWII.

Gus, my grandfather, would have perhaps heard about this horror, from his father who served as a Chaplain in North Africa during the same war, or perhaps from the black-owned "Pittsburgh Courier" newspaper, which boasted a national audience.

The brutality of the Moore's Ford Bridge lynching had inspired President Truman to create a Committee on Civil Rights and to implore Congress to pass an antilynching bill.

In the autumn, Gus returned to Central High School, an all-male, predominantly white school in Philadelphia.

December of that year, "The Pittsburgh Courier" pondered with its readership why Congress had not yet acted.

My grandfather appeared to have posted the Courier's article, in solidarity, on a bulletin board at his predominantly white school.

The principal demanded that my grandfather remove the article.

My grandfather refused.

This was Gus's peaceful protest.

He was permanently expelled.

Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown reluctantly welcomed Gus to the alma mater of two of his aunts, Palmer Memorial Institute, an all-black boarding school and now home to one of our State Historic Sites, the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, in Sedalia, North Carolina.



Gus transferred one more time, to another black boarding school, Mary Potter Academy, in Oxford, North Carolina, which would in 1970 see its own highly protested, racial murder of Henry Dortress "Dickie" Marrow, Jr.

My grandfather never lived to see Congress pass an antilynching bill, nor did my mother, who died young.

As I prepare this letter, I am reading news coverage that the Emmett Till Antilynching Act is stalled in Congress even now, in 2020, as our world rises in uproar over racial violence, during a pandemic, which is disproportionately killing black people.

These are cataclysmic and historic times, indeed.

What do I make of our roles, historians, scribes, and witnesses, in the midst of all this?

What am I learning and relearning?

Lesson 1: One of the greatest acts of racial violence is the erasure of a people through silence.

Lesson 2: One of the most significant acts of antiracist public history work, is to amplify the silenced narratives and declare, with specificity and care, the lives of traditionally marginalized people. (I am including here, American Indian lives as well.)

As the first African American director of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, and a public humanities professional committed to dismantling racism, it is my daily call to seek more ways to achieve "True Inclusion."

We are far from where we need to be.

While our staff does not come close to reflecting the demographics of our communities of color, we have recently made history with several, African American public historians joining our ranks, in roles of leadership and influence.

We also have a multiracial coalition of colleagues increasingly committed to antiracist and inclusive programming, interpretation, and engagement. Some of our colleagues have been in this particular vineyard for years at places like Somerset and the State Capitol, and more recently at places like President James K. Polk Historic Site and several of our Civil War-era sites, where staff have been seeking new ways to connect with African American histories and communities.

We collectively understand that failure, in this endeavor, is not even remotely an option.



In the days and months to come, you will see and hear more of our commitment to "True Inclusion."

We will say the names that reveal the impact of black lives on our soil, louder and more frequently.

We will commit to sharing more narratives that reveal the histories of racism in our state and beyond.

This work has already begun, with the purchase of the Golden Frinks Freedom House in Edenton. (Golden Frinks led many social justice movements, one of them the protest of the murder of Henry Marrow, Jr.)

We are also restoring two more Civil Rights-era structures, the Tea House at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, and the Southern Railways Train Car Number 1211 (at the North Carolina Transportation Museum), a formerly, legally segregated space, which was desegregated through generations of protest.

We are not there yet, but I am committed, now more than ever to moving us forward.

Because Black Lives do Matter, so do black histories, so do black audiences, so do black landscapes, and so do black lay and academic scholars.

In this spirit, again, it is imperative that we say the names of the African Americans whose lives intersect or intersected with the places and stories we are charged to steward.

Lesson 3: It is also critical that we be intentional about working with African American communities, scholars, institutions, organizations, artists, and vendors.

Once we achieve some of these goals, I pray we all remember one of the most critical lessons history teaches us about racial injustice, and that is this:

Lesson 4: Progress is false comfort without the lifelong, daily vigilance against oppression in any and every form.

In humble witness and steadfast commitment to True Inclusion,

Michelle Lanier

Director, North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites and Properties
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources



Division of State Historic Sites and Properties
North Carolina Historical Commission Report
August 2020

Introduction

With the emergence of Phase 2 of the lifting of Covid19 restrictions, in June 2020, Division properties resumed partial, (in-person) visitor services. Historic buildings, visitor centers, and most features remained closed, but site grounds, trails, and several outdoor features began welcoming visitors back to our sites. Special events were cancelled across the division for another month. On-line activity, at most sites continued apace and staff around the division kept sites visible to the public through active on-line social media. The North Carolina Transportation Museum, Bentonville Battlefield, Fort Dobbs, Alamance Battleground, Historic Stagville, and Roanoke Island Festival Park saw notable site visitation through June, as trails, demonstrations and some features were accessible. (Note on visitors numbers: July 2020 saw 139,417 visitors as compared to 198,882 in 2019. Robust outdoor resources prevented an even greater differential.)

From virtual fieldtrips and strategic increases in social media to digital participation in national conferences, the Historic Sites team has worked non-stop to creatively reorient their work to the current public health crisis.

Staff efficiently faced several major emergencies ranging from arson at Stagville to Tropical Storm Isiaias. In both cases, collegiality, teamwork and expertise, from within the Division and from peer institutions, greatly aided and mitigated potentially devastating losses.

In response to national and international uprisings over the killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and now, Jacob Blake, Division staff have collectively leaned in to discern the strongest and most sustainable ways to honor the sacred work of public history in the face of the Black Lives Matter movements, in addition to other equity and justice movements that boldly work to dismantle oppressions. (Please see, enclosed, an open letter from Division Director, Michelle Lanier, which has been shared via Division webpages and social media platforms.)

Regional Supervisors continue to distribute PPE and technological equipment to increase digital engagement. Craft Services increasingly face the challenges of major equipment failures, particularly HVAC and lawn equipment. The Deputy Director is effectively acting as Chief Preservation Officer for the Division, in his efforts to streamline major issues from leasing properties to aligning with compliance requirements in the Preservation and State Property Offices.

Our staff are showing signs of personal and professional overwhelm in the face of these times of upheaval and uncertainty. It is not uncommon to see evidence of staff work well beyond standard hours, while juggling unprecedented family challenges. We have encouraged compassionate management at every level of the organizational chart, in addition to work life balance strategies. The Division Director has used a virtual, lunch-hour, "Open Table," to discuss issues such as race relations and stress management.

A word of gratitude: The Division is extraordinarily grateful for the generous support of the Preservation Office, the Museum of History, the State Archives, the Research Branch and State

Division of State Historic Sites and Properties
North Carolina Historical Commission Report
August 2020

Archaeology for all their assistance during one of the most volatile chapters in the life of the Division of State Historic Sites.

Emergency Response:

Fire at Stagville

On June 1st, a fire was deliberately set at the Bennehan House which damaged the parlor and back porch heavily and caused smoke damage throughout the entire structure. There was a break-in and property damage at the Hart House as well in the same weekend. Staff spent much of June responding to this, including meeting with contractors and architect, reporting, SBI and police reports, etc. The building was partially cleaned with a dry ice treatment to remove smoke. Staff and Division leadership used a culturally-responsive approach to recovery but inviting in descendants and local stakeholders and heritage practitioners from day one of the fire. (Note: Even in the wake of recovery and restoration, Site Manager Vera Cecelski and Assistant Manager Khadija McNair created a digital exhibit on emancipation, and a series of three videos with "Freedom Stories" to mark the day instead. At least 2,400 people viewed these videos and exhibit online. The site offered themed guided tours focused on emancipation on Friday and Saturday of Juneteenth week as well, and over 150 people took those tours. Khadija led a Juneteenth digital program with the Charlotte Museum of History. Additionally, during this time, **Stagville has been accepted as a member institution to the International Sites of Conscience.**)

Tropical Storm Isaias

Tropical Storm Isaias resulted in outages, downed limbs and trees, and major cleanup efforts... At Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson, staff have done an excellent job making most of the site safe for visitors; however, the site is still in poor shape. Several tornadoes went through the site during the storm and the damage was fairly extensive. The hardest hit was pond area down by the waterfront and around the boardwalk. The staff have roped this area off to visitors and I recommended it to be continued to be roped off until we can get that area cleared.

From Jeff Bockert (East Region Supervisor): "I plan on getting a work crew together of East Region maintenance personnel late Fall or early Winter to begin clearing the pond area. Right now, a mother gator and snakes are in the area making it unsafe to work until cooler weather."

Initiatives and Programs

Health, Healing, and History

The Division is the proud recipient of an NC Cares: Humanities Relief Grant for our forthcoming project, "Health, Healing, and History: Learning Relevant Lessons from North Carolina's Historic Sites." These spaces of memory hold communal stories of illness and wellness, and serve as powerful tools for connecting complex realities with our past. Through this effort we plan to illuminate these profound stories, which have touched every era in North Carolina's history, through the use of digital engagement, a platform that will greatly augment our

Division of State Historic Sites and Properties
North Carolina Historical Commission Report
August 2020

traditional programming. Funding will cover the cost of honoraria for humanities and technological engagement specialists, the purchase of a drone camera, staff training, and certification, and guest speakers with expertise on the history of health and healing as it relates to our sites.

Professional Development

Twelve (12) staff members participated in the annual Association of African American Museums Conference, many presenting on their work and research. The conference featured Lonnie Bunch, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the first African American Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Golden Frinks Freedom House:

The Division was able to procure the entire household of objects, related to the Golden Frinks House. The inventory is in process and includes 950 plus objects. In addition to the usual household items (clothing, linens, china, glassware, furniture, etc.), there are a number of awards received by both Golden Frinks and his wife, Ruth Holley Frinks, books (including one signed by Dr. King and given to Mrs. Wells when she married), an autographed photograph of Dr. King, and family photographs. Some of the furniture Mrs. Wells has identified as being in the house when Dr. King visited. Additionally, staff at Historic Edenton, the department and division budget offices, and Craft Services, worked tirelessly to use time-sensitive funding to make the following updates to the Freedom House: installed a new roof, installed a new HVAC system, added insulation, procured groundskeeping equipment, and obtained conditioned storage for artifacts.

Confederate Time Capsule

The bronze, cornerstone box or “time capsule,” which was placed in the cornerstone of the “To Our Confederate Dead” Monument in 1894, was found around 8 am on Monday, June 29. State Archaeologist John Mintz arrived on site, and after some discussions with DNCR leadership, Capitol staff and State Capitol Police brought the box to the OSARC lab for safekeeping. A team of conservators from State Archives and the NC Museum of History made plans to open the box on July 3. A newspaper article published in 1894 lists the purported contents of the box, and though water and dirt seeped inside creating a muddy slurry of paper and textile material, some items were recovered and identified. These items include bullets, a stone from Gettysburg, 3 small flags, a wooden box, horse and human hair, and three buttons. Cleaning and stabilization of the remaining material is ongoing. There was great media interest in the story, with articles appearing in several national publications.

Division of State Historic Sites and Properties
North Carolina Historical Commission Report
August 2020

Singing on the Land

Historic Sites is partnering with the NC Arts Council on a virtual music project called Singing on the Land, which will celebrate the stories and beauty of our historic sites and landscapes across North Carolina through the voices of NC musicians. We plan to release Singing on the Land to invest in our dynamic artistic communities, feature the lands of our historic spaces, and offer comfort during these uncertain times. We intentionally chose musicians using the concept of True Inclusion in public history, to amplify the power of diverse voices in song, a powerful reflection of our communities. The Moore Charitable Foundation provided funding for Singing on the Land and the Friends of Town Creek Indian Mound is serving as the fiscal agent. Featured sites and musicians are as follows:

Bentonville Battlefield: Rissi Palmer (vocalist) and James Gilmore (guitar)

Stagville: Bill Amey (trombone)

Town Creek Indian Mound: Lakota John (vocalist)

Historic Halifax: Arnold Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi flute)

Horne Creek: Jimmy Vipperman (fiddler)

Alamance: Taylor McCullen (bagpiper)

Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum (CHB): Carly Jones (vocalist)

Somerset: Teli Shabu (kora (West African stringed instrument) player)

Announcements:

- In partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University, Alamance Battleground received funding to obtain 8 iPads with protective covers and headphones to use for audio and video tours.
- First Lady Kristin Cooper's Office invited the staff of the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum to do a "social media takeovers" on the First Lady's online platforms. This is a part of First Lady Cooper's effort to highlight North Carolina museums, historic sites, and non-profit organizations to share content and stories, as a way to promote North Carolina's diverse history and culture while engaging with people around the state.
- Division Director was appointed by the Department of the Interior as a member of the federal Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.
- The Year of the Woman continues, with the State Capitol being lit purple for two consecutive nights in August and with staff presenting on the history of women's suffrage as a part of a State Office of Human Resources program.
- Fort Dobbs, will begin working with a tribally enrolled heritage specialist to support more expansive and inclusive interpretation at the site, which interprets the French and Indian War.

Division of State Historic Sites and Properties
North Carolina Historical Commission Report
August 2020

- The Division has authorized the creation of a “George Floyd Uprising 2020 Protest Collection.” Please see the Office of Archives and History acquisition report for further details.

Old Business:

Per Commissioner Dennard's request during the last meeting of the NC Historical Commission, on May 29th, below is clarifying information concerning the death threat made against Golden Frinks. This information was acquired through a brief phone conversation between Dr. Goldie Wells – daughter of Golden Frinks and sole heir of the Frinks estate – and Division Director, Michelle Lanier, on the morning of August 25, 2020.

Context: At one point between 1960 and 1964, an anonymous white segregationist left a dead rabbit, with a note attached, on the porch of Golden Frink’s home in Edenton, North Carolina. The note informed Frinks that he would end up dead, like the rabbit, if he continued his civil rights activism. To protect himself and his family, Frinks purchased a shot gun and kept it in his home. He eventually disposed of the gun after his wife expressed discomfort with it being in their house. Because Dr. Wells was attending Hampton University at the time, she was notified of the threat via her parents.