

National Endowment for the Humanities, Interpreting America's Historic Places: Planning Grant

Putting Portsmouth on the Map: Cultural Center, Historic Trails, and Heritage Tourism

Narrative

The Nature of the Request

The University of New Hampshire's Center for New England Culture (CNEC) and the Portsmouth Historical Society (PHS) propose to develop a permanent exhibit of the history of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to revise and enhance the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, and to create a new Footsteps of Washington Trail. This plan is instrumental to the Portsmouth Historical Society's planned renovation of the old Portsmouth Public Library to facilitate cultural tourism and community interest in history. Portsmouth, New Hampshire is a unique site for heritage tourism, since it has been a microcosm of American history over four centuries in which the very fabric of each period is still present, but it needs a comprehensive and new interpretation that will present this history to the public. The proposed exhibit will provide orientation for all the historic sites in Portsmouth and the adjacent seacoast region of which it is the heart, including Strawberry Banke Museum, the Governor John Langdon House and other properties of Historic New England, the Moffatt-Ladd House, the Gov. Benning Wentworth Mansion, Warner House, John Paul Jones House, the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, the Wentworth Gardiner Mansion and Tobias Lear Houses, Thomas Bailey Aldrich Memorial, plus five city cemeteries, three independent historic theaters, the Albacore Submarine Museum, and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The exhibit and accompanying interpretive media and self-guiding materials will focus on important events and themes in Portsmouth history that connect with significant national events and themes in American history, especially in the Revolutionary and early national eras and the era of immigration and international conflicts, 1890-1920.

We request \$40,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support a team of staff and consultants who will plan the exhibit, create the trails, plan technological features, including a prototype for the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail and scripts for video introduction for both trails, hold public forums, and use focus groups to test-market all plans and products during the grant period, November 1, 2008-October 31, 2009. UNH facilities and resources available for this project include its research library, the Center for New England Culture, and facilities for meetings, etc.; the negotiated on-campus research/indirect cost rate is 45%, but UNH is only asking for 20%. Several individuals are devoting time to the project at no cost. This project matches the missions of our organizations (see below), and it will set in motion a powerful partnership of local organizations and historic sites to transform heritage tourism in one of America's most historic cities. This project builds in part upon an NEH Landmarks in American History Workshops for Teachers presented by CNEC in 2005 by utilizing a strong research base and a set of technologically-based delivery systems from that project (see below).

Project Introduction

Portsmouth arguably deserves greater national attention in its own right for its landmark sites and historically significant people, but its value also lies in its relatively small scale. As visitors discover the people, events, and sites in Portsmouth, they will deepen their understanding of several important historical periods. Central themes include: the effect of historical events, such as revolution, war, immigration, and industrialization, on everyday life and on local democratic institutions and practices; the formation and expression of American identity through

material culture; the effect of presidential actions on local events and people; and the continuing significance of maritime culture and naval power in American history. Historical preservation itself is a significant theme, since Portsmouth developed a culture of preservation as early as the time of Washington's 1789 visit, a culture that makes historic sites available for the study of American history.

The history of Portsmouth, New Hampshire is a microcosm of regional and national history. The area was mapped by Captain John Smith in 1614 and first settled by Europeans in 1623. An important early center for fishing, lumber, and masts, by 1800 it was the 12th largest city in the nation, with a complex economy built on trade, natural resources, shipbuilding, and early industrial and artisan activities. Portsmouth was the cultural capital of the region, with a press, an active political and economic life, and artistic expression. As shipping declined in the 19th century, Portsmouth, like much of coastal New England, turned to industry, and by the 1890s, it boasted knitting and paper mills, renewed shipbuilding, and the Frank Jones Brewery, the largest producer of ale in the country. It became a magnet for a thriving immigrant community, including Russian Jews and many Canadians, and the center of the African American community in New Hampshire. With the move to create the "new Navy" and the events of the Spanish-American War and World War I, ship and submarine construction grew rapidly. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard dominated the region's economy for much of the twentieth century, but tourism and historic preservation were also a hallmark, beginning in the Colonial Revival era.

Given the significance of this history in the eyes of Portsmouth residents and institutional stakeholders, there has been a long-standing belief that the lack of an integrated interpretation of Portsmouth as a unique historic site has hindered the development of heritage tourism. On December 17, 2007, after city-wide listening groups and hearings, the City of Portsmouth finalized an agreement to lease the recently vacated old Portsmouth Library complex to the Portsmouth Historical Society to inaugurate three years of planning for the creation of a cultural history information center in a renovated building (see Appendix: Descriptions of Proposed Cultural Center). Heritage tourism visitors and city residents need to know where they are and why that matters so they can experience the whole city as an extraordinary place for exploration of many important American stories. The scale of the building permits the display of wonderful objects long in storage or scattered among other institutions, but an especially exciting possibility is telling the story of New Hampshire's democracy through a partial reconstruction as part of the cultural center complex of the Revolutionary era Old State House, once located in Portsmouth's Market Square (about a third of the buildings exists in storage). It might be a stage for telling the story of American democracy in the Colonial, Revolutionary War, and early National eras. This proposal is not dependent upon the ultimate resolution of the Old Statehouse issues (Federal earmark funding has established a planning process over the years), but we are committed to telling that story in the context of the exhibit and the heritage tours, as outlined below. The exhibit and the heritage trails planning will be a platform for an implementation phase to tell the whole Portsmouth story and to make the facility function as an anchor for all of the city's heritage trails and as a crossroads for all the city's historic sites and organizations. As evidenced by the actions of the city council and by the mobilization of the city planning department, and chamber of commerce, the time is right for local institutions, spearheaded by the Center for New England Culture and the Portsmouth Historical Society, to create the cultural center.

The depth of available research on Portsmouth is extraordinary, but it has not been integrated to provide a starting point for understanding the Portsmouth experience. Understandably, museums and historical societies have struggled individually to maintain their own properties and provide services, and a visitor to one site might not know that related and important historic sites are nearby. There is currently no large exhibit space in Portsmouth, so

collections are often scattered among many sites, and stories are told piecemeal. Strawberry Banke Museum has recently made great strides in addressing this issue for its site, with a new interpretive center and small exhibition space and with its sponsorship of the publication of J. Dennis Robinson's Strawberry Banke: A Seaport Museum 400 Years in the Making. The proposal, therefore, will plan to address this integrative function by planning for a comprehensive introductory exhibit, by convening a series of public forums for all the Portsmouth historic site leaders, civic leaders, and tourism officials, by planning to anchor an enhanced Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail and a new Footsteps of Washington Trail at the cultural center, by planning for the use of new technologies (including a prototype), and by convening core groups of scholars and tourism professionals to guide this process. The planning process will result in several products: an exhibition plan (with technological prototype), two tours (with technological prototype and scripts for introductory videos), and a strategic plan for an integrating local historical sites in the new cultural center. The proposal makes the case that such an integrative function will leverage the visibility of separate sites, creating a multiplier effect of increased heritage tourism and education for students.

In American history, significant events often have occurred in unexpected places where the forces of fate and freedom have gathered. It might be a rude bridge over a sleepy river, a hamlet in Pennsylvania, or a bus. The great actors on the stage of American history may make a place memorable, but just as often, everyday Americans have arisen to heroic action in a way that marks the place as a crucible of American democratic values. Portsmouth, New Hampshire has been such a place during several periods in American history, but in two periods, the nation turned its attention to Portsmouth. This was during the American Revolution and the early national period and during the era of America's transformation into a world power as an industrialized, multi-ethnic and multi-racial society in the decades from 1890 to 1920. In these periods, the influence of Presidents George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt, as well as other national leaders, was felt in Portsmouth. However, as such scholars as Mary Beth Norton, Elijah Gould, Raymond Esthus, Warren Zimmerman, and Edmund Morris have shown, there is a complex interplay between national leaders and local events, resulting in the public sphere of American democratic life. By examining important events and great historical figures in the context of the local community and of the artifacts of its historic sites, visitors, teachers, and students will deepen their understandings of how American places and publics set the stage for the events that transform American identity.

Historic sites and primary documents bring us as close as we can get to the important events and people of American history, but visitors, local residents, teachers, and students need help in understanding how to use these materials. We also agree that the events and organizing themes chosen are especially significant in teaching a new generation about how history in a place like Portsmouth contributed to the making America the democratic society it is today. We want to emphasize that the outcomes from these period were by no means obvious at the time, for people in all walks of life debated and made choices that determined the course of history. We selected these significant periods, events, and themes not only to illuminate the past but also to contribute their reevaluation in light of contemporary society. We need to understand better the relationship of history to place in a time of environmental challenges, we need to understand the impact of revolutionary change and war on American society, and we need to understand how different communities interact in American life in the struggles to forge American democracy or simply to make a living. Finally, this effort signifies a long-standing feature of the Portsmouth community—the preservation of history is an essential part of American civic life, and this explains, in part, the distinctive political culture of New Hampshire from its earliest days to the most recent Presidential primary.

There are dozens of historic sites and homes (many listed on the National Register and some with National Landmark status), historical societies, and museums in Portsmouth. The City of Portsmouth has placed information signage for 38 sites, the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail features 24 bronze markers, and 37 buildings at Strawberry Banke Museum are marked. This diversity is a great strength, but also a weakness since it is hard for the public to see change over time in one place as the larger forces of American history shaped life and landscape. Few places in America offer nearly four centuries of change in which the very fabric of each period is still present. Many historic sites, such as Plimouth Plantation or Sturbridge Village, offer a moment in time or a defined historical range, or they are not located in their original sites. Portsmouth has many of the great stories of American origins all in the same spot and evolving over all of the nation's history. Moreover, these stories can be experienced from multiple perspectives, since no one population group, industry, or governmental agency dominated the region. Portsmouth offers layer upon layer of history, often in the same building or neighborhood. For example, in Strawberry Banke Museum's Puddledock neighborhood, a building might have started as a colonial home, become a hospital, then a memorial to a famous author, or, in other examples, become a rooming house, a home for a Jewish immigrant family, or a World War II-era neighborhood store. Portsmouth has long been blessed with many historians and famously so with historic preservationists, from the Society of Colonial Dames to Dorothy Vaughan and Richard Candee.

The planning will be guided by core principles and central themes. Heritage tourism and education are enhanced by place-based examination of the great historic developments and central themes of American history and life, such as early contact, landscape change, the formation of political culture, the American Revolution, industrialization, immigration, national defense, historic preservation, and the rise of the service economy. The exhibition will cover all periods, as outlined below, but we see the need to emphasize certain perspectives to lend coherence to the diversity of materials visitors will find in the exhibit and, of course, when the move out into the streets of Portsmouth and to its historic sites. The special nature of Portsmouth's maritime environment must be emphasized. Its estuarine harbor, a vast hinterland supplying timber, and extraordinarily productive fishing grounds supported native populations and drew European explorers, such as Captain Thomas Smith in 1614, and European settlers in 1623. As the exemplary new environmental history, W. Jeffrey Bolster, ed., Cross-Grained & Wily Waters: A Guide to the Piscataqua Maritime Region, demonstrates, the environment and natural resource use have defined Portsmouth's development. This theme links with an examination of the landscape and the built environment. History, then, can be understood through changes in the maritime world and the landscape, so people can think about how land and sea are connected and about how a place like Portsmouth is connected to national and global forces. As Bolster notes, the regional culture is defined "by the estuary itself and the stories of local people interacting with an environment that has always been part land, part water." The stories reveal history, but they also raise profound issues about the relationship of nature and culture, confirming, in Bolster's words, "the insight elaborated by Simon Schama, William Cronon, and Richard White, and other environmental historians, that "nature" is a human idea," and "modernity has increasingly squeezed humans and nonhuman nature together, forcing people to come to grips with their roles as ecological actors. Local maritime history helps make the point." The exhibit and the tours will focus in part on this environmental history, from early fisheries to submarine construction, from dockside craft industries to steam factories, from local economies to the global marketplace.

Another other major perspective is the distinctive social development of Portsmouth in political culture, family and neighborhood life, and in religious life. These fundamental aspects of American life become comprehensible in a place like Portsmouth, since one can learn about

the daily lives of people who participated in declaring independence, writing constitutions, petitioning for emancipation, playing host to a treaty to end a war, and participating in the presidential primary. In Portsmouth, we find democracy in action to make freedom personal rather than an abstraction, especially in Revolutionary War and early National Era constitution writing. New Hampshire constitutions influenced the writing of the national constitution, and New Hampshire was the deciding ninth state in its ratification. Portsmouth neighborhoods show how people came to America and learned to live together. Portsmouth religious institutions reveal the revolutions in religion in American life, from Colonial-era awakenings to the arrival of Catholic and Jewish immigrants, to name only a few. These themes will connect Portsmouth to great American themes, but they also will permit the special emphasis on place, and they will reveal various submerged histories and tensions in American life.

Although the exhibit and tours will range across nearly four centuries of American history, the following rationale focuses primarily on two periods of American history in Portsmouth: the Revolutionary Era, 1765-1800 (featuring the Wentworth royal governors, Gen. William Whipple, Gov. John Langdon, John Paul Jones, the African American community, and President Washington's visit in 1789), and 1890-1920 (including the Spanish-American War, Treaty of Portsmouth, President Roosevelt, Jewish immigration, WWI, and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard). These demonstrate the ways in which the project's interpretation of local stories, buildings, and artifacts will connect to important humanities themes necessary for an understanding of American history through heritage tourism.

What makes Portsmouth truly unique as a site for a heritage tourism focus on the Revolutionary and early national eras are the surviving sites and the palpable presence there of such figures as John Langdon, William Whipple, John Paul Jones, and George Washington. At Strawberry Banke Museum, in a waterfront neighborhood preserving the record of over three centuries of habitation, with some 37 surviving buildings from the 1690s to the 1950s, the William Pitt Tavern and the Chase House, associated with Washington, Lafayette, John Paul Jones, Paul Revere, and a host of local actors in the periods politics, particularly focus on the struggles for independence. The site demonstrates the historical significance of the lives of fishermen, merchants, women, families, craftspeople, tavern keepers, and slaves in the Revolution. Vast archeological evidence from past and current digs and substantial manuscript collections, such as those of the Chase family, permit study of the social history connected to the site (see <http://www.strawberrybanke.org/>). Adjacent to the grounds of Strawberry Banke Museum is the Governor John Langdon House (1783-85), a treasure of early Federal style and home to a leader in New Hampshire politics and signer of the Constitution. The unpublished papers of John Langdon are housed at the Portsmouth Athenaeum. Nearby, the John Paul Jones House, home of the Portsmouth Historical Society, documents Jones's life there during the construction of the Ranger and tells Portsmouth crucial role in the creation of the United States naval forces.

Another key historic Portsmouth property from the Colonial and Revolutionary eras is the Moffatt-Ladd House (1763), home of Gen. William Whipple, with its great architectural and decorative art treasures of the Colonial era, the restored formal gardens, and a trove of artifacts and documents associated with the house. Its archives document not only the domestic, economic, and political activities of the Moffatt, Ladd, and Whipple families, but also the presence of enslaved and free Africans, such as Prince Whipple, Windsor Moffatt, and Dinah Whipple. It is the site of the Millennium Landmark Tree for the State of New Hampshire, a horse chestnut tree planted by William Whipple upon his return from signing the Declaration of Independence. A few steps behind away is Portsmouth historic North Cemetery, featuring the gravesites of nationally prominent and common people from the era, a prime site for visitors to discover how gravestone iconography and epitaphs reveal important themes American social

history and religion. The Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion was the seat of British Imperial power under the Wentworth family. The Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion is one of the most important architectural sites in Colonial America, listed on the National Registrar of American Landmarks, and its stories give a personal and familial dimension to the struggles over colonial authority leading up to the American Revolution. Here tourists can learn how a Royal Governor utilized an architecture of intimidation and attendant hierarchies of social and landscape design to create an imperial order. During the period of 1890-1920, it became an important artist colony, representing Colonial Revival aesthetics at a time of immigration and industrialization in the region. The Tobias Lear House, where Washington visited the mother of his personal secretary in 1789, the parlor was preserved by generations of residents to look as it did the day Washington crossed the threshold. There are detailed accounts of the visit in Washington's diary and in contemporary newspapers and published sermons and broadsides. Charles Brewster's Rambles About Portsmouth preserved the local lore about the visit, and Elwin L. Page's George Washington in New Hampshire collected other stories and historical documents to trace precisely Washington's tour. Brigham's The Checkered Career of Captain Tobias Lear tells the family story in terms of the murky world of Revolutionary era privateers and patriots.

Although Portsmouth's significance as a player in the greater drama of American history declined during the nineteenth century, in the period from 1890-1920, the city reemerged on the national stage both as an example of the changes wrought by immigration and industrialization in America and also as a site of international significance during the Spanish American War, the Treaty of Portsmouth in 1905, and for World War I shipbuilding and then as a cradle of the American submarine fleet. Strawberry Banke presents several houses that reveal the complex mix of class, religion, ethnicity, and race in the era. Most notable is the Shapiro House, one of four Jewish house museums in the nation, restored and interpreted through a masterful collection of documents, artifacts, and oral histories provided by the descendents of the immigrant generation. Its inaugural program, Becoming Americans: The Shapiro Story, 1898-1928 documents not only the remarkable story of this family and its fellow Jewish-Russian immigrants, but also life for the hundreds of immigrants in the Puddle Dock community in these years. For example, research surrounding the Abbott Grocery Store, which opened in 1919 and is preserved and recreated at Strawberry Banke, shows the significance of economic transformations at the time of World War I, with increased immigration from French Canada and Nova Scotia, resulting in part from changes in the maritime fishing economy and in part from international events. The Portsmouth Athenaeum houses rich archives of documents and artifacts connected to immigration, the Spanish-American War, the Treaty of Portsmouth, World War I and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (see <http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org/>).

From 1890 to 1920, Portsmouth again commanded the attention of the nation in several ways. As part of the drive to create the "new Navy," Portsmouth shipyards at Atlantic Heights produced ships in record time, and the newest technologies in the construction of submarines became a hallmark of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The Shipyard prison housed the 1600 prisoners from the Spanish-American War taken at Guantanamo, and a Portsmouth sailor fired the first shot at the Battle of Manilla Bay. As a result of a complex series of events, Portsmouth was selected by President Roosevelt to be the site of the negotiations to end the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05. Edmund Morris's Theodore Rex examines the extraordinary series of negotiations and ceremonial events, in which public opinion mixed with imperial power to produce a surprising success in the Treaty of Portsmouth. Portsmouth citizens helped "wage peace" through interactions with the delegations and helped to create a public dynamic for peace, even as President Roosevelt worked furiously behind the scenes. It was the high point of Roosevelt's presidency, for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906, and it established America as an actor on the world diplomatic stage. In another example of how great events are

inseparable from the dynamics of American society, in the Puddle Dock neighborhood just across the river from the site of negotiations, lived the Shapiros, a Russian-Jewish family whose members had fled persecution and the conscription efforts of the Czar's army. Perhaps in response to Roosevelt's known disgust at Russian persecution, and to gain public support in America, the Russian delegation went out of its way to meet with Russian Jews in Boston and a delegation of Jews from New York City.

In the period's cauldron of racial and religious beliefs--Chinese and Japanese exclusion, northern Jim Crow segregation, and antagonism to Jewish immigration—visitors can learn how Portsmouth's people lived their lives in new ethnic, racial, and religious formations. Moreover, on the WWI home front, Portsmouth working communities responded to the demand for industrial and military might. Portsmouth workers produced ships and submarines in record time thereby demonstrating a local common ground of democratic values, ethnic diversity, technical and mechanical expertise, and a work ethic.

In keeping with the maritime and environmental history emphasis of the exhibit and heritage, the planning will include a focus on the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, established in 1800. Its buildings and museum collections present an unbroken record of naval history, technological and industrial advances, and historic architecture, but with national security issues, it is not easily accessible to the casual tourist. The exhibit will provide an orientation to the shipyard story, and visitors can view the yard from Prescott Park and hear some of its stories, especially concerning the integration of the workforce during World War II. One of PNS's special contribution to American history is as the first government shipyard to construct a submarine, the L-8, launched in 1917. Portsmouth workers also constructed the first O-Class submarine, launched in 1918, and the S-Class and V-Class submarines that followed. Visitors oriented to this history can then visit the Albacore Museum to explore its submarine, constructed at PNS. This is another example of the great need for the cultural center exhibit to orient visitors so that they can place an extraordinary ship, the Albacore, in the contexts of Portsmouth history and of naval power in American history over many generations. Or they can visit nearby Atlantic Heights, an important example of a planned community of worker housing constructed during World War I. Once oriented, and with PDA in hand, tourists, teachers, and students can walk the paths of history and learn about how such sites and artifacts tell the stories of issues central to our nation's history.

The archival records and supporting secondary works in Portsmouth and at the University of New Hampshire for the exhibit and tours are especially rich. Recent acquisitions of the John Langdon materials by the Portsmouth Athenaeum and Strawberry Banke Museum, for example, will provide visitors with a first look at a trove of Revolutionary documents, including unpublished correspondence with George Washington and other leaders. Strawberry Banke Museum's library and historic houses contain thousands of documents and artifacts, as do the Portsmouth Historical Society, in its John Paul Jones House, the Warner House, and the Moffatt-Ladd House, to name a few. The University of New Hampshire's library contains some 1.3 million volumes, deep resources in Portsmouth and New Hampshire history in its special collections, including the archives of the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, and the digital databases and archives that support research and graduate work in American History, environmental sciences, and other fields related to the proposal.

Recent events and anniversaries have increased national visibility of Portsmouth. Americans celebrated in 2004 the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Jewish immigrants, which renewed interest in Strawberry Banke Museum's Shapiro House, even as new archaeological work discovered the presence of a garden and a ritual bath. Local and international activities

recognized the centennial of the Treaty of Portsmouth in 2005. The efforts to construct a replica of John Paul Jones's ship, the USS Ranger, continue, and Evan Thomas's recent biography of Jones has reminded Americans about the role Portsmouth played in the birth of the American navy. A dramatic development was the rediscovery of the Negro Burying Ground during a water main excavation on October 7, 2003. Several sets of remains were removed for study, and the City of Portsmouth has formed a special commission to work with the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail for fitting reburial of the removed remains and commemoration for the hundreds of Africans and African Americans buried under the streets and residences in the area. On February 7, 2008, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will place Portsmouth on its annual list of "Dozen Distinctive Destinations," places "reinvigorated through preservation-based revitalizations and heritage tourism."

Brief History of Project to Date

Richard Candee, Dennis Robinson, the Portsmouth Historical Society, and city officials began discussions of the potential future use of the historic old Portsmouth Library complex in 2004 as the city moved forward on the construction of a new library. The Portsmouth Historical Society strategic plan of 2005 envisioned moving its administrative, exhibition, and education activities out of the John Paul Jones House to the old library building across the street as part of an effort to create a visitor's center. This plan was shaped from the start by the City's "Listening Sessions" that solicited the suggestions of residents for the use of the old library and concluded that the preferred use was as a public-access cultural and information center for the community. The strategic plan also emphasized the need to coordinate the disparate historical sites in the city which had begun to make efforts for closer collaboration. In 2005 a Portsmouth Historical Society task force of historians and curators drafted a proposal for an exhibition to tell the whole story of Portsmouth history, an effort that fortuitously coincided with the commissioning of Dennis Robinson by Strawberry Banke Museum to write a history of its site and of the museum for SBM's 50th anniversary.

In 2005, the Center for New England Culture formed a collaborative group, the first such effort to bring together several Portsmouth institutions, especially Strawberry Banke Museum, for an NEH Landmarks in American History Workshop for Teachers. In early fall 2007, anticipating the success of the effort by PHS to get the city to endorse the concept of a cultural center by the end of 2007, Richard Candee and David Watters met to discuss a planning grant. They convened a meeting to form an advisory group and secured commitments and expressions of interest from a large group of individuals and institutions. Meetings and communications continued through the fall, resulting in this application. As noted elsewhere, much of the research needed for this project has been done in many earlier publications and exhibitions undertaken by the participating scholars and institutions, and the database and other materials assembled for the Landmarks workshop will figure prominently in this project. The proposed interpretation will differ from what has been previously available by interpreting the whole city across its entire history, filling many gaps due to the focused approach of individual institutions. It will bring together stories that have previously been told in isolation, and it will connect Portsmouth history to the major themes in American history instead of a focus on local lifeways and individuals.

Description

The cultural center buildings, consisting of a linked complex of buildings dating from 1810 to 1976, are described in detail in the Appendix: Descriptions of Proposed Cultural Center. Major historic sites have been described above, and website links provide detailed information

about each. Therefore, the following description focuses on the discrete feature of the planning grant proposal.

Putting Portsmouth on the Map: The Exhibit

In 2005, Richard Candee drafted a proposal for a Portsmouth Historical Society overview exhibit, and this document will serve as a foundation for the exhibit planning (See Appendix: Notes for a Portsmouth Exhibit). It envisions an exhibit that will be inclusive of various populations, will reflect appropriate gender balance, will focus on Portsmouth in relation to region, state, nation, and international contexts, will serve as a portal to other institution's collections and thereby foster collaboration, will reflect urban growth and morphology, will connect with public places across the city, and will use new exhibition technologies.. The plan provides a preliminary draft of key periods, themes, objects, and documents, as summarized briefly here:

Land and water: pre-settlement ecology and 17th-century resource development: including Native Americans and Archibald Macphedris, saw mills and changes to Anglo-American building (fisheries, shipbuilding, gundalow).

The Revolutionary Era, 1765-1800 featuring the Wentworth royal governors, Gen. William Whipple, Gov. John Langdon, John Paul Jones, the African American community.

The Federal Boom: New Hampshire's ratification of the US Constitution, President Washington's visit in 1789, revival of trade, internal improvements and urban expansion. Rundlet-May House, Chase House and Cotton Tenant House at SBM, Fires, Portsmouth Athenaeum.

Victorian-era immigration, continued urban expansion, 1840s-1870s, railroads, industry, breweries and Frank Jones, Civil War (Gov. Goodwin House at SBM).

1890-1920 including the Spanish-American War, Treaty of Portsmouth, President Roosevelt, Jewish immigration, WWI, The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, regional tourism and the Colonial Revival.

The Depression and WWII: Abbott Store, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Mid-Late 20th century: Cold War and Pease Air Force Base/revival and gentrification; environmental challenges, urban renewal, preservation movement, establishment of Strawberry Banke Museum.

Richard Candee will lead the planning effort for the exhibit, working closely with project scholars Bolster, Robinson, and Watters on the humanities content of the exhibit. He will also work closely with the network of curators and other museum professionals in Portsmouth to link the exhibit to their institutions, and he will work closely with Will Twombly on exhibit design. We are particularly interested in making this exhibit and the experience of the city an engaging heritage tourism site available to families, so the team will benefit from informal consultation with Robert Kiihne, Director of Exhibits at the USS Constitution Museum. Its Family Learning Forum website provides helpful bibliographies and examples of the latest in creating family-oriented experiences in the museum setting (<http://www.familylearningforum.org/>). The exhibit and tours may also make use of the extensive oral history archives of Puddle Dock residents, the neighborhood now occupied by Strawberry Banke Museum, and those of Portsmouth's African American residents, collected by Valerie Cunningham. As outlined in the Historicus, Inc. letter of commitment (Appendix) about technological enhancements planning below, we will consider some or all of the following: a public website for out-of-town and local visitors to learn about the Center, download or print brochures and maps, and access podcasts, iPod-friendly walking tour files, and video materials. In the exhibit, a touch-screen interactive map using Historicus, Inc. mapping technology, and, with permission, a platform like Google Earth, will display noteworthy landmarks in the region with associated images and media files. There is a substantial existing

archive from the earlier NEH Landmarks in American History Workshop for Teachers (see below).

Putting Portsmouth on the Map: Heritage Trails

Over several decades, individual Portsmouth organizations have sponsored the development of historic trails, including the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, the Literary Lions Trail, the Portsmouth Treaty Trail, the Portsmouth Harbor Trail (including the John Paul Jones Ranger Trail), and Cemetery Tours. Richard Candee's Building Portsmouth (1992; rev. ed. 2006) began as the "tour notes" for the annual international academic conference of the Vernacular Architecture Forum in 1992. This basic architectural history of the community neighborhoods and buildings can be a cornerstone for all Portsmouth heritage trails to promote understanding about how the community grew from 1623 to now.

The Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail is the result of decades of scholarship undertaken by local historian Valerie Cunningham, museum scholar Mark Sammons, and many other researchers. The Trail presents 24 sites in a printed brochure, from the early 1600s to the 1950s, but a small portion of the history documented in Sammons and Cunningham's Black Portsmouth: Three Centuries of African-American Heritage. The PBHT website attracts national and international attention. The trail takes visitors to sites where Portsmouth's Black residents lived, worked, prayed, and celebrated. Against the odds of early enslavement and subsequent marginalization, Africans and their descendants built communities and families, founded institutions, and served their town, state and nation in many capacities. As Sammons and Cunningham write, "Black history is American history," and Portsmouth provides a unique arena to tell the story of northern Black communities, in slavery and freedom. The 24 sites include a wharf where enslaved Africans arrived, a tavern in which they were auctioned and where they worked, home sites, churches, burying grounds, and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, divided into such topical subgroups as work, resistance and civil rights, Black women of Portsmouth, religion, enslavement and emancipation, and patriotic service. Groups and individuals travel from across the country to take guided and self-guided tours, but without an anchoring location and without new interpretive materials utilizing state-of-the-art technologies, this trail cannot satisfy the public demand. It also needs to enhance its presentation to meet the great demand from local educators and their students to explore this history. Moreover, there are important new sites to add to the trail for which the research is underway, such as: the Ona Staines home site and burial site; Rock Rest, an African American tourist home from the era of segregation in nearby Kittery, Maine that operated from the 1950s to the 1970s; and an enhanced interpretation of the Negro Burying Ground.

In the downloadable tour materials, when a visitor views the historic "Pearl of Portsmouth," formerly the People's Baptist Church, with its recently restored steeple under a distinctive preservation easement, she can view on a held-held device the church program from the day a Boston University graduate student preached and hear a recreated version of the songs Coretta Scott sang. At Pomp and Candace Springs elegant gravestones, the visitor can look at the probate inventories for their estates, revealing not only their baking and catering equipment, but the elegant prints that graced their parlor in which they hosted the Portsmouth African Benevolent Society in the 1790s. While picking a chestnut from the historic tree William Whipple had his slave, Prince, plant to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the visitor can view a dagguereotype of his daughter, see ship inventories of the slaves imported by William Whipple's wife's first husband who built the mansion and purchased Prince, or listen to the kinds of fiddle tunes Prince probably played at the dance held in Washington's honor in 1789. The rich array of manuscripts and printed materials, other visual materials, artifacts, music, scenes from Louis DeRochemont's Lost Boundaries, filmed locally in 1949 with several local African

Americans and whites taking roles, as well as the many oral histories conducted by Valerie Cunningham over three decades that are documented in relation to African American life in Black Portsmouth and other publications will be available to those taking the tour website, orientation video, and download. This trail exists in isolation, since the connections with other histories and trails in the city have not been made visible. For example, the Portsmouth Harbor Trail includes sites rich in African American History, and the Cemetery Tours present individuals whose celebrated colonial mansions housed slaves. Therefore, we have decided to focus on this tour as a prototype of what could be done for all of the tours: provide an anchor for the trail at the new cultural center where visitors can get an introduction to the trail and download to a personal portable device a rich array of multi-media tour materials for its sites. For the existing tour sites and supporting materials, see http://seacoastnh.com/Black_History/Black_Heritage_Trail/Portsmouth_Black_Heritage_Trail/

“Hail, Matchless Washington”: The Footsteps of Washington Trail

Portsmouth provides a laboratory for understanding transformation of American identity in the Revolutionary Era. In order to foster the intersections of Portsmouth’s histories, we propose the development of a new trail, the Footsteps of Washington Trail, to trace Washington’s visit to Portsmouth in 1789. This storied visit links many sites in the city, and most of the primary research has been done previously. It will be a way to focus not only on this important trip, the first of Washington’s presidency, during which many of the rituals and expressions of presidential power were negotiated through events with local citizens, but also on the beginnings of New Hampshire political culture. The “Footsteps of Washington Tour” will explore how, in Portsmouth, the replacement of British imperial elites by local leaders, such as Declaration of Independence signer and Revolutionary War General William Whipple and Constitutional Convention delegate John Langdon, revealed the conflicts and continuities of an emergent American political culture. In Portsmouth, another revolution was brewing in the kitchens, workrooms, and wharves, as slaves petitioned for freedom, and seamen and women from all backgrounds acted in ways that made the Revolution succeed and created a new society. Research developed at Strawberry Banke Museum, the Moffatt-Ladd House, the Governor John Langdon House, the Lear House, and the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion will be incorporated into the tour to show the mix of elite and everyday life, since Portsmouth was unusual in that people of various classes and trades were not segregated by neighborhood. Thus blacksmith Joshua Jones lived and worked next to the Chase house, and tavern keeper James Stoodley discussed politics with Paul Revere and John Langdon. Woodworkers and carpenters such as William Drew created a local craft tradition for ship captains as well as for the mansions of the elites.

Through careful documentary research, the dramatic story of Prince Whipple, enslaved by General William Whipple, can now be told. Prince Whipple fought with Gen. Whipple in the Battle of Saratoga and the Rhode Island Campaign, local legend, largely discredited, held that he rowed Washington across the Delaware, and he joined 19 other “natives of Africa, now forcibly detained in slavery,” in petitioning the New Hampshire legislature for freedom in 1779. Under the auspices of William Whipple, Stephen Decatur, and John Paul Jones, the American Navy was established, reflecting Whipple’s distaste for privateers and his belief that no one should profit from the war. Portsmouth’s significant role in the development of naval power continued for over two centuries, from the age of sail to today’s nuclear-powered submarines. The visit of George Washington to Portsmouth in 1789 was a landmark event in Portsmouth’s history, given the network of personal and political connections between Washington and Portsmouth citizens—Whipple, Langdon, and Tobias Lear Jr., his personal secretary. Washington’s visit—with its speeches, public ceremonies and worship services, a fishing trip and a walk through the streets to the Lear house—helped establish the public role of the President in the fledgling republic. The people of Portsmouth decided to create a grand procession of the tradesmen and local associations

in a democratic alphabetical order rather than by rank, as had previously been done on such occasions.

For the Footsteps of Washington Tour, artifacts tell stories only hinted at by documentary evidence. Historical layers of social class, race, gender, and economic life redound in the built environment of Portsmouth remaining from this era. Deep collections of archaeological evidence can be used to recreate in the exhibit what a seaport looked like, smelt like, sounded like, and felt like in 1776. The exhibit will prepare tourists for a visit to the William Pitt Tavern, an extraordinarily significant site for events in the Revolutionary Era, with its lessons about political history, especially the function of oral culture. Taverns were transportation centers, and the locals and travelers gathered there shared food, drink, news, and social customs. Then visitors can view the Chase House to see an example of how an elite family lived, with its mix of goods and social rituals shared by Patriots and Loyalists alike. We want visitors, teachers, and students to understand how the Revolution affected such people, in Longfellow's phrase, "English under another sky," in the Chase House. The extensive archive of Chase family papers in the Strawberry Banke collection makes it possible to make thoughts and feelings visible in the exhibit and on PDA and other devices.

As noted above, there are plans underway to restore the Old Statehouse, possibly as part of the new Portsmouth cultural center (see Appendix). Since Washington addressed Portsmouth residents from its balcony, where the Declaration of Independence was read in 1776, and since he held ceremonial events in its halls, it would be a fitting anchor for this new trail. We also want this new trail to present a model for interweaving the other trails. With the subject of politics, this trail will intersect with the homes of Portsmouth's political leaders, with the literary sites, especially the presses, newspaper offices, schools, and the Portsmouth Athenaeum which linked free speech and the free exchange of ideas to the development of democratic citizenry. Other presidents visited Portsmouth, most notably Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt (for the Treaty of Portsmouth), and Portsmouth has long played a central role in events in the New Hampshire presidential primary.

New technologies will permit trail walkers to download excerpts from primary and secondary sources, such as Sammons and Cunningham, Black Portsmouth; selections from Jones, George Washington; selections on Washington's visit, from Charles W. Brewster, Rambles About Portsmouth (Portsmouth: Charles W. Brewster, 1859-69); selections from The Checkered Career of Tobias Lear, Jr.; Elwin L. Page, George Washington in New Hampshire (1932; rpt. Portsmouth: Portsmouth Marine Society, 1989). They will also be able to view in images and on site extraordinary Washington-related artifacts, such as a sampler worked from his and Martha Washington's hair, objects sent from Mount Vernon to Tobias Lear's mother, the wineglass from which Washington drank in a local tavern, and the remarkably preserved rooms in which he visited, the pew in which he worshipped, and step on which he stood to enter a local home. They can also hear the songs written to celebrate his visit, and the poetry and sermons delivered in his presence. They can visit the graveyards to see the tombs of Prince Whipple, William Whipple, Governor John Langdon, and other Portsmouth residents. A short drive will take them to the location of Ona Staines' home and burying place. They can read an excerpt by historian Stuart Wallace, "From the Wentworths to Washington: The Transformation of Authority in America, 1765-1800," and they can hear a discussion by historian Barbara Ward on the "Washington Apotheosis Jug" while viewing it and other images of Washington.

This new trail will also link political culture to the challenges to American democracy presented by slavery and Jim Crow segregation. The early unfolding of this story will be seen in the links between the Washington Trail and the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail. Both trails will feature new sites and new information about Martha Washington's slave, Ona Staines, who

escaped to Portsmouth and lived in nearby Greenland, New Hampshire, at a recently rediscovered site, including farmhouse foundation and her probable grave. The story of George Washington's efforts to recover this "property" leads to the John Langdon Mansion. Washington's visit also intersects with African American history at the Moffatt-Ladd House, home to the enslaved Prince Whipple, who served his master, William Whipple, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a commander under Washington, and at Stavers Tavern, the Lear House, and at the Old State House. For the research and artifact base for several of the sites on the proposed new trail, see the Landmarks in American History Workshop for Teachers archive at www.neculture.org, with access procedures described below in "Samples of Previous Digital Work."

Since these two trails in this planning project will intersect with existing trails and provide a model for the ways the cultural center will anchor them, they are described briefly here. The Portsmouth Harbor Trail passes more than 70 points of scenic and historic significance in Portsmouth, N.H. Along the way are 10 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, 7 National Historic Landmarks, and three homes maintained by Historic New England. This online tour was created by portsmouthnh.com in cooperation with the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce Education and Charitable Foundation. <http://www.portsmouthnh.com/harbourtrail/>. Literary Lions Tour was developed as part of an exhibit at the Portsmouth Athenaeum in 2006 (<http://www.portsmouthnh.com/harbourtrail/>). The downloadable pdf version of the publication and tour guides provides a self-guided tour to numerous sites in the city. Similarly, the centennial of the Treaty of Portsmouth to end in 1905 the Russo-Japanese War inspired a variety of events sponsored by the Japan-American Society of New Hampshire (<http://portsmouthpeacetreaty.org/>), an exhibit at the Portsmouth Athenaeum (<http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org/exhibits/treaty.htm>), and the creation of a Treaty of Portsmouth trail by the Japan-American Society of New Hampshire (<http://www.portsmouthpeacetreaty.com/map/map.html>). The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee of Portsmouth, New Hampshire sponsors a website, cemetery historic signage, dramatic presentations by actors portraying historic figures buried in the cemeteries, and a self-guided cemetery tour with a downloadable guide (<http://www.portsmoutholdgraves.org/>).

Audience

The audience for this project is external and internal, since Portsmouth attracts thousands of visitors and sustains a population of residents, teachers, and students interested in historic sites. The proposed cultural center exhibit will serve as a gateway experience for tourists, and as such it will integrate the discrete histories, people, and events of historic sites, museum, trails, and the city's neighborhoods. The proposed cultural center will also anchor the various existing and newly developed and enhanced heritage trails, which tourists will visit, but here there will be a special focus on the audience of teachers and students within fieldtrip distance of Portsmouth. Many teachers already use local history, and there are very successful teacher-education programs, such as those sponsored by Strawberry Banke Museum, the Center for New England Culture (most notably its NEH Landmarks in American History workshop for teachers in 2005), the annual Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail teacher workshop, the Museum Studies M.A. program at the University of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Humanities Council, and the History in Perspective Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education and directed by Judith Moyer and Joseph Onosko of the University of New Hampshire. Nevertheless, there is great room for growth in this audience, especially when tours can be anchored at the cultural center for student groups and as new technologies provide ready information for lesson plans and for student use. Working with the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, state and local tourism officials, and representatives from historic sites, we will assemble existing data about heritage tourism in the region as we develop plans for expanding the heritage tourism audience. We will

also consult with local educators and with museum education professionals as we plan to enlarge this audience. Another audience will be internet users who can access the exhibit and tours online.

We intend to incorporate the latest assessments of the cultural heritage tourism market in their development of the project. The most recent Travel Industry of America survey on cultural heritage tourism found that “Historical Places/Museums” are popular attractions for U.S. travelers taking trips within the U.S.:

- 58 percent of U.S. adult travelers included an historic activity or event on a trip during the past year
- 41 percent of past-year travelers say they visited a designated historic site such as a building, landmark, home, or monument during their trip. Applied to Greater Portsmouth estimates of 1 million visitors per year, this translates to between 400,000 and nearly 600,000 of those who are already here who would be interested in what the Center can offer – and in the museums, historic houses, attractions, shops, restaurants and hotels who support it.
- 28 percent (three in ten) of 146 million US travelers – decide to visit designated historic communities and towns. So awareness of Portsmouth’s gateway to our historic sites is an important way to attract our share of those travelers. Portsmouth has
 - 7 designated National Historic Landmarks,
 - The Music Hall – an official American Treasure,
 - Wentworth By the Sea – not only a National Trust Historic Hotel of America but a National Trust Preservation Success Story, President’s Award winner and Honor Award winner,
 - a nationally recognized Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail (24 sites) one of few in the nation.
 -

The heritage tourist spends over \$200 more per person per trip and spend an average of a half day longer than other visitors to attend performances, visit additional sites – and shop. An Arizona Humanities Council study *Investing in Cultural Heritage* found that heritage tourists have a 20% greater than average propensity to shop. As the Arts & Economic Prosperity Study of Portsmouth reported in 2007, the impact of cultural and heritage audiences on the local economy is significant: \$38 million dollars, supporting nearly 1200 jobs and contributing \$2.5 million to local tax coffers and nearly \$2 million to state revenues.

In 2005, the current Director of the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism (NHDTTD) began a long-term initiative to create a program that encourages local heritage tourism initiatives. The goal of this program is to capture a critical asset defining the state’s competitive difference as a tourism destination – its cultural heritage authenticity -- by ensuring that New Hampshire’s tourism stakeholders are supported in their efforts to connect visitors with authentic cultural, historic and natural attractions and events that reinforce the destination’s quality, distinctive, four-season New England products and hospitality. In addition to the traditional assets of museums and historical sites, the NHDTTD program marries cultural heritage tourism to the state’s recreational, touring, shopping, learning and relaxation market messages. In order to realize the long-term vision of this program by 2015, NHDTTD has met with tourism interests from around the state to shape the parameters of a Demonstration Project, and the Center for New England Culture and the Portsmouth Historical Society will closely monitor developments related to this NHDTTD initiative to explore the eligibility of this plan as a Demonstration Project.

Organization Histories

The Center for New England Culture was established in 2002 as a unit of the Center for the Humanities at the University of New Hampshire (See www.neculture.org for mission statement, history, and activities). Its origins lie in the project to produce The Encyclopedia of New England, sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and funded in part by a grant from the NEH, but it became a reality as the result of a planning grant from the NEH for the competition to become a regional humanities center. It is currently sustained by an annual operating budget from UNH (\$20,000) a small endowment, and project funding from grants. It has received a Landmarks in American History Workshops for Teachers grant from NEH, grants from the New Hampshire Humanities Council, the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, the UNH Office of the Vice President for Research, and the UNH President's Excellence Awards. A signature project is the Black New England initiative, including its annual Black New England Conference. Since its inception, CNEC has had partnerships with Strawberry Banke Museum, and its Center for the Study of Community, Canterbury Shaker Village, the Tomaquag Museum and the Nuweetuon School (Narragansett Indian), the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, and the Harriet Wilson Project. David Watters directs the center, and he is assisted part-time by JerriAnne Boggis, director of the Harriet Wilson Project and assistant to the Provost for Diversity Initiatives. CNEC is also supported by a work-study student position and receives administrative assistance from the Center for the Humanities.

The Portsmouth Historical Society is the only institution focusing on the history of the entire community. To carry out its mission, the Society: collects representative examples of the material and social culture of Portsmouth; preserves its collections and buildings; interprets those resources to interested residents, tourists, students, and historians and to the general public; stimulates scholarship in local history, advocates for historic preservation in the region, and encourages exploration of diverse historic topics; maintains the John Paul Jones House Museum, grounds, and gardens as a service to the city and its citizens, as an historic landmark for the nation and as a key destination point for cultural tourism in the region; presents programs and exhibits about local history; subscribes to current standards of museum practice, historic scholarship, and administrative management; and operates as an educational, nonprofit museum. The staff includes a volunteer board headed by president Marguerite Mathews which employs a museum and collections manager, Sandra Rux, a lead interpreter, Mary Ellen Maier, a volunteer curator, Ursula Wright, and a seasonal staff of four part-time interpreters, interns and guides. Richard Candee is the volunteer Old Library Project Director and Exhibits Committee chair. Its annual operating budget in 2007 was \$61,000, and the budget for 2008 is set at \$294,000, reflecting added income and expenses related to the move into the old library building.

Portsmouth Historical Society (PHS) trustees and collaborators have a long history of working with various organizations and agencies focused on historic preservation and the practical applications of preservation initiatives to tourism. Most of Portsmouth's cultural heritage assets have roots in the formal disciplines and professional networks of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, New England Museum Association, Institute for Museum and Library Science, National Park Service, New Hampshire Historical Society, New Hampshire State Archives and Cultural Resources Division, etc. Trustees have actively worked to foster cooperation and collaboration among the many groups engaged in public presentation of history, including the Portsmouth Historic House Association, Historic New England (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities), Strawberry Banke Museum, Friends of Wentworth (organized to save Wentworth By the Sea, one of the Trust's 1996 "Most Endangered Sites"), the Chamber of Commerce Tourism Marketing Committee, and the Japan-America Society of New Hampshire. Trustees have also provided professional services to the New Hampshire Division of

Travel and Tourism Development with specific regard to Cultural Heritage Tourism. (See appended vita for Stephanie Seacord, public relations counsel to the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism and marketing consultant to PHS). The “Putting Portsmouth on the Map” project is intended to serve both residents and visitors; but it is clearly an effort that fits the National Trust’s “Cultural Heritage Tourism” model.

Project Team

David H. Watters is the Director of the Center for New England Culture at the University of New Hampshire and a Professor of English and American Studies. He is the author of books and articles on New England literature and culture and is the coeditor of The Encyclopedia of New England. As Project Director, Professor Watters will administer the grant and supervise all planning activities. He will work with other project staff to assemble and evaluate research for the exhibit, and he will work with Valerie Cunningham to add selected sites to the Black Heritage Trail and assemble materials for the technological enhancements. He will work with Bolster and Robinson on research and site selection for the Footsteps of Washington Trail, and he will integrate cemetery sites into the exhibit and tours. Support is requested for a portion of one semester and one summer month. Substantial additional time will be devoted to the project at no cost.

Richard M. Candee is a professor emeritus of American & New England Studies and former Director of the Preservation Studies Program at Boston University. Recipient of numerous awards and honors for his career in historic preservation, he has authored numerous books and articles with a Portsmouth focus, including Atlantic Heights: A World War I Shipbuilder's Community (1985), Building Portsmouth: The Neighborhoods and Architecture of New Hampshire's Oldest City (1992; 2nd enlarged and revised ed. 2006), and Wallace Nutting's Portsmouth: Photographs of the 'Colonial' Past 1912-1922 (2007). He has curated numerous exhibits on Portsmouth history and culture at the Portsmouth Athenaeum where he has served as director and president. He will work with Athenaeum Keeper Tom Hardiman to facilitate research at that institution and coordinate the use of its materials in the planning for the exhibit and trails. With his leadership role at the Portsmouth Historical Society, he will coordinate its staff in work on this project, and he leads the effort to convert the old library into a cultural center. He will lead the planning effort for the exhibit and participate in all other activities in the grant. Richard Candee and David Watters will work as co-directors of all aspects of the project. Support is requested for a portion of one semester and one summer month. Substantial additional time will be devoted to the project at no cost.

W. Jeffrey Bolster is Associate Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire who specializes in maritime history, African-American history, environmental history, Atlantic history. He is author of the award-winning Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail, and he is the editor of Cross-Grained & Wily Waters: A Guide to the Piscataqua Maritime Region. He has also authored numerous publications on New Hampshire history, African-American history, and maritime history. As a board member of the Portsmouth Athenaeum and the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, he will facilitate participation in the planning process by members of those organizations. His expertise will be especially valuable in assembling the research for the exhibit and the tours, especially in making the maritime, environmental, and African-American perspectives central to these endeavors.

J. Dennis Robinson is a freelance author, editor/owner of SeacoastNH.com & GOseacoast.com, owner of Ideaworks Creative Services. He has authored over 1000 published

articles and essays in New England publications and websites, and he has authored 10 books, including the Strawberry Banke: A Seaport Museum 400 Years in the Making (2007). This volume is a history of Portsmouth as well as the museum's founding and development. He will work with the advisory team on the content of the exhibit and the trails, and he will write drafts of scripts for the introductory videos for the trails. He has written, edited, and produced over 200 audio visual productions for New England companies.

Valerie Cunningham is the founder and director of the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail Association, and her research over the past thirty years has recovered the African American history of this region, setting a model for similar histories of northern cities. She is the director of the University of New Hampshire-Community Black Heritage Partnerships, and she is an independent researcher, writer, lecturer, and consultant. Coauthor of Black Portsmouth: Three Centuries of African-American Heritage, she is also the author of ten other essays on Black history. She has curated three exhibits and conducted a thirty-year oral history project with African Americans in the seacoast region. She will work with the project team on the African American content of the exhibit, and she will lead the work on the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail. Her work on this project as a consultant is provided at no cost.

Stephanie Seacord, the principal director of Leading Edge, is a public relations counselor with over 30 years of consumer, business, and trade experience. She is treasurer and PR counsel for the Portsmouth Historical Society, Information Director of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Anniversary Committee, and PR Counsel to the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism, having secured over \$25 million in publicity, reaching 622 million readers, for state tourism. She is the author of Public Relations Marketing (1999) and the editor of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty exhibit catalog, An Uncommon Commitment to Peace (2005). She will work with the advisory committee to create the needed collaborations among local sites to ensure the Portsmouth history exhibit is a vehicle for increasing tourist visits to all Portsmouth sites. She will also lead the working group to involve the Portsmouth Chamber, city government, and local and state tourism officials in our planning. She will work on all of the publicity aspects of the project, and she will also facilitate the use of focus groups to test our ideas and products.

Will Twombly, founder and principal of Spokeshave Design is an independent exhibition designer/fabricator, and he has specialized over the past 23 years in working with small to mid-sized museums, libraries, and historical societies. Spokeshave Design clients include hundreds of New England institutions, and one project received an award of merit from AASLH. He will work closely with Richard Candee and other project staff to examine the Old Library Building to shape an exhibit that can exploit its dramatic interior spaces. He will also work closely with Charles Forcey on the proposed technology interfaces for the exhibit.

Charles Forcey is president of Historicus, Inc., which specializes in creating new media to enhance the teaching of history. It has provided innovative programming and database development in public history to museums, to history publishers, to university research projects, and to public history venues. Historicus, Inc. has previously worked with the Center for New England Culture on the Landmarks in American History Workshop and on the Black New England project by creating an interactive Harriet Wilson website.

Judith Moyer is a public historian, oral historian, and author. An Assistant Research Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire, she is the director of History in Perspective Project for Teachers of American History, funded by U.S. Department of Education, 2001-04, 2004-07, 2007-2010. The director of award-winning oral history project that have lead to publications, exhibits, and dramatic presentations, including It Had To be Done, So I Did It:

Rural NH Women at Work, 1900-1980 (1985), she also served as researcher, writer, and curator for the AASLH-award winning exhibit, From Dairy to Doorstep: Milk Delivery in New England, 1860-1960. She created the New Hampshire History Curriculum for Grades 7-12. She will work with the advisory group to connect the exhibit and tour materials to state curriculum rubrics and to ensure that our planning takes into account the interests of teachers and students. She will organize and participate in the educational forum and the focus group with teachers and students. Her work on this project as a consultant is provided at no cost.

Keith Stokes is Executive Director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce and treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. He created and managed the Newport-Bristol Heritage Tourism & Rhode Island Salutes promotional programs. His expertise on African American heritage and the integration of that history into the multiple histories of the city across the centuries will be of particular value. He will also assist us in developing networks and partnerships among historical organizations, and with the Chamber of Commerce and city government.

The grant sponsoring organizations will work closely with several prominent museums, including Strawberry Banke Museum, Inc., the Portsmouth Athenaeum (<http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org/>), the Moffatt-Ladd House, the Warner House Association (a National Historic Landmark, <http://www.volunteersolutions.org/uwgs/org/1935258.html>), and the Governor John Langdon House (Historic New England, <http://historicnewengland.org/visit/homes/langdon.htm> and <http://seacoastnh.com/houses/langdon/index.html>). The Moffatt-Ladd House is owned and operated by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of New Hampshire (<http://www.nscda.org/museums/newhamshire.htm>). One of the premier historic museums in America, Strawberry Banke Museum occupies the historic Puddle Dock neighborhood, with 40 buildings chronicling nearly four centuries of urban life on the site. Several of the heritage tour sites are at Strawberry Banke Museum, and the exhibit will interweave its presentation with Strawberry Banke Museum houses since it is the most significant heritage tourism destination in the city (<http://www.strawberrybanke.org/index.html>).

Work Plan, November 1, 2008-November 1, 2009

Throughout the project, an advisory group of Watters, Candee, Bolster, Robinson, Cunningham, and Seacord will meet to coordinate work and plan events. Staff support for all activities will be provided through the Center for New England Culture. The Advisory Group will begin its work on November 1, 2008 and meet at least monthly. Work will proceed over the grant period on several tracks, including meetings of working groups, the conducting of a series of public forums, and the establishment of focus groups to test ideas and products. Please note that substantial time is devoted to the project at no cost by the listed project participants and by partners whose commitment letters indicate their willingness to meet with us, attend forums, etc. **November-December 2008:** Advisory Group meets to finalize work plans and dates for working groups, forums, and focus groups. First public forum on Cultural Center exhibit and trails at Portsmouth Public Library. Publicity and forum background materials for this and subsequent forums will be available on CNEC, PHS, and SeacoastNH websites, sent to mailing lists, and in new releases from the UNH New Bureau. First meetings of Exhibit Working Group (Candee, Watters, Robinson, Cunningham, Bolster, Moyer, Forcey, and invited participants from museums); PBHT Working Group (Watters, Cunningham, Bolster, Forcey); Footsteps of Washington Working Group (Robinson, Watters, Bolster). Educators Working Group (Moyer, Watters, Bolster and invited participants from area schools).

January-February, 2009: Heritage Tourism and Historic Sites Network Forum (Seacord, Thomas, Stokes, directors of Strawberry Banke Museum, Moffatt-Ladd House, Governor John Langdon Mansion, Wentworth-Lear Houses, Warner House Association, Moffatt-Ladd House, Portsmouth Historical Society, Albacore Museum, and the Portsmouth Athenaeum, and invited officials from city government and state and local tourism organizations). This forum will address specific ways to increase heritage tourism through collaboration on the Center planning. From it, participants will be able to join into specific features of planning for the exhibit and trails as part of the working groups and as part of the focus groups. Participants will recommend individuals for focus group inclusion. Keith Stokes will be in Portsmouth for two days—one for the forum and meetings with city, Chamber of Commerce, and tourism officials, and one for work with the PBHT group.

March-April, 2009. Working groups report on progress, make presentations in retreat-style meeting. Draft exhibit plan prepared for series of consulting meetings with Will Twombly. Forcey presents draft plan for exhibit technology. Draft PBHT plan prepared for work with Forcey on technology enhancements. Draft Footsteps of Washington Tour completed. Educators Forum on exhibit and trails (Moyer, Watters, Bolster, invited participants from State of New Hampshire Dept. of Ed., Portsmouth Schools, History in Perspectives teachers, and students). April-May. Exhibition design work and consulting; trails work completes draft with final list of sites and related materials. Forcey completes first iteration of archive of materials and software interface for exhibit and tours. Draft scripts for introductory videos for PBHT and Footsteps of Washington Trail.

June-August, 2009. Working groups retreat for presentations of projects, critiques by invited directors of historic sites and museums and educators. Consulting visits by Twombly and Stokes. Preparation of materials for final forum and focus groups.

September, 2009. Public Forum to present exhibit plan, trails, and scripts. Focus groups for testing exhibit, trails, and educational interface; trial public tours of the trails, with evaluations. Follow-up meetings with all partners in city government, Chamber of Commerce, and historic sites.

October, 2009. Completion of exhibit plan, trails materials, video script drafts (with preliminary estimate of cost for production), and prototypes in response to public forum, meetings, and focus group evaluations. Final advisory group and working groups meetings. Completion of final grant report and strategy sessions for implementation grant-writing and fundraising plans. Public availability on project-associated websites of all project materials and downloadable prototype for Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail.

Samples of Previous Digital Work

For the Center for New England Culture's Landmarks in American History NEH grant in 2005, Historicus, Inc. developed a site that utilized Portsmouth artifacts and documents as well as a rich array of secondary scholarly materials, all in the framework of a software package developed for teacher and student use. Historicus, Inc. and CNEC compiled a digital archive of over 600 multi-media primary sources to support teaching and research in the history of Portsmouth and its environs. More recently, Historicus, Inc. and CNEC completed an interactive historical atlas that uses GIS and Adobe Flash technologies to plot hundreds of significant Portsmouth sites on a variety of contemporary and historical maps of Portsmouth. Using this tool, tourists, instructors and students can read about individual locations, view linked multi-media primary sources, see a gallery of photographs of that location, as well as follow particular walking tours like the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, the John Paul Jones Ranger Trail, Strawberry Banke, and the Portsmouth Harbour Trail. To view the Atlas, go to www.neculture.org and click on the Portsmouth Historical Atlas at the upper right corner of the home page, or go directly to the site (<http://www.neculture.org/pmap/imap.html>). On this site,

click Tours, and then click on the various tours. Click on any red star to enter archive of materials about the site. Click on Select a Map of Portsmouth to move through various historic periods. All maps are GIS-coded, so the technology for this site can form a template for the downloadable tours in this grant proposal. To access these To use the digital archive created for the Landmarks project, go to www.neculture.org. Click on ARCHIVE. Click on Landmarks of American History: Workshops for Teachers. Click on Resources for Educators. The digital archive is available at this website by username TeachMe and password AboutLandmarks. Browse the opening page and then click on Primary Source Detective.

Other projects by Historicus, Inc. can be viewed at www.historicusinc.com.