

Fort McHenry NMHS and Hampton NHS
FY2008 Annual State of the Parks

Introduction

This summary covers the highlights of fiscal year 2008 (October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008) for Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and Hampton National Historic Site.

Fort McHenry is known as the Birthplace of the National Anthem. *“O say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,”* a large red, white and blue banner? *“Whose broad stripes and bright stars . . . were so gallantly streaming!”* over the star-shaped Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore, September 13-14, 1814. The valiant defense of the fort by 1,000 dedicated Americans inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Today, many scholars note that the concept of American identity originated in Baltimore with two the country’s most potent symbols – the flag and the anthem – both directly associated to Fort McHenry.

Hampton National Historic Site tells the story of people -- enslaved African Americans, indentured servants, industrial and agricultural workers, and owners. It is also the story of the economic and moral changes that made this kind of life obsolete. When it was finished in 1790, Hampton was the largest house in the United States. Set among beautifully landscaped grounds and gardens, it remains a showplace today. Also extant is a remarkable collection of farm and outbuildings including two standing slave quarters, dairy, granary and ice house.

FY 2008 was a year of tremendous accomplishment for both parks. The Hampton Mansion reopened to the public after years of closure and an extensive rehabilitation. Hampton also benefited from an unprecedented amount of project money, thanks to the NPS Centennial Challenge and Flexible Park Base initiatives. At Fort McHenry, construction documents for the new Visitor Center were completed, the exhibit and film treatments were developed substantially, the Fort got some needed preservation attention, and programming and volunteer support grew. Planning progressed of efforts to establish the Maryland Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Commission, and the park’s tireless efforts to support the creation of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail were rewarded in May 2008, when the bill was signed into law by the President. 2008 was also a year of change and evolution for the staff, with the addition of several new positions and the departure of several key staff members.

Award-Winning Hampton Mansion Reopens to Incredible Fanfare

The first two months of the fiscal year were consumed with completing the reinstallation of collections into the Mansion's historic furnished interiors, re-training and recruiting volunteers, a transformation of the museum shop, and grounds repair and landscaping. In addition to period rooms on exhibit before the mansion closed, the new Drawing Room, Guest Room, Northeast Bedchamber, Kitchen and North Portico rooms were prepared for public viewing. Over 7,000 museum collections items that had been removed for the work were reinstalled in the Mansion's extraordinary historic furnished interiors.

On November 30, 2008, the Hampton Mansion reopened to the public with a beautiful fall ribbon-cutting and VIP luncheon hosted by the President of partner, Goucher College. The three-year rehab installed new temperature and humidity controls, introduced fire suppression and detection, upgraded the Mansion's electrical subsystem and security system, and improved to the building envelope (the resealing of doors and windows, restoration millwork, painting, and plastering). Fully rethought interpretive tours now highlight the people of Hampton – the Ridgelys, their servants, employees and slaves.

The project has already been recognized with several important awards. Preservation Maryland, the state's primary preservation advocacy organization, named the Mansion Rehabilitation as its Stewardship Project of the Year. The Association of Energy Engineers named it the 2008 Energy Project of the Year and Facility Manager, Greg McGuire as their Energy Manager of the Year. Finally, Baltimore County Historic Trust also awarded the site, Preservation Project of the Year for the county. In addition to being a model preservation effort, we are very proud that this project also demonstrates a keen commitment to sustainable technology and energy efficiency. T

A New Education/Administration Center for Fort McHenry

Design work for a long-awaited new Education and Administration Center for Fort McHenry progressed in FY2008. With assistance from Denver Service Center and GWWO, Inc. Architects, the year was consumed with the production of construction documents for the new facility.

GWWO subcontracted with Haley Sharpe for exhibit design and tremendous progress was made on the interpretive exhibits, artifact selection, and a/v treatment descriptions for the new facility. We hope to award production of the new movie and fabrication of the exhibits in FY2009.

The park was also in receipt of the City of Baltimore's committed funding for the project - \$1.3 million in FY2008. Additionally, a formal grant agreement was executed with the State of Maryland committing their dollar of dollar match to the Baltimore money. The State's \$1,299,904.00 will be wire transferred to the park this fall. This means that all construction funding necessary to build the building has been secured – all from non-NPS

sources. The request for the final year of SAFETEA-LU funding has also been submitted. We believe this is a significant achievement and one that will greatly enhance the visitor experience to the park!

In anticipation of all the funding being in place, the park has also consulted regularly with the Maryland SHPO about compliance issues and planning for any required monitoring and consultation during construction. Also, NER archeologists conducted a geophysical assessment of the building site and prepared a report to help inform protection of archeological resources during construction.

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail become Law

On April 29th, Congress passed, and on May 8th, the President signed legislation into law creating the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. This event created a new unit of the national trail system focused on the commemoration of the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812, which included the British invasion of Maryland, Battle of Bladensburg, burning of the White House and the US Capitol, and the Battle for Baltimore. This is perceived as a huge victory for Maryland as it organizes for the Bicentennial celebration in 2012-2015. Fort McHenry staff (with many partners and NPS staff) has been working on this designation for ten years. The Trail will connect almost 300 miles of routes associated with the British campaign in the Chesapeake Region during the War of 1812.

On June 9th, Fort McHenry held a press conference announcing the official designation of the Trail. Senator Benjamin Cardin; Representatives John Sarbanes, Dutch Ruppersburger, and Steny Hoyer; Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith; and Bill Pencek, Director of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission were in attendance and provided remarks. About 100 people attended on one of June's hottest days! The event had extensive news coverage in MD and made the front page of InsideNPS. Soon after, letters began to flow into the Secretary's and Director's office urging support of the Star-Spangled Banner NHT. Over two dozen have now been received. Momentum continues to build, as the park works with the Chesapeake Bay Program office to select the first staff members for the Trail, a project manager and partnership coordinator.

Hampton General Management Plan Draft Completed

In FY2008, the park, working with NER Planning staff, completed a 100% Draft of the Hampton General Management Plan and submitted it to WASO and the Region for comments. The park staff has been very involved with this draft, trying to make it reflect current conditions, not the state of the park when the GMP was started in 1998. The NER Compliance group was very helpful in guiding the creation of the Environmental Consequences chapter. To have a complete draft is a major achievement.

Because there had not been public meetings on the alternatives for at least seven years, the Hampton staff entertained public questions and comments at a community open house on Sunday, March 30th. Held in the Orangery, feedback was extremely positive and there was a great deal of interest from the neighbors in getting the plan done (a common hope with the park staff!)

ADMINISTRATION

FOMC's ONPS authorization was \$2,157,430.00 (1,821,000 in FY2007).

3-one-year projects at \$52,079.00

\$417,124.27 in collected fee revenue.

\$24,320.00 in donations

\$53,242.55 in concession franchise fees.

\$15,781.42 in housing income.

HAMP's ONPS authorization was \$1,141,143.00 (\$997,000 in FY2007).

7-one-year projects at \$254,921.00

\$195,500 in a Centennial Challenge project matched by HHI

\$855,000.00 in Flexible park base to improve 2 GPRA goals.

\$7,694.14 in donations.

\$3,031.08 in housing income.

The parks closed out the fiscal year with a balance of \$75.93 at Fort McHenry and a balance of \$32.20 at Hampton. Not too shabby!

In addition to the above, the administrative team noted the following achievements:

Prepared 114 personnel actions in FPPS.

Brought on 8 new employees (7 STEP/1 Permanent) – Including background investigation paperwork.

Converted 20 employees to new appointments (19 STEP & Seasonal/1 Term).

Handled 12 OWCP incidents.

Prepared 388 third party drafts for \$220,636.17.

Prepared 11 Bills of Collection.

Provided the Chesapeake Bay Program Office with their property management, in addition to maintaining the FAS/property system for FOMC and HAMP.
Created a Fort McHenry IT contingency plan.
Worked to connect the farmhouse to the Hampton LAN through the use of wireless technology.
Configured and installed new network servers in both parks.
Answered over 425 requests for computer/telephone/other assistance.

Contracting remained an enormous challenge for FOMC and HAMP in FY2008. While we did obligate all the contracts we had on the table for this year working through the NER Contracting office, it was hugely time consuming and many awards came down to the last days of the year. This remains an area of enormous concern.

On Wednesday, January 9th, Greg McGuire, FOMC/HAMP Facility Manager, suffered a stroke at a senior staff meeting. He has been on sick leave since the incident. He is recovering slowly, but is now walking again and getting stronger. Brian McGinnis, the park's facility operations specialist, was appointed Acting Chief of Maintenance, and has done a wonderful job during a crazy year.

FY2008 marked the complete implementation of the new park organization that came out of the 2006 Core Operations Analysis and Business Planning exercise. The two parks have a fully integrated management team now – the Superintendent, Management Assistant and five division chiefs all having responsibility for both Fort McHenry and Hampton. Two new “divisions” were also set up to ensure distribution of work and greatest benefit to the resources and visitors. The Division of Resource Management Division was formally created March 30, 2008, with the selection of Paul Bitzel as division Chief. Later in August, Glen Clark joined the parks as the Senior Law Enforcement Officer heading up the division of resource protection and law enforcement

Concessions: Gay Vietzke, Laurie Coughlan and Vince Vaise participated in a concessions roundtable in Philadelphia to discuss strategies for advertising the next concessions contract for the new FOMC VC in the winter of 2008/2009. The regional staff has the lead on this effort.

At the park, however, the introduction of food service (a hot dog stand) at FOMC was an important improvement. Visitor satisfaction increased 20% over the FY2007 levels due to this new amenity.

Hampton's museum shop, operated by HHI as a cooperating association, was fully transformed by the time of the mansion re-opening. HHI hired store staff and have done a wonderful job of making the store more interpretive and educationally focused.

MAINTENANCE AND FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Historic structures at Hampton got a lot of attention in FY2008, with three structures moving to good on the List of Classified Structures. Thanks to Flexible Park Base funding, the historic ice house and pump house were fully rehabilitated, and the Mansion rehabilitation also improved the overall condition of the park's primary building. The ice house was fully repointed, had its ironwork repaired and made operational, low voltage lighting now illuminates the interior, the stairs and the vent window on the structure's dome were repaired, safety railings were installed, a wayside exhibit was created and the structure was opened to the public. The pump house was painted and repaired, lead paint was mitigated, and the building received a new historically accurate roof.

One of the final elements of the Mansion's rehabilitation involved installing energy efficient low voltage lighting on the exterior. The structure is now breathtaking at night, especially the cupola, which has never been illuminated this way before. The lighting provides safety and security around the structure at night and also showcases the landmark to the neighboring community.

The Orangery, 1910 garage, smoke house, privy, pump house, and tool shed all got a new exterior coat of paint. Four security gates were installed at Hampton's Entrances – again for security. Lighting was upgraded for improved security at the Stables and Orangery. The preservation crew also completed the stabilization and repointing of two chimneys on the Hampton Caretaker's Cottage.

At Fort McHenry, 70 percent of the historic Star Fort's exterior woodwork was scraped, sanded and repainted, making a visible impact on the crispness of the buildings' trim. The brick paved walkways in front of the Ravelin and Sally Port were repointed and walk throughout the historic area were sanded.

At Fort McHenry, continuing to support the partnership with the National Aquarium and the Maryland Port Authority in stewarding the wetlands adjacent to the park, the maintenance team installed several footbridges in the marsh to allow safe access of the area. This will also make the environmental education programs safer and allow the kids to access more of the area.

The old Visitor Center interior got a new coat of paint and needed repairs to the A/V systems. The basement was also waterproofed – a necessary action. We are trying our best to band-aid this building along and make it look good and function as best it can until the new structure is built.

A formal paint database was created for both parks and all preservation project photographs were organized. Hundreds of photos were neatly organized into a user friendly database where anyone in either park can obtain this information as needed. Both efforts will ensure documentation of past preservation efforts and ensure good decision making for future projects. The park also implemented PAMP and made significant

improvements to FMSS Administration by cross-training employees and adding new system users.

The FOMC Maintenance Shop gravel paving was resurfaced and rolled in place. Quarters were fully rehabilitated for new tenants. General repairs and work orders were answered, and the grounds crew mowed over 100 acres per week, and kept all our fleet and equipment in good order. Hampton's farm got a corn field this year, and the maintenance team still found time to install trailer skirting and privacy screening to Historic Hampton, Inc.'s offices.

The park also completed emergency repairs to the FOMC flag pole due to wood rot discovered during the annual condition assessment. More extensive replacement will be required in FY2009.

RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation Arborist Training Program spent a week at Hampton eliminating tree hazards impacting structures and visitor safety. In addition to work accomplished, participants received training for certification with the International Arborist Association. The OCLP provided funding to prune nine historic sycamore trees at Fort McHenry and the removal of five deteriorated specimens throughout that park.

Replacement trees for the Maryland State Champion Pecan and a historic poplar were planted at Hampton this year. A local wood turner continues to fabricate objects from wood of the historic tree prunings or losses and these items have proven to be popular sales item in the Museum Store.

A new five-year Cooperative Agreement was established with Civic Works, Inc. to perform Public Lands Corp-funded preservation projects at Hampton and Fort McHenry.

The Mid Atlantic Exotic Plant Management Team spent 120 manhours eliminating invasive exotic plants from the Hampton cultural landscape. The project focused on mile-a-minute weed, garlic mustard, tree-of heaven and stiltgrass.

For the museum program a number of important achievements should be noted. First, a new contract was signed with Historic Hampton, Inc. for the services of Registrar Debbie Patterson and Museum Tech Cora Provins to assist with Collection Management. This arrangement allows the park to augment its curatorial staff at a more cost effective level.

HAMP had several notable acquisitions:

Ridgely Family Objects (347) – major gift from John Ridgely III's nephew George Hawkey in December. Principally silver, ceramics, and glass plus a few pieces of furniture. Highlights: 1790s Baltimore silver punch ladle by Standish Barry, several pieces of 1820s Paris porcelain dinner service with Ridgely crest.

Henry White Family Papers – Donation from Margaret White Bennett in October 2007, approximately 3 LF.

Ridgely Manuscripts, Photos, Albums – donation from Ridgely descendant Robert Hoyt; 3 19th century albums; numerous individual photos, most dating from 19th century; travel diary, bills and receipts and numerous other manuscripts.

The Birch engraving of Hampton was loaned to the exhibition “Harmony to the Eyes: Charting Palladio’s Architecture from Rome to Baltimore”, organized by Homewood House; held at the Peabody Library. Additionally, half a dozen collection objects for “At Freedom’s Door” an exhibition at Maryland Historical Society – organized in cooperation with the Reginald Lewis Museum and the Maryland Institute of Contemporary Art - exploring slavery in Maryland.

Hampton retrieved a large collection of archeology previously stored at the Maryland Archeological Center Lab; this collection is now back at the park.

Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architectural & Engineering was contracted to design a purpose-built Collection Storage Building for Hampton. This design will be completed in FY2009 and is an element of the Park Flexible Base project.

The initial version of Hampton’s Comprehensive Finding Aid debuted on the Hampton web page in March 2008. Hampton’s new Archives Page also gives visitors access to the Finding Aids for the Ridgely Family Papers and the John (III) and Lillian Ketcham Ridgely Papers, and biographical information on many Notable People connected with Hampton. The Comprehensive Finding Aid is a collaborative project with Historic Hampton, Inc., and is funded by Preservation Maryland.

At Fort McHenry, the Bowie Gun Collection (516 objects) returned to the park from Gettysburg NMP after decades of being exhibited there. The return included acquisition of funds (\$32,000+) from MCPP to purchase fifteen gun cabinets. Hampton artifacts in storage at the Civil War Powder Magazine were relocated to Hampton to accommodate the collection. Donated services assisted with packing the collection and transportation. Collections are currently being appraised by a park VIP and the catalogue records are being updated.

Additionally, a team from the Northeast Museum Services Center completed a two-week site visit and first draft of a Collections Management Plan for Fort McHenry NM&HS.

Working with the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Fort McHenry continued to provide stewardship to the 10-acre wetland adjacent to the park. The park hosted four quarterly volunteer “clean-up” days to engage the community in the care of this small but precious ecosystem. By September’s National Public Lands, one hundred-thirty volunteers from the local community worked with staff to complete historic preservation and natural resource projects at Fort McHenry and in the adjacent wetlands. The park also continues to support educational programming in the wetlands, connecting Baltimore’s students to the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and larger global environmental issues.

The week of July 28, Anna von Lunz attended the National Task Force meeting to review the final draft of the Programmatic Agreement between the National Advisory Council and the National Council of State Historic Preservation Offices. It is expected that the final agreement will be signed by all parties in August 2008. Anna has been a part of this team as an official NPS representative for several years.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Fort McHenry had 570,000 visitors in FY2008. Staff participated in an unprecedented number 26 of special programs during fiscal year 2008. These programs had an average attendance of 3,000 visitors per event. Utilization of volunteers and changing work schedules of paid staff kept overhead costs to a minimum. Fort McHenry volunteers contributed 30,492 hours to the park in FY '08 – an increase over FY'07. In addition to such large-scale programs, interpretive staff provided on average, 1,485 formal programs per month and conducted 35 off-site talks for approximately 12,000 people in the course of the year.

This was one of the strongest programming years for the Fort. In addition to summer tattoo ceremonies, and seasonal events such as Yuletide and Veterans' Day, the Fort staff planned, promoted and gave a number of new programs such as "Legends and Lore," an expanded Memorial Day and "Old Glory's Journey of Remembrance." In all, 26 special events were held this year. All told, (exclusive of special events) the park offered 1,485 facilitated programs to over 15,000 visitors.

Fort McHenry staff revamped the daily programming during summer months with a special flag talk held at noon every day and a new talk titled "Junk on a Bunk" held on weekends Feb.-June and daily June-August. This interactive talk focused on the life of the soldier and made use of reproduction material culture which visitors (especially kids) enjoyed handling.

The Fort McHenry Guard, the Fort's primary living history unit, participated in 24 special events in FY08 – a record number. It should be noted that a number of these events, such as the anniversary of the battle, special program for the National Guard, Civil War Weekend, and Grand Tactical lasted more than one day and attracted audiences of between 3,000 – 15,000 visitors per event.

Promotional activities were particularly successful on two fronts: media coverage, and highlighting the diversity of stories at the fort and in the fort's workforce. For example, the Memorial Day program was highlighted in four local newspapers, television and radio. The program involved a flag detail and ceremony at Mount Auburn Cemetery – the oldest African-American cemetery in Baltimore. Centennial seasonal Rangers made up the flag detail and a special proclamation of thanks from the city's department of Heritage and Tourism was read as part of the ceremony. Other activities included a flag detail at Public School #103 – the school attended by Thurgood Marshall. This event

showed the park as an active member of the community and the Baltimore City Heritage Area; it was attended by 350 students and Mayor Sheila Dixon. Statistics show that throughout FY 08 the park was highlighted in 50 publications (mainly newspaper), 17 television spots (morning live shots, coverage, etc. in five TV stations), and 6 known radio programs.

On July 1st, Fort McHenry hosted a significant press conference with Senator Barbara Mikulski and Congressman Elijah Cummings to publicly present new legislation to the mother of a fallen soldier working to finalize his US Citizenship while in Iraq. The park presented the colors, Centennial seasonal Park Ranger Robert Stewart presented a flag to the family (the mother of the deceased is his cousin). A number of visitors remarked that this program showed relevance between the events of 1814 and the present day.

The park was thrilled to get four Centennial Seasonal Rangers for interpretation (and a 5th at Hampton) in FY08. Through their efforts the park was able to offer more facilitated programs – 1,485 total (including living history activities in summer).

This has been a particularly successful year in educational program development. The park worked with partner “The Friends of Fort McHenry,” to facilitate 6 special “Fort McHenry Experience” programs targeting inner-city youth. The daylong program involved programs on historic boats, tours of the fort, flag presentations, talks on African Americans in the War of 1812 and cannon talks. Park staff gave 50 separate presentations as part of this program. In addition, the annual “Young Defenders” was a complete success with over 1200 inner-city students participating. Baltimore’s Mayor, Sheila Dixon attended and even fired the cannon!

The park is strengthening these programs by updating lesson plans and on-site visits. Through a “Teaching American History” grant, the park is working with Baltimore City and County teachers. Two lesson plans are currently under evaluation. The park hosted four teacher workshops this year.

Planning for the interpretive exhibits for the new FOMC VC has been kept apace during FY08. Meetings were held with Haley Sharpe staff throughout the year along with a scholars’ roundtable and a stakeholders’ roundtable. The scholars’ roundtable pulled together leading historians from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, National Park Service, Canada and various American universities to review content and presentation. Stakeholders’ roundtable focused on local authors, historians and key figures in state government. Periodic meetings and reviews with the park’s interpretive staff were held.

Hampton National Historic Site hosted 31,000 visitors and saw a continued increase in programming in FY 08. Additional special events were added to the calendar. Volunteers were utilized not only to help run the program, but to promote the events as well. As a result of their efforts, Hampton VIP hours totaled 12,000 (of that, there is 4,000 in interpretation alone, more than doubling last year’s number).

The interpretive division sponsored sixteen special events at Hampton with an average attendance at each event of 275 people. A banner day was held in January that numbered over 1,200 in attendance. This was the first year that personal services were offered at the mansion and farm complex simultaneously. The park staff stationed the farm complex part-time (weekends and special tours) during the winter months and full-time during summer months. Tours included all of the farm buildings and the surrounding landscape. A portion of the original cornfield was replanted as part of the interpretation of the grounds.

The number of visitors attending facilitated programs during FY '08 was 10,000 above FY '04, the last year the mansion was open before the renovation.

Interpretive staff conducted three interpretive workshops at Hampton this year – Two “Teaching American History” workshops for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, and the “From Hampton to New Bedford” workshop focused on the Underground Railroad. These workshops have already borne fruit. The “From Hampton to New Bedford” project brought 200 students to the site and is in the process of evaluation. Additionally, a curriculum writer was hired to write lesson plans and on-site activities for students from Grades 5-8. The park will be testing these lesson plans in the fall and spring of FY2009. Education is an essential emphasis for this park and a great deal was achieved in 2008 to ensure the site is vital to area teachers and students.

The volunteer program at Hampton continues to improve. With the reopening of the mansion a number of longstanding volunteers rejoined the ranks and an active recruitment program added 10 new park VIPs. More importantly, the park was aggressive in providing volunteer training to all members, highlighting interpretive techniques (consistent with NPS-IDP modules) and on the diverse number of stories at the site including slavery, the Ridgely family, and indentured servitude. This year Hampton NHS logged in 12,000 volunteer hours – 4,000 in interpretation alone!

A new partnership was forged between Hampton and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Students in the 700-level Introduction to Public History have been recruited to assist the park in research, development and implementation of cell phone and ipod tours for the park and exploring the connection through oral history between the park and East Towson, the local neighborhood settled by former Hampton slaves once emancipated.

Hampton began work on a new Comprehensive Interpretive Plan in FY2008.

A contract was awarded to design a comprehensive system of waysides for Hampton. The current hodge-podge needs consistency and updating! Additionally, a contract was awarded for the design and fabrication of permanent exhibits in the Hampton Overseer's House. Both these projects should be completed in FY2009.

Ranger staff spent a number of months researching and developing exhibits in the Tenant Farmers' Quarters – a post-emancipation interpretation of one of the known slave

quarters. Very little was known about this era of the Hampton estate. Staff and students from UMBC mined the park's and Maryland Historical Society's archives to find pertinent material. The Tenant Farmers' Quarters opened to the public in late April 2008, in conjunction with the annual symposium on slavery. The annual symposium on slavery was a huge success! The theme for 2008 was "Emancipation and Manumission in the Mid-Atlantic Region." Dr. Spencer Crew led the symposium as keynote speaker. The symposium drew together an impressive number of speakers and audience members interested in the challenge of interpreting and preserving slavery-related resources in Maryland and beyond.

PARTNERSHIPS

Hampton Partnership with Historic Hampton, Inc.

Robert Brown continued as Chairperson of Historic Hampton, Inc. – Hampton's primary friends group and cooperating association.

Park staff participated in a joint NPS/Historic Hampton, Inc. retreat early in the fiscal year. Participants recapped 2007's achievements, set goals for 2008, and set some new goals for the site beyond the reopening of the Hampton mansion. We are making a concerted effort to coordinate strategic priorities and work more closely for mutual success.

On November 2, NPS staff participated in the annual Squires' Dinner. The dinner, an annual fundraising event for Historic Hampton Incorporated, brought together guests for an evening at the Maryland Club. A short historical talk about the role of the Ridgely family during the War of 1812 was presented. Volunteers from the Fort McHenry Guard staged a fife and drum concert for the event.

Historic Hampton Inc. hosted three fundraising events for the park. A Spring Garden Party introduced the plan for rehabilitation of the formal gardens. This event, attended by 150 guests, included Mansion Tours and a popular historic plant sale. The Women's Committee also hosted a luncheon and lecture program in April, with a sold-out attendance of over 130 participants, with proceeds to benefit Hampton projects. They also held a fundraiser for their special projects for the Mansion that was attended by 65 guests. Plans are underway for a Wine-tasting Party in to be held January 2009.

Gay Vietzke and HHI President, Rob Brown, attended the Centennial Challenge announcement in Washington, DC on Thursday, April 24th. Hampton received \$195,500 in NPS funds to match HHI \$195,853 towards additional implementation of historic furnishings and public exhibits in Hampton's historic structures. HHI has already pledged \$139,000 towards 2009 projects.

The HHI elements of this project funded an HSR for the Mansion, period room furnishings for the Drawing Room and Parlour, salary for a Historic Furnishings Coordinator, and the reproduction of an astonishing velvet tapestry carpet. NPS funding

supported salary for a park registrar and museum technician, exhibit cases, conservation of furniture and statuary, installation of fiber optic lighting in historic fixtures, recreating lost historic painted finishes in the Mansion and the reproduction of painted shades for the Drawing Room.

It should also be noted that HHI, working closely with park staff, completed re-created the park museum shop at HAMP. HHI is the park's cooperating association, and the transformation is wonderful and appropriate with greater focus on interpretive themes and educational offerings! Profits are up too.

The Friends of Fort McHenry Transition

The Friends of Fort McHenry held their annual board meeting on November 15, with Trip Bailey agreeing to serve as chairman for another year. Future fundraising events, the new Visitor Center and educational initiatives were discussed.

On November 14, staff of Fort McHenry, in conjunction with the Friends of Fort McHenry, hosted the first "History, Mystery, Legends and Lore" event. The evening program consisted of lantern tours of the fort. Talks focused on the history of the fort and dispelled local folklore.

On February 25th, the Friends of Fort McHenry held their annual bull and oyster roast. The event was well attended raising over \$7,000 for educational initiatives.

At the end of April, the Friends hired a new Director, Kathleen Kreul, to replace the long-absent John Kellett. Kathleen is an important addition to the Friends, and it was agreed she would have her office at the park instead of over in the inner-harbor in an effort to improve communication and coordination. Kathleen has begun to rebuild the basic membership tools of the organization starting with a new mailing list and documented memberships. There is a great deal of basic work that needs to be recovered and reorganized, as the organization begins to think about how to transition to a more traditional friends group model.

Other park partnerships

Gay Vietzke was appointed to the Board of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and Museum and to the executive committee of the Board of the Baltimore City Heritage Area in FY2008. Both organizations are important partners in the planning for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. The Heritage Area is also seeking National Heritage Area designation and the park worked closely with the HA staff to support this effort and provide advice and contacts as necessary.

The USS Sterett was commissioned in Baltimore on Saturday, August 9th after a week of special events and festivities – many of which involved direct participation of Fort McHenry. The ship is named after a hero of the War of 1812. The crew visited Fort McHenry on August 6 and engaged in a special evening of Ranger-led interpretive programs. This engaged partnerships with the US Navy League, the Baltimore Historic

Seaport, the Society of the War of 1812, and many other groups with connections to the Navy or the history of 1812.

Fort McHenry staff partnered with the John Smith Trail. FOMC detailed our Cultural Resource Manager, Anna von Lunz, to the trail for much of the year (part-time) to staff the establishment of the Advisory Council and support the public planning process in an effort to learn what would be needed for the SSB Trail when it passed. In June FOMC supported a press conference at Baltimore's Inner Harbor to welcome the crew aboard the replica shallop re-enacting Captain John Smith's journey up the Patapsco River in 1608. Baltimore City Mayor's office presented a proclamation declaring the 400th anniversary of Captain John Smith's expedition to this region of the Chesapeake.

Park staff attended a press conference at the Bladensburg Maritime Park in Bladensburg, Maryland. The State of Maryland, was presented a check for \$100,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network to plan for enhancements of visitor accessibility and interpretation along the Maryland legs of the newly designated Star-Spangled Banner NHT. This is one of countless efforts that are beginning to mark serious planning toward the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of the national anthem.

The partnership with the State of Maryland's War of 1812 Commission also grew and will certainly prove to be a vital piece of future efforts. We did many things together, for instance, FOMC staff provided orientation to the scouts of a national 1812 documentary film in production by Florentine Films. Baltimore and the Fort stand to figure prominently in this film. We are working to ensure that content also makes contemporary connections between the historic stories and citizens engaged with these resources today. The State Commission staff provided the connections that made this happen. The State Commission's staff also hired a graphic design firm and had a trail logo for the SSB NHT designed to get the NPS rolling. Featuring the Fort and the flag, it's a striking graphic to be used in many ways in the future.

A volunteer agreement was established with the Baltimore County Department of Corrections to provide community service location at Hampton for first-time offenders. Volunteers work with park staff on landscape preservation maintenance. Two to eight volunteers perform community service two times per month for eight hours.

Regional Leadership

Superintendent Gay Vietzke continued as chairperson of the Mason-Dixon Subcluster and regularly participated in regional meetings and cluster/subcluster coordination. She participated in the Superintendents' Council and served as the Chesapeake representative on the NER Rightsizing Implementation Team.

Gay Vietzke participated in the Association of Partners for Public Lands conference in Denver, CO at the request of the National Park Foundation. Gay was a speaker and panel member for the day-long session of planning for 2016.

On Monday, April 28th, Gay Vietzke participated in a review panel for the GEWA and RICH Superintendent positions.

Gay Vietzke and Mike Caldwell (VAFO) drafted a white paper with ideas on how the NER might organize some regional initiatives and programs to highlight Centennial goals in the coming years. It became the basis for a good discussion on the last day of the National Superintendents' Summit for NER participants and hopefully will contribute to crafting a regional vision for how this region can and will contribute to the NPS Centennial in 2016.
