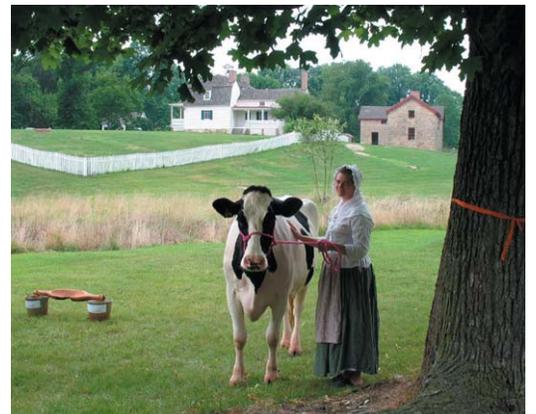




# Hampton National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan



# Hampton National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan

Prepared by Interpretive Planning, Harpers Ferry Center  
and  
Hampton National Historic Site

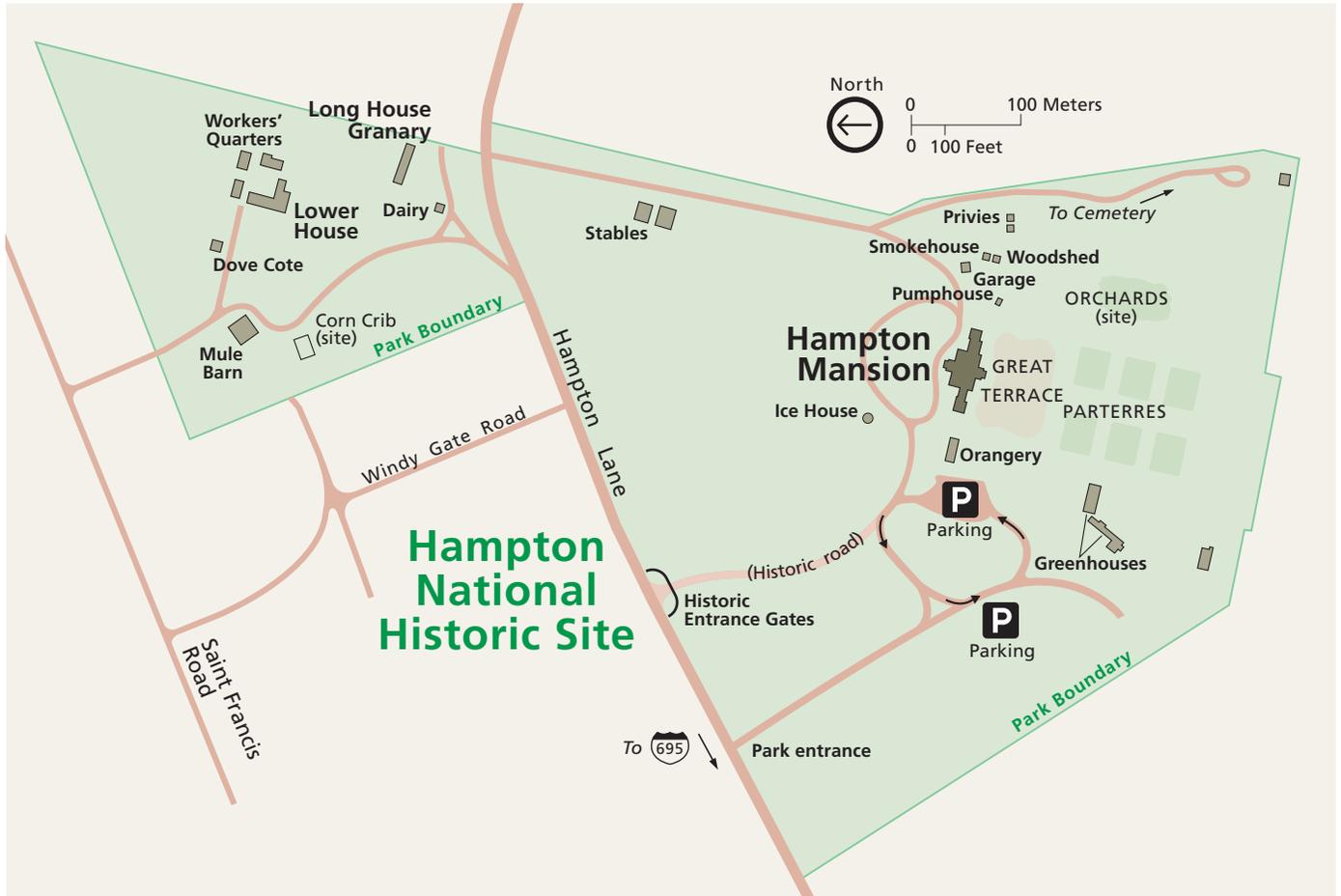
June 2010

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
Summary of Significant Plan Recommendations	7
The Planning Process	11
<b>Foundation for Planning</b>	<b>12</b>
Legislation	12
Background for Planning	14
Purpose and Significance	20
Interpretive Themes	22
Visitor Experience Goals	23
<b>Existing Conditions</b>	<b>24</b>
Visitor Profiles	24
Facilities and Site-Specific Media	28
Parkwide Interpretive Media	35
Personal Services	37
Issues and Influences	40
Partnerships	41
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>44</b>
Hampton NHS Areas Requiring Interpretive Emphasis	44
Summary of the Parkwide Visitor Experience	46
On-Site Experience	62
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>75</b>
A. The Planning Team	75
B. Accessibility	76
C. Summary “2008 Hampton Farm Site” Scope of Work (A Design/Build Contract)	77
D. Summary of the 2009 Scope of Work for the Interpretive Treatment of Slave Quarters B and the Tenant Farmer’s Quarter of Hampton National Historic Site	80
E. Guidelines for Preparing Historic Furnishings Report	82
F. Implementation Plan	85
G. Bibliography	86



## INTRODUCTION

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When construction finished in 1790, Hampton was probably the largest private residence in the United States; and ultimately the center piece of a 25,000+ acre plantation. Set among beautifully landscaped grounds and gardens, it remains a showplace today. Hampton embodies many facets of the American experience. It is the story of people -- enslaved African-Americans, indentured servants, industrial and agricultural workers, and the Ridgely family whose ownership spanned over 200-years of American history. This national park interprets the political, economic and moral changes that made this kind of life obsolete; and provides a variety of opportunities for visitors to discover its history and make personal connections with their own lives. On average, during the past decade 31,500 visitors come to Hampton annually.

Hampton National Historic Site is located in Towson, Maryland a suburban community near Baltimore, MD. In recognition of its historical and architectural merit, this park joined the National Park Service in 1948, following an Order of Designation by the Secretary of the Interior. Hampton is managed by the Superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and National Shrine in Baltimore, MD.

Several other key positions are shared between Hampton and Fort McHenry – including the Chief of Interpretation. Through the temporary re-assignment of key staff members to support special

programs, events and parkwide priorities, this coalesced high-caliber and committed staff enables both parks to move forward their respective programs. The Hampton National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) outlines recommendations exclusively for Hampton National Historic Site for the next decade. This plan is consistent with all park planning documents.

During fiscal year 2007 Hampton NHS was notified that it had been selected to receive Servicewide 20% fee money to initiate comprehensive interpretive planning (CIP) through the National Park Service’s Media Planning and Design Center – commonly referred to as Harpers Ferry Center or “HFC” -- because the Center is located in Harpers Ferry, WV. An HFC interpretive planner was assigned to work collaboratively with the park to develop the first phase of the CIP, the Long-Range Interpretive Plan. During an August 2007 scoping trip, the planner learned that Hampton NHS had been recently notified of the receipt of significant project funding for:

1. New exhibits for Hampton Home Farm’s “Lower House”;
2. A parkwide wayside exhibit plan;
3. New exhibit cases to facilitate a temporary exhibit program on specialized topics for Hampton Mansion’s 2nd floor north portico room; and

#### 4. Funding to conserve several items in the park collection.

The park asked the planner to seek HFC assistance for the aforementioned projects and where possible, to use the LRIP planning process to guide the direction of media projects and to facilitate long-range interpretive planning needs. HFC agreed to work on the media projects and assigned a project manager to assist with overall project coordination.

This LRIP includes parkwide and site specific recommendations; they address:

- **Visitor experience and wayfinding:** how to implement the Hampton National Historic Site General Management Plan’s preferred alternative of treating the park as a “Campus.” Both the farm site and mansion are valued as equally important; each site is intrinsically and historically connected and will share equal interpretive emphasis. Visitors should leave the site by understanding that the wealth, prominence and success of the Hampton estate was shaped by the Ridgely family and the people that worked on the estate across two centuries – enslaved, indentured and free. Visitors can choose which part of the site they’d like to visit first.
- **Future interpretive facilities** recommended in the General Management Plan’s (GMP) preferred alternative. Recommendations for two visitor contact stations are located separately in the “On-Site Experience for Hampton

Mansion and Grounds” and the “On-Site Experience for Hampton Home Farm” sections.

- **Personal services and media:** these important interpretive program components will work together to help visitors understand the multitude of historical periods presented and the six generations of Ridgely owners and workers that labored and lived at Hampton.
- **Desired programmatic actions:** build upon the successful personal services and special event program. Recommendations address developing a curriculum-based education program; expanding the effectiveness and reach of the successful Volunteer-in-Parks program; and improving universal accessibility.
- **Research needed** to continue to infuse the current interpretive program with scholarship; more fully address the workers on the estate; and, to guide the development of future exhibits and GMP recommended reconstruction of historic structures. These recommendations are located in both the “Parkwide Recommendations” and “On-Site Experience” sections.

The Hampton National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan is the direct result of a planning workshop held in July 2008 with park staff, historians, media specialist and partners. The intended audience for this plan includes park and Northeast Region staff, partners, stakeholders, interested visitors and

future contractors. The goal of this LRIP is to promote park resource values through specially planned visitor experiences and excellence in interpretation. Realization of this vision requires new funding for recommendations, strong internal collaboration and external partnering.

## Summary of Significant Plan Recommendations

This LRIP makes the following facility and interpretive media recommendations, consistent with the park's General Management Plan's preferred alternative which will have a significant impact on the overall park visitor experience:

### Short-term:

- Support the planning, design and installation of the new interpretive exhibits at Hampton Home Farm's "Lower House". The exhibit opening is scheduled for March 2010 through a HFC design/build exhibit contract. The Lower House will serve as a temporary visitor contact station. Future exhibits will orient visitors to the overall Hampton story and provide site specific interpretation regarding the use of the Home Farm by residents and their activities over 200 years.
- Note: the GMP's long-term recommendation is to construct a Hampton Home Farm Visitor Contact Station (VCS) on the corn crib site.

- Complete Phase I parkwide wayside exhibit planning. This project is funded through an HFC planning and design contract. The parkwide wayside exhibit plan will provide orientation panels, site specific interpretation of outbuildings and incorporate 3-dimensional models of park features. Note: the park's friend's group, Historic Hampton, Inc., will fund the production and installation of the wayside exhibit plan as soon as it is completed.
- At visitor contact stations be prepared to provide directions to nearby neighborhoods offering a variety of restaurant options. This recommendation supports the park's desired dual site visitor experience which takes approximately 3-hours to complete. Provide good signage to the existing picnic area.
- Develop a new Unigrid brochure to more fully reflect that the Ridgely family and their employees built Hampton together; and, serve as a guide to assist with independent navigation of both sites.

### Long-term:

- Develop a 5 – 7 minute orientation film that may be used at both Visitor Contact Stations.
- Develop and install a wayfinding/sign plan from Highway 695 to/from and within the park. The sign plan will be address wayfinding needs when the new arrival route from the 695/Providence Road Exit is instituted.

- Seek funding to support the GMP recommendations for visitor contact stations at Hampton Mansion and Hampton Home Farm, including:
  - A Visitor Contact Station on the mansion side can serve as the staging area for guided programs. This request will also include funding for new exhibits that places Hampton in the context of United States and Maryland history and provide necessary orientation to the overall Hampton Estate – critical information that is needed before beginning the tour of the historic house museum. The visitor contact station will also include designed space with seating to view an orientation video.
  - Construct the Hampton Home Farm Visitor Contact Station at the corn crib site. This project will include funding to plan and design orientation exhibits and a viewing area for the orientation video.
- Research monies are needed to support several significant studies which inform personal services and media; guide ongoing restoration and interpretation of existing historic structures; and, inform the future reconstruction of several historic structures integral to the understanding of Hampton’s 200-year history. This plan recommends the completion of the following studies:
  - A Historic Resource Study is needed to link previous research separately conducted for the Hampton Mansion and Hampton Home Farm to demonstrate the interrelationships between these two properties and their residents over the course of their shared history. This study will inform and guide future interpretive decisions for programming and exhibits.
- Revise and update the Lower House exhibits installed in 2010, in coordination with the planning of the Hampton Home Farm Visitor Contact Station. When the orientation elements are relocated to the new VCS, this change will enable the park to update exhibits in the Lower House. It is anticipated that by this time the park will have completed the Hampton Home Farm Historic Structures Report; new information uncovered can be incorporated into updated exhibit panels and historically furnished room vignettes.



Hampton Mansion viewed from the porch of the Lower House.

- An overview Hampton Mansion Historic Furnishings Report will enable the curatorial and interpretive staffs to update the long standing furnishings treatment where the nine rooms on public exhibition are restored to different eras across the 200-year history. During this future planning endeavor, the staff can make informed decisions regarding how to integrate Home Farm interpretation into the big house through changes to the furnishing plan; identify what types of “hands-on” experiences should be added with the addition of reproduction items that complement the current furnishings treatments; determine what change or changes need to be made to the staff led guided tour in order to facilitate the development of a signature experience for the general public and student groups; and consider how best to address the addition of specific media elements to support the implementation of assisted listening for guided mansion tours.

Two historic structure reports are needed to guide the reconstruction of:

- the Hampton Mansion Summer Kitchen,
- the Corn Crib
- Seek funding to add an addendum to the 2006 Cultural Landscape Plan to insure that it reflects the maintenance of important viewsapes between the mansion and the farm site; addresses providing landscape screening between the historic site and the neighborhood; and incorporates LRIP landscape recommendations to revitalize Hampton’s Home Farm’s landscape to reflect a vibrant and vigorous “village” where many people lived their lives.
- Fund Hampton National Historic Site’s interpretive staffing levels to meet basic operating requirements. A program increase is currently included in the FY 2011 “Greenbook”. This funding will enable Hampton NHS to run a 7-day interpretive program and support the development of future curriculum based education program needs at Hampton and Fort McHenry.

## Key Recommendations for Personal Services

Key interpretive program recommendations include:

- Institute thematic tours of Hampton Mansion through the development of approved sample-Interpretive Development Program anchor programs, foot-noted program guides, training, and practice sessions. Incorporate hands-on items to address multiple learning styles.
- Build into the daily program a morning and afternoon guided tour of the Home Farm to complement the guided tours of the Mansion.
- Incorporate into the general visitor experience a signature experience that incorporates a unique park feature, and in so doing carves a unique memory amongst historic sites and museums goers.
- Develop an advertised, by reservation, staff-conducted grand-tour of the park that includes both the mansion, Home Farm, and grounds. The staff estimates this tour would take 3-hours. Occasionally feature as part of the popular 2nd Sunday programs or offer regularly on Saturdays.
- Participate in local and regional events to build Hampton National Historic Sites identity and connection to the area – particularly in the neighborhoods that are located on what was the original 25,000 acre estate.
- Develop an advanced yearly schedule of topics for the 2nd floor portico exhibit so the interpretive and curatorial staffs have plenty of time to collaborate on how the guided tour and special events program might dovetail with the annual exhibit theme. No more than two changing exhibits a year!
- Develop different types of rack cards to promote the park in different venues such as libraries, the Baltimore-Washington Airport, Maryland Welcome Centers and for local concierge hotel desks.
- Consult with other professionally run farm museums such as the Carroll County Farm Museum, Cromwell Valley and Oxen Hill Farm to explore methods others are using to interpret farming.
- Work with local area schools -- teachers and curriculum specialists to develop a program advisory group specific to the grades the park hopes to target. Form a work team comprised of interested teachers and NPS staff that will be consistent throughout the program development period. Collaboration with teachers during all phases of program development will create ownership.

## The Planning Process

The goal of the interpretive planning process is not simply the creation of a plan. The ultimate goal is the development of a cost-effective, tightly focused, high quality park interpretive program that effectively addresses management goals, identifies the most important concepts to convey to park visitors and recommends strategies to help parks achieve their mission, protect their resources, and provide the best service to visitors.

Long-Range Interpretive Plans (LRIPs) provide a vision for the future of interpretation, education, and visitor experience opportunities. LRIPs identify and analyze interpretation, education, and visitor experience goals and issues. They recommend the most effective, efficient, and practical ways to address those goals and issues. LRIPs address both non-personal services (interpretive media and facilities) and personal services (programs, personal contacts). Plans match interpretive media to messages to make sure they work well individually and collectively. The interpretive planning process is sensitive to which park resource experiences should be made accessible to visitors. Negative impacts on resources are minimized, and active stewardship is encouraged. An LRIP is a component of a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP). The other components are an Annual Implementation Plan and an Interpretive Database.

The Hampton National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) recommends actions that should occur over the next 8-10 years. It identifies park themes,

describes visitor experience goals, and recommends a wide array of interpretive services, media, programs, and outreach activities to communicate the park’s mission, significance, themes, and values. It will join the park-produced Annual Interpretive Plan and Interpretive Database to make up the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) for Hampton National Historic Site.

Barring legislative changes or major new research, the planning foundation expressed in this LRIP – purpose, significance, themes, and visitor experience goals – will remain constant over the life of this plan. Specific recommendations about media and programs may require updating as staffing, funding, technology, or resource conditions change. Further design documents will need to be prepared to implement some of the goals and recommendations in this plan.



Local Boy Scouts harvest “yellow dent” corn at Hampton’s Harvest Day.

# FOUNDATION FOR PLANNING

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## Legislation

National Park Service units are created by Congressional legislation, Presidential proclamation or through an Order of Designation by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior by the authority of the 1935 Historic Sites Act. Excerpts from several documents summarize the legislative history of Hampton National Historic Site.

The mansion and the surrounding 43.29-acre grounds were established as Hampton National Historic Site (known hereafter as Hampton NHS or Hampton) through an Order of Designation by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior on June 22, 1948. The order noted that:

*...Hampton, near Towson, Maryland, built between 1783 and 1790 and one of the finest Georgian Mansions in America, has been acquired for the people of the United States through a generous gift to the Nation, and*

*...the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments has declared that Hampton is of national historical significance as a splendid example of a great Georgian Mansion illustrating a major phase of the architectural history of the United States...*

The order declared, “*The administration, protection, and development of this national historic site shall be exercised by the National Park Service in accordance with the provisions of the act of August 21, 1935.*” That act, known as the Historic Sites Act, established “national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings and objects of significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States.”

In 1978, U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, Jr., of Maryland proposed adding to Hampton NHS a 14.02-



The back of the Lower House and Log Structure (Quarters A) at Hampton.

acre farm site located adjacent to the park. This property contained the core of what had been the original Hampton “home farm”, including the Lower House (the oldest building on the Hampton Estate), three living quarters (two known to have housed slaves), a dairy, mule barn, granary, and other outbuildings. Senator Mathias recognized the significance of the farm as a key contributing feature to more fully convey the regional and national significance of Hampton National Historic Site. During his testimony in support of the legislation, Senator Mathias stated:

*The significance of the farm is, simply, that Hampton originally was not just the mansion and its immediate grounds; rather, it was a sprawling plantation . . . large venture, encompassing both agriculture and industry and the farm is an integral part of the enterprise. . .*

*Since 1948 Hampton has been the property of the American people as a national historic site. It is administered by the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities for the National Park Service. This arrangement has been eminently successful. Over the years it has provided the citizens of the Nation with a truly magnificent view of a late 18th century manor house.*

*And now—an exciting new development has taken place. The Hampton Farm is being offered for sale. We now have the opportunity to rejoin these two properties in one contiguous and grand Hampton National Historic Site. The acquisition of the Hampton Farm and its rehabilitation would have a dynamic effect upon the mansion as it is*

*currently interpreted. The operation of a revitalized farm complex would dramatically help to transform Hampton from a site of primarily genealogical and architectural interest to what it really was—the centerpiece of a once vast estate, of which the farm was a major component.*

Senator Mathias’ testimony resulted in the passage of Public Law 45-625 on March 20, 1980. The Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities oversaw day to day operations at Hampton NHS from 1949 until October 1, 1979 when this duty was assumed by the National Park Service. Historic Hampton, Inc. was founded at that time as the private, not-for-profit organization to serve as the primary park partner. Today Hampton NHS is administered jointly with Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in nearby Baltimore, Maryland under the same Superintendent.



Restoration of the Falling Garden 2009.

## Background for Planning

During the past 10 years, the park has had many concurrent planning efforts underway, including:

- The initiation of General Management Planning in 1998;
- A 2006 Core Operations Analysis of the park that informed the development of the 2006 Hampton National Historic Site and Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Business Plan; and
- Several significant studies and plans developed to guide the upgrade of park facilities and the ongoing repair and restoration of the farm site, mansion and grounds.

Each study and planning effort has informed the next endeavor.

The draft-Hampton National Historic Site General Management Plan (GMP) is the park’s primary document that provides guidance for future management decisions and visitor use for the next 20-years. The GMP planning endeavor utilized a team comprised of park staff, partners, scholars and stakeholders. Work on Hampton GMP is in final draft and being reviewed at the regional level. This LRIP will incorporate GMP decisions and planning elements that will anchor long-range interpretive recommendations. These planning elements include the purpose and significance statements, the interpretive themes and the proposed actions under the preferred alternative. These elements will shape the visitor experience and

future interpretive recommendations for personal services, media and partnerships that support the delivery of the interpretive program.

### GMP Preferred Alternative Elements Affecting Interpretation:

Desired interpretive emphasis and visitor experience: The site has a layered history of landscapes and historic structures spanning 200 years of use; landscape features and remaining structures will be preserved and maintained reflecting change over time; the overall site will not be restored to a specific time period. The interpretive emphasis of the preferred alternative is on connecting Hampton’s history to the lives of today’s visitors; the site will be relevant to a diverse population of individual visitors, families, tour and school groups.

Hampton NHS will be treated as a campus. Both the farm site and mansion are valued as equally important; each site is intrinsically and historically connected and will share equal interpretive emphasis. The wealth, prominence and success of the Ridgelys’ were dependent on the people that worked on the estate across two centuries – enslaved, indentured and free. Visitors can choose which site they’d like to visit first.

- In the future, visitors will be encouraged to arrive to the park via Providence Rd. This will require coordination with the Maryland DOT to change directional signage. Along Providence Road and Hampton Lane both the Hampton mansion

(main house) and the farm site will be signed. Visitors can choose which site they'd like to visit first. Visitors can explore each site at their own pace (except the Hampton mansion which requires a staff led guided tour) depending on their interests, arrival time and anticipated length of stay.

- Future interpretive services and media will provide opportunities to have in depth educational experiences at both sites; although offerings may vary seasonally due to longstanding visitor use patterns.

### Hampton Mansion and Grounds

Directional signing from I-695, Providence Road and Hampton Lane will lead visitors to the site. Parking is available within walking distance to the main house. The trailer now in the parking lot for the Hampton mansion will be removed. Park offices will be housed in the collections management facility (to be constructed in 2010), and in a rehabilitated historic structure.



A cherub statue adorns the exterior portico facing north on the mansion.

### Grounds

- The historic grounds and remaining structures will illustrate various elements depicting 200 years of use. New signage, publications and staff (when available) will assist visitors in understanding the components of this layered landscape.
- Directional and interpretive signing will be a non-intrusive element to the historic scene by design and site placement.
- A walking trail and pedestrian crossing over Hampton Lane from Mansion to Farm will be introduced.
- Trails and pathways will be universally accessible (where possible, without significant grade changes or changes to the historic scene); signage will indicate level of accessibility.
- The grounds visit will include an option to visit the family cemetery.

### Historic Structures

- Due to the value of the collection Hampton mansion will be available by guided tour only, on the hour; 10 – 12; and 1-4; on a first come first served basis. The maximum tour group size: 1 park guide for every 12 – 15 visitors. Advanced reservations for group tours of the mansion are advertised. Large groups are encouraged to make a special appointment and are accommodated as much as possible with extra staffing to facilitate tours. The

park has written guidelines detailing options available and different packages for groups of varying size. Drop-in groups are accommodated as much as possible but with limited staffing, a tour of the house is not always an option. Individuals waiting to see the main house can view the mansion grounds and other buildings or visit the farm site on a self guiding basis.

- The historic room interiors will continue to reflect different historic periods of restoration illustrating six generations of Ridgely family use across two centuries, until the site was established as a national park. The historic rooms and furnishings will provide the backdrop for the interpretive staff whose focus will be to illustrate through the families that interacted here (enslaved, indenture and free) how the political, economic, social and technological changes impacted the everyday life of those who labored and lived on the Hampton Estate.

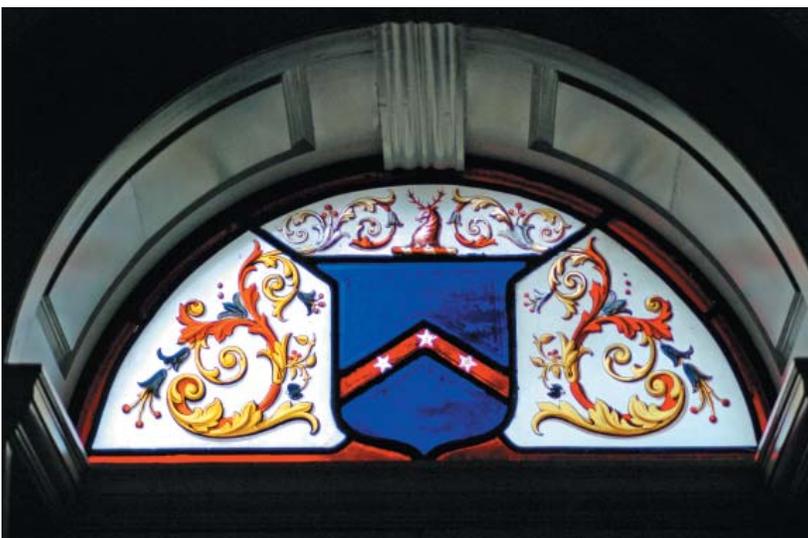
- The octagonal slave quarters and summer kitchen at the east end of the mansion will be reconstructed if requirements outlined in NPS Management Policies (2006) can be met.

### Hampton Home Farm

It is important to note that following the July 2008 LRIP workshop, the park staff spent additional time reviewing park archives to determine the most appropriate name for the farm site property and the large residence that remains on the property – a name that accurately reflected the importance of this site to the Hampton Estate across all the periods of time. It was determined that in all future programs and media that the farm site will be referenced as the “Hampton Home Farm”; and, the large residence that was used by the first and fifth generations of Ridgelys and also used as a residence for several overseers and farm managers, will in all future media be referred to as the “Lower House” – a term that was actually used by several different family members across time. In earlier planning documents and interpretive media Hampton Home Farm may be referred to as “Hampton Farm Site” or “the farm site”.

The draft-General Management Plan outlines the following future planning elements:

- Directional signing from Interstate 695, Providence Road and Hampton Lane will lead visitors to an existing parking lot providing easy access to farm site facilities.



The Ridgely crest in stained glass is presented in the light above the primary door to the Great Hall at Hampton Mansion.

- The “corn-crib” will be rebuilt to serve as a visitor contact station and function in the same capacity as the visitor contact station on the mansion grounds, with a possible staff member available to inform visitors of options, and, to provide site interpretation.
- Where possible pathways will be universally accessible -- without significant grade changes or changes to the historic scene; and signage will indicate level of accessibility.
- Directional and interpretive signing will be a non-intrusive element to the historic scene by design and site placement.

#### Other factors affecting planning needs:

It is crucial to recognize for planning purposes, that the Hampton experience will include both the mansion site and the farm site. Current staffing levels provide for the following access:

- Memorial Day through December both sites are open seven days a week.
- January through mid-May both sites are open Thursday through Monday, with only the grounds available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Future interpretive planning must consider how best to interpret park themes during periods of limited access to park program sites.

The park continues to request funding in support of resource

preservation and visitor services needs. Receipt of these funds may or may not occur within the life of this plan.

- a) Future interpretive projects include the adaptive use of historic structures for exhibit areas and the reconstruction of several well-documented historic structures. These projects are costly undertakings requiring funding for further research, design and construction. GMP recommended projects include:

#### Hampton Mansion

- A small visitor contact station has been designed for the mansion side of the park to replace the office trailer.
- Reconstruction and furnishing of the Hampton Mansion summer kitchen which was attached to the main kitchen in the east hyphen; and the
- Reconstruction of the octagonal slave quarters located near the mansion’s summer kitchen, if sufficient documentation is collected to meet NPS policy requirements.

#### Hampton Home Farm

- Construction of a visitor contact station on the site of the corn crib which was located near the mule barn. This structure will serve as the Hampton Home Farm visitor contact station, the starting location for all tours at the farm site, and as an educational program staging area for school groups.

These projects are costly undertakings requiring funding for further research, design and construction.

b) The park continues to request additional funding for an increase to the permanent interpretive staffing levels. Currently, two permanent full time employees supported by the Chief of Interpretation and interpretive personnel at nearby Fort McHenry, provide tours and programming. At this level of staffing the park is unable to staff both the mansion and lower house during the Fall, Winter and Spring. Even summer months are problematic as members of the permanent staff take vacations and the site experiences heavier visitation. The park has requested \$270,000 and three additional full time employees for interpretation, currently included in the FY2011 “greenbook”.

Recently funded projects that will improve interpretation:

- During FY08 several interpretive media projects were funded that will improve interpretation on site, these projects include:
  - Exhibit cases for temporary thematic exhibits to be displayed on the 2nd floor of the Hampton Mansion;
  - Conservation of historic furnishing items; and
  - Planning money for a wayside exhibit plan and related artwork. Receipt of planning money for future Lower House Exhibits; a design/build contract.
- The park received funding in FY08 one additional summer seasonal as part of the Servicewide Centennial Initiative.



Ranger Robert Stewart greets a visitor in the Mansion kitchen at Yuletide.

### Brief Summary of Program History:

From 2005 – 2007, the Hampton mansion was closed to the public in order to install a fire suppression system, install an environmental control system, install new electrical and waterlines, paint and repair the building and upgrade the security system. This closure provided the park with an unprecedented opportunity to focus interpretation on the home farm site and experiment with how to more effectively interpret the experiences of the people that worked at Hampton during the era of slavery, the tenant farming period, and during the 20th century.

The operational change also provided the staff a chance to work on site in the location where visible structures connected to those enslaved by the Ridgely's survive including the Slave Quarters and the Lower House (during at least one period this structure was used by an overseer for over 60 years).

From 1948 – present, the primary interpretive emphasis was on the exquisite architecture and furnishings of the Hampton Mansion, the accomplishments of six generations of Ridgelys and the ongoing repair and restoration of the site. In late 1990s, the story of the servants

was already well incorporated into house tours. Chiefs of Interpretation Jenny Masur and Debra Sturm both emphasized interpretation that presented the whole story of who lived and worked here and the big picture of placing this within the context of US history. Although discussions and/or interpretive media regarding enslaved and free farm workers increased with the acquisition of the farm site in the late 1970s, interpretation was accomplished through personal services and limited signage identifying the building name or use. The level of interpretation conveyed in personally conducted tours varied due to program emphasis, access to/or knowledge of research and sometimes comfort level.

The interpretive staff has adopted a holistic approach to interpretive programming. The closure of the mansion in 2003 for a three-year renovation allowed staff to “jump-start” programming at the farm site. Tours of the farm area include but are not limited to: tenant farming, the role of the overseer, slavery and the role and function of the agricultural outbuildings. Current personnel services (tours) in the mansion integrate the role of the farm complex, decisions of the Ridgely family and the broader context of trends in American history.

## Purpose and Significance

### Park Purpose

Park purpose statements summarize the reasons a park is included in the National Park System. They are derived from the legislation that created both the National Park Service and a specific park. Purpose statements provide the foundation for park management and use. The GMP planning team defined the purpose of the park

*The purpose of Hampton National Historic Site is:*

- *To preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources of this rare commercial, industrial and agricultural estate in the Chesapeake region; and*
- *To stimulate understanding of how national events and social change are revealed in the site's resources and the interrelationships of the family and the workers who lived and labored on the estate as it took shape and changed over the 18th and 19th centuries.*

### Park Significance

Statements of significance describe a park's distinctive natural, cultural, and recreational resources and values. These statements are the factual rationale for national recognition of the site; they provide the foundation for park management and use; and describe the park's distinctiveness to help place the park in its regional, national, and international contexts. Significant statements are the basis for the development of the park's primary interpretive themes and programs.

The Hampton National Historic Site's significance statements listed below were developed in 2004 during the initial phases of the General Management Plan (GMP) and refined during the park's 2006 Core Operations Analysis and Business Planning endeavors.

*Hampton National Historic Site, once the center of a vast Maryland land holding and a premier example of Georgian architecture and landscape design, was a remarkable commercial, industrial and agricultural estate forged with indentured and enslaved labor. Hampton reflects a central irony in U.S. history – that a nation newly created on the principles of equality and freedom could accept the institution of slavery.*

*National events and social change – the American Revolution, establishment of a new economy, slavery, the Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction – are reflected at Hampton National Historic Site by its cultural resources, an unmatched and comprehensive assemblage*



A crowd gathers in November 2007 to re-open the Mansion after an extensive rehabilitation.

*of structures, landscape, museum collection, archives, and archeological and ethnographic resources preserved by one family over generations. This exceptional ensemble is an unusually complete chronicle that reveals the daily activities of the Ridgely family and the estate's laborers, both free and enslaved, and illustrates 18th and 19th century history and design.*

Significant resources of the park include:

- *The 1790 mansion is one of the largest and most ornate late-Georgian houses in America. Hampton was the first national historical site recognized for its architectural significance.*
- *The home farm and its domestic landscape are the core of what was once an immense estate. The farm includes rare surviving examples of slave quarters.*
- *An important and internationally recognized collection of site-related furnishings, fine and decorative arts, and estate equipment represents the social and economic activities of the residents.*
- *The 18th and 19th century landscape surrounding Hampton Mansion is rare and exceptional, reflecting both American and European landscape design trends with great integrity.*
- *Written, photographic, and archeological records provide comprehensive documentation of the people and activities of the estate.*

## Park Mission Statement

A park mission statement serves a dual role: it articulates the philosophical direction underlying the daily operation of a park and serves as a measure to evaluate if actions planned and undertaken taken by staff members and partners are consistent with the park's purpose and significance. The ongoing planning efforts conducted at Hampton NHS have resulted in a shared understanding of the reason the park was established and the identification of the park's significant resources and values to be protected. During the development of the 2006 Business Plan, the park planning team worked to define the park's mission:

*It is the mission of Hampton National Historic Site to preserve unimpaired the cultural and natural resources of Hampton, a premiere example of Georgian architecture and landscape design, and to stimulate understanding of how history, culture, and social change are revealed in the site's resources and the interrelationship of the owners and enslaved, indentured, and free workers on the estate.*

## Interpretive Themes



Slave Quarters B and C and the back of the Lower House, late 19th century.

Interpretive themes capture the essence of the park's significance. They include the most important stories and represent core messages that every audience should have the opportunity to learn about. The following interpretive themes were refined in the 2004 Draft-General Management Plan and synthesize earlier interpretive planning activities. The interpretive themes are italicized and followed by a brief statement to establish historical context. They are listed in no order of importance.

- 1) *The Hampton estate was created and evolved through the actions of diverse groups in a nation struggling to define its own concept of freedom.*

Hampton was built by wealth derived from agriculture, industry and commerce. Those endeavors were initiated and managed by the Ridgely family – one of the wealthiest and most prominent in the Chesapeake region – but were dependent upon the labor of their employees, indentured servants, and slaves.

- 2) *The nature of the estate and the enterprises upon which it depended changed and evolved to reflect national events and trends.*

The Ridgely family owned and managed Hampton for more than 200 years. Over the course of that time, major economic, political and social influences, such as the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the emancipation of slaves, and the development of new technology, affected the profitability of agriculture and other enterprises supporting the estate, as well as, its designed landscape and interior spaces.

- 3) *Hampton's structures, landscape, historic objects, archives, and archeological resources reflect the estate's activities, its diverse communities and their interrelationships.*

Farm and support buildings remain in their original locations. Their physical relationship to the mansion illustrates the social relationships among the people associated with the estate. The social structure and the diversity of communities are demonstrated by the contrast between the abundance of Ridgely family possessions and writings and the non/limited-existence of surviving artifacts and archives of the workers.



The Drawing Room at Hampton represents the Ridgely's taste on the eve of the Civil War.

## Visitor Experience Goals

Visitor experience goals describe what opportunities for physical, intellectual, and emotional experiences should be available for visitors to Hampton National Historic Site. These experiences will be available to visitors of all abilities, including those with visual, auditory, mobility, or cognitive impairments.

Visitors to Hampton National Historic Site will have opportunities to:

- Be inspired to more fully appreciate the nation’s history in the context of the story of Hampton NHS.
- Have their necessary comfort needs met.
- Contemplate, relax, and enjoy park resources safely and without pressure.
- Acquire information and material to help them learn about themes before, during and after their visit.
- Experience the park resources regardless of physical ability.
- Find their way around the park without the need for assistance.
- Interact with the park staff informally and formally in a way that respects their personal and civil rights and their expectation to receive courteous treatment and factual information.
- Learn the mission of the National Park System and have the opportunity to become engaged in the preservation of the park through stewardship projects sponsored by the park’s the Friends Group, park partners or Volunteer-In-Parks (VIP) opportunities.



Participants create bonnets for themselves and enjoy a tour of the park with their favorite dolls at the “My Doll and Me Tea” cosponsored with Historic Hampton, Inc.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

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### Visitor Profiles

The following information is based on years of staff observations. The most recent Visitor Survey has shown that progress has been made at the site over the last year. For example, the site measured 100% satisfaction from visitors in the category “assistance from park employees,” and a 100% satisfaction rate in the category of Ranger Programs. No formal survey has been completed on the demographics of visitors at Hampton.

The average for park visitation from 1997 to 2007 is approximately 31,500 visitors per year. During calendar year 2008, the park had 33,000 visitors. This figure represents all types of visitors to Hampton. Based on past years reporting of visitor use statistics, further analysis should be undertaken to determine what percentage of the average visitation for a 10 year period, actually conversed with a park ranger or volunteer. It is also important to note that during FY05, FY06 and FY07 Hampton Mansion was closed to the public while the mansion grounds and farm site remained open.

In general visitors to the park tend to be white, white collar, and middle class to upper middle class. Staff members have observed an increase in the last few years in visitors from the African-American community.

### Families

The majority of non-educational group visitors are family groups. Perhaps half or more of the visitors

to Hampton NHS are families on weekends, school holidays, and summer vacations. As with many visitors to Hampton NHS, many families stumble upon Hampton. They either see signs while driving on 695 or learn about Hampton from another local museum or National Park Site (Fort McHenry). Many people do not know what Hampton is or in many instances that it is a unit of the National Park Service. Because many families do not know what to expect when visiting Hampton, many do not allocate enough time to visit the entire park. For regional and local residents, their interest is expressed when they return to the site for a longer visit. The park is starting to introduce more programs geared on a weekly or monthly basis for children. Historic Hampton Inc. sponsors occasional ticketed children’s events for a fee. Recent news coverage at the national level has resulted in an increase of visitors from across the country.

### Incidental Visitors

The park has a handful of people who are lost and looking for the “Hampton House”, a local restaurant. The park receives visitors who eat lunch, make phone calls, or are “killing time” in the main visitor parking lot. Most of these visitors do not use any park facilities; occasionally they may use the rest room or picnic tables. The park has the occasional group that visits the site to enjoy the grounds only; most of these people do not participate in park programs. Hampton has its

share of passport stamp hunters and recently the park has had visitors geo-caching. Most incidental visitors get what they need, have limited interaction with park staff and leave without participating in an interpretive program.

### International Visitors

Hampton receives a handful of international visitors. Most international visitors to Hampton are the guests of a local or regional resident. Recently the park has had visitors from Japan, China, Australia, Great Britain, Sweden, Poland, Germany, and France.

### Local Residents

Visitors from the immediate surrounding neighborhood tend to visit Hampton when they have out-of-town company or for a special event. Many of the park neighbors walk their dogs, run, etc, on the grounds of the park without participating in any interpretive programs. Hampton has a core group of more than 20 local residents who attend the monthly “Second Sunday” programs and other park sponsored special events. The park is at the final destination of the annual Fourth of July Parade sponsored by the “Hampton Improvement [neighborhood] Association”. This event brings large numbers of families to the site. The newly restructured Museum Shop is drawing in local residents by carrying Hampton specific items that might be of interest to residents for their homes or to give as gifts. Since the mansion has re-opened to the public in November 2007, many neighbors who have not visited the park in years have made multiple visits.

Visits from residents in the greater Towson/Baltimore, Maryland area have increased slightly, although visitors from Baltimore City still tend to be low.

### Regional Visitors

Most of the regional visitors come from the Washington, DC or Baltimore, MD metropolitan areas. Visitors also come from the Wilmington, Delaware and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania metropolitan areas. Hampton sees a significant number of organized bus groups from New York City and the Richmond/Norfolk Virginia region.

### School Groups

The majority of school groups that visit Hampton are from Baltimore County or Baltimore City; most of the students attend private schools. The park has recently launched a new curriculum-based education program titled “From Hampton to New Bedford.” This program ties together Hampton NHS, The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Trail and New



Singers present African American spirituals to the public at Hampton.

Bedford Whaling NHS. In addition, Hampton NHS is working actively with Baltimore City and County school systems to develop on-site activities and educational materials relating to Hampton NHS through a Teaching American History grant.

Many of the school groups that visit Hampton have over 60 students, which is difficult for the staff and the site to manage as tours of the mansion are limited to 15 per Ranger and there is currently no outdoor shelter space in case of inclement weather. Students, who take the mansion tour, currently take a similar tour that is offered to the general public, although tour length and content are modified to meet curriculum standards. The park is also exploring the option of a web-based virtual tour of the mansion, grounds and Farm site.

Hampton has a growing number of home-school visitors at the site. Many of the home school groups encompass children from infant to high school making it difficult to provide an appropriate interpretive program. Home school groups tend to visit Hampton and another local historic site in one day. The majority of the home school students participate in the Junior Ranger program.

### **Subject Matter Specialists**

Hampton has a few subject matter specialists that visit the site. Interest may range from architecture, furniture, slavery, textiles, silver, china, agriculture, landscape architecture etc.

### **College Groups**

Approximately fifteen colleges and universities are located in the greater Baltimore metro area. The park continues to foster its close relationship with Goucher College; and, growing partnerships with Stevenson University (formerly Villa Julie College) and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County have emerged. However, field trip visits from professors and students are few, considering their proximity to Hampton. There are in-depth study tours provided for students in related graduate programs including those of the Winterthur Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution. Hampton has been visited annually by the Goucher College Masters in Historic Preservation students, an on-line course of study that brings students to the site from across the country for a forum in a preservation-themed topic.

### **Scout Groups**

The park hosts dozens of Girl and Boy Scout troops over the year. Many local schools have active scout groups that visit the site. The majority of the scouts participate in the Junior Ranger program and the park averages about two Eagle Scout projects a year. Most scout visits occur after school hours during the week.

## Senior Citizens

This group historically encompassed the majority of visitation at the park. Hampton continues to see a large portion of its visitors as seniors, but the growing interest by families has matched the senior citizen population. Many seniors visit individually but more and more organized group visits through retirement communities, senior centers, lifetime learning organizations, and senior citizen travel groups. In the recent past the park has sent staff members to different senior centers and retirement communities to promote the site and has seen the benefit of those off-site engagements.

## Individuals with Mobility Impairments

The park receives many visitors with mobility issues and while the Hampton mansion is accessible to those individuals, they are only able to visit the first floor. The park has very few items that visually impaired people can touch and smell. The majority of Hampton NHS is inaccessible for individuals with disabilities. The first floor of the Mansion and Lower House are accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. A new handicap ramp was completed in 2009 that provides access to the mansion and museum shop. The other outbuildings and sections of the grounds are not.

## Tour Groups

The park receives on average a dozen tour groups per month. Due to the limited space in both the mansion and the farmhouse, large groups are difficult to accommodate. However, larger groups can be accommodated with advanced notification. When groups arrived unannounced, the staff and volunteers do the best they can to accommodate the group. During the months of March, April and May of 2009 tour groups, made up of schools, tour companies and clubs/civic groups averaged 14 per month.

## Facilities and Site-Specific Media

### Hampton Mansion and Adjacent Grounds

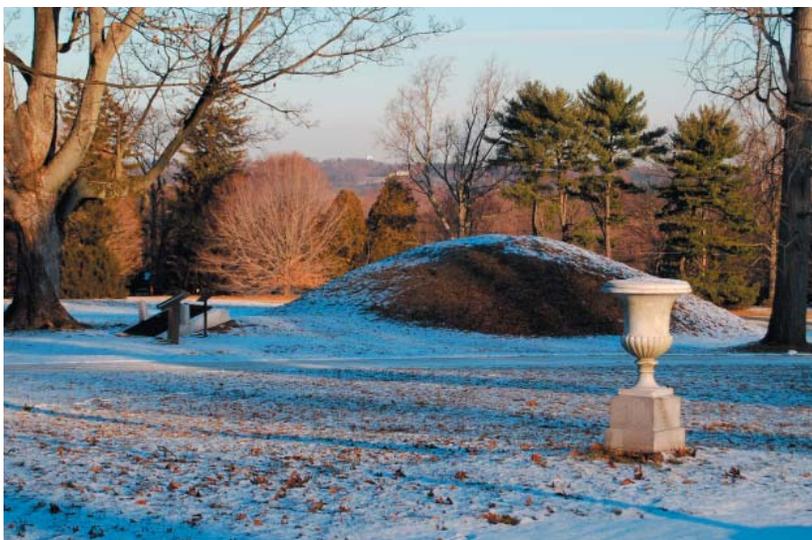
The mansion and associated grounds and outbuildings are located on the south side of Hampton Lane. Hampton Mansion is an original 18th century structure built from 1783-1790. It is currently furnished to represent various periods of the home's occupation by a sole family (1790-1948). Hampton Mansion was the home for six generations of the Ridgely family. Guided tours of the mansion are offered daily on the hour from 10 AM to 4 PM, a noon tour is only offered when the staffing level permits and is not advertised to the public. From the West Hyphen, the first floor of the mansion and the gift shop are universally accessible – made possible with the addition of a ramp and one wheelchair lift. Tours are the only way visitors can view the inside of the mansion. Staff and volunteers conduct interpretive tours of 9 rooms on 2 floors of the house. Visitors are required to climb 26 stairs to the second floor of the mansion.

The West Hyphen of the historic house museum serves a variety of roles it is the primary visitor contact station for the park; it is where most of the tours of the main house begin and end; and where a variety of visitor services are offered. Visitors to the mansion enter in the West Hyphen where they are greeted by a staff member or a volunteer, receive information about the site and can view a short slide show or DVD presentation.

A scheduled grounds tour is given twice on weekends, June-August. The tour consists of a short walk from the Mansion to the formal gardens making a loop around the house. In addition to the trees and plants, the program highlights: landscape history, outbuildings and topographical features.

### Audio Visual Program

There is a flat screen TV in the West Hyphen of the Mansion. A silent DVD video slideshow highlighting the mansion renovation efforts is available for visitors to watch as they wait for their guided program. The audiovisual presentation changes on a regular basis highlighting various aspects of Hampton NHS. Hampton has no interpretive or visitor use fees, a donation box is located in the West Hyphen. The Museum Shop of Historic Hampton Inc. is located in the West Wing of the house and is only accessible to visitors from the West Hyphen.



The Hampton Ice House under a dusting of snow.

## Exhibits

The centerpiece of Hampton NHS is the historically furnished mansion. Completed in 1790, it was probably the largest private residence in the United States. Interpretive media in the mansion is primarily the historic furnishings – approximately 90% of which are original to the site. Visitors experience the mansion through facilitated programs with staff explaining the history of the estate within the broader context of American history. Each room is furnished to a different era of time from the 1790s until the early Twentieth Century.

The North Portico Room serves as an area for changing displays and is not furnished. This room currently contains professional display cases which are used to display items in the collection in thematic changing exhibits. Previous temporary exhibit involved reproduced and enlarged historic photos of the farm and mansion titled “Hampton in Focus” some of which are now on display in the Visitor Hyphen.

## Mansion Grounds

The mansion is surrounded by a landscape setting reflecting 18th and 19th and 20th century European and American design principles. The mansion grounds include, walkways, falling gardens, two state champion and numerous other historic trees, a variety of surviving historic structures and the Ridgely family cemetery.

The Ridgely family cemetery is located on the far southeast corner of the property. The family cemetery is part of the self guided grounds exploration and staff led interpretive grounds walks may include a stop at the cemetery.

Analysis of future need: expand interpretive media for outbuildings and grounds Continue to include the cemetery in future visitor experience planning.

## Outbuildings Near the Mansion

Among the best treasures of Hampton NHS are its many surviving outbuildings and structures. These give context to understanding the broader estate. Most buildings are not open to the public but are interpreted through outdated wayside markers. Buildings and structures are in various states of repair and are employed for various uses. For example, the Ice House is open for visitation, while the Greenhouses are in need of restoration. The Garden Maintenance building, housed equipment, carriages and was possibly a residence for hired gardeners, is used to store maintenance equipment.

In FY2009, the Spring House, the Coal House ruin, the Heart-Shaped Drive, and Slave Quarters were all rehabilitated to good condition. Also in FY2009, the park received funding to convert the North Dove Cote/ Garage building at the home farm into ADA accessible restrooms. This work will be completed in FY 2010.

## Orangery

Reconstructed in 1976, the Orangery is the primary restroom facility for visitors on the mansion side. A large open room is available for limited special events, park sponsored interpretive programs, meetings and workshops. Use of Orangery by non NPS groups requires a Special Use Permit.

## The Stables

There are two stables located approximately 500 yards from the mansion. The stables are part of the self guided Hampton mansion grounds exploration. Sometimes staff conducted grounds walks may include a stop at the stables.

- “Stables 1” currently exhibits several of the Ridgely family carriages and related horse tack and supplies as well as collections storage.
- “Stables 2” is closed to the public and used for collection storage.

## Exhibits

Stable 1, dating to 1805, currently showcases various carriages and riding equipment, which are original to the estate. An exhibit panel, dating from the 1960s, provides a brief explanation of two of the carriages.

### Analysis of Future Need:

There is a lack of signage and interpretive material about the stables.

Sun glare and poor visibility during certain periods of the day affect the ability to view the exhibit. Glass was installed to prevent dust and moisture from entering the exhibit area. Unfortunately, the glare produced by the glass precludes visitors from fully seeing the exhibit.

Historically, the coaches and tack would have been kept in the Carriage House, across from the stables (no longer standing). The interpretive staff is concerned that using the stables as an exhibit area for the carriage collection is confusing to visitors. However, this is the only location the site has to exhibit these interesting collection objects. Future exhibit panels will need to clarify the historical use of this structure and establish important context in relation to what is now exhibited in this structure.

## Hampton Home Farm

The farm complex is located on the north side of Hampton Lane. Situated on approximately 15 acres of land are the remnants of the agricultural endeavors undertaken at Hampton.

## The Lower House

The “Lower House” is an original 18th century structure built around 1745 with additions added in the 1780s, 1840s, and 1940s. Currently the farmhouse is unfurnished. One room of the farmhouse is used as a hands-on learning room for school groups and individual visitors who visit the site. One room of the farmhouse currently has a

temporary exhibit on dairy farming; this thematic exhibit is subject to seasonal change. Another room has a limited “viewing area” whereby visitors can view architectural details of flooring; this prohibits visitors from fully entering or using the room. The current interpretation for the farmhouse revolves around the architecture of the building its construction, and the activities at the ironworks.

The farmhouse is accessible to individuals with mobility issues. The park hopes to staff the Lower House 7 days a week between 10 AM and Noon and 12:30 PM and 4 PM in the summer, and five days a week the rest of the year. (At this writing, the site is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the fall through the spring.)

Primarily staffed by park rangers and guides, the farmhouse can be staffed by volunteers. Formal tours are given on the half hour during summer months on most days when staffing allows. Pre-scheduled groups with a special interest in the slave quarters make up the majority of visitors to this location. Limited interpretive programming and living history are offered at the farmhouse.

### Exhibits

- The Lower House contains one primary exhibit topic – architecture and three rooms with temporary exhibits. The story of the evolution of the Lower House over time as seen through architecture is the main interpretive emphasis. Most of the walls have been modified to illustrate various construction techniques. Similar to the West

Hyphen, this facility now serves as the visitor contact station for this unit. Visitors can chat with the staff and view the exhibits at their own pace. New, permanent exhibits, focused on the people and functions of the house were installed in May 2010.

### Lower House Temporary Exhibits

- The “Iron Making Exhibit” (source of the Ridgely family fortune) is located at the entrance to the Overseer’s House. The exhibit details the process of iron making. It includes one large panel and interpretive props such as: samples of bog iron, limestone, charcoal, a slave collar, slave chains, piece of waste slag and iron ore.
- The “Hampton Dairy Exhibit” focuses on the process of butter making and milk production. It is made up of photos and text mounted on foam core.
- The historic Kitchen room includes a number of hands on living history items including reproduction clothing, games and farm-related items. A copy of the 1843 Barney map is on display illustrating 2,300 acres that made up the core of the estate.

### Future permanent exhibit

- In 2008 the park received funding to plan, design and install new exhibits for this structure. Installation is scheduled for March 2010. See Appendix C for a summary of the scope of work.

## Quarters 2 (Quarters B)

One of two standing stone quarters at Hampton NHS, Quarters B is open to the public during normal park hours. The building dates to about 1850 and replaced older, most likely wood slave quarters on the site. Built in typical “pen style”, the building is split into a duplex system. Each side of the quarter has one downstairs room and a corresponding room on the second floor. The building also has a basement. Neither the second floor nor the basement is open to the public. After slavery ended in Maryland a modification was made to the building to join the east and west rooms of the building together. Currently both ground floor rooms are open to the public. The west room has interpretive exhibit panels; entrance to the east room is through the doorway north of the fireplace and leads the visitor to a furnished vignette exhibit. This building is

not accessible for individuals with mobility issues. Quarters B is open between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM when the park is open. Quarters B is designed for self guided touring and also lends itself for formal interpretive programs.

### Exhibits in Quarters B

- This Quarter contains two rooms. In one room, five interpretive panels, installed in 2007, detail various aspects/facets of slavery. A second room is sparsely furnished to represent a slave family’s living space from the mid-1850s.

### Future permanent exhibit

- In FY2009, the park received funding to plan, design and install new permanent exhibits for Quarters B. Installation is scheduled for 2010.



The back of the Lower House and Slave Quarters C viewed through the window of Slave Quarters B.

## Log Farm Building (Quarters A)

Originally two separate buildings the log farm building was at one point the home of a blacksmith tenant. Currently a temporary interpretive exhibit is on display discussing the history of the building in the west side of the building. The east side of the building is closed to the public and is temporarily used by volunteer living history interpreters to store objects. The log farm building is open from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM when the park is open. Quarters A is designed for self guided touring and lends itself as a stop on a staff conducted program around the farm.

### Exhibits in Quarters A

- Currently one room in the log building is open for visitation. A single exhibit panel titled “Charles Bud Lived Here” details the use of the building as a residence for a blacksmith in the second half of the Nineteenth Century.

### Future permanent exhibit

- In FY2009, the park received funding to plan, design and install new permanent exhibits for Quarters A. Installation is scheduled for 2010.

## Tenant Quarters (Quarters C)

Built around 1850 Quarters C originally served as a slave quarter until emancipation in Maryland. Following emancipation, Quarters C like Quarters B was used by tenant farmers and other estate workers through the mid 20th century.

Quarters C is open to the public between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM when the park is open. Quarters C has two rooms with a similar floor plan found in Quarters B- the north room is exhibited with text panels and the south room is furnished to the early 20th century with a furnished vignette that interprets the tenant farming era. Quarter C is currently not accessible for individuals with mobility issues. Quarter C is designed for self guided touring and lends itself as a stop on a facilitated program.

### Exhibits

- The Tenant Farmers’ Quarters opened in the spring of 2008. The exhibit is divided into two rooms. The first room contains exhibit panels detailing the post-emancipation experience on the estate. A second room is furnished with a vignette which interprets a tenant farmer’s living room/bedroom of the early Twentieth Century.
- Analysis of Future Need: exhibits in the Tenant Farmers’ Quarters need to be made permanent. Current panels are small and do not hold up well in varying humidity levels. The park plans to revamp the exhibit area in this building.

### Future permanent exhibit

- In FY2009, the park received funding to plan, design and install new permanent exhibits for Quarters C. Installation is scheduled for 2010.

## Dairy

Circa 1790 the dairy is built around a natural spring that was used to help keep milk and butter cool. The dairy is built into the ground and currently not accessible for individuals with mobility issues. The dairy set-up facilitates self-guiding visitor groups and ranger programs. Dairy Day is an annual event that helps highlight the importance of the dairy building and business at Hampton. The dairy is open daily between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM.

### Exhibits

- The current exhibit is temporary and features a variety of items that would have been used in the milking and butter making process. Exhibits in the Dairy Building contain a number of reproduction items. The display is designed for visitors to walk into the building. Reproduction stoneware milk pails, barrel churn and yoke illustrate the process of butter making and milk production. There are no formal exhibit panels.
- Analysis of future need: The exhibit needs to be rounded out with a reproduction table and interpretive panels that set important context and relate site specific information. A wayside explaining the history and use of the dairy will be fabricated in FY2010.

## Mule Barn and Corn Crib

The Mule Barn c. 1850 currently is closed to the public and is filled with scaffolding and other maintenance equipment. The Dutch doors do not allow individuals with mobility issues to view inside the mule barn. The corn crib foundation is all that remains of the corn crib, but as a structural feature it is used on guided walks of the farm property.

### Analysis of Future Need

- Corn-crib foundation: the GMP recommends constructing the Home Farm Visitor Contact Station on this site.
- The interpretive future includes the development of stronger interpretive exhibits for the mule barn and corn-crib.
- One window of the Mule Barn should be opened in order that visitors may look inside to understand the importance of these animals to daily farm operations.

## Parkwide Interpretive Media

### Publications

#### Unigrid Brochure

The park's full-color, glossy Unigrid style brochure, "Hampton" provides a historical background of the Hampton estate from the mid-Eighteenth Century until the mid Twentieth Century. The brochure highlights the various economic pursuits of the Ridgely family, generations of "masters" of the estate and role of workers and slaves. The brochure also includes a map and general information on touring the park.

Analysis of future need: the brochure should tell a broader and balanced story. It needs to encourage visitors to explore the entire park. The brochure needs to highlight other people and provide additional detail regarding the 20th century.

#### Cultural Landscape Brochure

During the spring of 2009, through a grant from Historic Hampton, Inc., the staff developed a landscape brochure highlighting the rare specimen trees, formal gardens and historic landscaping of the site. The brochure is very popular, particularly with returning visitors and those waiting for the mansion tour to begin.

#### Site Bulletins & Junior Ranger Booklet

The park has the following site bulletins available in Unigrid style: "Hampton Farmhouse, an Evolution" and "Wildlife, Resource Protection." Both brochures correctly follow the NPS Messaging

Project format. There is also a small booklet titled "Who Answered those Bells?" While this booklet does not follow the current NPS Messaging Project format, it does contain good information about the lives of the enslaved peoples on the estate.

The Junior Ranger Book was written in 1998. Although it does contain a good deal of theme-related content, the book should be revised. For example, it was produced before many modern graphics programs were developed and one can see the "cut and paste" nature on certain pages. A draft of a revised Junior Ranger booklet is currently being developed.

"Discovering the Underground Railroad" Junior Ranger Activity Book is also available. The activity book is appropriate for young visitors five years old and up. While there is no information specific to Hampton, the publication includes general information about slavery, escape and the role of the Underground Railroad.

Analysis of Future Need: Site bulletins detailing slavery at Hampton, the uses of the Lower House, Slave Quarters, Tenant Farmers' Quarters and/or farm complex need to be developed. Currently there are no self-guided brochures of the farm complex. A final version of the garden brochure, consistent with the NPS messaging project is needed. The Junior Ranger booklet needs to be overhauled to make it consistent with the NPS messaging project and more engaging for a younger audience.

## **Publications: For Purchase**

The Museum Shop, administered by Historic Hampton, Inc., (HHI) contains a variety of books and publications relating to architecture, slavery, and social history. The park has been proactive in diversifying its selection. For example, park staff worked with the Maryland State Archives to produce the booklet “A Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland.” Hampton is prominently featured in this publication.

The existing park guidebook, produced in the mid-1980s is outdated. Many of the rooms featured therein have been redecorated to a higher level of historical accuracy, and the current guidebook does not tell the full range of stories and interpretive themes of the site. In spring 2009, HHI contracted with a publisher to produce two publications, one a new, updated guidebook in the standard NPS format, the other a “coffee table” book of Hampton seasonal images. They should both be published in FY2010.

## **Signage**

Park signage does not meet current NPS wayfinding standards. Many of the signs were replaced and redone when the Hampton Home Farm renovation project was completed in 2007. Signage relating to days and hours of operation are changed seasonally. A comprehensive directional wayfinding system is needed.

## Analysis of future need

The park needs a complete and holistic replacement of most informational, directional and traffic control signage around the park. For example, signage at the main park entrance does not direct visitors to the upper parking lot near the mansion. A number of visitors mistake the park office trailer as being a Visitor Center. Parking at the farm side of the property is located behind the Mule Barn and is not readily seen by visitors. In addition, there are no signs highlighting the Orangery and sign directing visitors into the Mansion Hyphen are visually obtrusive in the landscape.

## **Wayside Exhibits and Outdoor Bulletin Boards**

The park has a dozen wayside exhibits and two encased outdoor bulletin boards. The waysides are in a variety of formats and in generally poor condition. Many of the waysides are very small, some are missing and others are overgrown by foliage. Most are not in current NPS Messaging Project format. In addition, the information presented on most waysides is basic, and makes little attempt to foster an emotional/ intellectual connection between the visitors and the resource.

## Analysis of future needs

The park received funding in FY08 to develop a wayside exhibit plan. The waysides will be fabricated and installed as soon as design is complete. Currently, there is no

parkwide guide to assist visitors in finding park features and activities. Bulletin boards at park arrival areas will provide basic information, explain the park's significance and provide orientation by summarizing available visitor experience opportunities and hours of operation.

### **Website**

The park's website is maintained by a member of the interpretive staff. Special events are highlighted and kept up to date. The website conforms to NPS Messaging Project format. The newly-developed park archival finding aid is now online at the park's website along with a comprehensive guide to collections and a link to the Ridgely papers at the Maryland Historical Society. The email of the Archivist and other links make this especially user-friendly for researchers. Interactives and other media are needed to make website user friendly for young adults.

In addition to the National Park Service, Historic Hampton, Inc., has its own website that promotes upcoming events, offers opportunities to donate and highlights new exhibits and features in the park. Visitors can find the site at: [www.historichampton.org](http://www.historichampton.org).

The park is also working with the NPS WASO Museum Management program to create an on-line exhibit of the park's collections scheduled to go live in 2010.

## **Personal Services**

### **Staffing for Interpretation and Visitor Services**

A GS-12 Chief of Interpretation manages the interpretive program, supervising the work of two GS-9 Park Rangers, and two GS-4 Park Guides. This staff is occasionally supplemented by Park Rangers and Park Guides from Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. All of the staff works front-line duties including staffing the information desk in the Mansion Hyphen, conducting formal tours of the mansion and farm complex and presentations during special events. The Chief of Interpretation assists in the front-line only when the park is short-staffed.

Analysis of future need: the reopening of the Mansion and reinvigoration of the farm property has placed a greater demand on staffing. For the first time in the site's history, both areas of the park are being interpreted simultaneously on a regular basis. Visitation has also increased with the reopening of the mansion. The park is unable to keep both the Farm Complex and the Mansion open simultaneously with any consistency with staffing at this level. As a result, the workload has increased to the point that the park needs additional permanent interpreters. The park has requested operational support for \$270,000 and three FTEs to support interpretation. This funding is included in the FY 2011 "greenbook".

## Programs for the General Public

During the summer months, daily interpretive activities occur at both the mansion and the farm complex. Visitors can access the mansion only through a guided interpretive program. Rangers conduct six guided mansion activities daily. Guided programs at the farm complex are scheduled daily at 2:00 p.m. and also upon request. On average, Rangers give two to three tours of the farm site each day during the summer season. The park is currently offering a children's program on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:15-1:45 p.m. Visitor



Park staff and volunteers pose in living history attire at the park's Lawn Party special event where the public participates in period lawn games and outdoor activities.

interest in the farm complex is strong, - approximately 30% who visit the mansion visit the farm in summer months.

During winter months, Ranger-led guided activities at the farm occur only at 2:00 p.m. on Monday and Thursday. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday a Ranger is available to conduct facilitated programs at the farm from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Visitors are permitted to explore the farm complex outbuildings on a self-guided basis. While the grounds are open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during winter months, historic structures are closed. Approximately 20% of visitors who visit the mansion take to the time to go to the farm in winter months.

Analysis of Future Need: there is a strong desire to offer guided activities of the farm on a more consistent basis during winter months. There is also a strong desire to keep the park open seven days a week year round.

## Programs by Appointment

During the course of the year park interpretive staff conducts a number of programs by special appointment. Groups include visiting schools, civic organizations, clubs, museum groups, and other organizations. Since guided programs are limited to 15-20 people per interpreter for a tour of the mansion, group leaders are strongly encouraged to make an appointment in advance. The reservation system ensures that two large groups do not arrive at the same time and that there is enough interpretive staff to accommodate organized groups and the general public. On average, the park receives 85 organized groups annually with

almost half of these visiting in the months of April and May. The park noticed double the number of organized groups (mainly schools) in FY '09 over FY '08. Programs for groups are conducted free of charge unless the group is coming after hours, in which case the park will charge the group cost recovery.

**Analysis of Future Need:** an interpretive staff member is working to develop a number of curriculum-based educational programs. Programs to engage visitors on the grounds are being developed as large groups who wish to visit the mansion are frequently split into smaller units while they wait. Enjoying the grounds is a great way for a group to experience more of the site before visiting the mansion. It is hoped that these lesson plans and activities will encourage more schools to visit the site. It has also been suggested that one day per week be set aside exclusively for group tours.

### Roving Interpretation

The interpretive staff is not specifically assigned to conduct roving interpretation. The staff does engage in informal interpretation while en route to buildings on the site or while staffing the Hyphen in the Mansion.

**Analysis of Future Need:** due to the layout of the park, the nature of park visitation, and limited staff time, roving interpretation assignments around the mansion are probably not the best use of staff time. The farm complex is more conducive to a roving assignment as this can be balanced with light security duties around the farm buildings.

### Outreach Services

The park conducts outreach services on a limited basis. This service includes visits to schools, programs for civic organizations, clubs and presentations at professional conferences (for example: the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History) In calendar year 2007 the park conducted 27 off-site programs for 810 people. The park conducted 35 off-site programs for 2,015 people in FY '08, not including several lectures and programs presented by the park's curator and Chief of Resource Management. It is unlikely more off-site programs can be offered given current staffing needs in the park.



Guided carriage rides of the Hampton estate are offered as a special treat to the public several times a year - here during the Yuletide celebration.

## Issues and Influences

During the Recommendations Workshop, the planning team discussed the following topics:

- The park has defined a complex visitor experience including an open-campus approach where visitors can start their visit at either the Home Farm or the Mansion. The park interprets 200 years of history, across six generations; and, the historic buildings, the surrounding landscape and room interiors are restored to different periods of time. Hampton National Historic Site presents a recreated historic scene representing different eras and people – in effect, presenting a cumulative historic scene versus a single moment in time or focusing on one era. How can interpretation effectively help visitors understand and appreciate this national park?
- The park has funding to launch two curriculum based education programs for different age groups during the next two/three year period. The planning team was asked to define site program needs including marketing, program presentation, evaluation, and to explore how to extend the future programs to students that can't travel to the site?
- The park would not be able to operate without its volunteer program. Volunteers are needed to provide guided tours of the mansion and farm site; special event volunteers that assist with logistics such as program advertisement and/or event support – extra hands to assist with event set-up (move equipment, etc) and perform visitor parking assistance. How can the park expand its program through target recruitment in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, MD?

## Partnerships

Hampton NHS has a number of ongoing partnerships with institutions that support the park's natural and cultural resource management and interpretive goals.

### Historic Hampton Inc.

The mission of Historic Hampton, Incorporated (HHI), founded in 1979 as the park's principal partner, is to promote directly the historical, educational and interpretive activities of the Hampton National Historic Site and to accept gifts, contributions, or loans and otherwise engage in fundraising to finance and pay for the above mentioned activities in respect to which no funds from the Federal Government or other sources are available. Funds raised by HHI support major endeavors at Hampton NHS have totaled in the millions of dollars over the past decade. HHI also sponsors events which bring people in the community to the site which develop additional support for the site.

Historic Hampton Inc. operates the Museum Shop of HHI which provides interpretive, educational, and limited souvenir items to visitors. Revenues generated through sales are used to help fund projects supported by HHI.

### Preservation Maryland (PM)

PM managed the park for thirty years, and has provided grants and other forms of funding to further research, interpretation, and resource preservation.

### Partnerships with Universities and Colleges

Goucher College, Towson University, Morgan State University, University of Maryland, Stevenson University (Villa Julie College), and University of Maryland Baltimore County provide valuable assistance to the park. These schools provide interns to conduct historical research, care for the museum collection, and assist with visitor services. Many interns have focused their research on topics in African-American history. The park cooperated with Goucher College and University of Maryland Baltimore County, specifically, on a variety of research projects and grants, and has participated in grant proposals with the goals of making archival information more widely available and improving resource management. The park is also working on developing a partnership with Coppin State University, a historically African-American university.

### Colonial Dames of America, Chapter One (CDA)

CDA has been involved with the furnishing of the Parlour since the 1950s, primarily through loans of objects. They funded the updating of the research and the reinstallation of the Parlour furnishings in 2009.

### **The Hampton Improvement Association (HIA)**

HIA represents the residential neighborhood adjacent to the park, cooperates with the park in a neighborhood security patrol and shares information about local events and developments that might affect the historic setting. The Hampton Improvement Association also helps the park promote special events to the local community.

### **The Maryland Historical Society (MdHS)**

The MdHS holds and makes available to researchers archival materials related to the Ridgely family and Hampton estate. The MdHS has lent to the park important collection objects original to Hampton. Members have also helped with training of staff and volunteers.

### **The Maryland State Archives**

The Maryland State Archives holds and makes available to researchers archival materials related to the Ridgely family and Hampton estate.

### **The State of Maryland**

The State of Maryland cooperates with the park in multi-faceted partnerships. The State Legislature approved a bill in 1998 for a \$200,000 matching bond to rehabilitate the farm house and stone quarters for use in interpretation and other educational programs. State agencies include the park in promotional materials for travel and tourism. The State Historic Preservation Office and Maryland Historical Trust have also assisted the NPS by consulting on preservation activities and support the museum program.

### **Baltimore County, Maryland**

This partner funded replacement of the mansion's slate roof and associated repairs in 1997-98 (through a grant to Historic Hampton Inc), preventing further damage from the leaking roof. The County government views Hampton as an important educational and cultural resource that enhances the quality of life for residents and contributes to the positive image of the county. The Department of Economic Development provides information about the park with visitors to the county and those who request information about the area. The Historical Trust has supported interpretive programming through funding and volunteer services.

The county has committed \$100,000 between years 2008 – 2011, to making visitor improvements at the site. They have contributed to the rehabilitation of the Dove Cote Garage rehab into restrooms at the farm and are partners in development of the mansion-side Visitor Contact Station.

## **Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District III (FGC)**

FGC provides financial support and volunteer support of park special events – Yuletide and spring garden party, as well as hands-on maintenance of herb garden since 1966.

### **Volunteers-in-Parks**

Park volunteers contributed almost 10,201 hours to the park in fiscal year 2007 and 17,500 hours in fiscal year 2008. Interpretive volunteers greet visitors and give guided tours. Curatorial volunteers catalog objects in the museum collection and care for them according to museum standards, conduct primary research, and assist with exhibit preparation and dismantling. The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District III, Glen Arm Garden Club, help maintain the landscape through work in the herb garden. These interested citizens free park personnel to focus on critical public safety and maintenance needs and on additional interpretive efforts. Without volunteers, the park could not provide services on a daily basis.

The park currently has 22 interpretive volunteers. Volunteer (VIP) position descriptions are posted on the park website for the following positions: visitor services, museum services, historic preservation crew, museum shop clerk, museum shop volunteer lead, and museum shop merchandise lead. There are no volunteers currently involved in Museum Shop operations in spite of recruiting by Historic Hampton Inc., and the park.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Hampton NHS Areas Requiring Interpretive Emphasis

During the LRIP Recommendations Workshop seven topics were consistently identified as areas requiring the most significant interpretive emphasis in order to improve the interpretation of park themes and achieve park management and visitor experience goals. These areas include:

- 1) The park will promote in all interpretive media and personally conducted programs a holistic park experience which includes a visit to the Hampton Mansion and Grounds and the Hampton Home Farm.
- 2) Interpretation will expand to more fully address Hampton's role as a unique American treasure that illustrates in one place 200 years of United States History through six generations of a family and their work force – enslaved and free. This history is told through surviving structures, landscapes, historical records and the people that lived and labored here.
- 3) The sole use of the “Masters of Hampton” timeline to define time periods de-emphasizes and, in the minds of some, devalues the fact that the Ridgely family and their work force – enslaved and free – built the Hampton community together.

In order to help visitors quickly ground themselves in the 200-year story, future interpretive programs and media will use

the more commonly known American History designations including:

- Colonial and immediate post-Revolutionary: building of the site;
- Federal Period up to 1829;
- Antebellum Era to the Civil War focus shifts from an iron-making to plantation/pure agrarian estate;
- Post-Civil War: Tenant farming era up to the early 20th century;
- Early 20th century: decline of family fortunes and development of land; and,
- Post WWII use and the designation of Hampton National Historic Site and its ongoing preservation.



Hampton Mansion viewed from the porch of the Lower House.

Note: The deaths of many of the owners of Hampton ironically coincide with the change of historical eras in American history. It is recommended that the owners of the estate should still be mentioned, however interpretive media would provide context by highlighting the broader trends in U.S. and world history that influenced their decisions.

- 4) Care will be taken by staff to develop consistency in language use for the naming of structures and landscape features across time periods. Language will be consistent in park signage, interpretive media and guided tours – to ease visitor understanding. And, in the instance a different name is used in any programming or media; the context of time or any other important information will be included.
- 5) The interpretive program will expand to more fully emphasize that Hampton is a national park; and, provide more emphasis on NPS stewardship values, and the ongoing research, preservation and restoration projects underway. A discussion of Hampton’s national significance should be included in all guided activities at the site.
- 6) The story of the last generation of the Ridgely’s and their sale of the estate to the Avalon Foundation/ the Mellon family to the Nation will be continued as a part of every guided tour of the mansion. It will also be mentioned in future exhibits in the Lower House.

- 7) The staff will seek to create a signature experience unique to Hampton that will always remind the public of their visit to Hampton.

### The Most Important “Take Away” Messages

- Hampton NHS preserves an extraordinarily rare surviving Georgian style mansion and landscaped grounds that was once part of a large commercial, industrial and agricultural empire including over 25,000 acres of land – equivalent to half the size of the City of Baltimore, MD today.
- Hampton embodies “The American Experience.” It represents different versions of the “American Dream,” changing attitudes and values over time that relate to people today.



Didy Ridgely and Nancy Davis. A former slave, Davis stayed at Hampton as an employee after Emancipation.

- This property was held in private ownership by a single family – the Ridgelys, from 1745 – 1948. Hampton provides visitors a unique opportunity to explore 200 years of American history from the Colonial Period through the post-WWII era.
- Hampton reflects a central irony in American history; that a nation newly forged on the principles of equality and freedom could accept the institution of slavery. Depending on the historical period, the work force on this vast estate included skilled artisans, technicians and general laborers; whose status included enslaved Africans, prisoners of war, indentured servants and hired help. The surviving historical record reveals a hierarchical community layered with complex human relationships.
- Surviving park resources (landscape, structures, furnishings and archives) are layered in time. Today, the National Park Service cares for this unique treasure with many partners through an active and ongoing program of research, preservation, and restoration.

## Summary of the Parkwide Visitor Experience

This section of the document will address parkwide recommendations for facilities, interpretive media, personal services and partnerships. Recommendations that are specific only to Hampton Mansion and Grounds and the Hampton Home Farm will be outlined respectively following this section of the document.

The park will promote in all interpretive media and personally conducted programs a holistic park experience which includes a visit to the Hampton Mansion and Grounds and the Hampton Home Farm. The open campus approach will facilitate a successful arrival experience. Visitors can start their visit at either site and plan their experience based on the time they have set aside to visit. In order to fully enjoy the rich experience offered at this national park, various visitor experience options will be presented in all pre-visit media. Options involving a one-hour, two-hour or three-hour experience will enable visitors to plan their visit based on the time they have. Appropriate signage and web-based trip planning materials will allow visitors to make their own choices for exploring the park. Primary contact stations will be located near the mansion and farm site.

## Rationale

- Visitors need assistance in planning their park experience. While visitors have differing needs they all share a commonality of limited time,

money and absorption capacity. Allowing visitors to make their own choices as to where to begin their visit, receive basic information and orientation and discover the potential interpretive opportunities allows them to decide what to do, based on their immediate needs, interests and arrival time as compared to what visitor activities are available that day.

- While long-time or habitual visitors will chose to begin their visit at their favorite starting point, new visitors need more concrete direction. New waysides and wayfinding directions will allow visitors to make informed decisions about visiting the entire park.

### **Pre-visit Experience**

- All interpretive media, the park website, NPS Hampton NHS Unigrd brochure, program advertisements, etc. will present a variety of park visit options. Detailed information will help visitors make informed decisions whether they have one, two or three hours to visit the park. Visitors will be directed to begin their visit either at the Hampton Mansion Visitor Contact Station (located adjacent to the historic mansion) or at “Hampton Home Farm Site”. The park website will prominently feature advance reservations for tour groups to improve trip planning services, staffing, and manage the impact large tour groups can have on the facilities and the general visitor experience.

### **Arrival Experience**

- The primary signed route to Hampton from Highway 695 East/West will change to the Providence Road Exit. This recommendation is in conformance with the recommended route in the GMP and will required coordination with the state and new signage. (The current approach is from Dulaney Valley Road.) Rationale: with appropriate signage it is easier to navigate from 695; and, the large commercial and residential landscaped lots give this route a more historic ambiance.
- The institution of this new route means that visitors will pass by the Hampton Home Farm first; and most likely will begin their visit there. A variety of media, including pre-visit web information, TIS, motorist guidance signs, identity signs, and wayside exhibits will provide basic wayfinding and orientation. This entry experience which offers visitors a more holistic approach to the park, establishes a connection between the farm site and mansion site, and optimizes the visitors’ opportunity to make informed choices about how to structure their visit.
- It should be recognized nevertheless that many people from Towson, Baltimore City, and northern neighborhoods who are already familiar with the site will still likely arrive from Dulaney Valley Road and signage will be needed here too.

- A new sign plan will direct visitors to the Hampton Home Farm and the Hampton Mansion sites from the Providence Road Exit and provide NPS identification for each site. These signs are easily viewable by positioning from both the E/W approaches along Hampton Lane (for wayfinding).
  - A removable/changeable sign will be hung from the site identification sign that announces seasonal hours of operation for both the grounds and the facilities. (Currently during winter hours all park facilities are closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays but the grounds are open for visitor use.)
- A future pedestrian route will link both the Hampton Mansion and the Hampton Home Farm at the crossing of Hampton Lane. The park will coordinate with Baltimore County and the State of Maryland to install a pedestrian crosswalk and light (if roadway speeds necessitate the addition of a light.)
- Explore the feasibility of establishing a Traveler Information System (TIS). Depending on which is most affordable and feasible, the TIS could be heard by visitors from the Beltway, or perhaps from Providence Rd. Centering it on the Beltway could attract more visitors, but the speed of traffic there might make decision-making regarding exits too tight, and the range of the TIS might not be adequate at those speeds. A TIS centered on Providence Road and Hampton Lane would

be more practical with respect to driving speed and range, and could provide all the information needed to prepare visitors to enter the park. The TIS has the advantage of being able to offer and update special events announcements, closings, or seasonal hours and information.

- Provide visitors a sense of arrival, a starting point for their visit, and an awareness that they are entering a National Park through the design and placement of a park entrance identification sign.

## **Parkwide Interpretive Media**

### **Audiovisual**

- Develop a 5 – 7 minute audiovisual presentation that introduces visitors to the significance of Hampton National Historic Site and places the park in the context of United States, Baltimore and Maryland State History. The purpose of the program is to establish the larger historical context that is sometimes difficult to convey in a guided tour; and, to briefly explain the relationship of the Hampton Mansion and Home Farm – specifically, what do these survivors represent of the original estate.
  - The production should be an inspirational piece that introduces the idea that the park provides a unique opportunity to explore 200 years of American history at a site held by a single family from the Colonial Era until its designation as a national park in 1948; and, that this

community included enslaved Africans, prisoners of war, indentured servants, tenant farmers and hired help – depending on the era of history.

- This program will be available for viewing at both future visitor contact stations. Maintaining copyright for use as a future sales item and for broad use in other future interpretive programming is an important project element.

The funding request will include:

- Open captioning, audio descriptions and assistive listening to meet current accessibility requirements. And,
- The development of a one-minute promotional piece that is developed in a web-friendly format to feature on the park website -- using the same materials filmed. This second product will be made available for use by other partners that assist the park in tourism promotional material and preservation.
- Add assistive listening capability for indoor and outdoor staff conducted tours. Contact HFC to discuss technical options. Once a determination is made on what equipment is necessary, request HFC to provide a cost-estimate for submission in to the Program Management Information System (PMIS) funding request system for equipment and installation costs.

- Implement the newly developed cell-phone site tour. Use focus groups to evaluate effectiveness of ease of use and messaging. Continue ongoing product improvement.

## Exhibits

Exhibit recommendations will be discussed as part of the site specific recommendations.

## Future Research to Support Interpretation

- A *Historic Resource Study* is needed. The HRS is an essential planning document, determining and defining the significance and context of Hampton's history. A HRS is needed to link the farm and mansion – to show how the two properties interrelate. A HRS will guide decisions and priorities for interpretive planning both at the farm complex and the mansion. A Hampton NHS Historic Resource Study should *focus* on the relationship of all features of the park as they worked together as a whole over the course of their history. Consult with scholars Ira Berlin and John Vlach, and NPS Historian Paul Weinbaum, Northeast Regional office to identify historians who could address the full date range and subject matter. This study is funded in FY 2010. Key themes are all within Hampton's regional, MD/Baltimore context:
  - indentured servitude, slavery, and tenant farming;
  - iron industry, agriculture, and horse-racing;

- ferme ornee
- worker housing
- Seek funding to contract a historian who can research the two lists of enslaved persons at Hampton to answer the primary question: whatever happened to the formerly enslaved and how did their lives evolve. This is critical information to telling a more in-depth story at the quarters. Additionally, this information could serve as the foundation for a reunion of the descendents of Hampton’s previously enslaved families that could serve as a yearly signature event.
- Federal Period up to 1829;
- Antebellum Era to the Civil War (focus shifts from an iron-making to plantation/pure agrarian estate);
- Post-Civil War: Tenant farming era up to the early 20th century;
- Early 20th century: decline of family fortunes and development of land; and,
- Post WWII use and the designation of Hampton National Historic Site and its ongoing preservation.

Note: see the Hampton Mansion and Grounds and the Hampton Home Farm sections for additional site specific studies.

Note: The deaths of many of the owners of Hampton ironically coincide with the change of historical eras in American history. It is recommended that the owners of the estate should still be mentioned, however interpretive media would provide context by highlighting the broader trends in U.S. and world history that influenced their decisions.

### Publications

Request Harpers Ferry Center for a complete re-design of the Unigrad brochure to:

- Broaden interpretation to more fully include the home farm;
- Expand the focus of the publication to address Hampton’s workers during slavery, emancipation and tenant farming periods;
- Use historical periods rather than Ridgely owners to define the estate’s history including:
  - Colonial and immediate post-Revolutionary: building of the site;
  - Address the reasons why Hampton is a national park, and discuss the on-going preservation program. Emphasis on Hampton’s national significance is an important message.
  - The future publications team should be aware that the brochure will be the primary tool visitors will use to navigate independently on both sites throughout the park.

- Utilize the site bulletin program to support special event themes and topics not addressed in existing interpretive media. When new on-site permanent interpretive media is installed, retire any redundant site bulletins; and, review web posted site bulletins for their interpretive value to “arm-chair visitors.”

## Signs

### Short-term:

- Establish some interim temporary signing to help visitors navigate between the Hampton Mansion and Home Farm in advance of the development of a formal sign plan and its implementation. Temporary signs should also address the exit route from the park to Maryland Highway Route 695.

### Long-term:

- Seek funding to develop a parkwide wayfinding/sign master plan for Hampton National Historic Site. Contact Harpers Ferry Center for assistance to develop a cost estimate that includes the development of (1) a wayfinding assessment and (2) a wayfinding master plan. A future scope of work should include a request for a wayfinding assessment with options for the development of a future sign/wayfinding master plan.
- A new park sign plan will offer better direction and site identification at both the farm site and the mansion site and

determine the best methods for providing motorist guidance and pedestrian directions. Important sign plan elements will address:

- Visitors approaching the park from Providence Road using Beltway Exit 28, will proceed west on Hampton Lane toward the park and see an advance sign, perhaps a quarter mile from the park boundary that announces that Hampton NHS is just ahead. This sign could be placed along the wooded section of Hampton Lane opposite Sleepy Dell Court. Work with Baltimore County government to assist with sign placement.
- Visitors will be free to start in either location; or, park in one of the two parking lots and structure their own tour of the grounds and buildings.
- Due to parking and road conditions, bus tours or other large groups may need to begin at the mansion site parking lot. A walk to the farm site from the mansion or visa versa will provide an opportunity for an interpreter to establish site orientation and the context of the Hampton experience through time. A crosswalk and traffic-calming device would greatly assist in visitor safety in visiting both sites on the property.
- Recognize that many local and/or long-term visitors may approach from Dulaney Valley Road.

- If the new park entrance sign is established at the preferred east park entrance, a similar sign should be placed at the west boundary for those who approach by Dulaney Valley Road. Beyond the entrance sign, and at the intersection with the mansion site access drive, a motorist guidance sign will direct visitors to turn right into the mansion site, or proceed straight to the farm site. It would be the visitors' choice to take either of these options.

### Wayside Exhibits

Following the installation of the wayside exhibits developed in the design/build parkwide wayside exhibit plan, no additional improvements are anticipated during the life of this plan. New waysides will address site orientation and visitor services near parking areas and entry points to Hampton Mansion Site and the Hampton Home Farm Site; waysides will provide site specific interpretation of key outbuildings and historic landscape features such as the cemetery and parterres.

### Website

#### Short-term:

- Continue to keep website up-to-date. Have one staff member provide content management.
- Create a multi-disciplinary team to review park website content annually for accuracy and to determine any desired changes. Cull dated information and retire pages that are replaced by any new media products created.
- Improve the site description in the "Planning Your Visit" section. A brief description of what is the significance of the Hampton Home Farm, the Hampton Mansion and Grounds and their relationship to each other -- before the listing of activities offered and times available -- will help visitors to make informed trip-planning decisions. Indicate that visitors can begin their visit at either the Home Farm or the Mansion.
- Complete and implement a cell phone tour. Promote through the website.
- Feature advanced reservations for tour groups.

Long-term:

- Provide new directions to park from MD Route 695 when the recommended arrival route is changed from Delaney Valley Road to Providence Road. Coordinate change with the installation of the new sign plan.
- Add new media projects to the website, where appropriate, in order to expand the interpretive experience for armchair visitors. Upcoming projects include, for example:
  - Future site bulletins;
  - A 1- minute promotional video developed in conjunction with the future orientation video (see audiovisual recommendations);
  - The new historical period timeline to be developed in support of staff guided tours; or a graphic delineating historic periods may be developed during the future revision of the HFC produced Unigrd.
- Develop short video clips that can be run off of NPS website. While current policy precludes use of such video streaming, it is likely that this will be changed in the future.
- WASO Museum Management on-line exhibit.

**Facility Improvement**

- Explore site features and look for an appropriate area to provide visitor with a shady picnic spot – that can be identified on site interpretive media. Currently there are several picnic tables placed on the hillside between the entrance road and Hampton Mansion parking lot; this is a delightful location and close to where visitors can unload any picnic supplies. If this area remains the best location for this facility, recognize and promote its existence in site media.
- Review cultural landscape plan to insure that it reflects the maintenance of important viewsapes between the Mansion and the Home Farm; and, addresses the importance of providing landscape screening between the park and the neighborhood. In some instances maturing vegetation, trees, shrubs, and other vegetation at the site has matured to the extent that they may obscure historic structures. Trees which are historic in nature, or which might be considered witness trees must be preserved as part of the historic fabric. Other trees that do not have historic value might be preserved, removed or pruned in accordance with policies established in the GMP and CLR.

## Personal Services

When the anticipated funding comes, expand the interpretive staffing to enable Hampton NHS to run a 7-day operation. Three FTEs for interpretation are anticipated in FY 2011.

## Program Recommendations

- Build into the daily program morning and afternoon guided tours of the Home Farm to complement the guided tours of the Mansion.
- Staff the Lower House seven days a week.
- Incorporate into the general visitor experience a signature experience that incorporates a unique park feature, and in so doing carves a unique memory amongst historic sites and museums goers.
- Develop an advertised, by reservation staff conducted grand-tour of the park that includes both the mansion and grounds and farm site. The staff estimates this tour would take 3-hours. This future tour could be featured occasionally as part of the popular 2nd Sunday programs.
- Participate in local and regional events to build Hampton National Historic Sites identity and connection to the area – particularly in the neighborhoods that are located on what was the original 25,000 acre estate. Develop a portable exhibit and a creative take-away souvenir -- perhaps a coupon for a small commemorative item that visitors would claim/gain during a later on site visit.
- Develop an advanced yearly topic for the 2nd floor portico exhibit so the interpretive and curatorial staffs have plenty of time to collaborate on how the guided tour and special events program might dovetail with the annual exhibit theme. Future exhibit topics discussed include:
  - Hampton during the Civil War, to be offered during the 150th anniversary year in 2011;
  - Waterfowling, foxhunting, horseracing and leisure pursuits;
  - The role of formal gardens/ landscape architecture on the estate and gender roles in term of who took care of them;



Park Ranger Angela Roberts-Burton, in period attire, rakes hay into a stack at Hampton Home Farm.

- Formal entertaining
  - specifically how wealth was shown, even as the family fortune declined.
- Develop different types of rack cards to promote the park in different venues such as libraries, the Baltimore-Washington Airport, Maryland Welcome Centers and for local concierge hotel desks.
- Consult with other professionally run farm museums such as the Carroll County Farm Museum, Cromwell Valley and Oxen Hill Farm to explore methods others are using to interpret farming.
- Have NPS staff scope out on-site program concept. Deliver pilot program to teachers and seek their feedback. Tweak program concept and on-site activities where necessary.
- Once on-site component is defined, have teachers develop companion pre/post visit materials. This is their area of expertise; and, teachers will be delivering these lesson plans in the classroom. After teachers share the draft-pre/post visit lesson plans, the NPS staff provides feedback and lesson plans may be edited before they are readied for the pilot program phase.

### Education Program Development

- Work with local area schools -- teachers and curriculum specialists to develop a program advisory group specific to the grades the park hopes to target. Form a work team comprised of interested teachers and NPS staff that will be consistent throughout the program development period. Collaboration with teachers during all phases of program development will create ownership.
  - Use primary park themes to guide curriculum discussions to determine where the primary park stories and park features intersect with curriculum requirements.
  - After a determining the program focus -- where park themes and curriculum requirements merge, utilize all team assets to develop the pilot program.
- Pilot the program for a full year. Ask each teacher that participates to provide written feedback on the on-site program and pre/post visit student materials (lesson plans). And/-or invite



Park volunteer Tim Ertel “shocks” the corn crop at Hampton Farm.

participating teachers back to Hampton at the end of the year for a focus group evaluation session. Use information gained to make program adjustments with the program development team (teachers and park staff).

- Following program evaluation and adjustments, request the original planning team to look at program and explore how the on-site program could be made available as an outreach program for classes unable to travel to site. Some alternatives include: the use of internet broadcasting to extend program reach; create travelling trunks, and posting lesson plans and copies of original documents on the website.
- Assess viability of outreach program opportunities, staff capacity and logistics; pursue where appropriate.
- Use NPS staff and teacher advisors to develop a program specific teacher workshop to get new teachers involved. Seek input from the local school systems regarding the best avenue to achieve this next step. For example: Hampton could host a County or City approved teacher in-service day for however many teachers the site could accommodate during the program year – with the commitment that the teachers that attended the workshop would be assured an on-site Hampton program reservation.

### Education Program Sustainability

- Seek funding to support teacher stipends to encourage participation in future program development. Explore opportunities through the NPS “Parks as Classroom” funding initiative, grants through the National Park Foundation, and other similar types of educational philanthropic opportunities.
- Provide consistent funding for bus transportation for Baltimore City schools. There is a strong demand to take such trips; however, the city school system has no funding for busses. Target schools should be identified and the park should work to establish long-term relationships with them.
- Recognize teachers that participate in the program development through appropriate, site-specific and meaningful recognition – may be an event, or perhaps a memento.
- Work with park partners to seek grants to underwrite transportation needs.
- Work with university partners and public school system(s) to explore the possibility of providing credits hours (towards teacher recertification) for teachers that attend the future teacher workshop to be developed as part of Hampton’s curriculum-based education program.

### Important Education Program Concepts

- The LRIP planning team discussed several concepts future educational programs should address and identified some community resources to check:
- Illustrate Hampton’s historic connections with neighboring counties; and connect Hampton Estate activities to the port of Baltimore.
- In consultation with teachers explore ways future education programs can address the current national educational emphasis of “no child left behind”. Is it possible to address math and science curriculum in addition to social studies as part of a grade specific, Hampton curriculum-based education program?
- Once Hampton defines the standard curriculum-based programs offered, contact home school networks to consult how park programs could be adapted to provide improved service to this user group – when they come for an on-site visit. Generally, this group brings students of diverse ages; they need interactive age appropriate experiences. Incorporating a take home souvenir would be nice for this group too.
- Continue to provide outreach programs at schools, senior homes and centers, and with other organizations.
- Utilize college interns from local universities to assist with program development and delivery.

### Related Recommendations

- Explore using the Servicewide Teacher/Ranger/Teacher Program for summer seasonal recruitment
- Develop a yearly annual special event “Hampton a Very Special Place” and invite all local 4th grades to come to the site.
- Adopt a local 4th grade class through 2016 – the NPS’ 100th anniversary.
- Consider how can Hampton locally tap into the “Last Child in the Woods” educational movement? There is a new Servicewide focus on Youth Programs – and Hampton connects to this emphasis, especially at the farm site.
- “After school programs”: determine what can Hampton provide for this audience; is there a need?

## Partnerships

### Volunteer-In-Parks Program

#### Recruitment

##### Short-term:

- Continue to draw from college and graduate students. Maintain and develop relationships with college professors who support the VIP Program.
- Continue to use press releases and the park website to support VIP Program recruitment.
- Develop a Hampton specific VIP application. Incorporate physical fitness requirements and other key criteria for VIP positions descriptions.
- Work with area teachers and guidance counselors to develop meaningful volunteer opportunities for high school students. High school students now have community service requirements. Collaborate to develop a program that enriches students, meets park and school

needs and is not cumbersome in its delivery. During collaborative planning, define specific projects and the number of students the park staff can realistically accommodate. Set clear and mutually agreeable program goals and benchmarks. Have students evaluate their experience and build in an annual program evaluation with the staff and partners that design this VIP experience. Note: The type of work required of docents and curatorial volunteers takes a great deal of training and a time-commitment beyond high school community service hours. It is recommended that high school students be used for tasks requiring less training.

- Explore target recruitment. One idea discussed at the Recommendations Workshop focused on the idea that there are other groups such as Delta Sigma Theta and 4-H; these groups share park values and might also be interested in volunteering at Hampton.

##### Long-term:

- Develop a recruitment display to be used in the Mansion's West Hyphen and the Lower House visitor orientation areas. The display should include a take-away volunteer application.
- Seek funding to develop a recruitment DVD. Have volunteers describe why they love volunteering at Hampton and discuss the neat things they get to do. Post the product on the park website and make available to park partners to post on theirs as well.



Dairy Day at Hampton includes cow milking, butter and ice cream recipes from the historic period, and the opportunity to see farm animals back on the property.

## Training

- Conduct training for new volunteers during winter months. Rather than training volunteers individually, offer a core training course at specific times. Take names of interested candidates and until the class is offered, continue to keep in touch with them. Pre-determine when the training will occur and what specific training elements are part of the core program (length of time needed) and which elements are better handled on an individual basis. Include cross training for Lower House and Mansion. Consider offering two venues: during the work week and on weekends to allow for differing scheduling needs and to maximize the effort it takes to organize the training.
- Look at the elements of the current training program provided for the interpretive staff. Define what are the critical training elements for student interns and others that may not have a long-term commitment to the park – or in light of the type of volunteer project they are working on? Explore how to maximize training efforts by filming important sessions taught by key staff members or outside experts. Site specific packaged training materials can help to maximize limited staff time.
- Utilize other pre-packaged training materials available such as the Servicewide Interpretive Development Program.
- Update room guides to reflect revised installations, with input of cultural resources staff.
- Work with Chief of Resource Management and Curator to provide additional training opportunities for staff and volunteers.
- Expand the current VIP handbook by outlining park expectations and volunteer responsibilities depending on VIP positions.
- Conduct volunteer training trips to other national park areas and local historic sites. Use this opportunity as a means to reinforce important training concepts and to brainstorm if there are any program ideas that might be considered for adaption at Hampton – particularly the VIP Program.
- Establish a monthly/bi-monthly volunteer bag lunch day. Use this gathering as an opportunity to conduct informal training. Rotate lead staff members – across divisions -- to take the responsibility for developing a presentation on the “topic of the month”. The park or a park partner (through donations) could provide beverages and dessert for these gatherings.

## Program Administration

### Short-term:

- Interview the Hampton staff members responsible for maintaining the historic structures and grounds to determine how volunteers can better assist with their programs. Determine what training currently provided for visitor and curatorial services should be made available for the volunteers that assist the maintenance division.
- Improve scheduling for daily coverage and distribution of volunteers between the Mansion and the Lower House. Currently, there is a “surplus” on days and times when visitation is low such as weekday mornings, and few volunteers when staff is needed most such as on weekend afternoons. Some possibilities include:
  - Establish a “Built –in-schedule”. Define what volunteers are needed on day -1 “schedule-A”
  - Establish a “Monday crew”, a “Thursday Crew” – this type of scheduling can support the social and educational reasons why individuals volunteer. And, in the long run, help to provide potential back-up ability between volunteers.

### Long-term:

- Explore establishing a volunteer to serve as the park’s day to day VIP Coordinator’s Assistant or recruiting a staff member whose primary duty (at least 50% of time) would be devoted to assisting with VIP coordination duties. This future position would report to the Hampton VIP Coordinator to receive program priorities and tasks from that staff member. If an assistant is recruited, this type of arrangement might help to free some of the administrative aspects of the program from the NPS staff member – enabling that person to focus on other program areas of responsibility. Careful scoping of this change and follow-up communications to all affected parties will be critical to the successful implementation of this type of position. When offered, send this individual to the Servicewide VIP training offered.
- Establish a volunteer lounge/area where volunteers can place their personal items while on duty, use as a place to study/read on site when not working and use when taking breaks.
- Explore with partner colleges the opportunity to establish a VIP/ college credit semester program. Work collaboratively to define projects that meet academic requirements, park project needs and determine required service hours and project benchmarks to receive academic credit.

## Evaluation

### Short-term:

- Set volunteer expectations during recruitment, VIP job interviews, and training. Provide feedback and prepare them for ongoing program presentation evaluations in the context of personal development. Reinforce the positive aspects of how evaluation can assist all interpreters in their comfort level and performance.
- Institute some formal evaluation mechanisms remembering some individuals are more comfortable with providing written feedback; while others like to verbally share ideas. For example: develop a simple written annual evaluation form with open-ended questions like:
  - What have you enjoyed most about your VIP experiences this year?
  - What suggestions do you have for next year to improve the VIP Program?
  - During your time volunteering here, please share any experiences that frustrated or disappointed you?
  - Do you have any suggestions for how to address the situation you described?
  - Is there anything else you'd like to share that will help us improve the Hampton VIP Program?

- Then invite volunteers to attend as meeting to discuss the results of the annual evaluation; and use the opportunity to seek additional ideas and input to plan next year's program.

### Long-term:

- Develop a peer review program.

## Recognition

- Recognize the professors who support the VIP program through their referrals of college and graduate students for park specific VIP experiences; this type of collaborative contribution is critical to the success and expansion of the VIP Program.
- Continue the annual volunteer recognition dinner.
- Develop park specific recognition certificates and small site specific thank you gifts (such as the latest book or souvenir item offered at the gift shop) that are given in recognition of hours/years given or noteworthy projects completed. Present these items at the annual recognition event.
- Develop local news articles recognizing volunteer contributions. These types of feature articles may also prompt others to volunteer.
- Implement use of NPS service hour bars on nametags to recognize specific lengths of service.

## On-Site Experience

This section of the plan will outline recommendations to support desired on-site experiences for Hampton Mansion and Grounds and the Hampton Home Farm.

### Hampton Mansion and Grounds

- Post easily viewed directional signage to the upper site parking lot. This will help visitors navigate past the temporary office facility and around the curve (where another park road branches off to a “behind the scenes” area) to the upper parking lot closest to the mansion.
- Construct complementary temporary signs for use when expanded parking is needed in the lower lot or along grassy areas for special events.
- Install the representative planned scale model of the entire park, interpretive wayside panels and bulletin board from the 2008 Wayside Exhibit Plan. Future media will discuss the park’s significance, visitor activities and hours of operation. This interpretive media will be placed at the end of the upper parking lot, in the landscape area adjacent to the walkway. Here visitors will gain a quick grasp of the significance of Hampton. Since there are seasonal variations, two changeable wayside panels are recommended. The staff will use the bulletin board to post short-term flyers on upcoming special events.

## Visitor Contact Station

### Long-Term Recommendations:

- Seek funding for a future Visitor Contact Station on the mansion side.
- Implement the completed conceptual design.

The recommended VCS will be open, inviting and designed to function for a variety of visitor orientation and comfort needs including:

- A Visitor Information Area where guests can talk with the staff and volunteers about the tours of the mansion and other visitor opportunities. The visitor information area will include seating for staff.
- Space for interpretive panels and interactive exhibits that orient park visitors to key park themes.
- A 5 – 7 minute audiovisual program that establishes Hampton in the context of US history across its 200 years of occupation, and a planned viewing area with seating;
- Additional planned seating and enough room for visitors to mill about if they must wait for a tour in inclement weather.
- The Hampton staff or volunteer will greet the visitor at the visitor contact station on the mansion side. Orientation will encourage visitors to explore the entire property, mansion, Home Farm Site and grounds. Grounds tours,

offered periodically, will include interpretation of the octagonal slave quarters and summer kitchen as well as the landscaped gardens. The West Hyphen will be used as the primary entry point as it is the designated accessible entrance.

Why is this additional space critical? The park story is both complex and contains topics that are controversial to some visitors. This facility will enable the staff to provide important context difficult to convey during a historic house tour; and, enable visitors to be more informed about which half of the park to begin their visit. It will provide improved comfort for visitors while waiting for the next mansion tour. The number of tours offered is based on available staff and the maximum tour group size is 15 visitors per guide. When impromptu school and tour groups arrive via bus, they are very difficult to accommodate immediately – especially if a guide is not available and/or the weather is inclement. Presently, the site has no one place to handle groups arriving by bus. The current arrival experience is now conducted in very cramped room in the West Hyphen of the Hampton Mansion. Staff and volunteers work hard to overcome the limitations of this space.

During the July 2008 Recommendations Workshop, participants addressed these planning requirements for the VCS in more detail. Recommendations:

- The exhibits should include a general time-line across the 200+ years of site history; and NPS orientation.

- A 5 – 7 min maximum video should provide overall orientation to the site. It could be a self starting video or on a loop.
- Provide a computer to facilitate “hands-on” interactive media and provide more in depth information:
  - Use the computer as a docking station for on-site downloadable podcasts.
  - Have the “Teaching with Museum Collections” available for visitors.
  - Post oral histories and create a webpage that highlights the voices of Hampton and to provide important context.

Media orientation must provide broader context. Important topics to address in the VCS exhibits include:

- How Hampton personifies the American Experience and why the Hampton story is relevant to visitors today
- How is the Hampton estate representative of the Upper South as opposed to the Deep South?
- Hampton as a unit of the National Park System.

Note: maps are important to help visitors visualize these relationships. Future audiovisual programs could illustrate the size of the plantation during different time periods and the location of the estate in relationship to the Mason-Dixon Line.

When the new Visitor Contact Station is built, the facilities in the reconstructed Orangery- the restrooms, kitchen and large glassed room- will remain the same. The staff uses this facility for a variety of purposes- living history programs, lectures, meetings and training.

**Outbuildings:**

- Interpret key features including the icehouse, family cemetery and stables through well placed waysides, cell phone tour and when possible, staff led guided tours of the grounds.
- Seek funding to support two research studies to expand on-going restoration and interpretation:
  - A Historic Structures Report for the Summer Kitchen.
  - A Historic Furnishings Report for the Summer Kitchen.

**Stables 1**

- Replace the current exhibit glass with reflection-reducing glass such as Amiran® to improve the view of the carriages.
- Fabricate the designed wayside and install.

**Hampton Mansion Tour**

The Hampton staff or volunteer will meet the next tour group in the Visitor Contact Station. The guide may escort visitors along the north side of the mansion to enjoy the distant view of the Hampton Home Farm across the mansion’s north landscaped grounds. Next, the guide will move toward the east hyphen to interpret the summer kitchen and octagonal slave quarters (to be reconstructed) and then provide time for visitors to briefly admire the parterres in the landscaped gardens on the south side of the mansion – before entering the mansion.

Long-term recommendations:

- Continue using the kitchen for interpretive space. A furnishing plan should be developed for the kitchen and it should be furnished at the same level of authenticity as the other rooms. Conclude the tour in the West Hyphen.
- Guided programs will be approximately 50 minutes and will begin in the West Hyphen. Accessible exhibits and “hands-on” reproduction photographs and items will be available for those waiting for a tour to begin. The tour will end in the West Hyphen, just outside the Museum Store. The guide will end the tour



The Music Room represents the 1870s.

by inviting visitors to continue exploring the mansion grounds and the Hampton Home Farm and be available for any final questions.

- Using mansion interiors to support thematic guided tours:
  - Develop a standard thematic house tour; and use the special events program and changing exhibits to diversify visitor opportunities and expand upon interpretive themes.) Future thematic tours will explore primary themes through well documented site specific stories which tie the site to United States and regional history. In order to help visitors make intellectual connections to key concepts and “take-away messages”, incorporate selected tangible objects within the rooms and quotes from historic figures to “people the rooms” and support the thematic tour. This approach increases a visitor’s opportunity to establish personal relevancy through their acquired understanding of the meaning of a particular place, the thoughts or feelings expressed by a historic figure -- or, an object that belonged to them. It should be clearly understood that the LRIP planning team does not propose or recommend any handling of the museum collection on display within the historic rooms. What is important to recognize, is that visitors are often drawn first to the historic objects viewed; the challenge for the interpreter is

to build upon that interest in the development and delivery of the thematic historic house tour.

A thematic tour is not an object tour. An object tour focuses on the intrinsic beauty, value or uniqueness of individual antique pieces. There may be some visitors that request this type of tour. When this type of request is received, it should be handled as a guided tour by appointment, not the standard tour for a general visitor group.

- Sometimes a group or individual asking for a furnishing tour may arrive when there is no one else to join that scheduled tour. In this instance, it is perfectly appropriate to start with their interest in furnishings. However, the interpretive challenge becomes: how to interweave their interest in Hampton’s furnishings back to the primary ideas, themes and key take-away messages the park desires to communicate as part of the guided tour program. Please see the “Drawing Room Furnishing Plan” for an example of how to achieve this type of tour.
- An experienced interpreter may be able to interweave this type of specialized information into a tour for the general public without compromising the integrity of a thematic tour.

However, this approach takes much knowledge, skill and practice.

- Develop “training guides”. Since volunteers deliver many programs, the NPS staff should provide a written guide for them to model. New volunteers will appreciate having a written guide to follow in order to learn the basic story. These guides will also assist the interpretive supervisor and volunteer coordinator in eliminating “Hampton folklore” – “stories” passed down orally that have been later disproved through the park’s ongoing research program. These training guides also provide the

NPS the opportunity to introduce other members outside of the Ridgely family who helped shaped Hampton.

- Implement furnishing details that complete the room and visually reinforce interpretive themes.
- Wherever possible, expand the standing areas for the public in the rooms on tour. The goal would be to give every person in the tour group a comfortable view of the tour guide and everything they are pointing out. Or, if not possible reduce the size of the tour from 12-15 to a group of 10 – 12 visitors.
- Provide training and informational handouts on any new items on exhibit for interpretive staff.
- Represent in the mansion’s rooms non-Ridgely family members such as Nancy, Lucy, etc.

Other topics related to the guided mansion tour:

- Utilize the “Interpretive Bag of Tricks” technique. Create several carpet bags to be taken on guided tours filled with reproduction “hands-on” items to support the thematic tour. This addition would address visitors who have different learning needs and assist the interpreter providing tours for groups with wide age ranges. For example: a young visitor might feel more engaged if he or she was given the task of carrying the



A 2009 temporary exhibit highlights connections between Hampton’s decorative arts collection and flowers in its garden.

carpet bag. Another approach would be to have a covered basket or box in each room with hands-on items inside. The type of basket or box used could change with the period of interpretation or room usage.

- Create a visual aid to help visitors quickly grasp the 200 years of Hampton NHS history. This aid could be incorporated in the new Unigridd folder or produced as a separate item on a small, souvenir-quality card which visitors receive at the mansion and farm site. The card would have text and images, and perhaps a distinctive shape, such as an outline of the mansion. On guided or self-guided tours visitors could refer to the card to find the primary historical periods and personages. The cards would also make great bookmarks. The aid could also be reproduced in other interpretive media. For example: on the web the chart that outlines Hampton's eras might be interactive, with deeper layers of information.
- Collection security: when visitors desire to leave the tour for any reason – perhaps the program content is too emotionally charged, or they don't want to climb stairs, etc., the guide must be pro-active to handle this need – so this visitor does not wander off – get lost, take something of value, and/or compromise the experience of other tour members. Consider the following suggestions:
  - Carry dual functioning radio/phones so another staff member can quickly come to the assistance of the guide

(especially on the 2nd floor), and keep the tour in progress going.

- Have a volunteer or Park Aid (GS-1, GS-2) follow each tour involving 6 or more people. This person would keep the group together, act as a second pair of eyes and ears, and be able to escort out those who have to leave before the program is over. For example: Timpanogos Cave established B.A.T. a junior/senior corps VIP program that assisted them with their guided cave tours.

### Training Needs

- Create year-round content rich thematic guided tours: this is extremely difficult when most of the staff is comprised of seasonals, interns, and short-term volunteers. Develop and use these tools when training new staff:
  - Have the permanent interpretive staff and long-time volunteers develop thematic anchor tours that meet the NPS' Interpretive Development Program Competencies. Film these tours. Modeling is an excellent way to foster excellence in interpretation.
  - Have the same staff develop sample program guides/ outlines that summarize the anchor tours. This outline should include: the theme, program goals, the introduction and conclusion, major ideas and supporting

evidence (collection items to point out, quotes), and a bibliography of books and sources used. Outlines should be footnoted and sources cited to insure accuracy.

- Develop a training session to practice techniques and role playing on interpreting controversial topics, issues and conversations related to the Hampton Story. Remember meanings are in people not in the words themselves – staff members have no idea what life experiences people bring with them when they come to work or visit a national park. Race, slavery, the Reconstruction Period and practices such as tenant farming that were implemented following the Civil War, and civil rights are hot button issues or uncomfortable topics for some.
- The interpreter plays a crucial role in facilitating personal connections and relevancy in a positive learning environment. The best approach is the solid ground of evidence – what is known/unknown, what is the source; and, to present this information in a conversational manner (versus being on a soap box). Interpreting these topics face to face can be difficult for the staff and the audience. Be aware if the audience is racially mixed, there is often a higher level of discomfort. Preparing the audience and utilize effective interpretive techniques are essential tools

to foster comfort and learning; remember parks preserve special places for visitor enjoyment.

- Original and period historic objects must be distinguished from reproduction items for “hands-on” interpretive use. Hampton’s use/program activities must demonstrate NPS historic preservation policies and practices; and, the public needs to clearly understand the distinction of original, period pieces, and reproductions – and what is permissible to touch when a staff member is not present. Items in the furnished interiors of the mansion should never be handled by the public.

## Research

- Seek funding to complete an overview Historic Furnishings Report (HFR) for the Hampton Mansion. A HFR will draw all of the evidence, social history of the house and its residents and employees, and decision-making into a single process and product. It is an invaluable planning and interpretation document; it will allow the curators and interpretive staff to take a step back and view the house as a whole. The rationale for the room by room approach to historic furnishings, it should be documented in the HFR.
- Contracting for custom reproductions only when there is extant original historic fabric, and usually a full repeat of any pattern, upon which to base the

reproduction. The expense, detail work, and accuracy of custom reproduction work is such that creating a “reproduction” that is by nature more speculative and less accurate may not be merited. This is in keeping with the current curatorial policy at Hampton that existing reproductions are of the highest quality and fully documented.

## Hampton Home Farm

### Arrival Experience

- Post a small directional sign at the Hampton Mansion entrance road where it intersects with Hampton Lane in order to direct visitors to the Hampton Home Farm and Providence Road/Highway 695 and the Mansion. NPS staff receives many questions from visitors regarding how to drive to the Home Farm.
- Provide NPS identification for the Hampton Home Farm for wayfinding purposes. This sign should be easily viewable by positioning from both the E/W approaches along Hampton Lane.
- Create a removable/changeable sign that announces seasonal hours of operation for both the grounds and the facilities, and hang this sign from the site identification sign. (Currently during winter hours all park facilities are closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays but the grounds are open for visitor use.)
- After making a turn into the site, additional signs will guide visitors to the parking lot at the rear of the site – past the fork in the road and the historic structures. Currently, the lack of sufficient directional signs to the parking lot is confusing to 1st time visitors.
- Install the planned interpretive elements outlined in the Wayside Exhibit Plan, in the landscape area close to the parking lot. Here visitors will gain a quick grasp of the significance of Hampton when they encounter an interpretive wayside panel that includes the following information: the park’s significance, visitor activities, a map of the entire park and hours of operation. (Since there are seasonal variations, two changeable wayside panels are recommended.) There will also be a bulletin board in this location for the staff to post short-term flyers on upcoming special event postings.
- Note: for pedestrians a designated foot trail will link both the Hampton Mansion and the Hampton Home Farm across Hampton Lane. The park will coordinate with Towson, MD to install a pedestrian crosswalk and traffic calming device.

### Interpretive Emphasis

- Revitalize the historic landscape to reflect a vibrant and vigorous “village” where people lived their lives, even under the debilitating institution of slavery, indenture servitude, and tenancy. The following recommendations reflect ways to bring this village back to life. Some recommendations can be utilized year-round; in other instances, the presence of a staff member

will be required, so that small reproduction items are not taken -- these recommendations can be instituted during special programs or events.

- The farm site provides a bookend experience: because the first and last Ridgely lived there. Interpretation will emphasize that the Home Farm represents the entire Hampton Estate in microcosm.

Short-term:

- Grow and harvest additional crops.
- Make cabin interiors look messier—more lived in—not dirty or unkempt, but less neat.
- Continue to provide signature living history special events such as seasonal planting and harvesting days and first-person programs like “Christmas at the farm”, etc.

Long-term:

- Create a scene inside and outside of the buildings that suggests that the farm is a place where people live. For example, hang laundry on clotheslines; develop small personal gardens near the cabins; set out items like a mortar and pestle with dried corn or a washtub with lye soap, a washboard and garments to be washed.
- Develop opportunities where visitors might interact with the environment. For example, visitors could be encouraged to grind corn in the mortar and pestle, wash clothes in the washtub, play checkers on a board that might be set up on the overseer’s porch, card wool with hand carders that are casually placed in the quarters, plant crops, stack haystacks, weave rag rugs, sew clothing, etc.
- Expand the VIP Program to include volunteers who could interpret daily in period clothing—this approach should not be first person—people are needed to help recreate and interpret the historic scene. Volunteers and staff should be familiar with basic agricultural practices.
- Partner with a living history animal husbandry group that brings the animals to the site on the weekends and maintains them while they are onsite, but takes them away from the site daily.
- Remove telephone lines.



Shocks of corn at the Hampton Farm illustrate the property’s agricultural past.

- Improve site accessibility for the mobility impaired through grading and the reworking of board walk areas around the farm site.

### Home Farm/Lower House

The planning team recommends the use of the “Lower House” to serve several functions: to provide basic information and orientation including an overview of the history and significance of Hampton NHS, from its founding until the creation of the national park; to provide an overview of the significance of the Hampton Farm Site; and, to interpret the various uses of the farm site during its 200 year history – specifically, its role in estate activities. Future exhibits in the 200-year old Lower House can provide unique insights in to the workers and Ridgley family members by interweaving their stories through the use of the Lower House over time.

### Visitor Contact Station

The Corn Crib site will be used as a visitor contact station on the farm site. This building is centrally located on the property. An interpretive Ranger will be stationed in this building to provide orientation to visitors. The building would outwardly look like the former corn crib but contain open space inside to be used to gather groups, and conduct school programs.

#### Short-term:

- Continue planning to implement the visitor orientation and interpretive concepts outlined in the “2008 Hampton Farm Site Scope of Work” for new

exhibits in the Lower House; this is a design/build contract. See Appendix C for a summary of the Scope of Work. The new exhibits will be installed in March 2010.

#### Long-term:

- The GMP recommends that a new Visitor Contact Station (VCS) be constructed in the location of the corn crib. The following measures will be taken to maximize the effectiveness of this future facility:
  - Add a path from the parking lot to the Corn Crib with wayfinding signs. The future path and signs will be located behind the Mule Barn and will not impact the historic viewshed.
  - Most of the space inside the VCS will be open to enable school groups to gather in case of inclement weather and to provide space for an informal orientation talk.
  - A small visitor information desk/staff work space, with seating, where additional handouts and VCS supplies and materials are kept, will be included in this space.
  - An area compatible for audiovisual use will be provided to view the 5 – 7 minute park orientation video to be developed.
  - Facility design will include seating for visitors unable to stand for lengthy periods during staff presentations. And,

- Signs will be placed to indicate the starting point for the tours of the farm site.
- Continue using the remaining grassy area between the VCS and Hampton Lane for seasonal crops – corn or wheat-- this really helps to interpretively establish the farm.

### The Quarters

The planning team confirms the current interpretive treatment; and, recommends that these treatments continue with the following changes as time and funding permits. Note: it will be important to vary the interior exhibit design and visitor experience for each of the three Quarters buildings, particularly the stone structures B and C which appear virtually identical from the outside. The apparent similarities may discourage some visitors from entering more than one of these structures yet the stories told in each are in fact quite different and each important in their own right. This section includes general recommendations for the surviving quarters followed by specific recommendations for each structure.

#### Short Term:

- Continue emphasis to expand interpretation to Hampton’s labor force across 200 years.

#### Long-term:

- Support the planning, design and installation of newly funded exhibits for Quarters A, B, and C. These exhibits will reflect new information gained through the Historic Structures Report and

the Historic Furnishing Report. Note: during exhibit design, stay away from contrived dialogue in audio programs; use oral histories where appropriate.

- Quarters A: Develop as an exhibit on trades like blacksmithing and include other specialty workers at Hampton. Address hierarchy of workers and social stratification within the farm complex and work force; if not part of the exhibit in the Lower House.

The park knows quite a bit about blacksmith Charles Bud, the blacksmith who lived in this structure. More personal information about Charles should be included when this exhibit is redone. Consider incorporating reproduction blacksmith tools.

- Quarters B: Re-do content and design of exhibit room. Focus should be more on family life than on the family living quarters. Develop less text-heavy, more visually and experientially varied exhibits. Include a low-tech interactive if possible. Cross-reference some element of this exhibit content with the historic vignette in adjoining room.

A brief review of some Hampton-specific slave documentation suggests that the most site-specific documentation for Hampton slaves’ material life pertains to clothing and shoes. It may also document different social strata within the Hampton

estate. These could be major components of this exhibit space; reproduction clothing and/or textiles could be included.

- Quarters C: Re-do content and design of the tenant farming exhibit. Develop less text-heavy, more visually and experientially varied exhibits on tenant farming era. Include a low-tech interactive if possible. Cross-reference some element of this exhibit content with historic vignette in adjoining room.

Either in the exhibit or the vignette, consider possibility of developing a compare and contrast approach which allows visitors to compare slave life and tenant life. This approach could also be a good theme tour, web interactive, and/or school lesson plan. Note: this activity should not only the difference between slave and free, but the impact of technology on agricultural practices.

Alternate approach to Quarters C: shrink vignette to be incorporated as a smaller element of 2-room exhibit on tenant farming and late-19th, early 20th-century operations at Hampton.

This exhibit should address:

- How did the condition of African-Americans change in the post-emancipation environment?
- What role did immigrant labor play at Hampton in the early 20th Century?
- What was it like to be a tenant farmer?

Note: the park has several oral histories of Hampton's tenant farmers in the 1940s and 1950s that might be used for future audio/interactives.

## **Mule Barn**

### Short-term:

- A future wayside panel will discuss the use of this structure and focus on the why mules were critical to the operation of the farm. Most visitors' knowledge of farming is limited; interpretation should address the relationship between farm activities, the workers and the role of the various farm animals on the estate. Other concepts to discuss include:
  - How the Ridgely's had show mules and the value of these animals.
  - Use of mules as an indicator of a "Southern" plantation. Mules were used widely in the South and not very much in the North.

Long-term:

- Consider use of interpretive media in the space to illustrate the historic use.
- Have scaffolding and other maintenance items stored in a modern structure elsewhere.
- Partner with a living history animal husbandry group that brings the animals to the site on the weekends and maintains them while they are onsite, but takes them away from the site daily.

**Dairy**

- Develop an exhibit panel to discuss the role and function of the dairy on the estate across time.
  - The panel exhibit will address when the dairy functioned to support dietary needs of the Ridgely family and Home Farm workers, and discuss the later era when Ridgely family members ran a dairy and supplied local residents with milk products.
  - A future exhibit might also discuss the evolution of labor from almost exclusively women in the 1700s and 1800s to a male labor force in the early 1900s.

A brief mention of the dairy’s architecture is needed to understand how this building functioned.

- Use Helen West Stuart Ridgely watercolor in future panel text exhibit.
- Have interior of building repainted and brickwork re-pointed.
- Use the inventories to guide a furnished vignette – an 1829 and 1867 inventories are available. The panel text should clarify which period the vignette represents.

# APPENDICES

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## Appendix A: Planning Team

### Park Staff

Jim Bailey, Park Ranger-Interpretation, Fort McHenry NM & HS  
Paul Bitzel, Chief of Cultural Resources  
Laurie Coughlan, Management Assistant  
Bill Curtis, Park Ranger, Law Enforcement  
Alan Gephardt, Seasonal Park Guide  
Shannon Ham-Alston, Seasonal Park Guide  
Debbie Patterson, Registrar  
Angela Roberts-Burton, Park Ranger, Interpretation  
Kirby Shedlowski, Park Ranger, Interpretation  
Robert Stewart, Seasonal Park Guide, Fort McHenry NM & HS  
Gay Vietzke, Superintendent  
Vince Vaise, Chief of Interpretation  
Gregory Weidman, Curator

### Partners

Deidre Beck, Volunteer-in Park  
Rob Brown, President, Historic Hampton, Inc.  
Rhoda Dorsey, Historic Hampton, Inc.  
Lori Finkelstein, Historic Hampton, Inc. Education Committee  
Emily Halligan, Historic Hampton, Inc. Education Committee  
Judith Kremen, Historic Hampton, Inc. Education Committee  
Ann Milkovich McKee, Historic Hampton, Inc. Education Committee  
Harold Reid, Park Friend  
Nancy E. Smith, Representative, Historic Hampton, Inc.  
John Vlach, PhD. Historical Consultant

### Harpers Ferry Center for Media Services and other NPS Consultants

David Guiney, Interpretive Media Specialist, retired  
Sarah Heald, Historic Furnishings Specialist  
Mary Mallen, Park Ranger-Interpretive Planner  
Michael Paskowsky, Project Manager and Audiovisual Specialist  
Carla Whitfield, Superintendent Booker T Washington National Monument

Plan designed by Ecos Environmental Design, Inc. for Harpers Ferry Center.

## Appendix B: Accessibility

Every attempt will be made to promote full access to interpretive media and programs to ensure that people with physical and mental disabilities have access to the same information necessary for safe and meaningful visits to national parks. This is in compliance with the National Park Service policy:

*“...To provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the qualities of the park experience for everyone.”*

NPS Special Directive 83-3, Accessibility for Disabled Persons

All interpretation will follow general standards for accessibility as described in the Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media.

## Appendix C: Summary “2008 Hampton Farm Site” Scope of Work (A Design/Build Contract)

### The Space and the Exhibits

All exhibits will be installed in spaces on the first floor -- the “Entry Hall,” the “Overseer’s Office”, the “Oldest Room”, the “Parlour”, and the “Back Room/Kitchen”. The new exhibit is scheduled for installation in March 2010.

The following summary of how topics and space relate are preliminary only, subject to improvement and change upon discussion with the contractor.

1. **Entry Hall** — designated as room 1 in accordance with the park provided floor plan. A single large interpretive didactic panel that will permit onsite interpreters to immediately orient visitors to the house and the park, shall be created for display in the entry hall of the house. Casework could be integrated into the panel structure for a few small illustrative artifacts – for instance archeology. The panel shall be designed specifically as an interpreters’ aid.
2. **Back Room/Kitchen** — designated as room 9 in accordance with the park provided floor plan. A single large interpretive panel that will include an overlay of the historic estate (based on the historic Barney map, 1843) on a contemporary map of Baltimore County. HABS photos illustrating the Home Farm’s agricultural use during the 1930s will be contrasted with similar HABS photo from 1955 showing suburban development.

A smaller interpretive panel will introduce the historic use of the room. This panel should match one like it in the Overseer’s Office and one in the Parlour focused on room use and occupants.

3. **The Overseer’s Office** — designated as room 3 in accordance with the park provided floor plan. This room should present the story of the farm’s Overseer – probably through the representation of the Overseer’s office, based on the 1829 estate inventory from Hampton and other available documentation. The interpretive message should communicate the complex relationships between the overseer, the Ridgely family, and their slaves. It is imagined that this will be best done with a scrim printed with *new original artwork* which depicts this and some historic furnishings, accompanied by interpretive panels.

This *new piece of original artwork* will need to be created to depict the interior work environment of the Overseer. While this room was most likely the office, it is not documented beyond a doubt and the estate inventory – while the best documentation available for the building – also is not entirely conclusive. Because there is some uncertainty about room use and exact furnishings, the park would like to have a piece of artwork created that could be printed on a scrim and hung in the space to be evocative of the assumed use. This would be an interpretive device – designed to complement existing artwork (created in watercolors) of the farm’s workforce and slave population.

The Overseer’s Office shall:

- a. Characterize the Hampton Home Farm Overseer from the mid-1820s through 1850.
- b. Describe the slave/overseer relationship at Hampton and relate the hierarchy to the physical resources, i.e., placement of Overseer’s House in relation to mansion, slave quarters in relation to Overseer’s House, etc.
- c. Describe the use of the house during the Overseer’s Occupancy.
- d. Incorporate a number of Government-Furnished artifacts, such as domestic items and pieces of furniture original to the estate. These may need to be supplemented with period items or reproduction artifacts as necessary.

This exhibit will be accompanied by a smaller interpretive panel introducing the room and the role of the Overseer (this panel to match one like it in the Back Room/Kitchen and one in the Parlour).

4. **The Oldest Room** — designated as room 3 in accordance in the park provided floor plan. The Oldest Room will focus on the early history of Hampton prior to 1790. The room already has a complicated preservation treatment which exposes layers of original flooring. These layers of flooring are currently viewed from a platform that only covers a third of the room’s floor space. The platform has a railing that prohibits visitors from stepping further into the space. We image that the railing will need to be replaced with something lower in order to allow the incorporation of an interpretive reader/exhibit rail and meet ADA requirements. Also, the room needs a small furnished vignette in one corner (which will require that a clear platform be inserted over a further section of the exposed flooring). Exhibits in this room will be largely didactic, with a handful of hardy artifacts included.

The exhibits shall:

- a. Describe the origins, construction, extent, and evolution of the Overseer’s House, including the interpretation of visible original fabric within the room.
- b. Label the architectural features in the space, including the evidence of door openings and windows, hearth level, flooring, etc.
- c. Describe how the “Colonial/Early Republic” period at Hampton (between 1745 and 1790) when the estate was assembled and iron making created the opportunity for the family to expand its entrepreneurial holdings and grew their fortune. A graphic detailing the process of iron-making is recommended.
- d. Incorporate a limited number of hardy artifacts, such as artifacts from archeological investigations, the iron bar from one of the Ridgely furnaces, and pieces of furniture original to the house.

5. **The Parlour** — designated as room 4 in accordance with attached floor plan. The Parlour is used as a flexible exhibit space and occasionally serves to host events and meetings. For this room, we want a flexible and professional system for mounting temporary exhibits. The room has been treated to highlight architectural features including unique paneling once covered with plaster and lathe. The successful temporary exhibit system will allow the park to hang photo or exhibit panels without drilling/nailing into/damaging the historic walls, floor and ceiling. The system might be picture rail system or free-standing panels upon which photographs or interpretive panels could be mounted. Additionally, we would like the flexibility of at least one, if not several artifact exhibit cases. These cases should be designed to be easily moved out of the space or against the walls when needed (probably on wheels), but they should also be able to be secured or locked in place (wheel locks?) when exhibiting artifacts.

We would also like the first temporary exhibit to be designed, fabricated, and installed in the room using the new exhibit system and case(s). This would highlight for outbuildings including the dairy, mule barn, corn crib, and quarters, and put this farm complex into the context of the overall estate and the other farms (this was one of four, but the most “designed”). Focus would be on the workforce, function of structures, and the development of the Hampton neighborhood after the farm ceased to function.

The temporary exhibit shall:

- a. Describe the origins, construction, extent, and evolution of the Overseer’s House, including the interpretation of visible original fabric within the room.
- b. Label the architectural features in the space, including the evidence of door openings and windows, hearth level, flooring, etc.
- c. Describe how the “Colonial/Early Republic” period at Hampton (between 1745 and 1790) when the estate was assembled and iron making created the opportunity for the family to expand its entrepreneurial holdings and grew their fortune. A graphic detailing the process of iron-making is recommended.
- d. Incorporate a limited number of hardy artifacts, such as artifacts from archeological investigations, the iron bar from one of the Ridgely furnaces, and pieces of furniture original to the house.

Additionally, a “permanent” exhibit panel, matching the smaller interpretive panel in the Overseer’s office and in the Back Room/Kitchen, will introduce the historic use of the room as a Parlour and illustrate with a historic photo, the Ridgely’s occupation of the house from 1948 to 1970.

## **Appendix D: Summary of the 2009 Scope of Work for the Interpretive Treatment of Slave Quarters B and the Tennant Farmer's Quarters at Hampton National Historic Site**

This interpretive project is a design-build exhibit contract that includes comprehensive research and information necessary for exhibit development, planning, design, fabrication, and installation of new exhibits at the Slave Quarters and Tenant Farmers Quarters of Hampton National Historic Site. Following consultation with National Park Service staff (NPS), exhibit planning will integrate the exhibition design and fabrication with building preservation requirements. The project schedule anticipates a completion date of April 2010. This project includes the following elements:

### **The Space and the Exhibits**

All exhibits will be installed in spaces on the first floor. Each building has two rooms – an interpretive exhibit panel room and a historic furnished vignette room. The following summary regarding how topics and space relate is preliminary; concepts, improvements and decisions made may change following discussions with the contractor and consultation with NPS subject matter experts, during the life of the project.

#### **1. Slave Quarters B, Interpretive Exhibit Panel Room (Designated as room 1 in accordance with project floor plans.)**

Replace six temporary interpretive panels with a new system of interpretive didactic panels that will tell the story of the enslaved population at Hampton NHS. Nothing should occupy the center of the room so as to permit onsite interpreters to immediately orient visitors to the space and the park as needed. Casework could be integrated into the panel structure for a few small illustrative artifacts – for instance archeology. The panel shall be designed as the primary interpretation for this structure and the associated stories. It should visually compliment the exhibit panels designed for the Tenant Farmers Quarters, as the purpose is for visitors to compare and contrast the two experiences before and after slavery at the estate.

#### **2. Slave Quarters B, Furnished Vignette Room (Designated as room 2 in accordance with project floor plans.)**

A smaller interpretive panel/reader rail element will interpret the furnishings on exhibit. This panel should match one like it in the Tenant Farmers Quarters.

3. **Tenant Farmers Quarters, Interpretive Exhibit Panel Room** (Designated as room 3 in accordance with project floor plans.)

Replace five temporary interpretive panels with a new system of interpretive didactic panels that will tell the story of the tenant farmer/share cropping population at Hampton NHS post-Emancipation. Nothing should occupy the center of the room so as to permit onsite interpreters to immediately orient visitors to the space and the park as needed. Casework could be integrated into the panel structure for a few small illustrative artifacts – for instance archeology. The panel shall be designed as the primary interpretation for this structure and the associated stories. It should visually compliment the exhibit panels designed for the Slave Quarters, as the purpose is for visitors to compare and contrast the two experiences before and after slavery at the estate.

4. **Tenant Farmers' Quarters, Furnished Vignette Room** (Designated as room 3 in accordance with attached floor plans.)

A smaller interpretive panel/reader rail element will interpret the furnishings on exhibit. This panel should match one like it in the Slave Quarters.

## Appendix E: Guidelines for Preparing Historic Furnishings Reports

Provided by Harpers Ferry Center, June 2009

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/products/furnish/furnish-plan-hfr-guide.htm>

### Required Sections

1. An Annotated Sample of Contents
2. Table of Contents
3. Acknowledgments (if appropriate)
4. Management Summary

This section offers resource managers a synopsis of the report to help focus issues for consideration during review and approval, particularly any implications for site management of implementing the furnishings plan. It should briefly address: the level of interior documentation that exists for the site; summarize the plans for furnishing and the basis for those plans (both in terms of documentation and prior planning documents, such as general management plans and interpretive prospectuses that call for historic furnishings); identify any associated media called for in the furnishings plan; explain how visitors will access the site (i.e., by guided tour, self guided tour, or other); state whether implementation of the furnishings plan is tied to a larger restoration package, and identify any architectural modifications required for implementation.

### 5. Administrative Information

This section explains the management background of the structure, and provides the context for the current planning effort. It should briefly address: the establishment of the site (may be limited to citing the legislation); the status of the structure(s) on the National Register and its preservation history; the history of use by the NPS (including administrative and/or interpretive use) and any previous furnishings or other media installations; and list other research and planning documents pertaining to the structure. These last commonly include general management plans, interpretive prospectuses, historic structure reports, and collection management plans. If the structure(s) was operating as a museum prior to NPS involvement, that history should also be included here.

- **Interpretive Objectives** – Address the interpretive objectives of the furnished space(s), referencing if applicable the overall interpretive objectives of the site. This section explains what furnishings are intended to convey to the viewer, and why they are needed. Explain exactly which spaces are to be furnished. Include guidelines for personal services interpretation, with recommendations for specific interpretive messages that can be conveyed in the furnished spaces.
- **Operating Plan** – Cite hours and seasons of operation, how visitors access the site (i.e., through self-guided, guided, fixed point interpretation or other), staffing needs for interpretation and maintenance, and a visitor circulation pattern. Also identify any barrier needs in this section. This section should be prepared in close collaboration with park staff.

- **Prior Planning Documents** – List research and planning documents pertaining to the structure. Include these documents in the bibliography as well.

## 6. Historical Information

This section contains the complete history of the interior spaces, their appearance and how they were used over time. It forms the documentary basis for the furnishings plan, and provides a resource manual for personal services interpretation, as well as for developing other kinds of interpretive media.

- **Summary of Sources** – Succinctly describe primary sources of information, including important collections, repositories, and/or interviews. Some reports will not require this summary.
- **History of the Structure** – If structural history is contained in another document (typically the Historic Structures Report), reference that work and include only a brief summary of its contents here. If no such document exists, address the structural history to the extent needed as background for the furnishings history.
- **Analysis of Historical Occupancy** – Treat the building’s occupants, including household or other staff, as fully as possible (provided that information does not appear in another document), including biographical information, dates of occupancy, and information about people’s lives and activities in the structure. A subsection on room use may be appropriate, particularly if it changed frequently over time.
- **Evidence of Room Use and Furnishings** – Describe the interior appearance over time as fully as possible, including the contents of each space and their arrangement, when and where items were acquired and dispensed of, where produced, and any known repairs or other kinds of work to the furnishings. Include interior finishes and lighting fixtures. If that information is contained in an HSR, reference the HSR here. Organize this section by room, addressing all rooms on the first floor, all rooms on the second floor, and so on. Depending on the site, it may be helpful to separate the room analysis into “Room Use,” “Physical Evidence,” and “Furnishings” for each room. A separate section detailing information on furnishings of closely related structures should be included if site specific information is lacking, and if needed to develop a furnishings plan.

## 7. Furnishings Plan

The purpose of this section is to guide furnishings installation, and to provide a permanent record of object placement for park staff. Some HFRs will be limited to historical information sections and will not include a furnishings plan.

- **Floor Plan** – Include an accurate floor plan of areas to be furnished, with directional sign. The park will often be able to provide this plan.

- **List of Recommended Furnishings** – The furnishings list should include object name, documentation or basis for inclusion, park catalog number or, if the object is not in the park collection, a recommendation as to whether a reproduction or period piece is needed. Include a brief description, and date or date span for each recommended object. (Example: Desk, small wooden office, c. 1910-1930.) In general, recommend period pieces first, and reproductions as a second resort. However, if the object is fragile (such as a textile, or paper), extremely rare, or prohibitively expensive to acquire, recommend reproductions. The list of furnishings should begin with recommendations for appropriate period lighting fixtures, floor coverings, window treatments, and wall and ceiling treatments.

The list shall include a complete, item-by-item account of every object to be placed in a room, starting at the entrance and working clockwise around the room. Objects to be placed on a table or other piece of furniture should immediately follow the piece in the furnishings list. All items should be enumerated; i.e., entries such as “desk accessories” or “mantel garniture” will not be accepted.

- **Related Media** – Include suggestions for accompanying media, such as panel exhibits, interior waysides, or other. Provide suggestions for illustrations and text.

## 8. Illustrations

Include a list of illustrations, as well as a caption with each illustration. Include full citations, with source information and photo numbers, if applicable.

## 9. Appendixes

## 10. Bibliography

Organize the bibliography by publication type. Categories should appear in the following order:

- Books and government reports – separate this section if there are a large number of these sources
- Manuscript collections
- Articles and pamphlets
- Interviews

Other – includes transcripts, web sites, and correspondence

## **Appendix F: Implementation Plan**

The planning team discussed and identified important future programs and projects to undertake during the next 10-years. Some program expansion can occur within existing staff and funding levels; other recommendations require the addition of new interpretive positions and/or project funding. During the park's annual strategic planning process, the Chief of Interpretation will work with the Superintendent and other staff members to implement program goals and outcomes to achieve Long-Range Interpretive Plan recommendations.

## **Appendix G: Bibliography**

### **Park Specific Documents**

- Draft-General Management Plan Hampton National Historic Site
- 2007 Core Analysis and Business Plan for Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and Hampton National Historic Site
- 1978 Public Law 95-625 adding the farm complex to Hampton National Historic Site
- June 22, 1948 Order of Designation establishing Hampton National Historic Site

### **Other References**

- 2006 National Park Service Management Policies
- Director's Orders No. 6: Interpretation and Education
- Director's Order No. 28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline
- Sourcebook for Director's Orders on Park Planning, National Park Service
- Visitor Use and Evaluation of Interpretive Media, September 2003, the National Park Service Visitor Services Project and Harpers Ferry Center
- Planning for Interpretation and Visitor Experience, Interpretive Planning, Harpers Ferry Center, 1988.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Hampton National Historic Site



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