

Mackinac State Historic Parks Annual Report 2016

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission was created by the Michigan legislature on May 31, 1895. The commission's purpose was to administer Michigan's first state park; which had previously been Mackinac National Park, the United States' second national park, from 1875 to 1895. The commission's jurisdiction was extended in 1909 to Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City, Michigan's second state park. Over 80 percent of Mackinac Island is now included within the boundaries of Mackinac Island State Park, which also contains Fort Mackinac historic site. Colonial Michilimackinac and Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse are located within Michilimackinac State Park. In 1983 the commission also opened Historic Mill Creek State Park, east of Mackinaw City. The historic sites and parks are together known as Mackinac State Historic Parks. Annual visitation to all these parks and museums is nearly 1,000,000. Mackinac State Historic Parks has been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 1972.

WE PROTECT, PRESERVE AND PRESENT MACKINAC'S RICH HISTORIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES

TO PROVIDE OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL

EXPERIENCES FOR THE PUBLIC.



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Dear Friends,

Mackinac State Historic Parks enjoyed a very successful year in 2016!

This year we created and dedicated the Native American Cultural History Trail on Mackinac Island. The trail, which highlights Great Lakes Native American history at six interpretive stations on the road around the island, is phase one of our commitment to sharing the Michigan's Native American history with our visitors. The second phase, now in planning, is the creation of a Mackinac Island Native American museum at the Biddle House.

Other notable accomplishments include restoring and re-interpreting the Commanding Officer's House at Colonial Michilimackinac, installing the exhibits "Peaceful Mackinac" and "Bielecky's Mackinac" at the Mackinac Art Museum, constructing the new pedestrian bridge at Mill Creek, resurfacing the Mackinac Island Tennis Courts, paving the Colonial Michilimackinac Visitor's Center and Mackinaw City Administrative Office parking lots, publishing and reprinting several publications, designing and producing new printed materials, re-opening the British Landing Nature Center, completing a geological survey of Arch Rock, completing a new three-year strategic plan, and completing our 57th consecutive year of historical archaeology at Colonial Michilimackinac and our 27th consecutive year of education outreach programs.

All of this on top of successfully managing our accounting and personnel systems, administering dozens of leases, use permits, franchises and concessions, overseeing our collections, mitigating invasive species, operating five museum stores, and managing three state parks, the Mackinac Island Airport, a multitude of historic buildings and sites, and dozens of support facilities.

As always, we appreciate the great support of our many friends - Mackinac Associates board of directors and members, Governor Rick Snyder, Senator Wayne Schmidt, Representative Lee Chatfield, members of the Michigan legislature, and the many volunteers who helped us to successfully fulfill our mission of protecting, preserving and presenting Mackinac's rich historic and natural resources.

On behalf of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission and the Mackinac State Historic Parks staff – Thank You!



Chuck Yob, Chairman Mackinac Island State Park Commission



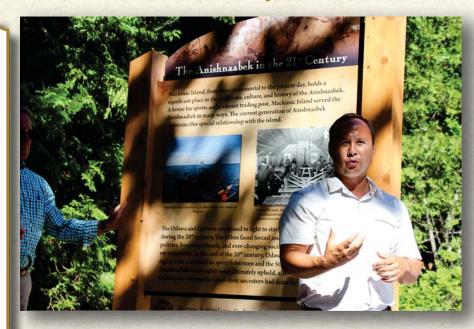
Phil Porter, Director Mackinac State Historic Parks



Native American Cultural History Trail

In 2016 Mackinac State Historic Parks created the Native American Cultural History Trail on Mackinac Island. A series of six interpretive stations along Lakeshore Boulevard, the trail provides a picturesque and appropriate setting for sharing the rich Native American history of Mackinac Island. Partnering with Eric Hemenway, Tribal Repatriation Specialist with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, MSHP staff designed, produced and installed the panels and accompanying landscaping, benches and bike racks. Mackinac Associates provided a challenge grant of \$25,000 that was matched with gifts totaling \$42,000 from generous donors.

David and Janet Bell
Marcia Brogan
Chippewa Hotel
William and CheriLyn Deary
John and Anne Gault
Island House
David and Ann Levy
Original Murdick's Fudge
Charles and Cordelia Putkammer
Douglas and Carol Rearick
Sage Foundation
Rick and Sue Snyder
Lorna Straus
Randy and Michelle Stuck
Clayton and Anna Timmons
Daniel and Jennifer Wohletz



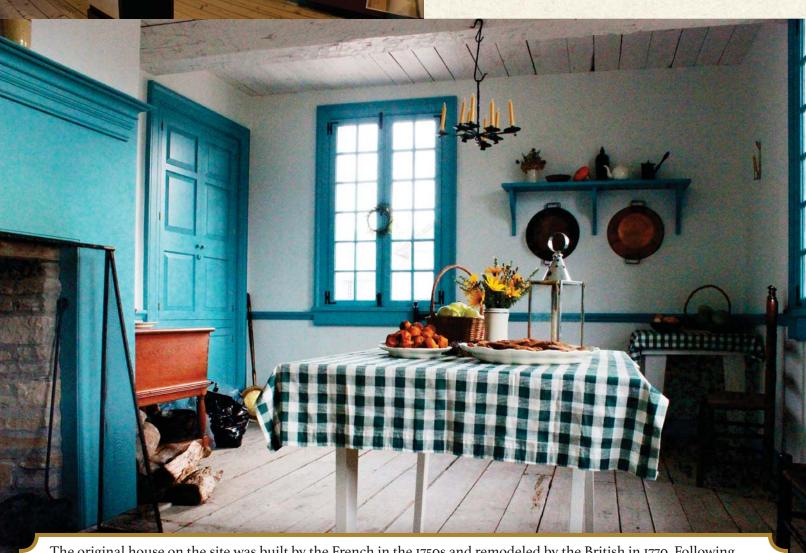
Eric Hemenway, Tribal Repatriation Specialist with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians provides information during the donor tour.

Donors generously raised \$42,000 to support the Native American Cultural History Trail and were treated to a "Thank You" tour of the trail on July 21, 2016.





Commanding Officers' Quarters



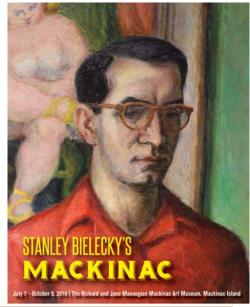
The original house on the site was built by the French in the 1750s and remodeled by the British in 1770. Following archaeological work, the house was reconstructed in 1963. Our reinterpretation of the house added several features not included in the reconstruction, primarily the division of the house into four equal-sized rooms with a central hall and the plastering of the walls. The woodwork was also updated, as research indicated it would have been more extensive and refined than the 1963 design. We also altered one of the fireplaces to allow it to be used.

Although the British had modified the structure to accommodate four officers, research indicates that Commanding Officer Arent Depeyster and his wife Rebecca occupied the entire house from 1774 to 1779. The layout reflects how they may have used the space with a parlor/dining room, bedchamber and kitchen. Extensive research was conducted to determine the types of furnishings and household goods. Resources consulted included John Askin's inventories and accounts from officer's quarters at other British posts. The fourth room is used as an exhibit gallery, detailing the life and career of Depeyster and the role of the commandant at Michilimackinac. This was made possible with the generous support of \$52,000 from Mackinac Associates

Sharing the Rich History of Mackinac

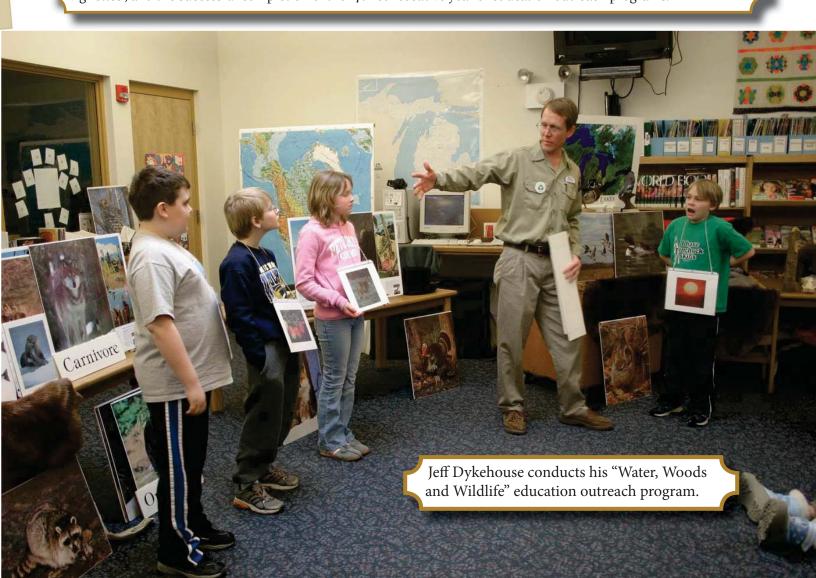


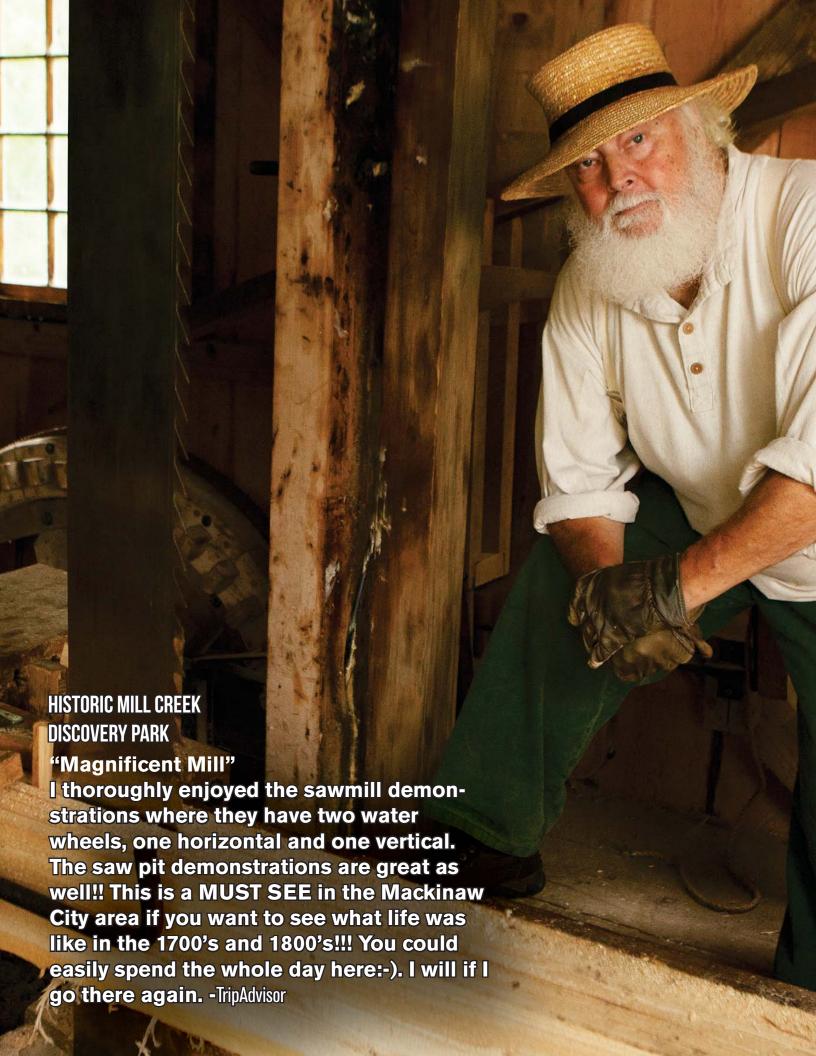




Mackinac State Historic Parks presents the rich history of the Straits of Mackinac through a variety of resources including exhibits and live interpretation, education activities, and a comprehensive publication program.

New initiatives for 2016 included installation of the "Waters of Mackinac" contemporary art and "Stanley Bielecky's Mackinac" exhibits at the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, introduction of an 18th century tea tasting program at Colonial Michilimackinac, installation of new outdoor interpretive panels, publication of two new vignettes, and the successful completion of the 27th consecutive year of education outreach programs.







Rich Historic Resources

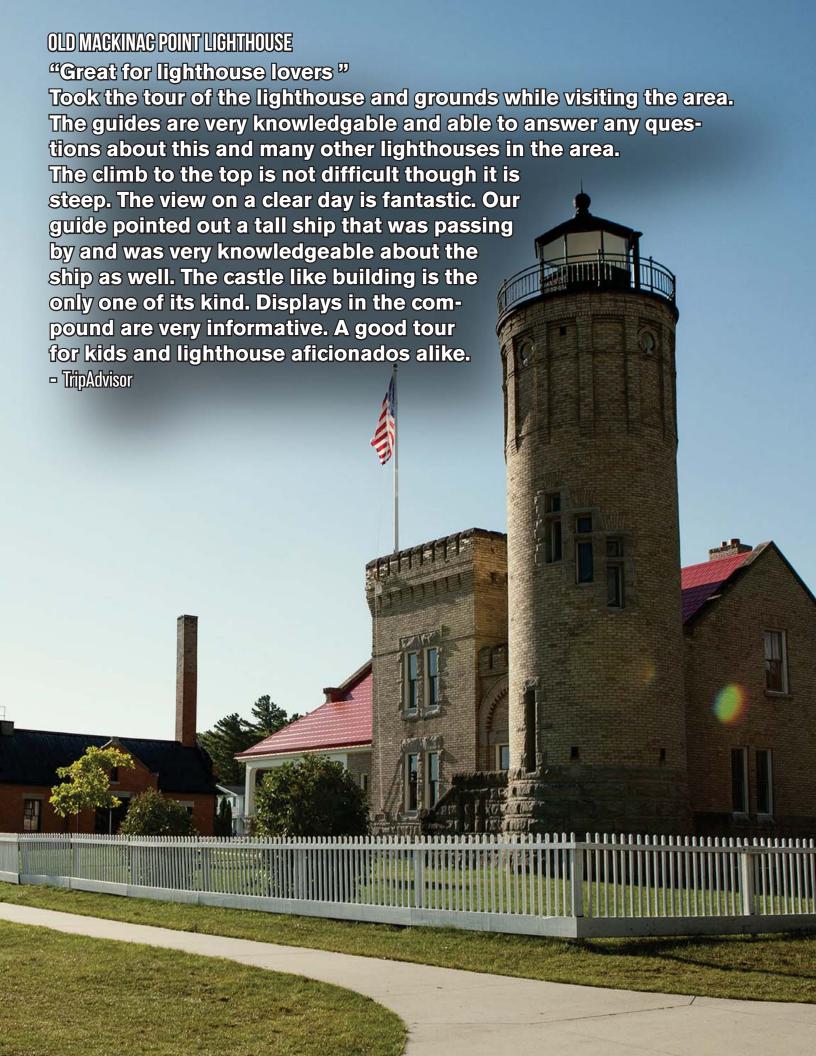
Our collections include historic objects, archival material and photographs. They are tangible links to the past, allowing us to present the Mackinac story to the public. Hundreds of items were added to the collection in 2016, both by donation and purchase. A significant purchase through the Martin and Patricia Jahn Collections Development Fund is a ca. 1920 painting of the Coal Dock by artist Charles E. Waltensperger. Another notable purchase included a collection of dozens of early twentieth-century objects documenting hotels and businesses in Mackinaw City. Individual purchases added additional photographs, stereoviews and postcards dating from the 1870s to the 1960s to the collection. Significant donations include an engine plate and wheel block from the William H. Barnum shipwreck; the emergency steering wheel from the Cedarville shipwreck; early twentieth-century photographs and scrapbooks of the Brown family; and Arnold Transit Company records from 1900 to the 1960s. This latter collection consists of over 100 linear feet of archival documents, ledgers, paper ephemera and a number of artifacts. Arnold had donated earlier records dating from 1878 to 1900 in the 1980s.





Protect and Preserve







Outstanding Visitor Experiences and Recognition



Nine of Mackinac State Historic Parks' sites were awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence in 2016.

Fort Mackinac
Colonial Michilimackinac
Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park
Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse
The Richard and Jane Manoogian
Mackinac Art Museum
Biddle House
Fort Holmes
Mackinac Island State Park
Arch Rock



On May 2, Dr. Lynn Evans and Director Porter attended the 2016 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation in Lansing. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission was recognized for the Michilimackinac archaeology program, one of the longest ongoing archaeology projects in the United States.

Mackinac State Historic Parks attracted 1,000,000 visitors to its parks which included 366,685 paying customers to its historic sites. This equals the strong level of attendance shown in 2015 and shows continued recovery from impact of the recession.



The American Bus Association identified Mackinac State Historic Parks as the number one Top Group Attraction for 2016.

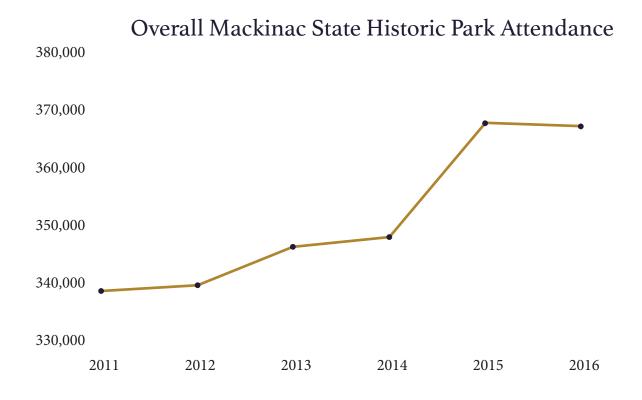
Productive Partnerships

Mackinac State Historic Parks enjoys many productive partnerships. Through these relationships we are able to combine resources to accomplish initiatives of mutual interest. Without these collaborative efforts, it would be very difficult to fully realize our mission of "protecting, preserving and presenting" the rich historic and natural resources of the Straits of Mackinac.

American Bus Association
American Alliance of Museums
Association for State and Local History
Association of Midwest Museums
Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural
Museums
Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council
National Association for Interpretation
Historical Society of Michigan
Midwest Registrars Committee
Company of Military Historians
Association for Great Lakes Maritime History
Great Lakes Historical Society
Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association

Society for Historical Archaeology
Council for Northeast Archaeology
Society for Industrial Archaeology
Essence of Emmet
Michigan Museums Association
Circle Michigan
West Michigan Travel Association
Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau
Mackinaw Area Council
Mackinaw Area Arts Council
Northern Michigan History Consortium
Mackinac Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
Upper Peninsula Travel Association
Mackinac Island Community Foundation

Museum Store Sales up 8.6% over 2015 which was up 7.27% over 2014



There's Nothing Like Good Friends!



Mackinac Associates has supported Mackinac State Historic Parks for 35 years and the list of contributions to park programs, exhibits, preservation efforts, publications, and more is impressive. Mackinac Associates was fortunate to be involved in important 2016 projects. Friends Preserving and Sharing Mackinac's Heritage Associates funded the renovated Commanding

and the Native American Cultural History Trail along Lakeshore Boulevard on Mackinac Island. All are made possible through the many loyal members and donors that have supported us for many years and from the new members we welcome, appreciate and hope to know for a long time. In 2016 Mackinac Associates membership revenue increased by 12% over 2015, also a record year. We are also very appreciative that overall giving increased

by 33% over 2015.

Mackinac Associates enjoyed several events including the 28th annual G. Mennen Williams Celebration hosted by John and Penny Barr, the annual meeting which was the official opening of the Commanding Officer's House, the reception and tour for donors dedicating the Native American Cultural History Trail, and two exhibitions at the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum.

The Mackinac Associates Board of Trustees

said goodbye to Trustee Kelly Cooper who fulfilled a retirement goal of becoming a historic interpreter and welcomed Kathy Lieder, a long-time supporter of Mackinac Associates. We thanked Mark Mercer for serving several terms as president and turned the gavel over to Peter Pellerito. At the August 2016, the Mackinac Associates Board of Trustees approved funding for a large number of projects for 2017 and is counting on continued help from our good friends.





Board of Trustees

Peter Pellerito, President Harriet McGraw, Vice President Ann Parrish, Secretary/Treasurer Jack Barnwell Mary Jane Barnwell Jerome Burns

Kathy Lieder Tom Lockwood Wesley Maurer Mark Mercer Todd Petersen

MEMBERSHIPS

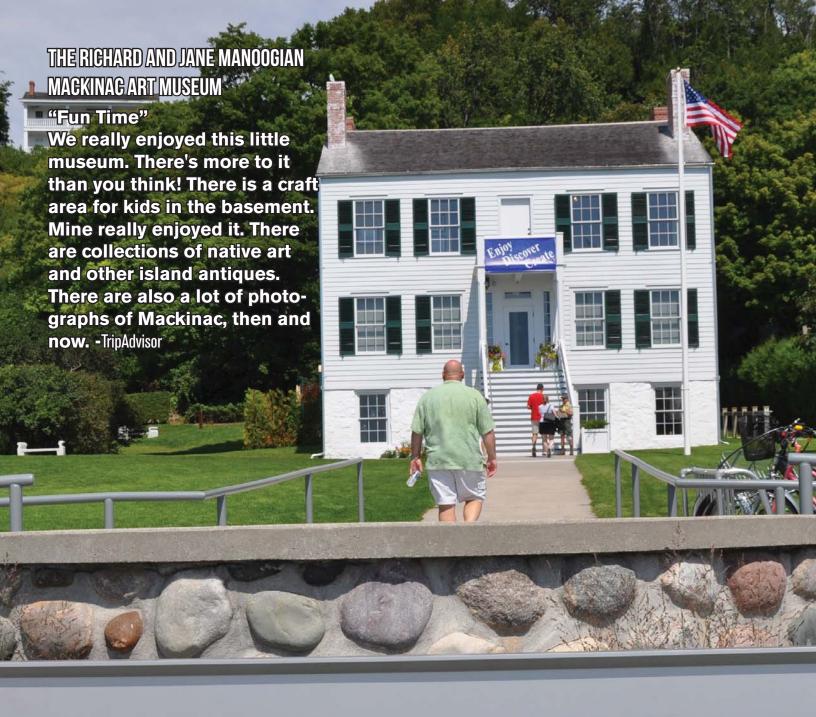
12%



REVENUE

33%





INAC ART MUSEUM





