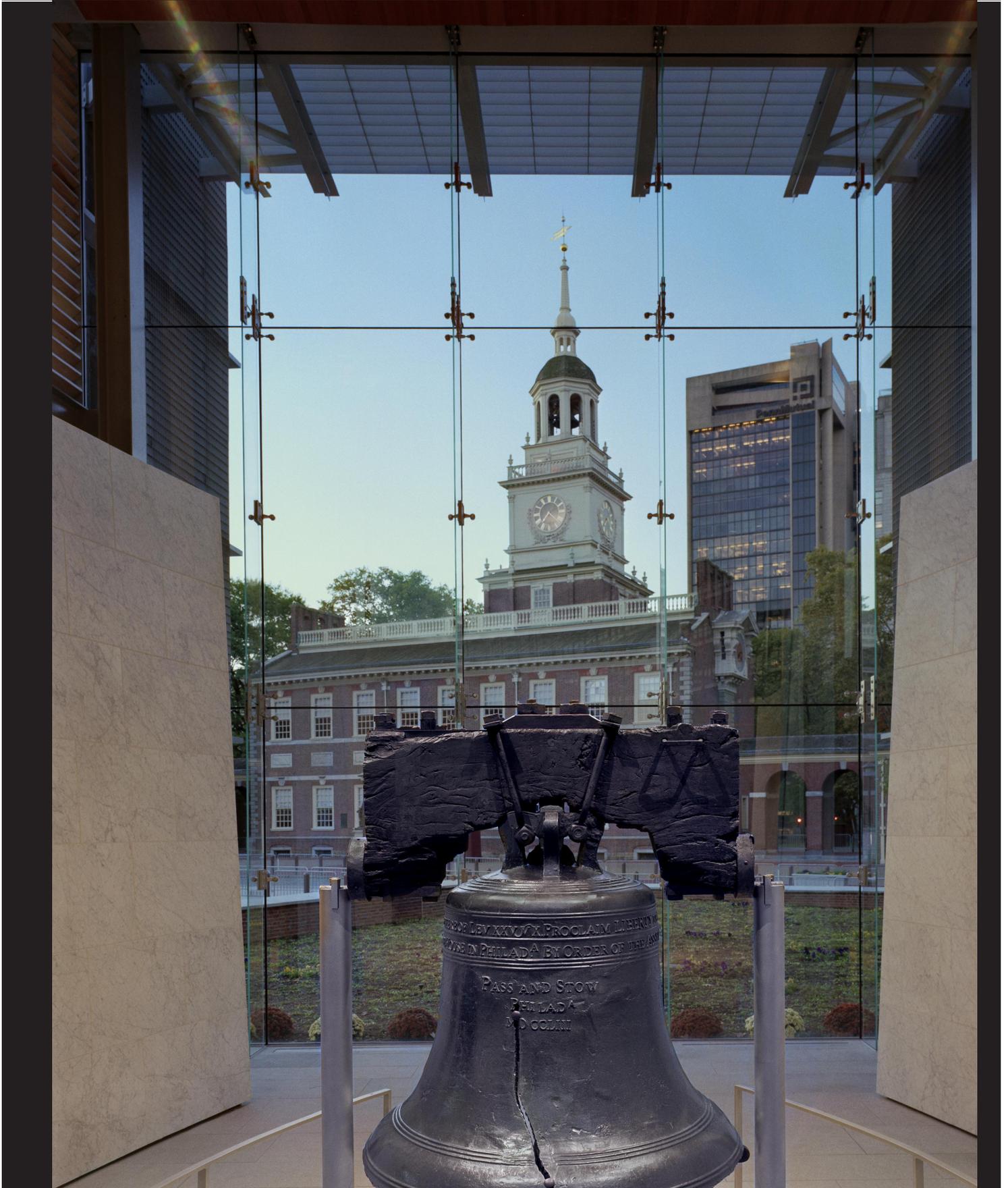
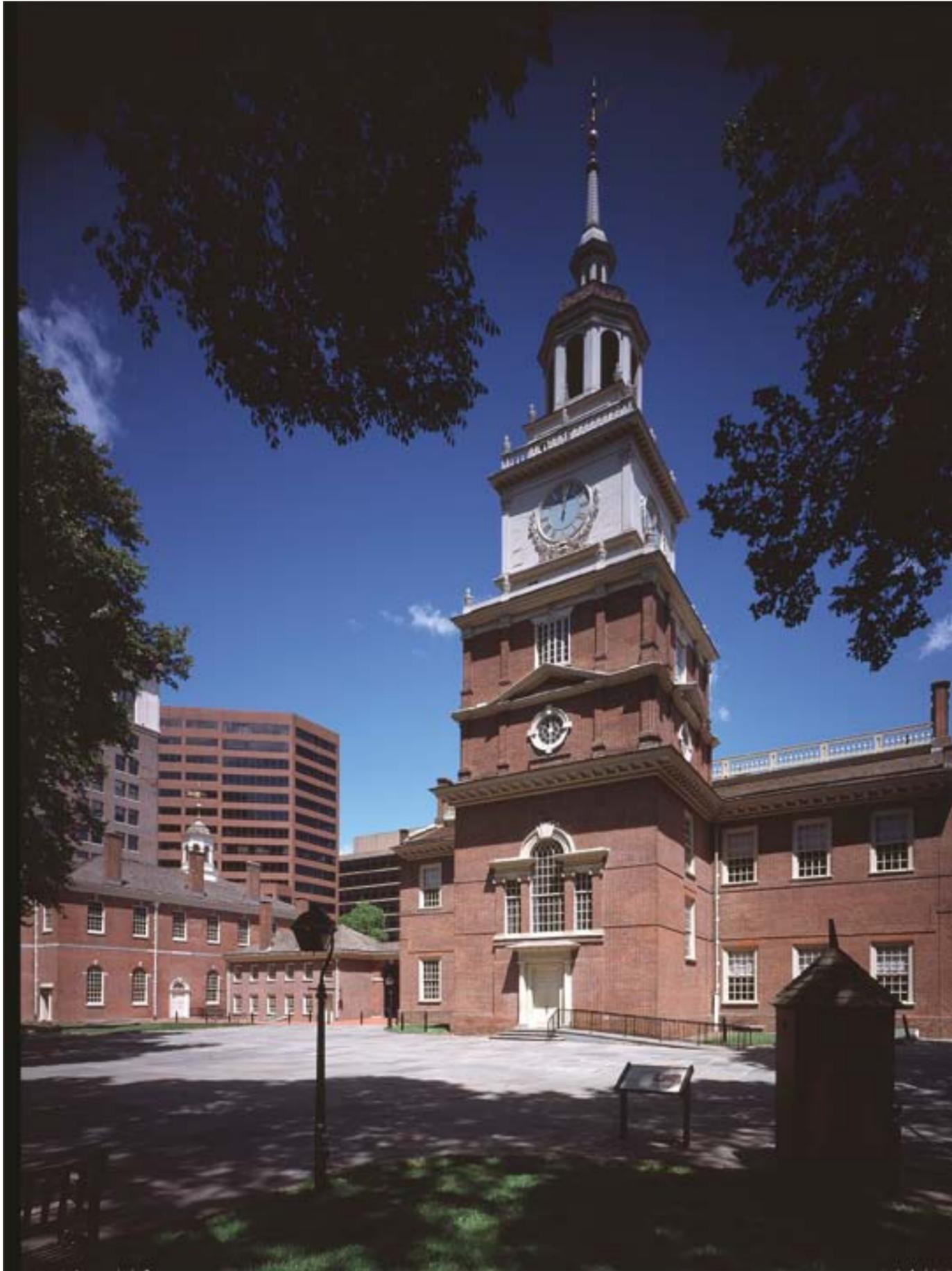




Independence National Historical Park  
Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, Thaddeus Kosciuszko National  
Memorial, Gloria Dei (Old Swede's) National Historic Site





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# Annual Report FY 2010

Independence National Historical Park  
Philadelphia, PA



# A Letter from the Superintendent

At Independence National Historical Park, my staff and I share the stewardship of some of the most important symbols of our nation's heritage, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Congress Hall, the First and Second Banks of the United States, and others. We manage 17 historic buildings plus additional modern buildings, workshops and storage areas. An accredited museum, the park has almost 3 million items in its collection. Museum collection items range from the best known, such as the Rising Sun Chair and Syng ink stand, to lesser known items such as architectural elements from demolished buildings or archeological fragments. We also share responsibility for Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial and Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site.

Our responsibility to preserve these irreplaceable resources is second only to our responsibility to our visitors. The park attracted 3.8 million visitors in FY2010, from around the country and around the world. Through our wide variety of visitor services, we encourage our visitors to engage with the story of the founding of our nation and the mission of the National Park Service: "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

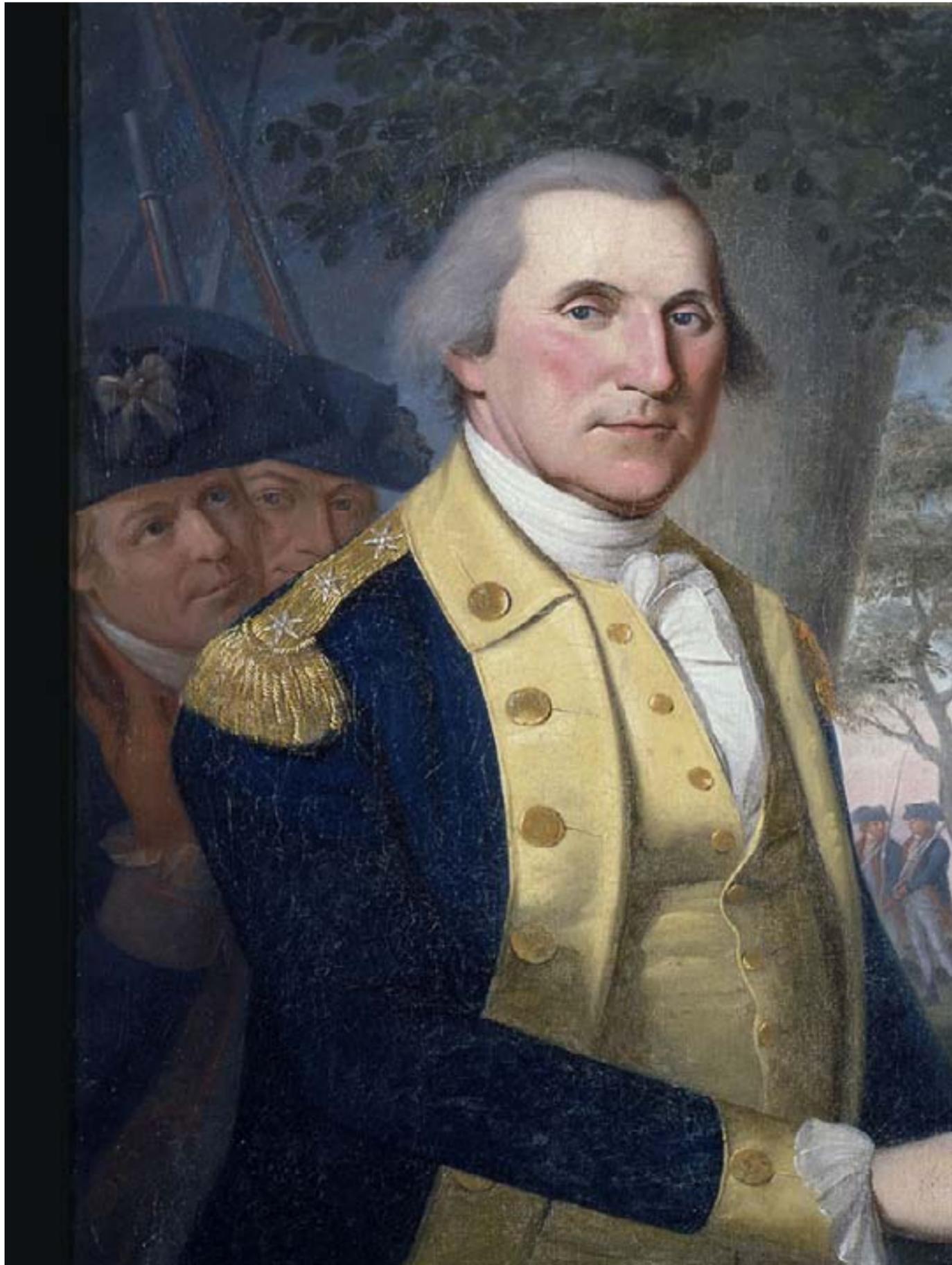
This has been a year of success and accomplishment. Working with our partners, we accomplished a major objective in fiscal year 2010, with the completion of the three-way land-exchange with the American Revolution Center and Valley Forge National Historical Park. Another major work of note this fiscal year was the start of the rehabilitation project of Independence Hall Tower, a \$4.4 million project funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Park staff also continued to work on several multi-year, multi-faceted projects including a partnership with the City of Philadelphia for construction of the commemoration of the President's House Site and an \$18 million partnership project for renovation of the Franklin Court Underground Museum.

Park staff and resources have received a number of awards and special recognitions this year. The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia awarded a Preservation Achievement Award for the historic preservation of the Germantown White House. The Independence Archeology Laboratory, operated in partnership with the National Constitution Center, was designated by First Lady Michelle Obama as a Preserve America Steward -- one of only 30 entities nationwide to have received this coveted designation. The park was awarded a gold medal in the category of "Private Sector Involvement" at the annual Federal Executive Board Excellence in Government award ceremony for the activities surrounding the celebration of the Bicentennial of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe.

The following report captures in brief a year in the life of "the Best Park in History." I credit the dedication and hard work of my staff in achieving these accomplishments, but I also know that none of our achievements would have been possible without the strong partnerships we have formed with organizations around Philadelphia and around the nation. Thank you for your support of our national parks.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia MacLeod  
Superintendent





# Your Dollars At Work

Independence NHP draws 3.8 million visitors to the region annually. Top destinations include the Independence Visitor Center, Liberty Bell and Franklin Court. Visitors include families, tour groups, school groups that participate in educational programs at the Independence Park Institute, scholars and students making use of park archives and collections, and individuals who participate in some of the 600 special events and permitted activities that are held in the park each year.

For FY2010 (October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010), the park’s regular budget was \$25,129,600. In addition, we received \$2.638 million for programs and projects including the Volunteer-in-the-Parks Program, various Repair/Rehabilitation projects, collections cataloging, and equipment replacement funds. Additional funds managed by the park include special grants and awards such as funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and grants from the Pew Charitable Trusts and other donors.

Park staff comprised 208 full time positions in FY2010, with an additional 62 employees brought on as a seasonal workforce. There were a total of 50 new hires processed during the year.

We also benefitted from the support of students, who join the National Park Service through a number of programs, including the Student Career Enhancement Program, Student Training Enhancement Program, and the Pro-Ranger Program organized jointly by the National Park Service and Temple University. In FY2010, the park brought on board 12 students through these temporary employment programs, and converted one former SCEP into a full-time position.

Labor expenses accounted for \$16.138 million, or 64% of the regular budget. Non-labor expenses totaled \$8.991 million, or 36% of the budget. In FY2011, we will be implementing a revised organizational structure, the result of a Position Management Review and fiscal analysis.

Non-labor expense fell into 4 main programs:

- » Security Guard Contract, \$3.364 million
- » Park Utilities, \$1.975 million
- » Independence Visitor Center, \$0.850 million
- » Other contracts, materials, & supplies, \$2.802 million

Spending on other contracts, materials & supplies was higher than normal and went toward a variety of bigger ticket items.

## ROI

*The return on investment of these expenditures benefits the Greater Philadelphia region, including the tourism industry, educational community, and cultural and historical communities.*

*As the largest (by visitation levels) tourist destination in Philadelphia, Independence NHP strives to bring visitors to the region and experience all that Philadelphia has to offer.*

*The National Park Service uses a Money Generation Model to estimate the contribution of visitor and park payroll spending to gateway communities within a 50 mile radius of a park. In the overall picture of national parks and other units within the NPS system, an investment of one dollar in the parks returns an average of \$4 to \$5 to the local area through salaries and visitor spending.*

This page: C.W. Peale portrait of George Washington, Independence National Historical Park

Previous page: Rising Sun Chair, the chair George Washington sat in while presiding over the Constitutional Convention. Independence National Historical Park.

# Volunteer and Youth Programs

“ProRanger Philadelphia” kicked off its program on March 23rd at Temple University in downtown Philadelphia.

ProRanger Philadelphia is an academic and training program that is cooperatively administered by the NPS and Temple University and was established to recruit and train park rangers for the National Park Service. Upon graduation from Temple University and successfully completing the ProRanger program, participants are placed in a permanent career tenure law enforcement park ranger position with the National Park Service.

Eight national park units hosted the field internships, which provided participants with an overview of park operations and a taste of working for the National Park Service. The parks included: Independence National Historical Park, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Gettysburg National Military Park, Colonial National Historical Park, Prince William Forest Park, Morristown National Historical Park, Antietam National Battlefield, and Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. The NPS trusts this program will help bring up the next generation of National Park Service law enforcement rangers.

Two students from the program, Melissa Burch and Giancarlo Graziani (pictured here) joined the Independence NHP staff for the summer as ProRangers. Over the course of the summer, Melissa and Giancarlo worked in each of the park’s five divisions, getting a taste for work in the National Park Service. The focus of their summer internship was in our division for Resource and Visitor Protection, where Melissa and Giancarlo learned the ins and outs of resource and visitor protection will providing us with much needed assistance with a variety of visitor services and resource protection tasks.

The park welcomed over 260 volunteers this year. Volunteers contributed 16,700 hours this year working alongside park staff in maintenance, cultural resources, administration and interpretation.

First Lady Michelle Obama designated the park as a “Preserve America Steward” in recognition of the volunteer-led efforts to inventory and catalog the park’s archeological collection. The park is now one of 30 organizations nationwide to receive this honor and the first NPS site to be so designated. 15 volunteers contributed 4,150.15 hours in the archeology lab.

Park volunteers, “First Bloom” participants and even park visitors participated in National Public Lands Day on September 25th with clean-up activities including planting and gardening work completed on the Mall, Dock Street area and brick walkway restoration behind First Bank.

The Friends of Independence NHP continue to support the VIP program by soliciting donations to underwrite volunteer events. They were instrumental in recruitment efforts for extra volunteers for special events such as the annual July 4th festivities and Picnic on the Mall. This year volunteers distributed over 8,000 American flags to visitors from all over the world during the 3 day event.

Park maintenance staff continue to work closely with volunteer gardeners at Washington Square, 18th Century Garden, Magnolia Garden and the Todd House garden. The grounds crew supervised several one-day gardening projects with community and civic groups from the local area and several from across the country who were in town visiting and wanted to contribute. In the Historic Architecture, Archives and Library and Museum branches, 12 volunteers contributed 1,309.5 hours.



“Temple’s ProRanger Philadelphia interns ... are exposed to all facets of park management, from interpretation to maintenance. (Yes, they clean toilets.)” Von Bergen, Jane M., Philadelphia Inquirer, August 2, 2010



Volunteer and youth programs at Independence NHP include, among many others (clockwise from bottom left): , the First Bloom program (two photos), the Pro Ranger Program, the Junior Ranger Program, and National Public Lands Day.



# Interpretation and Education



The physiognotrace is “One of the best-kept secrets at Independence National Historical Park ... Hands-on fun.” Batcha, Becky. Philadelphia Daily News. February 11, 2010.



The Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site junior ranger program received a \$16,000.00 funding grant under the Youth Partnership Program to design and print a new Junior Ranger booklet with patch and badge. Junior Ranger booklets, badges and patches were also created for the Deshler-Morris House (Germantown White House).

The Interpretation and Visitor Services Division welcomed Patricia Jones as the new Division Chief, transferring from Lowell NHP. The park also filled two Supervisory Park Ranger positions and hired ten new permanent, subject-to-furlough Park Guides. Centennial seasonal hiring added to the ranks of the frontline interpretive staff and eased the staffing burden allowing for more flexibility in leave requests and time for staff to work on special projects. With the selection of a new chief, the park continues to move forward with reviewing our position management plan for I&VS and identifying future staffing needs.

Throughout the year, the park has prioritized training for all staff. Interpretive staff participated in a variety of training programs, including: National Association for Interpreters (NAI) Workshop in Hartford, Conn.; Gilder Lehrman session – “George Washington and the American Revolution” at Mount Vernon; Gilder Lehrman session – “The Age of Jefferson” at the University of Virginia; Underground Railroad conference in Topeka, Kansas; Gilder Lehrman session – “From the Founding of a Nation to the Crisis of the Union” at Madison’s Montpelier; Volunteer Workshop at Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island; and IDP Regional Lead Coaches training in Harper’s Ferry, WV.

Franklin Underground Museum - The park continues to move forward with all phases of design development work for the new Franklin Museum. The park is working closely with Casson-

Mann (exhibit design), Remer and Talbott (guest curators), QuinnEvans (facility architects) and other project partners including Pew Charitable Trust, private funders and Mall partners. The exhibit components are in the production drawings and bid documents phase with award of fabrication contracts scheduled for late spring 2011 when the current museum will close for renovations. Design work is progressing on the numerous AV interactive components with award of fabrication contracts scheduled for December 2010. The park’s internal planning team is examining operational issues as they relate to the building and exhibit designs and are developing procedural guidelines for fee collection, crowd control, group tours, etc.

Directional Wayfinding/Signage – Working with Harpers Ferry Center, the park completed its sign plan with the fabrication and installation of directional and resource identification signs throughout the park. Installed signs include primary and secondary pedestrian signs, building identification with magnetic strips for changing hours, handicap access, security signs on stanchions and orientation map tables.

Mall Wayside Plan – Working with Harpers Ferry Center, the park is nearing completion of the design development phase for 25 new waysides and interpretive panels as part of the long range interpretive design plan for the Mall. Park plans to award a fabrication and installation contract in spring 2011.



The park’s education branch, the Independence Park Institute, offers educational programs that connect participants of all ages to the resources and stories of Independence National Historical Park.

The Independence Park Institute, the park’s education branch, has undergone some substantial changes this year with the loss of the Living History Center building. The park’s archeology lab moved into two IPI classrooms at 325 Walnut which has directly impacted IPI operations. The Liberty Bell education program has been temporarily relocated to a special events room within the Liberty Bell Center. The other classroom was under development as the new Underground Railroad workshop but those plans have been put on hold and the exhibit materials remain in the IVCC.

The IPI and its programs continue to be in a developmental stage, with five of the six planned educational programs ready for school groups. Of those five programs, only three (Daily Life in the 18th Century, Archeology: History Found in Pieces, and Benjamin Franklin) are completely designed and have a dedicated classroom workshop space. The Archeology classroom was successfully moved from the old Living History Center this year and relocated to 325 Walnut. Two other programs, Quest For Freedom: Slavery and the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia and The Liberty Bell: A Symbol for “We The People” are available for bookings.

In the summer of 2010, the park hosted two Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT) positions; one funded through regional funding and the other funded by the park. The two teachers, Sophia Agbaje from Baldi Middle School and Tim Theunissen from Hampton Moore Elementary School, worked as frontline interpretive rangers and also completed research and lesson plans for the Underground Railroad curriculum. These positions are one component of a developing partnership with the School District of Philadelphia to attract more involvement with local teachers.

In FY10 the IPI provided 103 school programs for 2855 students. This is a 25% increase over FY09’s visitation. The IPI provided teachers with professional development workshops as well as school programs. This year we provided 14 teacher workshops serving 302 teachers. These workshops included:

- Educator’s Night Out, October 7, 2009: An Open House for teachers from the School District of Philadelphia.
- Archeology Workshop, October 10, 2009: A half-day professional development workshop for teachers of grades 5-12.
- Bring Out Your Dead!, October 31, 2009: A workshop for teachers from the School District of Philadelphia focusing upon the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793.
- Franklin and the Free Press, May 1, 2010: A half-day professional development workshop for teachers of grades 5-12.
- Summer Institute, July 12-16, 2010: The IPI partnered with Valley Forge National Historical Park to present a one-week teacher institute. This professional development workshop focused upon using media other than the textbook to bring history into the classroom.
- Professional Development Workshop, July 21, 2010: A one hour workshop on the use of art in teaching history.
- Professional Development Workshop, July 27, 2010: A two hour exploration of the President’s House Site and the Liberty Bell, as part of a week-long teacher program focusing upon the Underground Railroad.
- Orientation Tours of the IPI: Tours of the park’s educational programs for student teachers, tour guides and staff from other parks.

## Visitation Statistics at Select Park Sites

Fiscal Year	Total Visitors	Liberty Bell Center	Independence Hall	Second Bank	Special Park Programs
2010	3,850,410	2,333,972	703,597	93,447	3,065
2009	3,998,309	2,334,267	719,178	102,273	4,214
2008	3,993,952	2,229,423	715,860	131,742	3,871
2007	3,662,443	1,968,294	677,344	108,943	5,346

# Preserving An Icon

In July, work began on the 14-month rehabilitation project of Independence Hall Tower. Earlier this year, the National Park Service awarded a \$4,394,000 contract under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Daniel Keating Company, a general contractor and construction management firm based in Narberth.

Park neighbors and visitors will have noticed the scaffolding that went up in September. In early November, this scaffolding will be covered by a decorative scrim made possible through a donation from the Friends of Independence. The scrim, which will show an image of Independence Hall Tower, will help ensure the safety of construction workers and the public during restoration, while enabling residents and visitors to view an architectural image of the tower.

The rehabilitation project was the result of several years of planning. A 2007 materials investigation of the tower revealed significant deterioration. William Strickland's 1828 design for the tower sheathed it in 2" thick wood siding doweled together with iron rods bolted top to bottom. Over the years, driving rain penetrated through the siding's wood joints, exposing the rods to moisture. In April 2007, the investigation using non-destructive radiography (rather than cutting the siding to expose the rods) captured images of the degree of decay. The technique is similar to that used for scanning packages and luggage at airports or other security checks. A beam of radiation was directed through the wood siding at rod locations and captured on film creating images of the iron rods.

The rehabilitation project includes a wide variety of other repairs and replacement work on the Tower, including the brick masonry, wood shingle roofing, window sashes and frames. The project also requires installing new clock faces and/or bracing at all building elevations, refurbishing historic copper urns, and replacing the supporting weather vane structure. The purpose of this rehabilitation is to arrest and correct decay of the tower's exterior skin and structural framing.

Independence Hall Tower is a critical element of the Independence Hall World Heritage site as both a landmark and focus of the park's interpretive themes. Designed by William Strickland, the present tower replaced the original one which had been removed in the late eighteenth century due to structural instability. Strickland's tower is one of America's earliest examples of colonial revival architecture.

This rehabilitation will help preserve Independence Hall for many more generations to come and will allow the National Park Service to improve visitor enjoyment for the millions of visitors to Independence National Historical Park each year. In addition to creating local jobs, this project is vital to support the tourism industry that is so important to the economic vitality of this Commonwealth and community.

Project planning, including architectural and engineering research, has been accomplished in close coordination with the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.



Independence Hall, taken from Independence Mall to the north (above) and Independence Square to the south (below), showing the decorative scrim donated to the park by the Friends of Independence and the Wayside that informs visitors about the project. Independence National Historical Park.



The Friends of Independence, a nonprofit volunteer organization that supports Independence NHP, donated to the park the decorative scrim that covers the scaffolding and features an image of Independence Hall Tower created from measured drawings. The scrim will wrap the scaffolding around the Hall during the rehabilitation, preserving the visitor experience to this World Heritage Site for its more than four million annual visitors, as well as residents and passersby.

# Maintenance is Preservation

A major historical architecture project in 2010 was completing the Deshler Morris/Bringhurst House Utilities Improvement Project. This project won two awards in 2010, the State of Pennsylvania's Historic Preservation Award and a Preservation Achievement Grand Jury Award from the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia.

Park staff managed a number of other building repair projects, including:

- » The Franklin Court Carriageway and Market Street buildings, and replacing the pneumatic controls for the HVAC system in Franklin Court and the Market St. buildings.
- » Congress Hall Chimney Inspection and Stabilization A/E Request for Proposal
- » Free Quaker Meeting House modifications to improve accessibility.
- » Roof Replacement and exterior painting for Walnut St. buildings. The painting contract was awarded to a disadvantaged small business contractor.
- » Repairing the pole gutter and cornice at the southeast corner of the Kosciuszko House. The intricate cornice molding was made by park woodcrafters using wooden shapers and hand planes to duplicate the existing molding.
- » Flood prevention at the Second Bank through repairing and cleaning catch basins and downspouts.

Park staff continued to offer their services to improve communications with and support partnerships with preservation organizations outside the NPS:

- » The park's Chief Historical Architect served as the Chair of the Association of Preservation Technology/Delaware Valley Chapter as well as a Technical Design and Review Committee Member of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust and a Work Group Member of the NPS – FMSS Historic Bldg Assemblies.
- » The park's Chief Curator served as a board member for Montpieler (James Madison's home in Virginia).
- » The park's Historical Architect provided technical advice to Valley Forge on wood shake roof installations.



Photographs on preceding page:

New exhibits inside the Germantown White House (top), and exterior of the house after the project (bottom).

# Cultural Resource Management



“For many visitors, the [Liberty Bell’s] focal point is the jagged crack ... the National Park Service turns down those who periodically offer to patch it up.” Seelye, Katherine Q., New York Times, July 4, 2010.

Independence National Historical Park is an accredited museum with almost 3 million items in its collection.

Park staff manage these collections, care for and preserve them, and when appropriate loan them to other cultural institutions.

Over the course of this year, the park registrar completed park inventories, loan renewal documents and incorporated catalog records for 165 history and 41,724 archeology and 48,000 archival items. There were 47,310 objects accessioned representing 35 incoming loans, 22 outgoing loans consisting of 93 objects, 47,728 field collections, 2 purchases and 29 gifts. At the conclusion of FY2010, the park had 2,901,216 items in its collections.

The Museum Technical staff provided collections care for objects installed in 17 historic buildings, 5 modern buildings and 4 museum storage areas. In a partnership coordinated through the Friends of Independence, the park Chief Curator developed a proposal for upgrading the West Wing documents exhibit case. This proposal will be funded through a donation from the National Society of Children of the American Revolution. The Chief Curator also served as liaison to the Environmental Protection Agency’s spring Liberty Rad Ex scenario involving simulated post-emergency response to resource damage following fictional detonation of a dirty bomb.

During 2010, the library had 550 patrons consisting of 382 staff and 168 public researchers. Circulation included 176 books as well as 396 consulted in the library. Through our photographic services program, the Library Technician filled 84 orders for 125 items and granted 84 permissions plus 47 permission renewals. She also reproduced 35 drawings for 6 orders and catalogued 33 books. The library acquired 36 newly-purchased books and 27 donated items as well as 149 journals. In addition, we received 17 CRBIB reports and processed requests for 15. The Library Technician was image coordinator for the parkwide comprehensive sign plan, the President’s House Site exhibition and the completion of the Mall Interpretive Elements Project.

## INDE Archives

*Thanks to the work of the National Park Service Northeast Region Museum Services Center (Center), this fiscal year the Morris Family Papers, 1741-1989, were arranged and processed. The Morris family occupied the house now known as the Germantown White House from 1835 to 1949, at which time the family donated the property to the National Park Service.*

*The Morris Family Papers is a large and varied collection. From diaries, letters, and photographs to contracts, wills, and business papers, this collection gives insight into nearly every aspect of daily life of this interesting and dynamic family. Housed in the Independence National Historical Park Archives, the materials in the Morris Family Papers collection span more than three centuries, from 1726 through 1973. The papers are now arranged in coherent series reflecting how the Morris Family members created, collected, and kept their correspondence, diaries, photographs, drawings, and genealogical research. This organization is documented in a finding aid which also gives biographical and genealogical information. The Morris Family Papers are ready for the anticipated increase of researchers interested in the newly rehabilitated House and in the social history of Germantown and Philadelphia.*

*As part of the cataloging of the Morris Family Papers, the Center also documented the process with contributions to a blog developed by the park. The brainchild of Karen Stevens, Archivist, the Morris Family Papers blog features entries by Dana Kellogg Repash, the Villanova graduate student in public history who designed the site, and by Margaret Welch (Archivist, Northeast Museum Services Center). The blog is an excellent vehicle for capturing this work and displaying the many photographs of the Germantown White House (owned for a lengthy period by the Morris family) and of Morris family members. Topics such as the Morris family’s pride in the House are*

## Youth Conservation Corps

*The Northeast Region of the National Park Service this year initiated a Climate Change Steering Committee to promote a sustainable building initiative along with energy audits, for all covered facilities. The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a work-learn-earn program designed to develop an understanding and appreciation in participating youth of our nation’s environment and heritage. YCC offers gainful summer employment to youth, for approximately eight weeks, in a healthful outdoor atmosphere. YCC enrollees in Philadelphia used training to provide energy conservation presentations for the public and conduct energy audits on small to medium sized structures in Valley Forge and Independence NHPs. The participants also helped with small projects to reduce energy consumption.*

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

*The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act gave \$750 million in funding went to the National Park Service. Independence NHP was able to fund three important park projects through the ARRA funding: rehabilitation of Independence Hall tower, restore the original cobblestone courtyard of an 18th century stable located in what is now the Rose Garden, and installing solid-state electronic kilowatt-hour submeters in park buildings to monitor and track energy usage. Under the ARRA, Interior is making an investment in conserving America’s timeless treasures – our stunning natural landscapes, our monuments to liberty, the icons of our culture and heritage.*

# Historic Landscapes

This fiscal year, the park focused its attention on the historical landscape of Washington Square. A Cultural Landscape Report, commissioned by the NPS, uses details on historical significance, previous landscape treatments and usage patterns to develop a treatment proposal for Washington Square. The treatment plan is expected to provide recommendations for care of both the natural and cultural resources in the square. This report will be shared with neighbors and partners in the coming year to finalize the treatment plan for the Square.

In the Spring of 2010, much public attention was focused on an assessment from the Morris Arboretum, which identified an oak tree in the southeastern corner of the square as not structurally sound. Working closely with neighbors, the park commissioned a second analysis by the Fairmount Park Commission (submitted by the Park District Arborist, an arborist accredited by the International Society of Arboriculture); a third analysis was provided by a resident of Washington Square. All reports concurred, and the tree was removed.

The grounds crew also did extensive work in preparation for events in Washington Square. Beds were prepared, stumps removed, and beds planted in accordance with design plans. The NPS will continue to work with neighbors, visitors and partners to identify treatment solutions and park uses that address the needs of residents and visitors to Washington Square.

In October, 2009, Independence NHP hosted Trees NC, the American Chestnut Foundation, Morris Arboretum, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the Charter High School for Architecture + Design for a historic tree planting event on Independence Square. Trees NC (in North Carolina) donated two American Chestnut Trees to Independence NHP. Trees NC has created a program with the American Chestnut Foundation and the North Carolina Zoo to grow pure American Chestnut Trees where they once stood. This donation will re-establish a tree historically present on the Square. The event held on the south side of Independence Hall drew a crowd of supporters and positive reviews, including a front page article in the Philadelphia Inquirer..

In other areas of the park, the grounds crew replaced a crab apple tree on Block 2 of Independence Mall and battled the intense summer heat with increased manual watering and a 200 gallon water buffalo to help with the increased need for hand spraying. The Bishop White gardens walkways were leveled off with new crushed stone.

Rehabilitation of De Silva Court, an ARRA project that will restore the original cobblestone courtyard of an 18th century stable. Other ongoing projects included managing contracts for tree identification and soil testing in Washington Square and widening the driveway at Gloria Dei, and planning for the relocation of the Bicentennial Bell after the ARC land exchange.

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“A pint-size sapling will be planted at Independence Hall tomorrow, bringing with it an outsize hope -- that a mighty tree that all but disappeared 60 years ago will someday find its way back to the East Coast forests and hillsides it once dominated.” Smith, Virginia A. Philadelphia Inquirer, October 29 2009. Page A1.

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The fountain in Washington Square includes a Lily Pad sculpture donated to Independence National Historical Park by the Society Hill Civic Association.



# President's House Exhibit

President's House: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation opened on December 15 after more than five years of design development, eight years of vigorous public participation, and 10 years after ground was first broken for the Liberty Bell Center in Independence National Historical Park. The commemorative, open-air installation marks the site where the nation's first two presidents, George Washington and John Adams, served their terms of office and began to shape the executive branch of government. It also marks the site where the presidents lived as well as worked, and the stories of the exhibit include the entire presidential households. The videos and panels of the exhibits showcase specifically and particularly the enslaved men and women of African descent who lived and toiled on this site. Development and completion of the site and exhibits was a park priority project throughout fiscal year 2010.

The design of the President's House: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation echoes the house that once stood on that spot. Key to the site design is the basic framework of the house that allows visitors to walk through the first floor as it was laid out in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The bowed window, state dining room, and kitchen, complete with hearth, are among the elements in the recreated layout.

Narrative exhibit panels tell the story of the executive branch and provide a brief contextual history of the house and the time period, allowing visitors to make connections to familiar history. Video re-enactments provide visitors with a sense of what it may have been like to live as an enslaved person in the Washington household. The characters

in the videos speak from the perspective of a person of African descent.

A few feet from the entrance to the Liberty Bell Center sits a small glass structure that serves as a memorial to the enslaved Africans. Listing the names of the African tribes of origin for many enslaved, the space is intended as a place of solemn reflection.

"From its inception, this project has generated conversation and discovery, and we hope it will continue to do so. Benefitting from the voices of citizens and guiding legislation from the U.S. Congress and the collaboration between the City of Philadelphia and the National Park Service, the project is a welcome addition to Independence National Historical Park," said Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod. Over the course of the next year, the park will continue to develop programming to supplement the site and exhibits.

A joint initiative of the City of Philadelphia and Independence NHP, the project's funding was the result of protests from the African American community led by Michael Coard, Avenging the Ancestors Coalition and Charles Blockson, Generations Unlimited. A number of organizations including the Ad Hoc Historians had long advocated for an acknowledgment of the site of the place where the new nation shaped the executive branch of the United States government. Yet the compelling story of the presence of enslaved Africans became the driver of the funding from both the City of Philadelphia under the administration of Mayor John F. Street and the Federal government through Congressmen Robert Brady and Chakka Fattah.



Above: Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and National Park Service Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony at The President's House: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation, the newest addition to Philadelphia's Independence Mall. Photo by: M. Edlow, for GPTMC

Below: Despite the frigid temperatures, hundreds gathered on Philadelphia's Independence Mall for the opening of The President's House: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation, a site that tells the story of the inhabitants of the first Executive Mansion: Presidents George Washington and John Adams and nine enslaved Africans held by Washington. Photo by: H. Rumph Jr. for GPTMC

Though opened in December 2010, this project has been influencing interpretation in Independence NHP and tourism efforts in Philadelphia for 10 years.

For example, after the initial discovery of remains of the ice house associated with the mansion, exhibits within the newly constructed Liberty Bell Center were modified to include more information about slavery in general and Washington's slaves in particular. A 2007 archeological dig uncovered unexpected remains of the actual house. This find surprised many experts, who believed that the remains of the house had all been demolished during construction in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The dig revealed new facts about the structure of the house and provided an unusual sense of authenticity to the project.

Another interesting revelation occurred during project development, as Mount Vernon historians discovered documentation that showed Hercules, Washington's chef, escaped from Mount Vernon, VA instead of Philadelphia, as had been previously thought. This project has demonstrated over and over again that history is a forever unfolding narrative.

# Partnerships and Special Events



The Independence Trading Card program offers our young visitors fun ways to learn more about the people, places and things that tell the story of Philadelphia and the founding of our nation. There are 15 cards in the set. By joining ranger-led programs throughout the park, kids can collect and connect to the "Faces of Independence."

On September 8, 2010, the National Park Service and the American Revolution Center (ARC) completed the land exchange of 78 acres owned by ARC within the boundary of Valley Forge National Historical Park for 0.87 acres owned by the United States of America within the boundary of Independence National Historical Park. A celebration in September marked the occasion with some pomp and circumstance, while a seven-year operating agreement laid out the terms through which ARC and the park will continue to work together in maintaining the building until such time as ARC is ready for the next steps in constructing the new museum.

Park staff continued to work closely with Historic Philadelphia, Inc. on summer programs through their story-telling benches, historic walking tours and afterhours tours of Independence Hall. Staff provided ongoing evaluations and audits of programs offered and worked with HPI staff on future program development such as Lights of Liberty. Both organizations collaborated on the publication of the bi-monthly Gazette.

The Friends of Independence National Historical Park has continued to greatly benefit the park. This year, the Friends completed the challenging goal of raising funds for a decorative scrim to cover the scaffolding around Independence Hall Tower during the rehabilitation project. The Friends raised almost \$80,000 for this project.

Additionally, the Friends supported a number of curatorial projects, including reupholstering the Rising Sun Chair and renovating the display cases in the West Wing exhibit of Independence Hall. The Friends also sponsored a number of special programs held in the park, including a members-only Building of the Year Tour (Independence Hall) and monthly education programs on topics such as Seeds to Suffrage, The Thaddeus Kosciuszko House: A Curator's Point of View, and Lewis & Clark: The Beginnings.

The park's Cooperating Association, Eastern National, has been particularly helpful with the Trading Card program, which continues to grow and is one of the most popular programs for children. New cards were created this year to expand the number of individual cards to over 20 characters. New cards are being developed to include the identities of the enslaved connected to the new President's House exhibit. Eastern National is designing a special "collectors" book with plastic pockets for storing and displaying the cards.

Our park concession, City Tavern, has successfully pursued a variety of revenue avenues, including publishing a children's book, "A Feast of Freedom," and hosting a new cooking show on public television entitled "A Taste of History." This program received local Emmy awards for Best Host and Best Director.

On June 16, 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit vacated the conviction of Michael Marcavage for permit violations. A citation had been issued on October 6, 2007, when Mr. Michael Marcavage and his group arrived at the park without a permit and were issued a verbal permit to hold their demonstration on Block 1 of Independence Mall, near the Liberty Bell Center. The 2010 ruling determined that the verbal permit was invalid. More recently, the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that NPS general regulations for public assemblies and meetings (36 CFR 2.51) and the sale or distribution of printed matter (36 CFR 2.51) were unconstitutional because the regulations required individuals and small groups to obtain a permit before engaging in their First Amendment activities in the park's designated areas (Boardley v. Department of the Interior, No. 09-5176, 2010 U.S. App. LEXIS 16302 (D.C. Cir. August 6, 2010)). This case was followed closely by groups in Philadelphia, who chose to gather in the park without a permit on several occasions both before and after that ruling. Pending interim regulations published by the NPS (which were published in FY2011), INDE managed several instances in which groups that chose to gather in the same space had competing goals that posed potential visitor safety issues. Each occasion was managed without incident. While challenging, these instances provided INDE management and staff with unique opportunities to weigh the impact of various regulations and identify areas for improved management of first amendment activities.



Park staff work closely every day with the Independence Visitor Center Corporation on staffing and program management at the park Visitor Center. The park is in discussion with the IVCC on development of a digital media/phone app for directional maps and interpretive information for the Mall and historic district. This year saw the completion and signing of the operating agreement between the NPS and the IVCC.

Over the past year, the park hosted a number of special events and important visitors. This year's July Fourth festivities brought the City of Philadelphia Fourth of July parade back to historic Philadelphia, for the second year in a row. This celebratory parade was, once again, a great success in drawing crowds from the region as well as visitors from around the world. As well as the parade, Fourth of July events included the City of Philadelphia morning ceremony and the annual Let Freedom Ring and Liberty Bell Tapping ceremonies, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Thanks to the support of our partners at the National Constitution Center, Peter Nero and the Philly Pops once again performed in front of Independence Hall, this year on July 2. This annual tradition is a favorite with Philly locals and we are looking for ways to ensure the concert can go forward again next year. The park wrapped up Freedom Week with our annual reenactment of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on Independence Square by Colonel John Nixon on July 8.

The significance of our historical site draws prestigious visitors from around the country and around the world. Notable visitors over the past year included the Swedish Ambassador to the United States, 45 Chief Judges of State Courts of Appeal, Members of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, HRH Princess Srirasmi, Princess of Thailand, the Latvian ambassador to the United States, the Vice Premier of Israel and the Irish Ambassador to the United States.

In addition to the events above, Independence NHP hosted the Philadelphia Veteran's

Advisory Commission Veterans Day Ceremony in Washington Square, the Martin Luther King Birthday Bell Ringing Ceremony, the 120th annual Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Memorial Day ceremony, and a special event sponsored by the Society Hill Civic Association, a neighbor of the park. This year, the park also played host for an event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and a citizenship swearing in ceremony, co-sponsored by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as a kick-off to our Fourth of July events. In all, approximately 62,000 people participated in special events in the park in the 2010 fiscal year.

In 2010, the park's involvement with community groups was often associated with groups' requests for public assembly permits, which is the park's way of ensuring space for competing activities and for ensuring safety of visitors, staff, and participants. While some of these requests were unique events, frequent requests for such permits were made by Falun Gong and Chestnut Hill Friends. In total, there were 573 Special Use Permits, including First Amendment Activities, and 68 special tours.

Right: The Philly Pops, Concert on the Mall. Independence National Historical Park.

