

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Context: The Outer Cape has a distinctive pattern of human activity that is inextricably linked with the land and sea. This heritage draws from the prehistoric culture of native people, from the arrival of the Pilgrims and settlement by Europeans, from the whaling and fishing industry, from Portuguese and Cape Verdean migrations, and from artists and writers who have lived and worked on the Cape.

In 1995 a preliminary ethnographic study for the national seashore identified the range of cultural use patterns of seashore resources and their value to both traditionally associated and contemporary neighboring people. Representatives of several Cape Cod cultural communities participated, including Wampanoag, Portuguese and Portuguese Americans, Cape Verdeans, and contemporary neighbors. More detailed studies are required, however, to identify relationships between specific groups and seashore resources.

Cultural resources can be tangible (material resources such as historic structures or archeological artifacts) or intangible (expressive resources such as arts, skills, folklife, and folkways). Additional knowledge about the people of the Outer Cape is needed to support interpretive programming and resource preservation efforts. The rich heritage of Cape Cod life is an important story to be told and sustained.

Cape Cod National Seashore was created in part to help preserve and maintain the cultural heritage. The certain special ambience and pattern of human activity on the Cape are hard to describe but have been variously characterized in the legislative record as “quaint,” “contemplative,” “inspirational,” and representing a “mutuality of understanding between man and nature.” The national seashore is part of a geographical area with established town governments and many residents whose roots reach back far into the past. Therefore, it is impossible for the National Park Service to achieve its preservation goals without the cooperation of its neighbors and residents on the Cape.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

GOAL: In concert with local communities, explore, define, and maintain the components of the distinctive cultural heritage and pattern of human activity that make the character of Cape Cod unique.

STRATEGIES: *Customary activities* — The National Park Service will encourage participation in customary activities, including, but not limited to, beachcombing, driftwood collecting, berry picking, mushroom harvesting, shellfishing, fishing, and contemplative activities. These uses will continue, subject to applicable federal, state, or local regulations.

Consultation with cultural groups — Cultural groups on Cape Cod will be consulted for input on cultural heritage and landscape preservation. Specifically, Native Americans will be consulted to assist in identifying sacred sites, in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Informal consultations on cultural landscapes and areas of potential archeological sensitivity may also occur.

Significant or important themes, patterns, and sites associated with cultural groups — Additional significant or important themes, cultural patterns, and sites associated with Native Americans and a broad variety of other ethnic and cultural groups with both historical and contemporary associations with the Outer Cape will be explored. A formal study will be initiated, which will begin with the identification of associated ethnic and cultural groups. This will build on the preliminary ethnographic study.

Significant ethnographic resources — National seashore managers and local communities will undertake collaborative efforts to define and preserve distinctive cultural heritage and significant ethnographic resources. This will include exploring the first-hand experiences and knowledge of local residents, combined with abilities in cultural resource documentation.

In collaboration with local communities and residents, a systematic, in-depth documentary study of the material and expressive cultural aspects of the peoples of the Outer Cape will be conducted to gain a better understanding of what to preserve and foster within Cape Cod National Seashore. Specialists in this field will be engaged to work with individuals and entities who have expertise in regional history and culture or who have personal experience as long-time residents of the Outer Cape. Folklife field-workers may document the full seasonal round of activities. Peer scholarly review will ensure objectivity in evaluating the recommended content of interpretation and preservation in park programming. Research projects will include members of the Outer Cape communities to provide input and feedback on study elements and products.

□ **GOAL: Develop programs and actions that nurture and celebrate the culture of the Outer Cape.**

STRATEGIES: Cooperative preservation of the Cape Cod cultural heritage — In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, NPS staff will work with local entities to preserve and conserve the intangible elements of their cultural heritage, such as arts, skills, folklife, and folkways. These elements are a living expression of the cultural heritage of the Cape and part of the American heritage. National seashore staff will engage in the following types of actions to ensure the preservation and celebration of local culture (also see “Public Use: Interpretation and Education,” pages **Error! Bookmark not defined.–Error! Bookmark not defined.**).

- Provide for public benefit education about cultural heritage on the Outer Cape.
- Contribute to telling the story of the local culture of the Outer Cape, in cooperation with local governments, entities, and individuals.
- Assist in identifying, gathering, and preserving material resources, such as significant ethnographic sites, historical records, artifacts, and objects associated with local culture on the Outer Cape.
- Assist in conserving and celebrating distinctive forms of cultural expression of the peoples of the Outer Cape, including (but not limited to) language, performing and written arts, crafts, folklore, folkways, and occupations.
- Provide opportunities for local people to deliver interpretive programs, which convey information on the Outer Cape’s ethnographic resources.

- Develop the Highlands center for the arts and environment at the former North Truro air force station as a venue for cultural heritage on Cape Cod.

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CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

CONTEXT: A cultural landscape is a geographic area that includes both natural and cultural resources that are associated with a historic event, an activity, a person, or a cultural group. Cape Cod National Seashore's varied cultural landscapes are best characterized as "historic vernacular landscapes." The National Park Service defines this type of landscape as one that illustrates people's values and attitudes toward the land and that reflects settlement patterns, use, and development over time. Agricultural areas, fishing villages, and homesteads are all examples of this type of landscape.

Cultural landscapes on Cape Cod have not been inventoried, making them susceptible to loss. As these landscapes evolve, their form and value may be obscured. Restoring cultural landscapes often requires the removal of encroaching nonhistoric vegetation, some of which may be native species. This may conflict with natural resource protection goals.

Cultural landscape protection requires a comprehensive stewardship approach, where people work together and form coalitions with private landowners, local governments, and state agencies to address threats and foster a sense of stewardship.

GOAL: Identify, manage, and maintain cultural landscapes that are on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

STRATEGIES: *Significant cultural landscapes* — In accordance with section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, all significant cultural landscapes at Cape Cod National Seashore will be identified, surveyed, and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, if eligible. *Landscape restoration and maintenance* — A plan based on cultural landscape reports will be prepared to preserve or maintain significant landscapes, to maintain site integrity, and to support interpretive and resource management programs. The plan will provide for the implementation of recommendations of cultural landscape reports, including landscape restoration and maintenance treatment at Fort Hill.

Partnerships for landscape preservation and maintenance — Cooperative agreements and relationships will be encouraged with volunteers, universities, and partner organizations, such as the Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore, to foster landscape preservation and maintenance.

Historic uses of landscapes — Reestablishing historic uses (such as agriculture) of selected significant cultural landscapes will be considered to maintain features that define the character of these landscapes. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has offered assistance with landscape conservation planning at historic agricultural landscapes within the national seashore; this may include the Fort Hill and Pamet bog areas (see discussions of site planning for

these areas in the “Activities, Facilities, and Services” section, beginning on page 75.

Integrated management of cultural landscapes and natural areas — Cultural landscapes and their associated historic buildings and natural areas will be managed as an integrated whole. The intent will be to coordinate natural and cultural resource management policies, such as the potential use of prescribed burning at Fort Hill to control weedy growth and to perpetuate an open farm landscape.

Consultation with Native Americans and cultural groups — Cultural groups on Cape Cod will be consulted for input on cultural landscape preservation. Native Americans will be asked to help identify sacred sites, in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Also, Cape Verdeans will continue to be consulted about the Pamet cranberry bog. Informal consultations on cultural landscapes may also occur.

Researching the effects of natural succession — Research will be conducted to understand and predict how natural succession of vegetative communities will affect cultural landscapes. The findings will be used to determine effective protection measures for landscapes.

The dune shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District in the Province Lands — The landscape encompassing the dune shacks will be preserved as a setting associated with the humanities and the arts. As the determination for the National Register of Historic Places states, “the dune landscape, as the source of natural beauty and artistic inspiration, is the linchpin of the district’s cultural importance.” This strategy will be achieved by continuing to perpetuate the dune shacks’ use as a remote, inspirational retreat. Historic property leasing (or a combination historic property lease and concession operation, see page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**) for residential use, and cooperative agreements for artist-in-residence programs consistent with the historical uses of the shacks, will be considered. These options will provide for use by a variety of public and private individuals and organizations. Individuals in the artists program will be asked to share their works with the public as a way of interpreting the shacks without disturbing the setting.

Leasing of historic properties with cultural landscapes — To assist in the long-term preservation and maintenance of significant cultural landscapes, leasing agreements will be explored with municipalities, charitable organizations, local groups, and individuals.

The identification and preservation of cultural landscapes on improved properties — NPS guidelines will be developed to help identify and preserve significant cultural landscapes on improved properties in cooperation with national seashore interpreters. These guidelines will focus on design, materials, and environmental circumstances, and they may be applied on a case-by-case basis.

Cultural landscapes on historically significant improved properties — The Park Service will work with owners of historically significant improved properties and offer technical assistance for sensitive preservation. The intent will be to cooperate in the preservation and protection of cultural landscapes.

GOAL: Interpret cultural landscapes to educate the public about their significance and to solicit public assistance in preservation efforts.

STRATEGIES: Partnerships for interpretation — Volunteers-in-the-Parks will continue to interpret cultural landscapes. To build stronger partnerships for

interpreting cultural landscapes, the Park Service will encourage cooperative agreements and relationships with volunteers, universities, and partner organizations.

Techniques for cultural landscape interpretation — Cultural landscapes will be interpreted through wayside exhibits, guided walks, talks, brochures, and publications.

Expertise required — Interpretive staff will also be increased to improve the interpretation of cultural landscapes for the public. As explained under “Historic Architecture,” staff expertise will be required to coordinate, train, and supervise volunteer groups.

GOAL: Promote and cooperate with local groups and organizations dedicated to protecting and preserving the Outer Cape’s cultural landscapes.

STRATEGIES: *Cooperative protection of cultural landscapes on the Outer Cape* — The National Park Service will seek to work with public and private landowners and land managers to help protect cultural landscapes outside national seashore boundaries.

Helping protect the historical integrity of cultural landscapes on the Outer Cape — To help define Cape Cod’s historical integrity and character, the Park Service will advocate and provide technical support to historical commissions and societies to complete an inventory of all cultural landscapes on the Outer Cape.

Preservation strategies — The Park Service will offer to help communities and local groups document and preserve significant cultural landscapes. These techniques may include the creation of historic districts or the publication of restoration guidelines.

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

CONTEXT: Cape Cod National Seashore contains numerous historic structures within its boundaries, and many others exist within the adjacent Outer Cape communities. These historic structures, when combined with cultural landscapes and archeological resources, reflect the history and traditional character of the Outer Cape. Adequate studies and assessments to identify both the condition and significant character-defining features of structures are lacking. Therefore, some historic structures have been subject to destruction or alteration, with a resulting loss of cultural assets to Cape Cod and the nation.

In accordance with section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, the National Park Service has evaluated all federally owned buildings within the national seashore. A total of 62 of these buildings have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Maintenance for these buildings is not funded annually, and major problems at virtually all historic buildings need attention. Fire alarm systems and intrusion detection are obsolete or nonexistent, and many buildings are being used inappropriately.

Approximately 240 privately owned historic buildings have been identified by the Historic American Buildings Survey within the national seashore; these sites also include associated landscapes. Property owners have the right to alter these structures, with the possibility that changes could diminish the Cape's cultural character.

Historic structures are also subject to loss as a result of natural coastal processes. The National Park Service is required to document any historic structure and its associated landscape before it is destroyed by natural processes. If deemed appropriate by the secretary of the interior, a historic structure threatened by destruction can be moved to another location that approximates its original setting.

GOAL: Manage and maintain buildings and structures on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

STRATEGIES: *Significant historic structures* — In accordance with section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the National Park Service will strive to protect all known historic structures within national seashore boundaries until they are fully evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. As time passes, buildings that are not now considered historic may need to be reevaluated, and if determined eligible, they will be nominated to the national register.

Priorities for the use and treatment of federally owned historic buildings — The following categories for the use and treatment of federally owned historic structures will be established:

- (1) Buildings to be interpreted for visitors by the National Park Service or through use agreements:
 - Atwood-Higgins complex (nine buildings)
 - Bog house
 - Cohen dune shack
 - Highland House museum
 - Highland Light
 - Old Harbor Life-saving Station
 - Margo dune shack
 - Nauset Light
 - Edward Penniman house and barn
 - Three Sisters Lights
- (2) Buildings needed for NPS administrative purposes (including employee quarters):
 - Adams house
 - Beacon cottage (Slade house)
 - French cable hut
 - Henry Gray (LeHac) house and garage
 - Nauset Coast Guard station (both buildings)
 - Race Point Coast Guard station (four buildings)
- (3) Buildings available for the historic property leasing program or concession contract administration, which would allow public stays in the dune shacks:
 - Ahearn house
 - Bratten dune shack
 - Fleurant dune shack
 - Jeddediah Higgins house
 - Jones dune shack
 - Samuel Rider house, two outbuildings, Dyer barn
 - Schmid dune shack
- (4) Eleven dune shacks (and seven outbuildings) are still subject to life estates or use-and-occupancy reservations. When available, each would be assigned to either category 1 or 3.
- (5) Three lighthouses and five lighthouse-related buildings in Provincetown are owned by the U.S. Coast Guard and listed on the national seashore's list of classified structures. The Park Service would continue to encourage the consistent use and treatment of the structures by the Coast Guard and its cooperators. Future transfer by the Coast Guard may be anticipated.

Treatments for historic buildings will include preservation and rehabilitation (see glossary). Exterior preservation or restoration for most buildings, and interior rehabilitation treatments for some buildings, will be undertaken; full restoration or minimal stabilization treatment will only be used as necessary. Those historic buildings that are adaptively used will be rehabilitated, but the actions will be reversible. The highest priority will be to preserve and maintain those historic structures that best exemplify the character of the Outer Cape. Efforts to maintain or improve the condition of historic buildings within the

national seashore will continue, in accordance with new servicewide goals, such as pursuing increases in appropriations for preservation efforts, staffing, and other creative solutions.

Historic structure maintenance plan — A maintenance plan for long- and short-term preservation and protection needs for federally owned historic structures will be prepared. This will serve as a condition assessment and preservation guide. Uses, funding, and personnel requirements for maintaining individual buildings will be determined.

Consultation with the state historic preservation officer — The National Park Service will continue to work with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the state historic preservation officer to review federal actions that have the potential to affect properties eligible for the national register.

Public partnerships for resource stewardship — Partnerships will be developed with volunteers, local historical commissions and societies, and partner organizations for cooperative programs and the care of historic properties. For example, caretaker opportunities may be created for historic properties. Caretakers will be generally required to make minor repairs, maintain the grounds, and protect the resource. Staff support for the increased use of volunteer services will be required.

Adaptive uses of historic buildings — Adaptive uses of federally owned historic buildings will be allowed through long-term leases. The intent will be to foster a greater appreciation and understanding of various facets of Cape Cod's history, and to ensure the protection of historic buildings and their settings. Agreements will be explored with municipalities, local groups, and individuals to use historic resources for such purposes as historical society museums, educational programs, and housing. Maintenance agreements will meet NPS standards. However, the Park Service will consider the interpretive potential and the need to allow public access to historic structures before deciding whether to allow adaptive uses.

Historic structures on improved properties — Historic structures on improved properties that should be maintained and preserved because they contribute to the distinctive architectural style and setting of Cape Cod will be identified by the Park Service in cooperation with local entities and owners.

Historic preservation easements — To further protect the historical scene, the national seashore's *Land Protection Plan* will be revised to allow the acceptance and management of historic preservation easements (e.g., facade easements), when feasible and where historic preservation provisions are not included in town bylaws. Easements could be donated or purchased by historical associations, or a special fund could be developed to allow easement purchases.

Historically significant improved properties — The National Park Service will take an active approach to preserving historically significant improved properties. Techniques to protect such properties may include

- developing preservation agreements and strategies with private owners, including seeking deed restrictions to support historic preservation and limit inappropriate development
- identifying private individuals and preservation groups to purchase properties

- providing technical assistance in support of historically sensitive rehabilitation to protect the integrity of historic buildings
- establishing partnerships with organizations, such as local historical commissions and societies and the Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore, for developing a grant and loan program to help protect and maintain the historic appearance and architectural integrity of buildings

Historic structures threatened by natural coastal processes — What to do with historic structures threatened by natural coastal processes will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Each threatened property will be evaluated and ranked on the basis of its uniqueness and prevalence within a historical Cape Cod context. Especially unusual or historically important structures that were threatened will be relocated if the following criteria are met (more common structures will be documented and allowed to be lost to natural processes or removed):

- A suitable relocation site is available that will preserve the building’s physical context.
- Relocation will fulfill a compelling visitor or other national seashore operational need that cannot be met elsewhere.
- The action will be financially feasible and cost-effective.
- Funding will be available.

Expertise required — Expertise in the following fields will be needed to ensure compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, to monitor the historic building maintenance program, to update the national seashore’s *Resource Management Plan*, and to provide input for interpretive programs: history, historical architecture, architectural conservation, architectural history, historical landscape architecture, cultural geography, and exhibits. Continued support will be needed from the Building Conservation Branch of the NPS Northeast Cultural Resources Center and from the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.

GOAL: Interpret historic structures to educate the public about their significance and to solicit public assistance in preservation efforts.

STRATEGIES: *Partnerships for interpretation* — Volunteers-in-the-Parks will continue to interpret historic buildings and structures within Cape Cod National Seashore. The Park Service will also work to develop stronger partnerships and to encourage cooperative agreements and relationships with volunteers, universities, and partner organizations, including the Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore, to meet interpretive needs.

Preservation of building interiors — The interiors of selected historic buildings will be preserved or rehabilitated to improve interpretive opportunities. Exhibits, climate control, and security devices will be installed when necessary and appropriate. Tour opportunities will be increased.

Expertise required — Staff expertise will be required to coordinate, train, and supervise volunteer groups and to coordinate outreach programs. NPS staff will be added to interpret the national seashore’s historic structures.

GOAL: Promote and encourage local groups and organizations dedicated to protecting and preserving the Outer Cape’s historic buildings and structures.

STRATEGIES: *Cooperative protection of historic structures on the Outer Cape*

□ The National Park Service will seek to work with public and private landowners and land managers to help protect historic structures both inside and outside national seashore boundaries. The intent will be to coordinate and simplify preservation activities.

Perpetuating the integrity and traditional character of Outer Cape structures

— The National Park Service will work with historical commissions and societies, local groups, and communities to help perpetuate the integrity and traditional character of historic structures on the Outer Cape. The first step will be to support the completion of ongoing inventories of historic buildings on the Outer Cape and to offer assistance in this task when requested. The intent will be to help ensure the protection, preservation, and interpretation of historic structures that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or that are designated as national historic landmarks or districts of critical planning concern.

Preservation strategies — The Park Service will collaborate with local communities to develop preservation strategies to help ensure that alterations to historic buildings comply with local laws and design standards established by the Cape Cod Commission or the “Cape Cod National Seashore Zoning Standards” (see appendix B) for local zoning bylaws.

Recognition of outstanding preservation efforts — In cooperation with local communities and organizations, the Park Service will recognize outstanding achievements in preserving historic structures on the Outer Cape.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES (INCLUDING SUBMERGED RESOURCES)

CONTEXT: Cape Cod National Seashore contains numerous archeological resources, both on the land and submerged along the coast. In addition, many other archeological resources exist outside the seashore boundaries. These and other related cultural resources reflect the history and traditional character of the Outer Cape.

Inventories of archeological resources are not comprehensive. Surveys are needed to prevent the loss or alteration of resources and a subsequent loss to the scientific database, as well as the historical record of the Outer Cape. Such information would also provide a better understanding of maritime resources and opportunities for research. For example, at Nauset Marsh some prehistoric sites extend from federal land onto private land, and ground disturbance on these sites could destroy or degrade the resources.

A rising sea level and shoreline retreat are submerging some land-based resources and changing the national seashore's offshore boundary (defined as 0.25-mile from the shoreline). As a result, significant submerged archeological resources, including certain shipwrecks, will eventually be outside the seashore boundary. Submerged resources under the jurisdiction of the state are managed differently from those under NPS jurisdiction. For example, the Park Service does not allow shipwrecks to be salvaged, but the state does issue salvage permits. Because there has not been consistent oversight of salvage work, valuable information may have been lost.

- GOAL: Manage and maintain all land-based and submerged archeological resources that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.**

STRATEGIES: *Terrestrial and submerged archeological surveys* — Terrestrial and submerged archeological surveys will be completed in accordance with section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The purpose will be to determine the extent of remains within seashore boundaries. Protection measures for archeological sites will be identified.

Significant submerged cultural resources — Submerged cultural resources will be identified in a comprehensive survey. Significant resources will be placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a district.

Cooperative survey program The National Park Service will develop a cooperative program with the state archeologist of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Massachusetts Archeological Society for conducting surveys, monitoring archeological sites, and providing input for the interpretive program. Expertise in archeology will be required at the national seashore to oversee this program.

Additional protection agreements for submerged archeological resources □ A joint protection strategy will be developed with the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archeological Resources for those submerged resources whose ownership has already changed or could change in the future because of shoreline migration. The strategy would address consistent resource preservation standards for shipwrecks and other underwater archeological resources regardless of ownership. Designation of areas as state underwater archeological preserves, as allowed by Massachusetts General Laws (chapter 6, section 180, and chapter 91, section 63) will be considered to adequately protect resources.

State-owned submerged resources — The National Park Service will work closely with the state to protect submerged cultural resources in areas where the ocean floor is owned by the state and to ensure that underwater salvage operations are conducted and documented in a scientific manner. The transfer of oversight responsibility for specific submerged archeological resources will be explored, such as an individual shipwreck, in order to define a single manager for some resources and to operate more efficiently. This could also be addressed in the development of any state underwater archeological preserves.

Facilities at archeological sites — To protect archeological remains from further impacts, the National Park Service will phase out and remove nonhistoric housing and administrative facilities from known archeological sites or those discovered in the future (such as at Nauset Marsh).

Consultation with Native Americans — The Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 requires that religious or cultural sites of importance to Native Americans be identified and protected. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 seeks to protect grave sites and encourages the preservation in place of sites containing human remains and associated funerary objects. In accordance with these acts, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, and the Assonet Band will be consulted about prehistoric archeological excavations within the national seashore.

Artifact remains or sites — Employees will be trained to recognize artifact remains, archeological sites, and violations of the Archeological Resources Protection Act. An archeological interpretive program will be developed to educate the public about the importance of archeological sites and to deter looting.

Educational programs and technical assistance for improved property owners — An educational program will be developed to help owners of improved properties recognize the value of archeological resources and the need to protect them. Technical assistance will be provided to mitigate or scientifically salvage archeological resources before ground disturbance.

Archeological resources on improved properties — Easements will be sought to protect significant archeological resources on improved properties and adjacent private land when other means of protection had failed. The seashore's *Land Protection Plan* will be revised to allow the Park Service to acquire easements in the Nauset March area and other land areas containing archeological resources. This will help protect land-based archeological resources currently within the seashore boundary but not under the jurisdiction of the Park Service.

Mitigating the loss of resources □ To mitigate the destruction of valuable archeological resources, the Park Service will work with local communities to develop bylaws that require archeological testing on improved properties before

any construction-related ground disturbance. These bylaws will apply to areas with a high potential for archeological resources.

Archeological resources threatened by coastal erosion — In cases where archeological resources are subject to loss due to coastal erosion, the possibility of using them for educational research and study before they are lost will be explored. Some significant archeological resources will be preserved as museum objects, while others may be lost to erosion. The development of a partnership with an educational institution for research and study will be considered. Educational opportunities and public participation will be promoted during archeological excavations on NPS land.

Partnerships for resource protection — To foster stronger partnerships to protect and maintain archeological resources, the Park Service will encourage cooperative agreements and relationships with volunteers, universities, and partner organizations, including the Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore.

☐ GOAL: Interpret archeological and artifact resources to educate the public about their significance and to solicit public assistance in preservation efforts

STRATEGIES: *Partnerships for interpretation* ☐ To foster the interpretation of archeological and artifact resources, the Park Service will encourage cooperative agreements and relationships with volunteers, universities, and partner organizations, including the Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore.

Expertise required — Interpretive expertise in archeology will be required on the staff to provide greater oversight and opportunities to interpret archeological resources. As described under “Historic Architecture,” a new volunteer coordinator position will coordinate, train, and supervise volunteer groups.

Interpreting archeological sites — Prehistoric and historic archeological sites will be interpreted in existing or new facilities and generally without referring to site locations in order to protect sites from vandalism. Some onsite interpretation will be conducted.

Archeological excavations — Educational opportunities and public participation will be promoted during archeological excavations on NPS land.

☐ GOAL: Promote and cooperate with local groups and organizations dedicated to protecting and preserving the Outer Cape’s archeological resources and historic artifacts

STRATEGIES: *Cooperative protection of archeological resources on the Outer Cape* — The National Park Service will cooperate with public and private landowners and land managers to protect archeological resources outside national seashore boundaries.

Helping protect the historical integrity of archeological resources on the Outer Cape — To identify and help protect archeological resources that contribute to the historical integrity of Cape Cod, the Park Service will support the completion of an inventory of all known archeological resources on the Outer Cape by historical commissions and societies, local groups, and communities.

Public education and resource protection programs — Public educational and resource protection programs will be developed through a collaborative approach with regional research institutions and museums.

Preservation strategies — The Park Service will offer to work with communities and local groups to develop preservation strategies to document and preserve significant archeological resources.

MUSEUM COLLECTION

CONTEXT: Cape Cod National Seashore has a substantial collection of archeological, archival, historical, and natural history objects, including prehistoric artifacts, a scrimshaw collection, historic papers associated with prominent individuals and families, and a large historical photograph collection. Each collection is an important reference source and an interpretive tool.

The lack of storage, display, and research space with environmental controls to ensure the protection of these artifacts is a continuing problem. The material deterioration of objects is largely an effect of the environment, and the harsh environment on Cape Cod is especially detrimental to objects in the collection. The scheduled rehabilitation of a building for additional storage at the former North Truro air force station will only partially alleviate this problem because limited funding will not allow for complete climate control in the converted storage area. At the Salt Pond visitor center, where some of the most sensitive and important objects in the collection are on exhibit, insurmountable problems with the environmental controls demonstrate the need to replace the system.

A lack of funding and staffing in the curatorial office has resulted in a catalog backlog of over 250,000 objects. Without a comprehensive inventory and controls, the collection is in jeopardy. Also, uncataloged materials are not readily accessible for research, interpretation, or exhibit.

Future collecting activity should be tightly focused on specific areas to round out the collection. However, there is little control over archeology and resource management collections that are added to as a result of shoreline erosion, facility construction, and other ground-disturbing activities.

GOAL: Protect the seashore's archeological, historic, and museum objects.

STRATEGIES: *Preservation of artifacts and museum pieces* — Museum objects will be preserved in as stable a condition as possible, focusing on noninterventive actions such as monitoring, recording, and controlling environmental agents (light, humidity, temperature, dust, and gaseous pollutants). A building is currently being rehabilitated to provide curatorial storage for most of the collection. Sensitive items, such as scrimshaw, archival and photographic materials, and textiles will continue to be stored in existing climate-controlled facilities. Environmental climate controls will be upgraded in existing exhibit and storage areas.

Historic furnishings — Historic furnishing reports will be completed for historic buildings where historic collections are expected to be housed (for example, the Penniman house and the Old Harbor Life-saving Station).

Environmental controls in historic structures will be upgraded to protect historic furnishings and museum collections housed in these structures.

Archeological artifacts — Where feasible, additional exhibit space will be dedicated to viewing and interpreting archeological artifacts.

Shelter and interpretation of the hay barge — The construction of a shelter to house and interpret the hay barge will be considered.

Scope of collection statement — The national seashore’s “Scope of Collection Statement” will be updated regularly. A revised statement will be written to ensure that collections donated or purchased would fill gaps in the existing collection (for example, historic furnishings).