

**NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES RESEARCH COMMITTEE (NHSRC) UPDATE
November 2022**

**Submitted by Dr. Bettye J. Gardner and Barbara Spencer Dunn
Co-Chairs, NHSRC**

Committee Members: Bettye J. Gardner, Co-Chair; Barbara Spencer Dunn, Co-Chair; Co-Chair; Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, Vincent Deforest, John Whittington Franklin, Jarvis Givens, Dale Green, Jim Harper, Ida Jones, Lionel Kimble, Lopez Matthews, Janet Sims-Wood, Gabrielle Tayac, Amber Wiley, Francille Wilson, Ex-Officio: Marvin Dulaney, President, Sylvia Cyrus, Executive Director Note for information: Omar Eaton-Martinez, resigned May 2022

National Heritage Sites Research Committee Task Agreement (TA) Updates

In September 2022, RFPs were released for the following new Task Agreements and the status of each is provided below:

- Scholar/Consultant Historian
 - Received six applicants; Interviews for two selected applicants scheduled Wednesday, November 16, 2022
- Request for Proposals, Historic Resource Study of Civil War and Reconstruction on African Americans at Monocacy Junction
 - Received three applicants; NHSRC review in process
- Request for Addendum for African American History of First State National Historical Park
 - No applicants received; Resending RFP through ASALH network.

Seeking Peer Reviewers for several projects by deadlines noted in red below; TA Updates also provided where needed:

- **DeSoto National Monument – Africans in the DeSoto Expedition – February 2023**
 - Subcontractor David Wheat completed his research. Co-Chairs have met with PI, Jane Landers, who is currently in the process of writing the draft report.
 - A change in the NPS Superintendent has taken place. Co-Chairs have met with the new Superintendent.
- **Valley Forge Historic Resource Study for African American Participation in the Valley Forge Encampment, 1777 – 1778 – Currently under Peer Review**
 - A hybrid *Transfer of Knowledge* presentation took place on October 20, 2022. Event was well attended. Research gathered and presented by PI exceeded NPS' expectations. Audience engagement was exceptional. If you missed attending this event, a link will be available for future viewing.
- **Seneca Quarry Historic Resource Study of the African American History of the Seneca Quarry Stone Cutting Mill – February 2023**
 - Expect PIs first deliverable week of November 14, 2022.
- **A Historic Context Study of African and African Americans in South Florida – March 2023**

- PIs have conducted two visits to the site and are in the process of writing a draft report; met with Co-Chairs on three occasions to provide updates.
- **Visual Anthropology of the Statue of Liberty within the African American Community – December 2023**
 - The PI on this project became ill and recently resigned from the project. Her final report is expected by December 15, 2022.
 - The PI's research assistant, who is based in New York, has agreed to remain on the project.
 - Co-Chairs have met with the Superintendent at the NPS Site and two candidates for the project have been identified for interview.
- **Martin VanBuren Historic Site: A Special History Study of Free and Enslaved Africans at Lindenwald [VanBuren's home in upstate New York - February 2023**
 - First Draft submitted by PI. Discovery by PI has been extensive and has provided insight for the Region and direction for the archeological team.
- **Booker T. Washington National Monument National Register Nomination Update - February 2023**

Recently Completed Projects (visit July 2022 Report for review of all TAs)

Buffalo Soldiers [83,270]

The peer review process for this TA is completed. The peer reviewed final draft document has been submitted for the final review by NPS.

CAWO [Carter Woodson Home] Place-based Curriculum and Kiamsha Peer-to-Peer Historical Youth Scholars Docent Documentary Project [\$164,764]

This project has been a huge success—two summer programs (2020 and 2021) and a 2022 summer field trip to Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery with a contingency of 31 (21 youth (9 Kiamsha and 12 Dunbar); 4 Dunbar and three Kiamsha Chaperones; three NPS representatives) was accomplished. ASALH Historians met the youth at each location to further enhance the historical value of the field trip. A trailer to depict the overall program is being produced by an NPS representative and will be premiered during the Luncheon Festival in 2023. Final report was submitted in October 2023.

A new co-hort will be funded by NPF beginning Summer of 2023 to replicate and expand the project.