

# MICHIGAN HISTORY CENTER

## MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC SITES

### 2023 SEASONAL POSITIONS

The Michigan History Center is Michigan's state history organization, dedicated to fostering curiosity, enjoyment and inspiration rooted in Michigan's stories. We operate 11 museums and historic sites across the state as well as the Archives of Michigan, heritage trail programs, and the state historical marker program. The Michigan History Center is a division of the Department of Natural Resources.

For the summer of 2023 we are hiring 17 historical interpreters across the state of Michigan. These positions are opportunities to expand skills, gain experience, and work independently in a variety of public history contexts in some of Michigan's most beautiful places. Submit questions and the [DNR non-career employment application](#) directly to the site contact.

### LOWER PENINSULA

- [Cambridge Junction Historic State Park \(Walker Tavern Historic Site\), Brooklyn](#) - 2 positions from late May through mid-September, 25-35 hours per week.
- [Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, Hartwick Pines State Park, Grayling](#) - 2 positions from May through August, 29.5 hours per week.
- [Higgins Lake Nursery & Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, North Higgins Lake State Park, Roscommon](#) - 1 position from mid-May through Labor Day, 40 hours per week.
- [Mann House, Concord](#) - 2 positions from late-May through mid-September, 25-30 hours per week.
- [Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park, Cass City](#) - 3 positions from mid-May through early September, 30-35 hours per week.
- [Tawas Point Lighthouse, Tawas Point State Park, East Tawas](#) - 1 position from mid-May through mid-September, 25-30 hours per week.

### UPPER PENINSULA

- [Fayette Historic State Park, Garden](#) - 2 positions from mid-May through early September, 30-35 hours per week.
- [Fort Wilkins Historic State Park and Copper Harbor Lighthouses, Copper Harbor](#) - 4 positions from June through August, 40 hours per week.

## CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION HISTORIC STATE PARK WALKER TAVERN HISTORIC SITE

Nestled among the rolling green hills and lakes of northwestern Lenawee County, Cambridge Junction Historic State Park is home to Walker Tavern, a National Register designated historic site. Built in 1832 by Calvin Snell, the Tavern became famous in the 1840s under the ownership of Sylvester Walker as a stagecoach stop on the “Old Chicago Road,” now US 12. The site has national importance as a place that served a pivotal role in Michigan’s quest for statehood. During the 20th century Walker Tavern became a colorful part of southeast Michigan’s early tourist economy. The site is generously supported by an active volunteer group, the Friends of Walker Tavern, which runs many of the events and programs at the site.



Interpreters will hone their skills in education program creation and presentation, exhibit development, collections care, and daily site operations. The site affords students of early 19th century social and political history or early 20th century tourism the joy of sharing their knowledge with the site’s visitors. This position is perfect for someone with a background in history and/or museum studies who is independent, creative, and looking to gain experience in interpretation and historic site management.

- **Website:** [Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/CJ](https://Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/CJ)
- **Contact:** Laurie Perkins, [PerkinsL1@michigan.gov](mailto:PerkinsL1@michigan.gov)

## FAYETTE HISTORIC STATE PARK

Once a bustling iron smelting town, Fayette is now a premier museum village in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The Jackson Iron Company built Fayette in 1867 to turn Upper Peninsula iron ore into “pigs” to be used in iron and steel production. Superintendents and unskilled workers lived together on the site, which had a vibrant village life as well as work life.



Seasonal interpreters have an opportunity to absorb Fayette’s rich history, interact with diverse groups of people, interpret Fayette’s historic structures, people, and artifacts, and become a member of the Michigan History Center team. Are you interested in Archaeology? Exhibits? Research? Historic preservation? Collections? Inspired interpretation? The educational possibilities at Fayette incorporate a multitude of specialties in the field. The quality experience of working at the Michigan History Center’s largest historic site bolsters the resumes of future history professionals.

- **Website:** [Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/Fayette](https://Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/Fayette)
- **Contact:** Troy Henderson, [HendersonT7@michigan.gov](mailto:HendersonT7@michigan.gov)

## FORT WILKINS AND COPPER HARBOR LIGHTHOUSES

Fort Wilkins Historic State Park comprises 22 historic buildings, two campgrounds, hiking trails, a picnic area, and boat launch and park store. The Fort was built in 1844 during the Keweenaw Copper Rush and was used again from 1867-1870. Today 19 buildings – 12 of them original structures dating from the 1840s – are preserved and interpreted in a breathtaking natural setting that has changed little in more than 175-years. The nearby village of Copper Harbor is a summer tourist destination and a point of departure for ferry service to Isle Royale National Park. Annual attendance at Fort Wilkins State Park is approximately 150,000 visitors.



Costumed Interpreters at the fort participate in a living history program where they present life using the first-person, role-playing method of interpretation for the year 1870. Interpreters gain valuable professional field experience working in museum interpretation. The program lasts a minimum of 12-weeks and runs June through mid-August. This position is perfect for someone with a background in history and/or museum studies who is looking for experience in historical interpretation, education and outdoor recreation.

- **Website:** [Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/FWCHL](http://Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/FWCHL)
- **Contact:** Barry James, [JamesB@michigan.gov](mailto:JamesB@michigan.gov)

## HARTWICK PINES LOGGING MUSEUM

The Hartwick Pines Logging Museum is in Hartwick Pines State Park near Grayling, MI. The Logging Museum is housed in two log structures built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps to resemble a logging camp of the late 1800s. The museum showcases the life, labor, and innovations of Michigan's nineteenth century logging era. After walking through the largest old growth forest in the Lower Peninsula, guests can explore the logging museum, historic logging equipment, and 1914 steam engine and sawmill.



Summer programming includes blacksmithing, cooking and crosscut saw demonstrations. Interpreters research, produce, and present programming for school groups, park visitors and campers. While wearing 1890s historic costuming, interpreters provide excellent customer service and engaging, educational opportunities for the public. The historical interpreters conduct routine cleaning of the Logging Museum and present nineteenth century crafts and foodways. Interpreters also staff the Hartwick Pines Visitor Center, opening and closing the building, staffing the front desk, and conducting routine cleaning. Interpreters may also conduct guided nature walks and present natural history programming. This position is perfect for someone with a background in history and/or museum studies who is looking for experience in interpretation and visitor center operations.

- **Website:** [Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/HP](http://Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/HP)
- **Contact:** Hillary Pine, [PineH@michigan.gov](mailto:PineH@michigan.gov)

## HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM

The Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum are in North Higgins Lake State Park near Roscommon, MI. The Nursery, Michigan's first, was once one of the largest in the world. It produced 20 million seedlings per year at the height of operation and aided Michigan in its fight to combat deforestation. The CCC Museum, located on the nursery site, tells the story of the boys who served in the CCC during the Great Depression. They spent endless days fighting forest fires, building State and National Park infrastructure, and planting 484 million trees just in Michigan. After the environmental devastation of the logging era, the Higgins Lake Nursery and the CCC boys worked tirelessly to conserve Michigan's soil, rivers, and forests.



The interpreter researches, produces, and presents interpretive programming relating to the Michigan CCC and Higgins Lake Nursery to school groups, visitors, and campers. They ensure accurate and timely communication between many members of DNR staff. This person may also conduct research at State facilities including the Archives of Michigan. This position is perfect for someone with a background in history, forestry, and/or museum studies who is independent, creative, and looking to gain experience in interpretation and historic site management.

- **Website:** [Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/HLN-CCC](https://Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/HLN-CCC)
- **Contact:** Hillary Pine, [PineH@michigan.gov](mailto:PineH@michigan.gov)

## MANN HOUSE

The village of Concord, Jackson County, is home to the National Register-designated historic Mann House. Built by prosperous farmers Daniel and Ellen Mann in 1883, the two-story middle class Victorian home was once the center of Concord's social whirl. The Mann daughters Mary Ida and Jessie were women who excelled in a challenging age, pursuing higher education, teaching mathematics, promoting physical education for women, and traveling around the world. In 1969, Jessie gave this family home and all its contents to the State of Michigan. This historic house museum provides a unique opportunity to interpret the stories and changes in the lives of a multigenerational family.



Mann House interpreters learn about the care of these diverse collections while honing their skills in educational program creation and presentation, exhibit development and the daily operations of a historic site. This position is perfect for someone with a background in history and/or museum studies who is looking for experience in collections, interpretation, and historic site management.

- **Website:** [Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/Mann](https://Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/Mann)
- **Contact:** Laurie Perkins, [PerkinsL1@michigan.gov](mailto:PerkinsL1@michigan.gov)



## SANILAC PETROGLYPHS HISTORIC STATE PARK

The 240-acre Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park consists of a lush and lively floodplain forest that has attracted people to the area for thousands of years. The heart of the park is Michigan's largest known collection of early Native American teachings carved in stone. These petroglyphs are internationally significant and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This land is sacred to Great Lakes Tribes, holds important archaeological information about our region's past, and is a cherished destination for hikers and birders who enjoy the peaceful one-mile trail loop.



Are you interested in Native American history and culture, archaeology, historic preservation, and environmental stewardship? Do you have a passion for public outreach? Interpreters become park experts and advocates, educating visitors while working closely with local, state, and tribal partners to protect this extraordinary place.

- **Website:** [Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/Sanilac](https://Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/Sanilac)
- **Contact:** Stacy Tchorzynski, [TchorzynskiS@Michigan.gov](mailto:TchorzynskiS@Michigan.gov)

## TAWAS POINT LIGHTHOUSE

The Tawas Point Lighthouse in Tawas Point State Park sits on Tawas Bay, the northern edge of Saginaw Bay in Lake Huron. There has been a lighthouse in this spot since the 1850s, welcoming mariners into the safety of Tawas Bay and warning them to keep clear of Tawas Point. Home to U.S. Lighthouse Service Keepers and the Coast Guard until 1992, it remained an active aid to navigation until 2016. Today, the lighthouse is open for guided tours mid-May through mid-October. It also houses the unique Tawas Point Lighthouse keeper program, which is on hiatus in 2023 due to construction and renovation at the lighthouse.



The Lighthouse Interpreter provides lighthouse tours (as construction allows) and produces and presents interpretive programming for the public on the grounds. The interpreter works collaboratively with the State Park Explorer Guide and ensures accurate and timely communication between DNR Park and Center staff as well as the Friends of Tawas Point Lighthouse.. This opportunity is perfect for someone with a background in history and/or museum studies who is a proactive, self-starter looking to gain invaluable experience in historical interpretation, education programs, and historic site management.

- **Website:** [Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/Tawas](https://Michigan.gov/MHC/Museums/Tawas)
- **Contact:** Laurie Perkins, [PerkinsL1@michigan.gov](mailto:PerkinsL1@michigan.gov)