



MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC SITES

2022 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 historic marker program. The Michigan History Center is a division of the Department of Natural Resources.

For the summer of 2022 we are hiring 15 historic 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. These are paid positions that could also be treated as paid internships for credit. Applications open by February 21, 2022. Write directly to each site contact for an application.

LOWER PENINSULA

- [Cambridge Junction State Historic Park \(Walker Tavern Historic Site\), Brooklyn](#) - 2 positions
- [Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, Hartwick Pines State Park, Grayling](#) - 2 positions
- [Higgins Lake Nursery & Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, North Higgins Lake State Park, Roscommon](#) - 1 position
- [Mann House, Concord](#) - 2 positions
- [Sanilac Petroglyphs State Historic Park, Cass City](#) - 3 positions

UPPER PENINSULA

- [Fayette Historic State Park, Garden](#) - 2 positions
- [Fort Wilkins and Copper Harbor Lighthouses, Copper Harbor](#) - 4 positions

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 operates a weekly farmers market on the site.



Interpreters will hone their skills in educational program creation and presentation, exhibit design, daily operations of an historic site, and collections care. 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/CambridgeJunctionHSP
- **Contact:** Laurie Perkins, 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 field site bolsters the resumes of future history professionals.

- **Website:** Michigan.gov/FayetteTownsite
- **Contact:** Troy Henderson, 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. In addition to the hourly wage a housing stipend is provided to offset living expenses. 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/FtWilkins
- **Contact:** Barry James, JamesB@michigan.gov

HARTWICK PINES LOGGING MUSEUM

The Hartwick Pines Logging Museum (1935) is in Hartwick Pines State Park near Grayling, MI. The Logging Museum is housed in two log structures built 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 1912 steam engine and sawmill.



Summer programming at the Logging Museum 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 historic interpreters conduct routine cleaning of the Logging Museum and may 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/LoggingMuseum
- **Contact:** Hillary Pine, PineH@michigan.gov

HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY & CCC MUSEUM

The Higgins Lake Nursery (1903) and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum (1986) are located 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/HigginsLakeCCC
- **Contact:** Hillary Pine, 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 of 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 design and the daily operations of an 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/MannHouse
- **Contact:** Laurie Perkins, 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? The Michigan History Center seeks interpretative staff for the 2019 season. 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/SanilacPetroglyphs
- **Contact:** Braden Beaver, BeaverB1@michigan.gov