

PUBLIC NOTICE
Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106
Review of
Shelburne Museum Stagecoach Inn Renovation Project

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded the Shelburne Museum, a Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant, PF-266737, to perform restoration, and renovation work on the Stagecoach Inn in order to preserve the Shelburne Museum's renowned folk-art collection. Work will improve environmental conditions, security, fire suppression, and lighting in the historic structure. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

In its grant application, the Shelburne Museum proposes the following undertakings at the Stagecoach Inn, located at the Shelburne Museum site at 6000 Shelburne Road, Vermont 05482.

The Stagecoach Inn in Charlotte, Vermont, was constructed by Hezekiah Barnes in 1783, and originally served as a guesthouse along the main stage route from New York to Montreal. A former captain in the United States Militia, Barnes had moved with his family to Charlotte in 1780 and established the inn and a trading post on opposite sides of the main stage route from Montreal to southern New England. Built on a Georgian plan, the Stagecoach Inn, which town residents referred to as the Tavern Stand, possesses regularly spaced windows and two central, side-lit doors that are distinctive elements of the vernacular Federal style popular in the eighteenth century.

Museum founder Electra Havemeyer Webb, purchased the Stagecoach Inn (by then in disrepair and needing restoration) and moved to Shelburne Museum in 1949. Upon its relocation to the Museum grounds, the structure was reconfigured to function as gallery space. Following relocation, a hearth

was added in the north end of the structure; additional architectural details from other structures were installed; the first-floor pantry and kitchen were converted into gallery spaces; and the two bedrooms were converted into bathrooms for Museum visitors.

In its grant application, the Shelburne Museum proposes to (1) repair 33 windows to the main structure and 9 attic windows, add light blocking interior storm windows, and rerouting HVAC duct work within the building to enhance energy efficiency; (2) replace the HVAC humidifier, condensers, air handler, heating pumps, and controller to bring the system up to date; (3) stabilize the south chimney; repaint and capping the two chimneys to improve the building envelope, prevent avian and rodent ingress, and prevent bricks from coming dislodged during wind events; (4) fabricate better exhibition mounts and pedestals to reduce vibration and abrasion to the works of art; (5) upgrade exhibition lighting to be consistent with the other LED systems recently installed in other Museum structures; (6) relocate and re-shelve objects stored in Stagecoach Inn attic space to provide safer storage of objects; and (7) install of security cameras on the second floor of the building and update the structure's fire detection system to enhance security for the visitors and artifacts.

In a letter dated October 22, 2019, Laura Trieschsmann, the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer advised that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect upon historic properties, as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov. The deadline for submitting comments is **October 30, 2019**.