

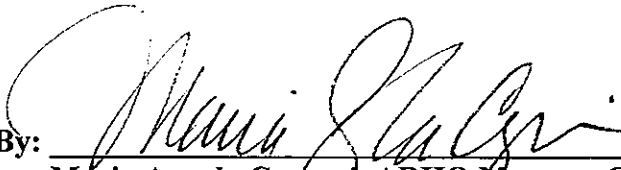
GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY

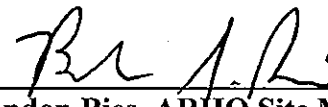
SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT

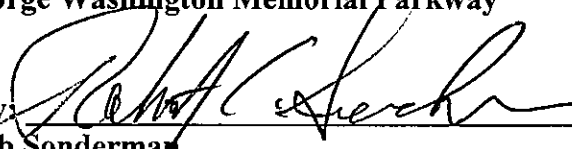
For

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

FY 2011

Prepared By:  9/13/11
Maria Angela Capozzi, ARHO Museum Curator Date
George Washington Memorial Parkway

Concurred By:  9-13-11
Brandon Bies, ARHO Site Manager Date
George Washington Memorial Parkway

Recommended By:  9/13/11
Bob Sonderman Date
Acting Director, Museum Resource Center

Approved By:  9/14/11
Dottie Marshall Date
Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway

Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial

Scope of Collection Statement

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I. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The park superintendent, by delegation, represents the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) and the Secretary of the Interior in accepting title to and responsibility for museum objects and records. The superintendent bears the ultimate responsibility for the acquisition and proper care and management of the museum collection. The superintendent has delegated the day-to-day care of the collection to the museum curator.

NPS policy requires superintendents to accept only unconditional gifts. Only the regional director has the authority to approve conditional gifts for rare exceptions, on a case-by-case basis. See Director's Order #24, "NPS Museum Collections Management, 4.3.15 Unconditional Gifts."

All acquisitions must receive formal approval from the superintendent before they can be accepted into the museum collection. Upon receipt, all newly acquired objects and related documentation and museum resource documents must be turned over to the museum curator. The museum curator prepares for the superintendent's signature, all instruments of conveyance, and letters of thanks, acceptance, or rejection, and transmits them, as appropriate, to the donor, lender, vendor, or other source of acquisition.

Revisions to this Scope of Collections Statement will be reviewed by appropriate park staff and the regional curator and then will be sent to the superintendent for approval.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The site's museum collections include a variety of items from the prehistoric era, plantation era (1802-1861), federal occupation during the Civil War (1861-1865), War Department administration (1865-1925), and National Park Service management (1933 – present). Included are archeological materials systematically excavated from within the site's boundaries and associated field records; historic objects associated with George Washington, George Washington Parke Custis, Robert E. Lee, the Lee and Custis families, the plantation's slave families; building fragments from the Arlington House, slave quarters and other outbuildings; and archival and manuscript collections including Custis and Lee family letters, Martha Custis Williams' journal, photographs and engineering documents from the Alexandria Canal.

For additional information on the museum collection, please contact:

**Museum Curator
Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial
George Washington Memorial Parkway
c/o Turkey Run Park
McLean, Virginia 22101
(703) 235-1535 voice
(703) 235-1546 fax**

III. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of the Scope of Collections Statement

This Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) defines the scope of present and future museum collection holdings of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial (ARHO), a unit of George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), and is intended to guide the staff with acquiring, managing and disposing of these collections. The site's authority, guidance and limitations to do so are established in its enabling and subsequent legislation, National Park Service (NPS) policies and procedures, and ARHO site-specific guidelines. The museum holdings contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the site's purpose, themes, and resources, as well as those objects that the NPS is legally mandated to preserve. It is designed to ensure that the museum collection is clearly relevant to the park.

ARHO's collections consist of objects, artifacts and specimens, and their associated records, and archival and manuscript collections and library materials in the disciplines of archeology, ethnography, history, biology and geology. Henceforth, in this document these materials will be referred to collectively as "collections" or individually as "items."

The purpose of these collections is three-fold: to aid park visitors and staff in understanding the people, places and events that make up the history of Arlington House and Robert E. Lee; to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences; and to document the ongoing preservation, maintenance and use of the site's land, structures and environment.

B. Determining the Scope of Collecting

The scope of collecting is the range or extent of items and records that comprise ARHO's museum collections as defined and mandated by the following:

- the site's enabling legislation, mission, history and interpretive themes
- an examination of the cultural evidence and scientific information needed to document and support the site's resource management programs
- the site's boundaries

Information derived from the above has provided the basic building blocks (i.e. timeframe, location, people, events, materials and resource projects) for developing this document and for determining exactly what the site will and will not collect, and why it is collected. The subsequent chapters in this document describe the types of collections and specific items the site will collect and how the staff will manage their preservation, protection and use, and how they will provide public access to and use of these collections.

C. Collections Significance

Acquiring the site's collections in accordance with this Scope of Collections Statement has provided a museum collection that actively supports all the site's resources and programs. For example, the site's:

- *interpretive programs* (guided tours, historically-furnished rooms, temporary exhibits, special events and school programs) use the museum collections to make the tangible connection between ARHO's people, places and events and the visitor's own experiences.
- *historic structures* are documented with blueprints, photographs, architectural features, historic correspondence, oral histories, and displayed historic furnishings. These collections provide the history of the site's settlement and the evolution of its development.
- *archeological sites* are documented with field notes, maps, photographs and drawings, and the items are placed on exhibit. The context of the site is better understood when other similar sites have been excavated and analyzed, resulting in improvement in the knowledge of prehistoric and historic cultures.
- *biological* collections document the flora and fauna of the site and the collected specimens provide future research material from a variety of locations and time periods resulting from inventory and monitoring program samplings.
- *land acquisition and border definition programs* are documented with deeds, engineering surveys, maps and other legal documents. The site's boundaries define the history, determine the stories and narrow the range of artifacts, specimens and associated records and resource management materials that the site will collect.
- *resource management programs* use the archived maps, drawings, blueprints, photographs and reports, surveys, studies and assessments to provide maintenance, preservation, protection and rehabilitation/repair/restoration of the site's structures, environment, vegetation and roads and trails.

D. Definition of Museum Property

ARHO's museum collections are acquired through purchase, donation, loan, resource management projects and transfer from other agencies and institutions. Each item considered for inclusion must meet the official definition as described below and, as a result, will receive a higher level of preservation, protection and care than items on the NPS personal property inventories. The level of accountability mandated by the NPS Chief Curator is also more stringent for museum collections (the NPS *Museum Handbooks* provide policy and guidelines for reporting museum collections to the Chief

Curator).

The Departmental Manual (411 DM 1.3) defines museum property (museum collections) as an assemblage of museum objects collected according to some rational scheme and maintained so they can be preserved, studied or interpreted for public benefit. Museum objects include prehistoric and historic objects, artifacts, works of art, archival documents (historical and/or scientific documents collections as defined in the Departmental Museum Property Handbook, 411 DM Volume I, Appendix A, Section A.2.d) and natural history specimens that are a part of museum collections. Elements, fragments and components of structures are objects if they are no longer a part of the original structure. In rare instances, museum dioramas or exhibit cases may be considered museum property (such as dioramas constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps) or historic fabric.

Museum property does not include those items necessary to display a collection, such as exhibit cases, dioramas, special lighting, graphics, etc.

E. Legislation Related to National Park Service and ARHO Museum Collections

The National Park Service's (NPS) legal mandate for acquiring and preserving museum collections is contained in the *Antiquities Act of 1906* (16 USC 431-433); the *Organic Act of 1916* (16 USC 1 et. seq.); the *Historic Sites Act of 1935* (16 USC 461-467); the *Management of Museum Properties Act of 1955*, as amended (16 USC 18f); the *Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960*, as amended (16 USC 469-469c); the *Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974* (16 USC 469-469c); the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended (16 USC 470-470t, Sec. 110); the *Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979* (16 USC 470aa-mm); the *National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998* (16 USC 5901).

The enabling legislation (43 Stat. 1356) which established the site on March 4, 1925, states that it is to be restored "...to the condition in which it existed immediately prior to the Civil War..." and when occupied by the Lee family.

F. Mission Statement

National Park Service Mission Statement: The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial Mission Statement: The site's mission statement, according to its Master Plan (1966) is that "the interpretation and restoration programs at Custis-Lee National Memorial [now Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial] will provide the visitor with a moving personal experience leading to a clear understanding of R.E. Lee and his place in American history."

G. Site History

George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Martha Washington, inherited the 1,100 acre plantation from his father, John Parke Custis. He built Arlington House between 1802 and 1818, the existing slave quarters by 1818, and managed the estate until his death in 1857. Mr. Custis married Mary Lee Fitzhugh in 1804 and they had one daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis, who survived infancy. Miss Custis married Capt. Robert E. Lee in on June 30, 1831 in the Family Parlor at Arlington House. The couple and their family (four girls and three boys) called Arlington House their home for the next 30 years as they moved from Robert E. Lee's various assignments in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After Lee's service as superintendent of the West Point Military Academy (1852-1855), they made the most impact on Arlington House by undertaking several projects. They finally completed the White Parlor and furnished it with the items they had purchased for their West Point dwelling, made a small guest chamber out of two closets on the second floor, and probably added a water closet and bathroom at this time.

When the Civil War started in April 1861, Robert E. Lee was forced to choose between his country and his state. He had served 32 years in the U.S. Army, was a full colonel, and had been offered command of the Union army by President Abraham Lincoln. Lee made his agonizing decision at Arlington House while walking in the flower garden and pacing in his bedroom on the second floor. It was in that chamber where he wrote his letter of resignation from the U.S. Army and a personal note to Gen. Winfield Scott. With this decision, Lee went to Richmond and Mrs. Lee and the family were forced to leave Arlington House in May 1861, leaving many items in the house with the belief that it would be a short war and they would soon return. The Union Army soon occupied the Arlington estate and house and, as the war dragged on, soldiers began to loot the Lee family's belongings. The officer in charge finally put an end to this by having the remaining Lee possessions removed to the Patent Office building, where they remained until finally returned to the family in 1907.

During and after the war, Mrs. Lee tried to no avail to petition for the return of the estate. The United States Government argued that she had forfeited the property by her inability to pay the \$92 property tax in person during the war. Upon Mrs. Lee's death in 1873, George Washington Custis Lee, Robert E. Lee's eldest son, sued the government for the return of the property as he was to inherit it upon the death of his mother. The case took several years and was finally heard by the Supreme Court of the United States. The Court decided in Lee's favor in 1882, however, thousands of soldiers' graves dotted the landscape around the house and throughout the original estate (burials had begun in 1864). Lee knew that the house was inhabitable because of this and accepted \$150,000 from the government as payment for the property.

During and after the Civil War (until 1933), the site was administered by the War Department, under the direction of the Secretary of War. During this period the Superintendent of the Cemetery and other cemetery officials used sections of the house as office space and apartments. Col. Charles G. Mortimer of the Quartermaster General's

office was the officer in charge of the site for much of the period between 1925 and 1933, and was instrumental in making contacts to secure original objects as well as period decorative arts to furnish the house. A committee was formed in 1929 to guide the restoration and included staff from the Quartermaster General's office as well as the Commission of Fine Arts (created in 1910 by President William Howard Taft to direct landscape and building design in Washington, DC). Members of the committee interviewed former slaves and cemetery workers for information to assist with the accuracy of the restoration.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt transferred administration of the site to the Department of the Interior (Executive Order 6166). The Department of the Interior, however, only had direct supervision of the historic buildings (Arlington House, two slave quarters); the land continued to be under the control of Col. Mortimer since it was an active military cemetery. The site name was changed to Custis-Lee Mansion on June 29, 1955 and it was then dedicated "as a permanent memorial to Robert E. Lee." A boundary change occurred on November 3, 1959 when 0.76 acre (the historic flower garden) was transferred to the site from Arlington National Cemetery. In 1972 the site's name was officially changed to "Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial" and, in 1975, the National Park Service gained control of 24.44 acres of original woodland that had been set aside by the Secretary of Defense in 1964 as an appropriate setting for Arlington House. In 2002, twelve of these 24.44 acres were transferred to the Dept. of Army for use as burial space in Arlington National Cemetery; Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial now encompasses 15.91 acres of the original 1,100-acre plantation.

H. Site Statements of Significance

Statements of significance clearly define the most important aspects about the site's resources and values. They serve as the foundation for developing the site's primary interpretive themes and desirable visitor experiences. Significance statements help park managers and staff focus on the preservation and enjoyment of the site's major attributes.

- Only home of a Confederate leader that is owned and managed by the United States Government (Robert E. Lee lived here longer than in any other place)
- Place where Robert E. Lee made the fateful decision to resign from the U.S. Army at the outbreak of Civil War
- One of first museums in the country as George Washington Parke Custis amassed his "Washington Treasury" of objects and made them available for anyone to view

I. Site's Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes convey site significance. Primary interpretive themes are key ideas through which the site's nationally significant resource values are conveyed to the public. They connect site resources to the larger ideas, meaning and values of which they are a part. They are building blocks—the core content—on which the interpretive program is based. Each primary theme may connect to a number of specific stories or sub themes. These elements are helpful in designing individual services, ensuring that the main aspects of primary themes are addressed. There are six interpretive themes for the site (the first three are primary, the last three are secondary), outlined in its **Statement for Interpretation** (1992):

1. The life of Robert E. Lee (1807-1870): his character, accomplishments, and contributions to the Nation. Of special significance are his 32-year career in the U.S. Army (1829-1861), his military leadership abilities as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia (1861-1865), and his efforts on behalf of peace and reconciliation (1865-1870).
2. Robert E. Lee's life at Arlington House (1831-1861): his character revealed through his family life and the circumstances surrounding his decision to resign his commission in the U.S. Army in 1861 when his native state of Virginia seceded from the Union.
3. The Robert E. Lee Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial are joined by Memorial Bridge over the Potomac; these memorials symbolize a reunited nation, with North and South joined in peace and working together for the common good.
4. George Washington Parke Custis, father-in-law of Robert E. Lee, was a human link between the era of George Washington (his foster father) and the era of the Civil War. The Mount Vernon memorabilia originally at Arlington House and Mr. Custis's efforts to keep alive President Washington's memory are examples of this connection.
5. Arlington House and estate: interpretive focus includes not only a discussion of the house and estate as it existed prior to the Civil War, but also a discussion of ongoing protection, preservation and restoration of the historic structures, grounds and furnishings. Included are discussions of its architectural style and structural history as one of the earliest examples of Classical Revival domestic dwellings in the United States, the original furnishings, the 1,100-acre farm, the gardens, grounds, Virginia oak forest and associated outbuildings and slave quarters.
6. Associated family, including Mary Anna Randolph Custis (wife of Robert E. Lee), their seven children, and Mary Lee Fitzhugh (wife of George Washington Parke Custis). The interpretive focus includes a discussion of their relationship with Robert E. Lee, their influences on him.

IV. ACQUISITION

The site acquires objects for its museum collections by gift, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collection, and loan. Acquisitions are governed by the site's ability to manage, preserve and provide access to them in accordance with NPS *Management Policies* (2001), Chapter 5; the standards for managing museum objects in Director's Order #28: *Cultural Resource Management* (1998); *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997), and Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management; the NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part I, Museum Collections.

In accordance with NPS policy, the site will discourage gifts with restrictions or limiting conditions. Incoming loans will be acquired only for a particular purpose, such as research or exhibition, and for a specified period of time (long-term loans should not be accepted). The acquisition of firearms included on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) list of prohibited/restricted weapons requires concurrent review by the Regional Curator and the Regional Law Enforcement Specialist. Museum objects are acquired, accessioned and cataloged in accordance with the NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part II, Museum Records.

A. Collecting Priorities

- *Primary*: objects, artifacts and specimens, and their associated records, and archives, manuscripts and library materials that were originally onsite, support the mandates listed in Chapter II, the themes listed in Chapter III, and are in good condition or can be reasonably conserved. Examples of these items would be the globe which is the only object to have never been removed from the house; the writing chair made for Robert E. Lee that may have been used by him to pen his resignation from the United States Army in 1861; china that was used by the Washingtons at Mount Vernon and then either inherited or purchased by George Washington Parke Custis; and paintings executed by Mr. Custis while at Arlington House.
- *Secondary*: objects, artifacts and specimens and their associated records and archives, manuscripts and library materials that, although not originally onsite, are of the same timeframe, similar style and material, and of similar use, and support the mandates listed in Chapter II, the themes listed in Chapter III, and are in good condition. Examples of these items are the period daybed in the Morning Room that represents what Mrs. Lee may have used when suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, and the reproduction portraits the represent ones that hung in the house.
- *Tertiary*: objects, artifacts and specimens, and their associated records and archives, manuscripts and library materials deemed of research value in supporting ARHO mandates and themes. Examples are the resource management documents, Historic Structures Reports, Historic Furnishings Report and Collection Condition Survey, as well as copies of photographs and letters reflecting life at Arlington House from 1802 to 1861.

B. Types of Collections

There are two types of collections in the National Park Service, cultural and natural. Each discipline is divided into collecting categories based on classification, time period, themes and other criteria.

- *Cultural*: includes history, archeology and ethnology, and their associated records and archives and manuscripts
- *Natural*: includes biology, geology and paleontology, and their associated records

1. Cultural Collections

The purpose of the site's cultural collection is to support the site's education, interpretation, scientific research and resource management programs. Objects and archival collections with a direct association to the site are more desirable for inclusion within the collection than similar items without such primary significance. The cultural collection is divided into four disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history, and archives and manuscripts. The following list identifies, by discipline, object types appropriate for inclusion into the site's museum collections and, as needed, notes current representation.

A. Archeology Collection

ARHO's archeological collections may be generated in response to cultural resource management requirements related to legal mandates, to development of site facilities, to preservation-related activities, to research requirements, and to interpretive needs. The archeological collection may include artifacts, human remains, and other materials obtained using archeological methods. As per 43 CFR Part 7, any archeological materials discovered within ARHO are the property of the United States and will be maintained as a part of the site's museum collection.

Policy

Park staff and visitors should be discouraged from picking up surface artifacts. It is preferred that surface artifacts be left in situ and their location documented. When materials are collected and brought to site staff, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the visitor ceases collecting immediately, precise provenience information is recorded, if possible, and that staff members promptly give the objects/data to the curator upon receipt.

B. Ethnography Collection

The site currently (2011) does not have any ethnography items in its museum collections.

C. History Collection

Only historic material that has a direct association with the park is included in the museum collection. When a large quantity of an object type is available, priority is given to acquiring the best-preserved examples. The history collection is based on the site's themes used to establish the following collecting categories:

- **Native American Inhabitants and Euro-American Exploration (Pre-1802):** There are few objects directly associated with pre-1802 inhabitation of the site lands and it is unlikely that much material of this type will become available. However, if original material of this nature becomes available, it should be collected.
- **Historic Era (1802-1861):** The collection includes original china used at Mount Vernon by the Washingtons; china and silver used by the Custis and Lee families at Arlington House; original, period and reproduction household furnishings and paintings; and archives, manuscripts and journals of Custis and Lee family members. The site will continue to collect original objects from the house or, when not possible, have reproductions made of those pieces documented as having been at Arlington House.
- **Historic Fabric:** The collection includes paint samples, original woodwork and brick, and door hardware.
- **Associated Records:** The collection includes records from the War Department administration era, Historic Furnishings Report, and Collection Condition Survey.

D. Archival and Manuscript Collection

Note: The following will be included in the site's museum collections:

1. **Museum Collections:** All original archival documents, whether in audio-visual, electronic, textual or visual format, are placed in the museum collection. These original materials include such items as audiotapes, correspondence, graphic prints, manuscripts, motion picture film footage, photographs, reports, videotapes and all other original documentary formats.

The museum collection also includes several categories of archival and manuscript materials that, although they do not meet the statutory definition of official records, do provide information on the ongoing preservation, maintenance and use of the site's other resources, land, structures, boundaries and environment. These materials include:

- **Personal Papers or Organizational Archives:** donated to the NPS by non-Federal sources. Because these materials are non-Federal in origin and because NPS acquired them for reference or exhibition purposes, they are not considered to be official records.
- **Sub-Official Records:** These include *copies* of official records, such as bibliographies, desk files maintained by individual NPS employees, park handouts, other documents kept for reference, administrative histories, interpretation and research.
- **Resource Management Files:** These records are defined in the Departmental Manual (411 DM 1, *Policy and Responsibilities for Managing Museum Property*), and include site forms, field notes, drawings, maps, photographs, videotapes, sound recordings, oral histories, inventories of artifacts, laboratory reports, and "Associated Records" that are created in connection with specific sites, objects and specimens. Although these are official records created by a Federal employee, contractor or partner, the Service has permission from the National Archives to keep them because they relate directly to museum collections and site resources, and because they are critical for the reference, exhibition or preservation of the Nation's natural and cultural heritage.
- **Rare books:** will be included in the museum collection if they have an enhanced value based upon demand, importance, scarcity, age, condition, physical and aesthetic properties, association or subject matter and meet the mandates in Chapter II and the themes in Chapter III.

Note: *The following will not be included in the museum collections:*

- **Official records:** Official records will not be included in the museum collection without specific authorization from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Official records include original or "record

copy” documents created or received in the course of performing the daily work of the NPS. Examples of these include audit records, budget materials, central park correspondence files, contracting files, financial records, law enforcement records, legal records, museum administrative records, permits, personnel records and similar types of materials. By law, the National Archives has authority over these materials, and they must be transferred to the National Archives or otherwise disposed of according to NARA guidelines.

- **Library Collections:** Publications that are not rare or assembled by an eminent figure related to the site’s mission are not included in the site’s museum collections, but are placed in the library collection of materials.

II. Natural History Collection

The site currently (2003) does not have any natural history collections. However, with collecting permits and the inventory program being very likely in the near future, there will most certainly be such a collection.

V. DEACCESSIONING

Deaccessioning is the process of permanently removing NPS museum collections from a NPS site’s ownership and custody and should be a rare action. An amendment (1996) to the *Museum Act of 1955* broadened the authority of the NPS to deaccession inappropriate or unwanted objects. The *NPS Museum Handbook Part II*, Chapter 6, provides detailed instructions for deaccessioning museum property. If the Superintendent approves the site’s requests, objects may be deaccessioned by:

- Transfer to other NPS units or qualified Federal agencies;
- Exchange with other NPS units or qualified Federal agencies;
- Donation of objects to qualified private institutions and non-Federal governmental entities;
- Voluntary destruction/abandonment of museum property determined to have no value by a review committee

VI. PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION ISSUES

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial considers all items on exhibit significant to the site's mission and interpretive themes and, therefore, of the highest priority in consideration of conservation treatment. This includes items on loan from other museums and institutions. Items in storage are considered of secondary priority for conservation. Every effort will be made to maintain a level of preservation controls appropriate to the specific material types on exhibit or in storage, but when conservation is considered, the following criteria will be used:

- **First priority:** Artifacts in need of treatment immediately. Conditions threaten the survival of the artifact and/or well being of the surrounding collection.
- **Second priority:** Problems are developing which will require major treatment to preserve the artifact. Future plans should include these artifacts as a priority.
- **Third priority:** Artifact requires or would aesthetically benefit from attention. The situation is not critical.
- **Fourth priority:** Artifact requires no treatment or treatment is so extensive that it is not efficient or effective to recommend such.

Conservators from the NPS Division of Conservation at the Harpers Ferry Center conducted a Collection Condition Survey (CCS) in May 2000 of the objects on exhibit in the house. The CCS lists each object according to whether or not it is original and how much conservation work is needed. These lists should be consulted when determining what objects should receive conservation in the future.

VII. MUSEUM COLLECTIONS SUBJECT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT (NAGPRA) OF 1990

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), 25 USC 3001-13, requires, in addition to other actions, a written summary of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. The site does not have any holdings that fall into these NAGPRA categories. Acquisition of such objects by the site is not anticipated.

VIII. USES OF COLLECTIONS

The site's museum collection may be used for exhibits, interpretive programs, research, publications or other interpretive media. The primary consideration in the use of museum objects is the conservation of each object in question and of the collection as a whole.

Researchers and other specialists may examine objects and archival materials under the conditions and procedures outlined in Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections

Management, Director's Order #28: Cultural Resources Management (1998), Cultural Resource Management Guideline (1997), and in the site's written "Museum Collections Access Procedures." Outside researchers must submit a research proposal to the Superintendent for review by the site's curator, historian or site manager.

Any interpretive use defined as consumptive must be authorized in advance, as outlined in Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management, Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998), *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997), and Director's Order #6: Interpretation and Education (Draft, 2002). The use of reproductions is preferred to the consumptive use of original objects.

Destructive analysis is a legitimate use of museum collections for approved research purposes with the impact is minor or when the object is common, in which case approval by the Superintendent is required. If an object is rare or significant, a request for destructive analysis should be reviewed by the Regional Curator and may be approved only by the Regional Director, as outlined in Director's Order #24: Museum Collections Management, Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998) and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997).

Objects may be loaned to qualified institutions for approved purposes in accordance with NPS *Museum Handbook*, Park II, Chapter 5, "Outgoing Loans." Institutions must meet basic museum standards for security, handling and exhibition of NPS museum objects. Sensitive materials may require additional conditions prior to a loan commitment. Expenses related to loans of museum objects, including shipping and insurance, will normally be assumed by the borrower.

Photographs of museum objects are made available to the public to provide an indirect use of the museum collection through publications and exhibits (including exhibits on the site website). Many of the site's artifacts have been illustrated in publications.

All exhibits containing museum objects must have proper security, appropriate environmental controls and proper mounts to ensure the long-term preservation of the objects.

IX. RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions in addition to those applying to the use of the museum collection outlined in Section VII of this statement are as follows:

In accordance with NPS Management Policies (Dec. 2000) 7.5.5 "Consultation" and 5.3.5.5 "Museum Collections," and DO #24: NPS Museum Collections Management, curatorial staff should consult with traditionally associated peoples and other cultural and community groups for whom the collection has significance. Archeological objects in the museum collection shall be made available to persons for use in religious rituals or spiritual activities in accordance with 36 CFR 79, Section 79.10(c), "Curation of Federally-owned and Administered Archeological Collections." Requests to borrow non-

archeological material for religious ritual or spiritual activities will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

In accordance with the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (16 USC 5937) and NPS *Management Policies* (Dec. 2000) 4.1.2 “Natural Resource Information” and 5.2.3 “Confidentiality,” the site may withhold from the public sensitive information concerning: rare, threatened or endangered species; commercially valuable resources; minerals; paleontological resources; archeological and other cultural resources; objects of cultural patrimony and sensitive ethnographic information; information provided by individuals who wish the information to remain confidential; the identities of individuals who wish to remain anonymous. Inquiries to the site of this nature will be referred to the regional Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act officer for consultation and possible review.

Restrictions may be placed on the publication of images or manuscripts in the museum collections if these materials are subject to copyright, and the NPS does not hold the copyright.

All endangered, threatened, or rare plants and vertebrate and invertebrate animals will be collected only when accidentally killed or when dead from natural causes. The collection of threatened, endangered or rare plant and animal species will comply with NPS *Management Policies* (2006), be in accordance with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and will be strictly limited according to the applicable rules of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Final disposition of type specimens will be determined at the Servicewide level and will adhere to recognized conventions established for specific disciplines.

The site will not knowingly be a partner to or encourage in any way the trafficking in illicitly or unscientifically collected materials.

X. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This Scope of Collection Statement must be reviewed every five years, and be revised when necessary, to remain supportive of and consistent with any changes in the site’s mission. Any revision to this document requires the approval of the superintendent.

Recall of objects loaned to the site is a possibility. The site needs to seek replacements for exhibited objects (based on the ARHO Historic Furnishings Plan recommendations) on long-term loan in order to prevent potential disruption of exhibits.

A number of objects from the collection are housed or on loan outside of the site:

1. The site’s archeological collection, as well as some furnishings, at the Museum Resource Center, Landover, Maryland

2. 52 objects (mostly furnishings) at Old Stone House, Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC
3. Ten (10) reproduction chairs and one (1) card case on long term loan to Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia which is renewed every three (3) years)
4. A painting and two (2) sheet music pieces are on long term loan to the Lee Fendell House Museum in Alexandria, Virginia which is renewed every three (3) years.
5. George Washington's Revolutionary War tent bag cover and associated parts on long term loan to Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown, Virginia which is renewed every three (3) years.
6. One (1) miniature painting, one (1) book, and one (1) chair on long term loan to Sully Plantation in Fairfax, Virginia which is renewed every three (3) years.
7. One (1) painting on loan to the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior which was renewed for four (4) years starting in 2009.

XI. COMPLEMENTARY COLLECTIONS HELD BY OTHER MUSEUMS OR ORGANIZATIONS

- **Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia**

George Washington Parke Custis grew up at Mount Vernon and inherited or purchased many items that belonged to George Washington. Many of these (Washington's death bed, china, Revolutionary War camp stools) have been returned to Mount Vernon by the Lee family and other donors.

- **National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC**

Many of the Lee possessions that were placed in the Patent Office Building during the Civil War were transferred to the Smithsonian (then the U.S. National Museum). The Smithsonian still has one of Washington's Revolutionary War tents, and china, among other things.

- **Tudor Place, Washington, DC**

Martha Parke Custis Peter, George Washington Parke Custis's sister, married and lived in Tudor Place, along with her family. Her descendants continued to live there until 1982 when it became a historic house museum. Its collections contain one of Washington's camp stools as well as other Washington memorabilia that may have initially been acquired by Mr. Custis after Martha Washington's death. The site also has several Peters and Williams family paintings (portraits of America Peter Williams, Martha Custis Williams) that Martha Custis Williams brought with her to Arlington House when she came to take care of Mr. Custis (1853-1857).

- **Lee Chapel Museum, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Virginia**

While the collections mostly contain items used by the Lees after the Arlington House period (1861-1873), there are several objects that may have come from Arlington House. These include a table cover, tall case clock, two paintings by Mrs. Lee, Robert E. Lee's trunk and shaving kit, as well as silver and ceramics. There are also many portraits (John and Joane Custis, Mr. Custis as a boy) and Washington objects that are known to have also been at Arlington House when the Custis and Lee families lived there.

- **Woodlawn Plantation, Mount Vernon, Virginia**

Mr. Custis's sister, Eleanor Parke Lewis, lived at Woodlawn. There are several Washington objects that may have been owned by Mr. Custis.