

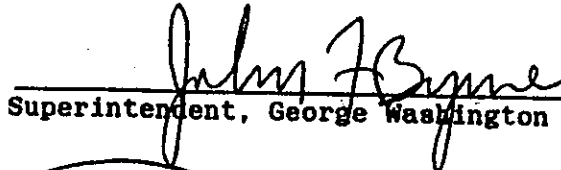
THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND
SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT

Prepared by:


Cultural Resource Management Specialist

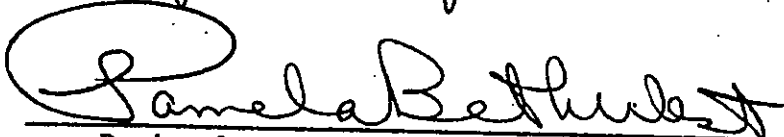
12/5/85
Date

Recommended by:


Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway

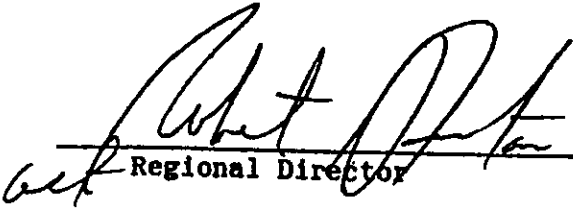
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Concurred by:


Regional Curator

12-11-85
Date

Approved by:


Regional Director

12/12/85
Date

INTRODUCTION:

In legislation establishing Theodore Roosevelt Island (47 Stat. 163) it was mandated that it "...shall be maintained and administered by the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital as a natural park for the recreation and enjoyment of the public..." Later legislation (PL 86-766) directed "That the Secretary of the Interior shall erect on Theodore Roosevelt, and related structures, as may be approved..."

Past and current interpretation and use of Theodore Roosevelt Island has been direct by this legislation. Development, other than the memorial itself, has been minimal, providing only basic facilities for interpretation and visitor facilities.

Due to this minimal development of facilities, collections maintained by the park should also be at a minimal level.

Current and past collections have been of a passive nature with acquisition occurring only when it was essential for the preservation of individual "objects". There has been no directed acquisition policy or effort and collections should continue in this vein as long as current limitations on staff and facilities exist.

RESOURCES

Due to the nature, history, and significance of the island, virtually all cultural materials will be of an archeological nature, representing either the aboriginal occupation or 18th-19th century occupation of the island.

Archeological Collections

There has been some archeological investigation of the island in the past and effort should be made to locate and return materials, records, and data from these investigations.

Present/Future Investigations

At present there are no plans to engage in any future archeological investigations beyond the establishment of an archeological data base which locates and identifies sites and areas of occupation or activity. Artifacts resulting from such investigation should be incorporated into the collection. Any construction should be preceded by archeological investigation and resultant artifacts should be incorporated into the collections.

Surface Finds

Park staff and visitors should be discouraged from picking up surface finds. Artifacts should be returned to their original location if practicable; if this is not possible, their location, date, finder and other pertinent information must be recorded and they should be incorporated into the collections.

Records

All records of archeological investigations including field notes, maps, photographs, inventories, analytical data, conservation treatment records, etc are to be retained with their associated artifacts and be incorporated into the collections.

Historical Materials

No active effort to acquire original objects, archival materials, photographs, or other similar material, should be made. If objects are brought to the island and have a definite relationship to the history of the island, they may be incorporated into the collection if no other facility (i.e. site, university, historical society) will take them and if their declination would result in permanent loss of the items.

Natural Resources

There should be no active collection of natural materials by the site. If collections are made during other activities of resources management they may be incorporated into the collections to prevent their loss or destruction. This includes but is not limited to herbaria specimens, insects, fungi, etc. No type specimen is to be included in the collections but should be forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution for inclusion in their collections.

All records, notes, photographs, analysis, etc., associated with any specimens are to be included in the collection with the specimens.

ACQUISITION

The park may only passively collect cultural or natural history specimens or objects to prevent their permanent loss or destruction. Any objects collected must have a definite connection with the history or natural history of Theodore Roosevelt Island proper, and not be just of significance regarding Theodore Roosevelt (the man), the Potomac River, or other subjects not directly attributable to the island itself.

Items to be received by donation or gift must be approved in advance by the Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway.

USE OF COLLECTIONS

All objects may be used for interpretative purposes where such use does not endanger the integrity or safety of the public, park staff, or object. Overall guidance regarding such use will be provided by NPS Policy, Guidelines, and Regulations as expressed in the NPS Museum Handbook, its revision, and/or references.

MAINTENANCE OF COLLECTIONS

All collections are to be maintained in accordance with the NPS Museum Handbook and modern professional methods and practices.

No collections are to be maintained on the island. Any objects not currently "in use" are to be maintained at the National Capital Region Museum & Archeological Storage Facility.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This Scope of Collection Statement must be reviewed annually and, when necessary, revised to remain supportive and consistent with any changes in the park's mission. Any revision of this document requires the approval of the Regional Director.