

**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**



Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Scope of Collection Statement

May 2025

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

Acquisition of museum objects is governed by the park's ability to manage and preserve materials according to NPS Management Policies, Chapter 5 (2006), the standards for managing museum objects in NPS-28: Cultural Resources Management Guideline (1998); Special Directive 80-1 Guidance for Meeting NPS Preservation and Protection Standards for Museum Collections (1990); and the NPS Museum Handbook I-III. See Section IV: Acquisitions for more information.

1. Executive Summary

Eugene O'Neill NHS preserves the 1937-1944 home and surrounding land of the four-time Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning playwright Eugene Gladstone O'Neill. O'Neill and his wife, Carlotta Monterey O'Neill, chose this serene landscape in rural California to build their custom home for the peace and quiet it afforded. They named it "Tao House." Here at Tao House O'Neill wrote his five greatest plays.

Establishment of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site was authorized on October 18, 1976 by Public Law 94-539. The National Park Service acquired title to the 13.19-acre site in 1979. That year, a cooperative agreement stipulated that the NPS was responsible for restoration and operation of the site and public interpretive programming while the Eugene O'Neill Foundation was granted the responsibility to coordinate artistic programs.

Notable collection highlights

The park's museum collection holds a number of objects which originally belonged to Eugene O'Neill and his wife, Carlotta. On display is O'Neill's original bed, desk, and office chair and wooden Fu Dog carvings. Clothes, linens, serving ware, costume jewelry, books, luggage, phonograph collection, and personal items belonging to the O'Neills were donated to the park by the park's partner organization, the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, or family members. The park also stewards a collection of original manuscripts, ephemera, and first edition books. Antique Asian-art period pieces or commissioned reproductions such a rug, ceramic rosewood screens, and Noh masks (originally owned by Andy Warhol) add to the historic furnishings.

Collection storage

Collection items are stored in the historic Tao House and the park's headquarters building when not on display.

Collection Growth Mechanisms

The collection primarily grows through donations from the public, O'Neill family members, or the Eugene O'Neill Foundation which are reviewed by the Collections Advisory Committee. A small number of field collections, consisting mainly of park records and photographs, have been accessioned in the last decade.

Collecting Philosophy

The park's Historic Furnishings Plan and implemented interpretive furnishings rely heavily on historic evidence (primarily *Life* Magazine interior photos, Carlotta's diary, and oral history

interviews). Several rooms are sparsely furnished or have no contents at all, such as the Guest and Dining rooms, because there is no documentation of their historic appearance. This has left the collection smaller than other furnished historic homes and the park continues to be selective when acquiring household and decorative items not directly owned by the O’Neills.

For additional information on the museum collection, please contact: Isabel Ziegler, Supervisory Museum Curator (Custodial Officer) at isabel_ziegler@nps.gov or K. Lynn Berry, Superintendent (Accountable Officer) at k_lynn_berry@nps.gov.

2. Purpose of the Scope of Collection Statement

This [Scope of Collection Statement \(SOCS\)](#) defines the composition of present and future museum collection holdings of Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site that contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park’s purpose, themes, and resources, as well as those objects that the National Park Service (NPS) is legally mandated to preserve. The SOCS is designed to ensure that the entirety of the museum collection is clearly relevant to the site and sets appropriate limits for acquisition. The SOCS is intended to be an evolving document which must be reviewed on a regular basis (minimum 5 years). Updates and changes should be made through interdisciplinary efforts of park and regional subject matter experts ([411.1 DM](#))

[Director’s Order #24: NPS Museum Collection Management](#) states that NPS units with museum collections must:

- Approve and keep current a Scope of Collection Statement to identify the scope of collecting activities and define the purpose of the collection. (DO 24 4.3.6)
- Ensure that the statement is consistent with natural resource and archeological permit conditions. (4.3.6)
- Ensure acquisitions are consistent with the Scope of Collection Statement. (4.3.6)
- Deaccession objects inconsistent with the Scope of Collection Statement. (4.3.18)

Refer to Appendix D: Use and Restrictions of Museum Collections for other legislation and NPS legal authorities to acquire and preserve museum collections.

3. Context for Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site Museum Collection

This section is compiled from NPS and non-NPS histories, reports, and plans, and provides context for museum collection acquisition. It is not intended to be comprehensive. For additional information about sources used, refer to Appendix H: Selected Bibliography.

A. Park Purpose and Significance

Legislative History

(EUON Foundation Document, 2017)

The establishment of Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site was authorized on October 18, 1976 by Public Law 94-539. The site was established "in commemoration of the contributions of

Eugene O'Neill to American literature and drama.” The mission and purpose of the site is to serve “as a memorial to Eugene O'Neill and a park for the performing arts and related educational programs.” The park acquired the 13.19-acre property in 1979 and took possession of the property in 1980.

Park Vision Statement

The following statement was developed by the executive management team and staff of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in 2021:

Eugene O'Neill's influence on American theater is understood and relevant for people from all backgrounds throughout the surrounding communities and beyond. Innovative performances, education programs, outreach efforts and activities reach diverse audiences. This site is seen as a place to support the arts through productions, retreats, youth programs, and O'Neill research. The Kuss Road agreement accommodates regular public access that supports arts programming. The park's buildings, historic landscape features and natural resources on National Park Service and adjacent East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) lands, are preserved and maintained. The museum collection is properly stored, preserved, available for research and is used to help tell the story of O'Neill and Tao House. Programmatic opportunities are developed in conjunction with EBRPD to provide a wide variety of visitor experiences across jurisdictions. The park is connected to the greater theater community in the Bay Area, nationally and internationally.

Park Purpose Statement

(EUON Foundation Document, 2017)

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site promotes the legacy of O'Neill as the father of modern American drama by preserving his home, Tao House, and providing educational programs, performing arts opportunities, and inspiration for creativity.

Park Significance

(EUON Foundation Document, 2017)

The following significance statements have been identified for Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

- Tao House, conceived by Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill, and its setting provided a place of intentional refuge nestled in the hills east of San Francisco Bay where O'Neill's creative genius flourished, and he wrote his best and most famous works.
- Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site provides exemplary opportunities to inspire through educational programs and the performing arts within the historic setting that sparked O'Neill's creativity.
- Eugene O'Neill is the only American playwright awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Four of his 51 plays received the Pulitzer Prize.

- Eugene O'Neill has had a transformative and lasting impact on American theater. His emphasis on reflective, introspective realism and his focus on contemporary social issues marked a departure from the previously melodramatic style of theater. His innovative staging and production techniques challenged audiences to take an honest look at the human condition and inspired later playwrights to follow the new direction he charted.
- The Travis Bogard Research Collection and Archive that is housed at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is one of the most important repositories of O'Neill materials in the world and offers exceptional opportunities for artistic inspiration as well as scholarly study into the life and works of this great American playwright.

Fundamental Resources and Values
(EUON Foundation Document, 2017)

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site:

- *Legacy.* Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site keeps the legacy of Eugene O'Neill alive by providing a variety of opportunities for people to understand his significance and connect to his life and works, including performances, arts education, and creative pursuits. His works and themes continue to resonate with contemporary playwrights and audiences alike. The inspirational setting at Tao House and the performance space in the old barn foster these experiences.
- *Serene Historic Setting.* The serene historic setting at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site retains the structures, designed landscapes, gardens, orchards, views, and sounds that existed during O'Neill's time here. The isolated setting provided a refuge for O'Neill to produce his most inspired works. Today, the landscape as a whole offers the visitor the same sense of serenity, refuge, and inspiration.
- *Designed Landscape.* The home, a Monterey Colonial, was built by the O'Neills in 1937, and includes aspects of Asian design and feng shui. Its dark blue ceilings mimic the sky and dark wood floors the earth, and zigzagging courtyard pathways are meant to keep away evil spirits. Eugene O'Neill's study is where he could isolate himself from the world and was inspired to write his best and most famous works. The O'Neills considered Tao House to be their final home and harbor, with the courtyard, pool, and gardens creating a nurturing environment in which his creativity could flourish.
- *Museum Collections.* Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site has one of the world's finest archives and museum collections related to Eugene O'Neill, including historic furnishings, books, personal belongings, manuscripts, and photographic materials. The collection is critical in providing a tangible link to O'Neill's life and work through educational programs, research opportunities, and both virtual and onsite/offsite exhibition. The park plays a role in increasing the understanding of O'Neill's significance

and perpetuating his legacy through cooperation with institutions holding related collections.

B. History of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and the Museum Collections

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is within the traditional lands of the Me-Wuk (Bay Miwok) people.

In 1833, the Mexican government granted the 8,917-acre Rancho San Ramon to Mariano Castro and Bartolome Pacheco (the property is also known as the Pacheco-Castro grant) which encompassed present-day Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon. Eventually the property was sold and later became known as the Bryant Farm. When the O'Neills acquired the property two adobe structures, the old barn and several outbuildings were still standing.

Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill purchased 157 acres in the Las Trampas Hills in 1937 and commissioned Tao House, which was completed in 1937. The architecture of the house is California Mission Revival with the interior influenced by Taoist and East Asian principles. Decorative East Asian antiques were purchased from San Francisco's Gump's department store and the O'Neills tended to the courtyard and landscape to create a peaceful environment. Although intended to be a sanctuary, the O'Neill's hosted a variety of guests including photographer Carl Van Vechten, actress Lillian Gish, and artist Miguel Covarrubias and his wife, Rosa.

Tao House was considered a rural property during the era and the O'Neill's had several live-in staff members. Their chauffeur, Herbert Freeman, departed in 1942 having joined the Marines during WWII, but maintained correspondence with Carlotta for many years and would visit the O'Neills when on leave from San Francisco. They also had a series of weekly maids and live-in cooks, though staff became difficult to hire as the war progressed.

Due to O'Neill's diminishing health and the difficulty of getting staff and supplies during wartime, the O'Neill's sold Tao House and departed in 1944 having lived there only seven years. Charlotte and Arthur Miller purchased the property and proceeded to make renovations, including replacing the large bookshelf in the Living Room with a large bay window. They also purchased an additional 900 acres of land, built another barn, and created the Corduroy Hills Ranch for cattle grazing. They named the ranch 'corduroy' because O'Neill had told them the texture of the surrounding land reminded him of the fabric.

In 1965, Charlotte Carlson (having been widowed in 1953 and remarried) put the property up for sale. It was optioned by the United Empire Realty Company of El Cerrito, a Hawai'ian-based group of investors who planned to build up to 1,500 homes. The project was named the 'Corduroy Hills Development' and used Tao House and the O'Neill name as selling points. The option fell through and the rights to the property reverted to Charlotte Carlson Gerdes, by then remarried a second time.

Concerned with the development projects, a group of local women including Thalia Brewer and Lois Sizoo created the Eugene O'Neill Historic Site Association in 1965. Their efforts helped to get Tao House listed as National Historic Landmark in 1971. In 1974, the Association was

organized and incorporated as the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, the park's partner non-profit organization. Also in that year, the East Bay Regional Park District purchased 1,000 acres from Charlotte Gerdes for the Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Park. They transferred the option to purchase the house and a triangle of nine acres around the property to the Eugene O'Neill Foundation.

The Foundation worked with elected officials at the state and national level to establish Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and provide state funding for the purchase of the property and renovations. Additional fundraising efforts were undertaken by hosting plays at the property and local theatres. Jason Robards, a noted O'Neill actor, was in a fundraising production of *Hughie* in 1975 organized by the Foundation. In early 1976, the Foundation was able to purchase the title and access to the house but did not have enough funding to acquire the property; in September of the same year, the State of California provided the additional funding required to purchase the property in full.

President Gerald Ford signed the bill creating Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site on October 19, 1976. The State of California officially transferred the property to the National Park Service in 1980. Staff at the site in the 1980s and 1990s returned Tao House and the property to the way it appeared when the O'Neills were in residence. The bay window in the Living Room was returned to a bookshelf.

Administrative history of the collection

When the National Park Service took possession of Tao House in 1980 there were only a handful of original O'Neill objects onsite, and the house was absent of furnishings. When the O'Neills sold Tao House in 1944 they also sold most of their furnishings. A significant portion of these were Chinese antiques which were sold back to Gump's home furnishings store in San Francisco. Unfortunately, all of Gump's resale records were lost in a fire and the locations of these O'Neill pieces remain unknown. Other O'Neill furnishings were sold to local individuals. The O'Neills took some special furnishings and belongings with them back to the East Coast and placed them in storage. A portion of these were bequeathed to family members and educational institutions, while others were sold at auction, deteriorated in storage, or the location remains unknown.

The National Park Service made the decision to furnish the home with only items which looked similar to those owned by the O'Neills. According to National Park Service policy at the time, exhibit furnishings were accessioned into the museum collection. Original photographs, letters, and diary entries were used to inform furnishing recommendations in the Historic Furnishings Report (1983), particularly for the living room, front hall, Rosie's room, dining room and O'Neill's study. Many of the furnishings owned by the O'Neills were East Asian antiques or furniture in a similar design that they acquired from Gump's home furnishings store in San Francisco. Antiques were purchased by the park or Harpers Ferry Center for the living room, Rosie's room, and entrance hall from various local antique dealers and Andy Warhol's estate to match historic evidence.

Two important acquisitions include the rosewood screens and the Chinese platform sofa (also called the opium daybed). The ceramic rosewood screens located in the living room were custom reproductions made for the park based on 1941 photographs of the living room. The platform sofa located in O'Neill's bedroom was donated to the park in 1993 after a campaign by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation to acquire it. It is believed it is the original piece which O'Neill used as a bed. Katharine Hepburn joined the campaign and wrote a letter to Gump's urging them to donate it. In the 1990s, the park also acquired O'Neill's original desk which is on display in the Study.

In addition to furnishings, the O'Neills purportedly owned approximately 8,000 books displayed on built-in bookshelves throughout the house. Some of these were donated to the Beinecke Library at Yale University and the C. W. Post Center at Long Island University. Efforts were made by EUON staff to acquire copies of these books and others in similar genres. Staff primarily bought or requisitioned period books from local rare bookstores, such as Bea Seigel Books in Danville, CA and the Harpers Ferry Center. The park continues to accept book donations to fill the many bookshelves of Tao House, however books with no specific connection to the O'Neills and which are used only for interpretive purposes are not added to the museum collection. Additionally, only books published before 1944 are to be added to interpretive displays.

The museum collection also contains items owned by the O'Neills and their staff. The Eugene O'Neill Foundation donated the majority of original manuscripts, clothes, and personal belongings to the park. Originally on loan, the personal belongings were donated to the park in 1992, 1993, and 2023. O'Neill's personal phonograph collection and several clothing pieces including a writing jacket, Chinese robe, green blazer, and a framed pair of O'Neill's boxer shorts were donated to the park by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation in 2016.

Gerald Stram, Carlotta's grandson through her second marriage, donated a large collection of Carlotta's belongings in 2020 including one of her original Louis Vuitton suitcases, linens, clothing, sewing materials, serving ware, and almost 150 books from her personal collection. Important archival collections include the park's Administrative History archival collection, the Charlotte H. Gerdes Papers, the Rilla Romaine Papers, and documents donated by the Carlson family. The Administrative History collection was arranged and cataloged in 2009. It contains approximately 24,000 documents, plans, photographs, architectural plans, legal documents, and articles.

From the park's establishment in 1980 until 2010, museum collection care and program duties were assigned to a variety of staff positions as collateral duty. The first permanent museum position, Supervisory Museum Curator, was established in 2010. The park now has four full-time museum staff positions (a GS-12 Supervisory Museum Curator, a GS-11 Museum Curator shared with Point Reyes NS, a GS-9 Museum Curator (career seasonal), and a GS-5/7 Museum Technician (career seasonal)) who collectively manage the museum collections at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and three other NPS units in Contra Costa County. As of May 2025, the GS-9 Curator and GS-5/7 Technician position are vacant.

A Collection Advisory Committee was formed in 2017 and a formal process for evaluation of incoming museum accessions and deaccessions was established. The Scope of Collections Statement was revised in 2015 and again in 2020 to reflect the focus on acquisition of items with a direct connection to the O’Neills and Tao House.

C. Collection Themes and Categories

Interpretive Themes:

(EUON Foundation Document, 2017)

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site:

- **Transformation of American Theater.** Through his use of realism, controversial subject matter, marginalized characters, and new dramatic techniques, Eugene O’Neill transformed American theater into a serious aesthetic and intellectual art form.
- **Role of Class.** O’Neill explored societal inequities by incorporating his own life experiences into his works, making them meaningful for his audience, and demonstrating the power of theater as a catalyst for change.
- **Home.** At Tao House, O’Neill found the refuge he was searching for, where his creative genius thrived.
- **Family.** Eugene O’Neill achieved a great level of literary success through a lifetime of expressing, and seeking to overcome, the raw truths of his family’s dysfunction.

D. Special Designations

The Tao House (71000137) was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1971 and as a National Register site (administrative listing) in 1976.

II. TYPES OF COLLECTIONS

This section describes the contents, present and future, of the park’s cultural collection and natural history collection.

1. Cultural Collection

The purpose of this collection is to increase knowledge and inspiration among present and future generations through exhibits, research, and interpretive programs; support research, resource management, and education; provide baseline data of park cultural resources; document changes these resources are undergoing because of internal park conditions and external effects, and guarantee the protection of information about important objects and resources whose in-situ preservation cannot be assured.

The cultural collection is subdivided into five disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history, art, and archival and manuscript collections. Archeology, history, art, and archival disciplines are represented in the EUON museum collection, with the largest portion made up of the archival collections, followed by the history collection.

An object from the site or directly associated with person(s) or event(s) commemorated by the park is more desirable than a similar object without such association. Future growth of the collection should be restricted to items related to:

- Research needs identified in EUON approved planning documents and resource studies.
- Service-wide initiatives, if applicable
- Enhancing the understanding of, and promoting increased stewardship of the park's cultural resources.
- Cultural resources baselines/inventory and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).
- Refer to Appendix F: Hazards in Collections for more information.

A. Archeology Collection

Archeological resources are any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. They can reveal scientific or humanistic information through archeological research ([NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline](#)). Material remains are “artifacts, objects, specimens, and other physical evidence that are excavated or removed in connection with efforts to locate, evaluate, document, study, preserve, or recover a prehistoric or historic resource” ([36 CFR 79.4\(a\)\(1\)](#)). Archeologists increasingly use ‘precontact’ instead of ‘prehistoric’.

Legal and ethical [standards](#) provide protection for archeological sites and materials. Artifacts found on the surface by NPS staff and visitors outside of an archeological investigation should be left in place. If archeological materials are collected outside the parameters of an authorized archeological study and brought to park staff, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the visitor or staff member collects no more material, that precise provenience information is recorded, when possible, that park cultural resource staff are notified, and that the objects and/or data are promptly given to the curatorial staff upon receipt by staff members. The park has developed a standard operating procedure (SOP), interpretive messages, and staff training to prevent unauthorized collection of materials. Violations under the [Archaeological Resources Protection Act \(ARPA\), 1979](#), should be promptly reported to park law enforcement officers and the Regional Archeologist. [Archeological Resource Damage Assessment](#)

NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 5.3.5.1) mandates that archeological resources are managed in situ, unless the removal of artifacts or physical disturbance is justified by research,

consultation, preservation, protection, or interpretive requirements. “Data recovery actions will be taken only in the context of planning, consultation, and appropriate decision-making . . . conducted within the scope of an approved research design.”

The park has a Section 106 working group which conducts all compliance on undertakings. When work will be conducted in an area of known or potential archeological resources, the park assigns a monitor to be present. There are no such undertakings planned at this time.

Archeology Collection at Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site

The 2024 Collections Management Report (CMR) lists 131 archeology objects in the museum collection. This number is incorrect. Some historical archeology items were incorrectly cataloged as history items, inflating that category, and resulting in a CMR which underrepresents the Archeology collection. The exact number is not yet known, but park staff will be manually counting and reclassifying materials following the transition to MCMS. This section will be updated accordingly.

The park preserves significant historic archeological collections related to the land owned by Eugene O’Neill within the Park boundaries. In 1979, NPS Pacific West Regional Archaeologist Dr. Roger C. Kelly conducted a comprehensive Archeological Resources study. In 2020, an archeological firm (PaleoWest) was contracted to re-identify two historic period archeological resources that Dr. Kelly previously identified at the O’Neill Site.

Though the San Ramon Valley was the territory of the Saklan people, a Bay Miwok group, Dr. Kelly’s research and the 2020 investigation have not revealed cultural material affiliated with the Saklan people at the O’Neill site. Dr. Kelly distinguished the periods for historical archeology as follows:

- Pre-O’Neill Period (19th century to 1937): This involves the early farming and ranching period including the time this site was part of the Mexican land grant, Rancho San Ramon.
- O’Neill Period (1937 to 1944): The residence of Eugene O’Neill and Carlotta Monterey O’Neill.
- Post-O’Neill Period (1944 to present): The residence of the Carlson family to the present.

1. Mandated acquisitions: Archeological collections, except inalienable and communal property (as defined by NAGPRA), recovered from within park boundaries through systematic collection must be retained in the park’s museum collection per [NPS Management Policies](#) (2006, section 5.3.5.1). [43 CFR 7.13](#), “Custody of Archeological Resources,” requires that archeological resources excavated or removed from public lands remain the property of the United States. Archeological material must be of archeological value and interest, including scientific integrity and replicability.

Collections (artifacts and/or associated records) may result from research or compliance projects, including because of historical research, surveys (phase I), test excavations (phase II), and research or mitigative excavations (phase III). Every archeology project will result in materials for the museum collection; even if artifacts are not collected, project records (both physical and digital) must be accessioned and cataloged into the collection. These records may include field notes and catalogs; daily journals; drawings and maps; spatial data; photographic prints, negatives, and slides; photographic logs; sound recordings; raw data sheets; instrument charts; remote sensing data; collection inventories; analytical study data; conservation treatment records. The supervisory museum curator will work cooperatively with the Project Investigator (archeologist responsible for the project) to make certain that these records are complete and preserved.

2. Should be acquired: The following objects should be acquired:

- a. Confiscated archeological materials and any associated documentation recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities in Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in violation of ARPA should be acquired. These materials commonly include archeological materials illegally excavated or obtained through uncontrolled surface collecting or excavation by unauthorized individuals within a NPS unit's boundaries. Such objects might be held temporarily by law enforcement following legal chain of custody protocols as evidence if legal action is to be taken but should be formally turned over to museum staff as soon as possible.

3. May be acquired: The following objects may be acquired:

- a. Diagnostic or otherwise significant finds (surface or otherwise) not recovered from systematic excavations, but which have provenience data and are uncommon in the collection may be acquired. Diagnostic finds are securely datable based on identification, manufacture, decoration, and/or form. Significant finds must contribute a new or support a nuanced understanding of the usage of the site by its inhabitance.
- b. Collections recovered from within the park before it was created may be considered on a limited basis depending on legal title, provenience data, condition, objects present, size of collection, associated records, diagnostic status and/or significance. Though categorized as archeology collections, materials acquired under this section require a Deed of Gift.
- c. *Surface finds located on East Bay Regional Park District Land (EBRPD):* The current site only encompasses 13 of the original 158 acres owned by the O'Neills. The majority of the remaining acres is currently managed by East Bay Regional Park District and is part of the National Historic Landmark listing. O'Neill-era archeological material that is found via surface finds or permitted excavation on land that was part of the O'Neill estate, but is now owned by EBRPD will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Though categorized as archeology collections, materials acquired under this section require a Deed of Gift.

4. Not to be acquired: The following objects may not be acquired:

- a. Artifacts with no direct provenience within the park
- b. Artifacts which lack associated scientific data or are of questionable provenance
- c. Objects excavated from non-NPS property with the potential exception of limited objects found in situ on original O'Neill property that is now owned by EBRPD
- d. Potentially hazardous material (see Appendix F: Hazards in Collections)
- e. Native American human remains and inalienable and communal property subject to NAGPRA

B. Ethnology Collection

According to NPS-28, [Cultural Resource Management Guidelines \(Chapter 10\)](#), the ethnology classification is used for resources associated with the cultural systems or ways of life, and the related technology, sites, structures, and natural resources of peoples associated with the park from before the park's establishment. The decision to call resources "ethnographic" depends on whether associated peoples perceive them as traditionally meaningful to their identity as a group and the survival of their lifeways.

There are four ethnographic resource types that have been assigned cultural significance by traditional users which include sites (archeological or historic places), structures (built features), objects (portable materials), and landscapes (areas containing diverse natural and cultural resources). When natural resources acquire meaning according to the different cultural constructs of a particular group, they become ethnographic and thus cultural resources as well. A major goal of ethnographic object collections is to facilitate collaborative relationships between the NPS and the peoples whose customary ways of life affect, and are affected by, park resource management.

The composition of the park's ethnology collection is subject to change as traditionally associated peoples are identified. The Bay Miwok are the traditionally associated people of the land the park now inhabits. No site-specific ethnographic resources have been identified, but the park is working to strengthen relationships with associated groups.

The park has never conducted any projects which require ethnographic compliance work. Should any be undertaken, the park will work with the Regional Anthropologist to conduct the appropriate consultation and compliance reviews. There are no ethnology projects planned within the next five years at the park. Although the park conducts tribal consultation during Section 106 undertakings, the park is working to strengthen relationships with traditionally associated peoples beyond legal and policy requirements.

Ethnology Collection at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

There are no ethnographic materials currently in the museum collection and the park does not anticipate acquiring any ethnology items in the next five years. Since the park does not currently have any ethnographic resources identified, collecting within this category is low priority for the park.

1. Mandated Acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for the Ethnology collection.
2. Should be acquired: The following materials should be acquired:
 - a. Archives and media associated with a site-specific ethnographic study.
 - b. Non-original ethnographic resources if they are directly and historically related to Eugene or Carlotta O'Neill
3. May be acquired: The following materials may be acquired:
 - a. Ethnographic materials with a direct association with the park, such as from an eminent individual from an affiliated Native American tribe, which meet the park's legislative purpose and stated mission may be acquired on a limited basis.
 - b. Ethnographic objects owned or used by an individual or cultural group traditionally associated with, and significant to, the park mandate.
 - c. Non-original ethnographic resources which may be related to the existing museum collection or attributed to traditionally associated people of the park may be acquired on a very limited basis.
4. Not to be acquired: Ethnographic materials from peoples who do not have direct traditional associations to the park.

C. History Collection

History collections reflect the spectrum of materials made and/or used during recorded times by humans residing in what today is the United States and its Territories. They include cultural collections that are neither archeological nor ethnological. These collections document individual or community life; social, cultural, political, economic, and technological trends; and events associated with a park's mission, themes, and history. They also may include art, such as paintings and sculpture, and rare books.

Some history collections reflect activities of well-known individuals, others evidence everyday life and actions of working-class people. Documenting and interpreting historical objects to the

public in the context of their original settings enhances the public's understanding. For more in-depth discussion of history collections, see [Museum Handbook II, Appendix G](#).

History Collection at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

As of FY24, there are 4,820 history items in the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site museum collection. The most significant objects in the history collection are original items owned by the O'Neills. These include books, clothing, serving ware, luggage, furniture, and furnishings. To furnish the historic house, the park acquired several antique East Asian pieces and other period objects. The park also has a small collection of architectural fragments recovered during maintenance activities. The remaining objects in the history collection are period pieces acquired for furnishing the historic house and cataloged according to NPS policy at the time.

1. Mandated Acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for the History Collection.
2. Should be acquired: Only historic material with a direct association to the park is to be included in the museum collection. When a large quantity of an object type is available, priority should be given to acquiring the best-preserved examples. The history collection is based on the park's themes and items in the following collecting categories should be acquired:
 - a. *Original Tao House furnishings to recreate the O'Neill period of 1937-1944*: Original furnishings will be sought out and acquired as outlined in the 1983 Historic Furnishings Report which gives a detailed descriptive account of the Tao House furnishings based upon historic photographs, diaries, letters, and personal interviews. Also included are objects which would have been used or placed around the house as decoration. This includes dishware and decorative items.
 - b. *Objects associated with Eugene O'Neill which are descriptive of his life before, during, and after his seven-year residence at Tao House*: Objects from the Tao House site which are directly associated with Eugene O'Neill have preference above similar objects without such an association. Acquisitions could include objects from his early life which are expository of the autobiographical plays he wrote at Tao House. Other acquisitions could include objects associated with O'Neill after his Danville residence when he participated in the production of some of the plays he wrote at Tao House. The park has a collection of books for the plays that O'Neill wrote at the Tao House but were not performed or published until after 1944 and some personal O'Neill possessions including clothing and accessories.
 - c. *Objects associated with Carlotta Monterey O'Neill from the time of her Tao House residence*: Objects associated with Mrs. O'Neill will be acquired if they aid in interpreting daily life at Tao House or demonstrate her role in her husband's life and career. This could include objects associated with Mrs. O'Neill during the seventeen years after her husband's death when she

helped produce the plays he wrote at Tao House. The park has a selection of her personal items such as clothing, jewelry, and books.

- d. *Tao House building material samples used in restoration projects and historic elements*: The National Park Service has retrieved samples of the original Tao House building materials during past restoration projects for use in research. Additional representative samples may be taken for future restoration projects if they are not duplicative. A copy of documentation from related project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act should be included in the accession files.

Future collections activity in this area will concentrate on the acquisition of outstanding examples of objects currently not represented in the collection, which meet the criteria referenced above and clearly address a resource management or research deficiency noted in park documents.

3. May be acquired: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site accessions and catalogs period pieces and reproductions in the museum collection upon an evaluation of its purpose; cultural, educational, aesthetic, historic, monetary, or scientific value; and whether the object meets the criteria for the Controlled Property List. The following categories of items may be acquired.

- a. *Period or reproduction furnishings which can be substituted for original O'Neill pieces*: A majority of the furnishings on display in Tao House are period pieces. Future room restorations will also be made up primarily of period pieces. Such furnishings must conform to the available research and photographic evidence and compliment the general Tao House style as outlined in the 1983 Historic Furnishings Report. Period pieces have preference over reproductions. Period pieces and reproductions must be eligible for the Controlled Property List to be considered for acquisition.
- b. *Books to restore Eugene O'Neill's personal library at Tao House*: The park may acquire copies of the same title and edition as original books on a case-by-case basis. The park bases its acquisitions on the Yale University and Long Island University booklists and other bibliographies compiled by O'Neill scholars. Books that are not on the approved lists can be acquired with the approval of the Superintendent if they are the same title but a different edition. Duplicates of titles already in the museum collection and acquired only for interpretive purposes will not be accessioned into the museum collection. The only books which can be exhibited as part of the historic furnishings are books published before 1944 (year that the O'Neills left Tao House).
- c. *Associated materials*: Associated materials are defined as objects with a strong relation to O'Neill which were not owned by O'Neill or his family. Examples of objects of this nature include but are not limited to: books signed by O'Neill, non-English language translations of O'Neill plays, rare books related to O'Neill, and/or objects with stories relating to O'Neill. Acquisition of objects related to the O'Neills should be collected on a limited basis.

Note: Rare books retained for their physical properties or associative value may be acquired into the park's museum collection. Books should never be added to the museum collection simply because they are perceived as old, rare, or valuable.

- d. *Objects associated with Carlotta Monterey O'Neill before and after her Tao House residence:* Objects associated with Mrs. O'Neill may be acquired if they aid in interpreting daily life at Tao House or demonstrate her role in her husband's life and career. This could include objects acquired by Carlotta before her marriage and used at Tao House or associated with Mrs. O'Neill after she left Tao House. The park has a selection of personal items acquired before her marriage, including over 100 books.
 - e. *Objects related to family members of O'Neill:* If belonging to family members, the materials must demonstrate a strong connection to O'Neill or be illustrative of familial relationships. This category applies to one generation above and below O'Neill and his siblings.
 - f. *Objects related to O'Neill-era staff at Tao House:* Objects belonging to the chauffeur, maids, cooks, secretaries, and other staff hired by the O'Neills may be acquired if they are of the era and deemed appropriate in interpreting daily life at Tao House. The park has a collection of personal items which belonged to the O'Neill's long-time chauffeur.
 - g. *Props used in significant, defining productions of O'Neill's work:* Props, costume pieces, and other similar theatre accoutrements used in opening, significant, or defining productions may be acquired on a highly limited basis. Priority will be given to plays written at Tao House.
4. Not to be acquired: Objects without a direct association to the park's resources or in poor condition are not to be acquired. Objects that are inherently unstable or contain potentially hazardous materials are not to be acquired. See Appendix F: Hazards in Collections for more information. Additionally, items within the following categories will not be acquired:
- a. *Objects belonging to O'Neill staff pre- or post-Tao House:* Objects owned or used by O'Neill servants before or after their time at Tao House and which have no connection to the O'Neills will not be collected.
 - b. *Interpretive Objects:* Objects used as interpretive props will not be incorporated into the museum collection. This includes historic furnishings, books, period pieces and reproductions (excepting those which meet Controlled Property List eligibility) acquired solely for exhibition, and replicas used during interpretive demonstrations intended to enhance the visitor experience. Period pieces should only be acquired as interpretive props if they meet the recommendations of the Historic Furnishings Report.

Note: Additional titles by the same authors or within the same genre as other O'Neill owned books should be considered interpretive props and not included in the museum collection. No more than 2 copies of the same book shall be included in the collection if acquired primarily for exhibit purposes. Additional copies beyond 2 shall be considered props if acquired for exhibit purposed.

- c. *Library Materials:* Library materials are not managed as part of the Park's museum collection. Policy and procedures for library materials are outlined in NPS *Management Policies* (Dec 2000), Chapter 5; DO-28, *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*.
- d. *General Reference Materials or Duplicates:* Donations of non-unique copies or original materials considered more useful for general reference or already well represented in the collection may be transferred to the library reference files or to the Interpretation staff and not accessioned into the collection. This includes duplicates of O'Neill books.

D. Art Collection

Art collections generally consist of paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures admired and appreciated primarily or solely for aesthetic or intellectual content. Although created primarily for utilitarian or decorative purposes rather than aesthetics, the artistry and skill of many folk artists is now recognized, and folk art is sometimes considered within art collections. Although most artists in parks work independently, the NPS may commission artists to create works of art inspired by a specific park or resource.

Art Collection at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

There are 30 objects in the Art discipline in the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site according to the FY24 CMR. These include historic ship models, site-original murals, Asian art sculptures including two Fu Dog statues original to the house, prints, paintings, and drawings.

1. Mandated acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for the art collection.
2. Should be acquired: Art that is directly associated with the park, significant people, and/or events related to the park's enabling legislation should be acquired. Specifically, the art should meet the following criteria:
 - a. *O'Neill-owned Historic Art Pieces:* Original art pieces acquired by the O'Neills before or during their time at Tao House which were (or were highly likely) to have been part of the original furnishings.
3. May be acquired: Artworks which meet at least one of the following collecting criteria may be acquired on a limited basis:

- a. *Historic Art Pieces*: Art pieces made about Eugene O'Neill and/or Carlotta Monterey O'Neill. O'Neill was frequently the subject of art pieces, especially by Miguel Covarrubias. The park currently has reproductions of prints by Covarrubias in the museum collection.

The park may also acquire historic artworks which feature the property. The park currently has a painting which depicts the Adobe which was on the property prior to the O'Neill's ownership. The painting was owned by Charlotte Gerdes, who purchased the property from the O'Neills in 1944.

- b. *Non-historic Art Pieces*: Artworks made by contemporary artists with no firsthand knowledge of or connection to the O'Neills may be acquired on a highly limited basis if they illustrate a unique and meaningful facet of the impact of O'Neill's legacy.
- c. *Commissioned Art Pieces*: Works commissioned by the NPS for specific park purposes, such as exhibitions, illustrations, education, or interpretation may be acquired. Note that contracts commissioning works of art should include language transferring copyright to the NPS.

4. Not to be acquired: Art pieces which are in poor condition or contain inherently unstable or hazardous materials will not be acquired. Additionally, artwork within the following categories are not to be acquired:

- a. *Modern or Contemporary Art Pieces*: Modern or contemporary art should be evaluated for acquisition considering interpretive needs, quality, rarity, research values, and any relationship to Eugene O'Neill and Carlotta Monterey.
- b. *Artist in Residence Program*: The park's Artist in Residence program is run by the park's cooperating partner, the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. Artworks resulting from this program will not be acquired for the museum collection.
- c. Art pieces with undocumented provenance or which lack clear title
- d. "Office art" and reproductions including posters and mass-printed materials
- e. Artwork with no direct association of past ownership, subject, or artist, to the park

E. Archives Collections

For the NPS, the term "archives" or "archival collections" refers to permanently valuable documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people.

From the [Museum Handbook I, CH 1, pg 11](#):

Other than resource management records, Federal records should not be included in the museum collection without specific authorization from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These records are the original or “record copy” documents created or received in the course of performing the daily work of the NPS. Examples of records that do not belong in the museum collection include audit records, budget materials, central files, contracting files, financial records, law enforcement records, legal records, museum and project administrative records, permits, personnel records, and superintendent’s correspondence files.

As of FY24, there are 35,835 archival documents in the museum collection at Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site. The archives collections are comprised of manuscript collections which include historic letters, photographs, and playbills and approximately 19 linear feet of park administrative history records.

a. Manuscript Collections at Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site

The term “manuscripts” commonly refers to single documents or collections of documents created by organizations (“organizational records”), businesses (“corporate archives”), and individuals or families (“personal papers”). In NPS museum collections, manuscript collections are primarily donated by individuals, organizations, or families and may include letters between family members, ledgers from family businesses, and photographs documenting the family’s history.

Manuscript collections, or donated collections, are not “park Federal records” and should always be maintained and cataloged separately from resource management record collections. They are not subject to the Federal Records Act (FRA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), or other laws governing federal records access. Donated collections may be protected by copyright or other restrictions, and the NPS may hold copyrights for donated materials.

The following manuscript collections are significant in the museum collection: Charlotte H. Gerdes Papers (160 EA), the Carlson Family Papers (179 EA), and the Rilla Romaine (Hilda Rosen) Papers (44 EA). Beyond these three collections, there are no other formal manuscript collections in the museum collection. Letters, photographs, publications, theatre programs, and ephemera are generally cataloged as individual items. Although paper-based and historic, these documents are not specifically managed as archival collections.

1. Mandated Acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for manuscript collections.
2. Should be acquired: Manuscript materials and collections which fall into the following collecting categories should be acquired:
 - a. *Manuscripts, correspondence, and documents written to or by Eugene O’Neill or Carlotta Monterey O’Neill during their seven-year residence at Tao House:* Such correspondence will continue to be accepted. The park has some correspondence written and/or signed by Eugene O’Neill and/or Carlotta Monterey O’Neill.
 - b. *Manuscripts, correspondence, and documents written by Eugene O’Neill which are descriptive of his life both before and after their residence at Tao House:* The park

- will continue to accept letters written by or to the O'Neills including personal and business correspondence.
- c. *Photographic materials associated with the O'Neills during their residence at Tao House:* The park will collect any images of or associated with the O'Neill's residence at Tao House. The park has both original and duplicate copies of black and white prints and slides of the O'Neills at Tao House. Copies of a set of 1941 *Life* Magazine photographs comprise the majority of the historic visual record. The park also has additional personal O'Neill photographs depicting their lives before, during and after their Tao House residence. Before accepting photographs, copyright ownership should be clarified and transferred to the park when possible.
 - d. *Oral Histories related to Tao House era:* Audio and video recordings of Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill, their staff, and people who remember the O'Neills should be accessioned. Recorded accounts by individuals documenting the original appearance of Tao House and grounds and/or preservation efforts of Tao House and grounds may be accessioned. Reformatting of the media will be undertaken as needed to preserve access to the content of the original format. The park has several oral history interviews with Herbert Freeman, the O'Neill's chauffeur at Tao House.

3. May be acquired: Manuscript collections may be acquired if they fall within the following collecting categories:

- a. *Manuscripts, correspondence, and documents written by Carlotta Monterey O'Neill which are descriptive of their life both before and after their residence at Tao House:* The park may acquire letters written by or to the O'Neills including personal and business correspondence beyond their residence at Tao House. The park has some correspondence by Carlotta Monterey O'Neill from the 1950s when she helped to get her husband's Tao House plays produced. Associated correspondence related to the original productions of the Tao House plays will also be accepted.
- b. *Photographic materials associated with the O'Neill's before and after residence at Tao House:* The park may acquire personal O'Neill photographs depicting their lives before, during and after their Tao House residence. Before accepting photographs, copyright ownership should be clarified and transferred to the park when possible.
- c. *Staff Oral Histories:* Oral histories of park partners, scholars, and former/current NPS staff may be acquired on a case-by-case basis.
- d. *Scholarly collections:* Primary and secondary source materials and papers collected through research and/or book writing by scholars and researchers will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Collections must relate to the legacy of O'Neill, park significance, and/or themes.
- e. *Items related to prominent O'Neill productions:* Playbills, programs, photographs, posters, ticket stubs, magazines, and other materials related to historic, prominent,

award-winning, significant, and/or exceptional quality theatre or film productions of O'Neill repertoire. The park has a number of Broadway and West End playbills, theatrical items related to prominent O'Neill actors such as Jason Robards, and posters advertising O'Neill plays in multiple countries.

4. Not to be acquired: Manuscript materials within the following categories are not to be acquired:

- a. *Contemporary Photographs*
 - i. General "family vacation" images from members of the public
 - ii. Employee personal photos unrelated to major park events or projects
 - iii. Digital copies of analog photos or documents already in the collection created for access and use will not be added to the museum archives
- b. *Film and Audio Media:* Motion pictures, original newsreels, commercial and industrial films, and government propaganda films of the general 1930s and 1940s-eras are not to be acquired.
- c. *Newspaper Clippings:* All newspaper clippings which were not specifically owned by the O'Neills are not to be acquired. This includes historic newspaper articles generally about the O'Neills, his plays, and contemporary articles about the park.

b. Resource Management Records in the Archival Collections at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Resource Management Records (RMR) document the management of natural and cultural resources, and park lands which must be [preserved in perpetuity](#). Using professional discretion, knowledge of park resource management, and working with an NPS archivist (park, regional office, WASO), determine how they support the management of the resources, and if they are active records.

Associated records are Resource Management Records that document and provide context for museum objects, specimens, and samples. Some associated records are specifically mandated by laws and regulations that govern how we manage archeological, biological, and paleontological collections.

For archeology: [Archaeological Resources Protection Act](#) (ARPA), specific reference to retention of associated records found here: [US Code Title 16, 470cc](#). And [36 CFR 79](#) which are regulations associated with undertakings associated with the Antiquities Act, Reservoir Salvage Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and ARPA.

For biology: [Management Policies 2006 \(nps.gov\)](#) and [36 CFR 2.5](#)

For paleontology: [16 USC 470aaa-1: Management \(house.gov\)](#)

Resource Management Records (RMR) are federal records subject to the Federal Records Act (FRA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), or other laws governing federal records access. Although records created by government employees are in the public domain, records within the park archives created by others may be subject to copyright or other legal restrictions. A compelling reason would be needed to accept copyrighted formats.

The park has approximately 19 linear feet of park records accessioned into the museum collection. The records collections include: The Park Administrative History and Resource Management Records (approximately 24,000 documents), the Eugene O'Neill NHS Administrative Slides Collection (3163 slides), and the Eugene O'Neill NHS Administrative Photograph Collection (3347 photographs). The last records survey was completed in 2009.

1. Mandated Collections: Records associated with collections made through permitted collections and activities associated with the Archeological Resources Protection Act (1979), the Paleontology Resources Preservation Act (2009), and the permitted collection of scientific specimens are mandated by laws to be retained.
2. Should be Acquired: Resource management and lands records should be acquired regardless of format including, but not limited to research permit deliverables, inactive records in park natural or cultural resources program offices, records related to park land ownership, easements, or minerals management, and data and other project records from specific park resource management projects that may not be issued permits. Additionally, photographs which meet the following criteria should be acquired:
 - a. *Photographic materials documenting the administrative history of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site*: Photographs which trace the development of the site through its subsequent private ownership and restoration by the National Park Service should be acquired. The park will continue to document the restoration and evolution of the site through color prints, black and white prints, and digital files.
3. May be Acquired: The *NPS Service-wide Record Schedule* (SRS) and the NPS *Records and Electronic Information Management (REIM Guide)* identify additional records that have enduring value to both the NPS and NARA. These records are not RMR or archives, but a small set of park records related to protection and safety, wildfire management, park facilities management. Documents which describe events or programs significant to the development or administration of the park may also be considered for retention and acquisition.

The park will work with PWR Records Management to identify federal records which have not yet been surveyed. The park's CAC will review these records and determine if any of the record types have enduring value to the park, but are not currently listed in the "May be Acquired" section. The records identified by the CAC and those that fall within the current categories listed in the "May be Acquired" section will be retained in the park's museum collection. Records that do not fall within the "Should be Acquired" or "May be Acquired" sections will be sent to NARA/Federal Records Center under the pending 2024 NPS-

NARA exception request. Following the survey and CAC review, the SOCS will be updated to reflect these records assessments.

4. Not to be Acquired: Materials within the following categories are not to be acquired:

- a. Museum records including but not limited to accession book and files, catalog records and folders, annual inventories, loan documentation, images of objects and specimens, and object conservation condition and treatment reports.

2. Natural History Collection

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site does not currently have any natural history specimens in the museum. A natural history collection is not applicable to the park's enabling legislation, interpretive themes, or resource management goals and objectives. There are no natural history specimens currently in the collection and the park does not intend to acquire a natural history collection. No Inventory and Monitoring projects which collect specimens are currently planned for the next 5 years. The park does not anticipate adding specimens to the collection through scientifically permitted projects.

Should the park acquire a natural history collection, its purpose will be to support scientific research, resource management and education; provide baseline data of the park's natural resources; document changes these resources are undergoing because of internal park conditions and external effects; and preserve important or locally significant species collected in response to specific research or interpretive needs.

Future growth of the collection is restricted to specimens and associated records generated through authorized, systematic scholarly research and selective acquisition based on:

- Needs identified in Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site's approved planning documents and resource studies.
- Service-wide initiatives.
- Enhancing the understanding of, and promoting increased stewardship of, the park's natural resources.
- Natural resource baselines, inventorying, and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970.

All collecting activities must be in compliance with [36 CFR 2.5](#), [the Research Permitting and Reporting System \(RPRS\)](#), NPS Management Policies (2006, section 4.2.3), *Director's Order #77: Natural Resource Protection* (under development), and *NPS Natural Resources Management Guideline* (1991). See Appendix G: Research Collections and Permits for more information.

Uncontrolled surface collecting by visitors or park staff is illegal according to the *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Volume I* (36 CFR 2.1). Specimens found on the surface should not be removed from their original location by the finder; they should be reported to park staff delegated with museum collection responsibilities. If materials are turned in to the park, standard NPS policies and procedures must be followed to ensure that the finder collects no more material, the precise provenience information is recorded, if possible, and the subject specimens and data are delivered promptly to the park. Unless the items are determined to be significant by a subject-matter expert in the respective discipline (biology, geology, or paleontology), they should not be cataloged into the park's museum collection.

Any acquisitions and future growth of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site's natural history collection may be initiated by park staff or outside researchers and will be restricted to specimens and associated records divided into three disciplines: biology, geology, and paleontology.

Brief description of the park's natural resources

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site comprises nine acres, most of which are managed as a historic cultural landscape. As such, no formal assessment of the natural resources within the park boundaries have been conducted beyond two limited faunal inventories.

The park is situated within the wildland-urban interface. Preliminary inventories of land vertebrates in 2001 and 2003 resulted in the inventory of 9 mammal species (including a domesticated cat and dog), 5 reptile species, and 1 amphibian species. A bat survey conducted in 2003 identified 8 bat species within the park. Faunal species which were not seen during the surveys, but which are regularly identified within the park by staff include bob cats, feral pigs, Western rattlesnakes, wild turkeys, red tailed hawks, and turkey vultures. Although no invertebrate inventories have been conducted, juvenile California brown tarantulas are frequently seen by staff in the spring.

No formal flora inventories have been conducted. Much of the landscape at the park includes a historic orchard and species planted intentionally by the O'Neills including a large patch of ice plant.

A. Biology Collection

Museum collections serve as the verifiable and reproducible evidence of a scientific study. Therefore, their collection and long-term preservation is a crucial aspect of ensuring scientific integrity.

Biological resources are plants and animals which live within, migrate through, or otherwise make use of a park. These include all species belonging to all five of the commonly recognized kingdoms of living things. These biological resources can be either native or exotic.

Biological collections include specimens from living things and their associated records. Copies of records created during biological research should be retained as part of the museum collection,

regardless of specimen collection. Specimens not destroyed or consumed in analysis as determined during the permitting process should be retained for long-term curation. The NPS has an ongoing program to inventory and monitor living resources in the park that generates many specimens for the museum collections. Over time, NPS biological collections can help document changes in the park environment and changes in species, thus helping to inform park planning, natural resource management, cultural landscape management, and interpretive programs.

Examples of biological collections may include:

- Wet-preserved or taxidermied specimens
- Animal skins, skeletal material, and shell material
- DNA samples including blood and tissue
- Pinned specimens, including invertebrates
- Pressed plants and tree cores
- Casts of animal tracks, raptor pellets, and other biproducts
- Specimens or other collected material that results in derivatives that may be patentable or otherwise protected under the intellectual property (IP) laws.

Biological Resources at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

The biological resources at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site have received little formal assessment or study and much remains to be learned about taxa and habitats within the park, as well as impacts of anthropogenic and natural processes.

There are no biological specimens or associated data in the park's museum collection as of FY24 and the park does not anticipate acquiring a biological collection in the next five years.

1. Mandated acquisitions: Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, permitted research, staff research, and study projects, together with associated records, must be acquired. Collecting of specimens will be associated with needs identified in the Resource Management Plan/Resource Stewardship Strategy or approved I&M plans, or as needed to voucher research projects. All approved study plans will limit collected specimens to what has been determined as a sufficient number of examples. Threatened and endangered (T&E) specimens should not be added unless (1) accidental death occurs or (2) if researchers comply with all legal restrictions regarding protected species, including all Federal, State, and other permitting requirements for all proposed collections.
2. Should be acquired: There are no biological collections which should be acquired by the park. There are no Inventory and Monitoring Program projects or protocols at the park.
3. May be acquired: There are no biological collections which may be acquired by the park.
4. Not to be acquired: Any biological specimens which meet one or more of the following criteria are not to be acquired:
 - a. Biological specimens collected outside the park's boundaries.

- b. Scientific specimens lacking provenience documentation, lacking scientific value, in poor condition, or which were not prepared to professional standards.
- c. Specimens specifically collected as a type or reference collection, e.g., for fire management programs that are used in the field, heavily used, etc., are not to be collected.
- d. Living specimens are not to be acquired for the museum collection. Nor is ICMS or its successor to be used to inventory or document living collections.

B. Geology Collections

NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 4.8) describes geologic resources as both geologic features and processes. “Geologic processes” are the natural physical and chemical forces acting with natural systems and human developments across a broad spectrum of space and time. Examples include: exfoliation, erosion, sedimentation, glaciation, karst processes, shoreline processes, and seismic and volcanic activity. “Geologic features” are the products and physical components of geologic processes. NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 4.8) requires the NPS to preserve and protect geologic resources and geologic features as integral components of park natural systems.

As described in the NPS [Museum Handbook, Part II \(2012\)](#), geological collections inform park planning and development, natural and cultural resources management, and interpretation.

Geological Resources at Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site

There are no geological specimens or associated data in the park’s museum collection as of FY24 and the park does not anticipate acquiring a geological collection in the next five years.

1. Mandated acquisitions: Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during permitted inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects, together with associated records. Remainder samples and specimens not wholly destroyed during analyses that retain scientific value and potential for further testing remain Federal property and must be returned to the park.
2. Should be acquired: There are no geological collections which should be acquired by the park. There are no Inventory and Monitoring Program projects or protocols at the park.
3. May be acquired: There are no geological collections which may be acquired by the park.
4. Not to be acquired: Any geological specimens and associated records including:
 - a. Specimens and samples from outside the park’s boundaries.

- b. Specimens and samples lacking provenience documentation or generated through rock hounding (amateur collecting of specimens) which is prohibited in most national parks by 36 CFR 2.1(a)

C. Paleontology Collections

The [Paleontological Resources Preservation Act \(Public Law 111-011\) \(PRPA\)](#) defines a paleontological resource as “any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth’s crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth, except that the term does not include— (A) any materials associated with an archaeological resource (as defined in section 3(1) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb(1)); or (B) any cultural item (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)).” (NAGPRA) The law requires that both the paleontological resource and copies of associated records be preserved for the public in an approved repository, to be made available for scientific research and public education.

PRPA requires that paleontological resources collected on federal land remain the property of the United States and that the paleontological resource and copies of associated records will be preserved for the public and made available for scientific research and public education. The law requires curation of these resources, stating “Any paleontological resource, and any data and records associated with the resource, collected under a permit, shall be deposited in an approved repository.”

Uncontrolled surface collecting by visitors and park staff is prohibited. Fossils found on the surface by visitors should not be removed from their original location by the finder, but rather promptly reported to park staff. If visitors or staff collect a fossil illegally, the object and location data should be promptly given to the museum curator upon receipt by staff members. Identify if molds, casts, and other reproductions such as 3D scans or prints, exist. See [NPS Museum Handbook, Appendix N](#) for more information about evaluating the accession of reproductions. Reproductions, such as casts or molds of a previously collected specimen, may be acquired if they are the only remaining evidence of the original specimen, a portion of a fossil that is now missing due to consumption by destructive analysis, or serve as a record of steps in the preparation process wherein they act to preserve taphonomic information or other important data which has been destroyed by the preparation process. 3D digital files should be preserved like digital photographs within an archive or other appropriate digital repository.

Paleontology Resources at Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site

There are no paleontological specimens or associated data in the park’s museum collection as of FY24 and the park does not anticipate acquiring a paleontological collection in the next five years. No paleontological resources have been identified within the park’s boundaries.

1. Mandated acquisitions: Fossil plant, vertebrate, invertebrate, or trace specimens and associated records generated through permitted systematic surveys or excavations

undertaken within the park boundaries; [high fidelity casts](#) made from the molds of trace or body fossils left in situ; and scientifically significant paleontological resources, together with their associated records. Remainder samples and specimens not wholly destroyed during analyses that retain scientific value and potential for further testing must be acquired into the museum collection.

2. Should be acquired: There are no paleontological collections which should be acquired by the park.

3. May be acquired: Materials which meet the following criteria may be acquired on a limited basis, though the park has not identified any paleontological resources within the park's borders:

- a. Confiscated paleontological materials recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities in Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in violation of PRPA may be acquired. When such collections are encountered, law enforcement and museum staff should be consulted as soon as possible to ensure proper accountability, handling, and transportation of these materials. Such objects might be held temporarily by law enforcement following legal chain of custody protocols as evidence if legal action is to be taken, but should be formally turned over to the museum staff person as soon as possible if the items are to be acquired.
- b. Specimens collected before the park was established and specimens collected in the park illegally that are returned to the park should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, considering factors such as legal title, association with historical figures, importance, or rarity of the specimen, condition, available provenience and associated geologic data.
- c. Reproductions, such as casts or molds of a previously collected specimen, may be acquired if they are the only remaining evidence of the original specimen. See [NPS Museum Handbook, Appendix N](#) for more information about evaluating the accession of reproductions.

4. Not to be acquired: Any paleontological specimens or associated records including:

- a. Fossils from outside the park's boundaries except purchased fossils which meet all criteria established in NPS 2006 MP 4.8.2.1
- b. Fossils lacking provenience documentation

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

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC 3001-13) and implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 10), requires Federal agencies and institutions that receive Federal funding (including museums, universities, state agencies, and local governments) to protect and repatriate Native American human remains and cultural items to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. Items in the possession or control of the NPS identified as subject to NAGPRA must be addressed in accordance with 43 CFR 10. The regulations require:

- Consultation with deference given to the Native American traditional knowledge of lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations;
- Address disposition of any newly discovered Native American human remains or cultural items removed from federal lands and any Native American human remains and cultural items in NPS possession or control removed from federal lands after the enactment of NAGPRA on November 16, 1990 in accordance with 43 CFR 10.7;
- Identification of all Native American human remains and cultural items in NPS possession or control removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA;
- Development of NAGPRA inventories or summaries in compliance with 43 CFR 10.9 and 10.10 to facilitate consultation and eventual repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural items removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA.

NPS policy and guidance for NAGPRA compliance can be found on the [NPS NAGPRA Guidance](#) SharePoint where more detailed information is available to address the following:

- Duty of Care (43 CFR 10.1(d)) which requires the NPS to care for, safeguard, and preserve human remains and cultural items in its custody, possession, or control;
- Steps to complete disposition of human remains and cultural items removed from federal lands after the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.4 through 10.7);
- Steps to complete summaries and repatriation of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.9);
- Steps to complete inventories and repatriation of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.10);
- Consultation with lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations;
- Determining cultural affiliation (43 CFR 10.3);
- Developing and publishing a Notice of Intended Disposition (NID) - 43 CFR 10.7(c)(2), a Notice of Intended Repatriation (NIR) - 43 CFR 10.9(f), and a Notice of Inventory Completion (NIC) - 43 CFR 10.10(e);
- Evaluating requests for repatriation (43 CFR 10.9(d) and 10.10(f)) or claims for disposition (43 CFR 10.7(c)(3)) of human remains and cultural item; and Developing and maintaining a record of consultation.

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site does not have any materials subject to NAGPRA in the museum collection or held by the park.

Any newly discovered human remains and/or NAGPRA cultural items removed from park lands **should not be accessioned** into the museum collection. Rather, disposition should be addressed through compliance with sections 10.4 through 10.7 of 43 CFR 10 in accordance with the mandated timelines found in 43 CFR 10.

IV. ACQUISITIONS

1. Acquisition Criteria

Acquisition of museum objects is governed by the park's ability to manage and preserve materials according to *NPS Management Policies, Chapter 5* (2006), the standards for managing museum objects in *NPS-28: Cultural Resources Management Guideline* (1998); *the NPS Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections (Checklist)*; and the *NPS Museum Handbook I-III*.

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site continues to acquire objects that relate to the site through donation, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collection, and loan. Museum objects must be acquired, accessioned, and cataloged in accordance with the *NPS Museum Handbook, Part II* (2000).

In accordance with NPS policy and general museum practice, only unrestricted gifts should be accepted. Only the regional director can allow an exception to this rule. Gifts or bequests must be free of restrictions as to their use and future disposition. However, museum collections are subject to legal restrictions, such as privacy laws and classified data. Refer to the MH-III, Chapter 2: Legal Issues, for information on use and access restrictions.

Firearms and ammunition, acquired for museum exhibits and research purposes, are not intended for use as operational firearms. The NPS standards for managing, use, and disposal of museum objects are outlined in the *NPS Museum Handbook Parts I and II*, and *NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guideline*, as well as the *Draft Appendix X: Museum Firearms, Small Arms Ammunition, Artillery, And Munitions (still under review)*.

2. Roles and Responsibilities for Accessioning and Deaccessioning

Accountable Officer

The Park's Superintendent, by delegation, represents the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior in accepting title to and responsibility for all museum objects. The Superintendent bears the ultimate responsibility for the acquisition, proper care, and management of the unit's museum collection. The Superintendent has delegated the day-to-day care of the collection to the custodial officer for museum collections. This designation must be made in writing.

All permanent acquisitions must receive formal approval from the Park's Superintendent before they can be accepted into the museum collection. Before physical receipt of the acquisition, all paperwork, including the Deed of Gift, must be signed by both the park and the donor. Upon receipt, all newly acquired objects and related documentation must be turned over to the Receiving Officer. The Curator, or Custodial Officer, 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 sources of acquisition.

The Superintendent, as the accountable officer, also must approve all incoming loans, which are considered temporary acquisitions, and is the final signatory for all loan documentation.

Custodial Officer

The custodial officer is directly accountable and responsible for the physical care and documentation of the museum collection. The custodial officer, usually the curator or other museum staff (including collateral duty), provides oversight of the museum collection, as delegated by the Accountable Officer. In the absence of those positions, it may be assigned as a collateral duty to an employee in a different job series.

Designated Receiving Officer

The Superintendent appoints, in writing, the Receiving Officer for the museum collection.

The Receiving Officer is responsible for documenting the receipt of museum collections. The Receiving Officer can be one of the museum staff or a staff member from another program/division.

The Receiving Officer signs the Accession Receiving Report (Form 10-95), the Receipt for Property (DI-105), and any other receipts for museum property. The Custodial Officer cannot serve as the Receiving Officer, nor can the Superintendent.

Collections Advisory Committee

The Collections Advisory Committee (CAC) reviews the appropriateness of the proposed accession or deaccession and its disposition.

Since 2017, all parks are required to establish a CAC. A CAC is required to review all proposed new accessions other than scientifically generated archeological and natural history field collections and their associated records from NPS-administered land. The CAC should also review any miscellaneous items "found in collection." See *Museum Handbook*, Part II, Chapter 2 for types of accessions and their definitions.

Park-specific CACs shall be established based on the guidelines for deaccessioning committees in the [Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 6](#) and [Appendix B](#). The CAC must include at least one member at the GS-1015-11 grade or higher, must include at least three members, and must make recommendations in writing.

V. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Acquisition and deaccession decisions are guided by NPS *Museum Handbook* mandates, strategic collecting directions outlined in this SOCS, and the following management actions:

- As stated in the [Museum Handbook I, chapter 2, section J: Writing the Management Actions section](#), SOCS will be reviewed and updated at least every five-years but can be updated more often whenever changed conditions clearly alter the mission of the park or when priorities in a specific collecting category have been met. Changes must be approved by the superintendent.
- The CAC will be reviewed and updated to fill vacancies as needed
- Eugene O'Neill NHS CRM staff will assess the collection for deaccession priorities and either add a Deaccession Section to this document or create a separate Deaccession Plan. Part of the assessment will include a 100% inventory of the collection to determine the status of missing items.
- Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site will establish a partnerships to work collaboratively with the Bay Miwok to advise and guide the park in collecting practices and principles. Procedures will determine whether cultural material remains within the community, define what terms collaborative stewardship of donated materials would operate, and/or rectify situations that caused past harm to a particular community.
- Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site will work collaboratively with park resource management staff, researchers and non-NPS institutions, and universities to establish collecting practices and principles of natural history collections and their associated records should a natural history collection be deemed necessary and appropriate for the park.
- Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site will establish a process/procedure to identify park records with enduring value that will be retained in the park's museum collection in conjunction with park records management practices and procedures.

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation***Public Law 94-539, October 18, 1976, 90 Stat. 2501***

AN ACT To authorize the establishment of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, to provide for a cooperative agreement in the operation of the Cherokee Strip Living Museum and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept the donation of, or purchase with funds donated for the acquisition of, all or any part of the property (comprising approximately fourteen acres) and improvements thereon at Danville, California, formerly owned by Eugene O'Neill. Such property is hereby designated as the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in commemoration of the contribution of Eugene O'Neill to American literature and drama.

SEG. 2. The national historic site established pursuant to this Act if acquired by the Secretary of the Interior shall be administered by him in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended, as a memorial to Eugene O'Neill and a park for the performing arts and related educational programs. Whether acquired or not, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized directly or by means of cooperative agreements with the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, to preserve, interpret, restore, program, adapt for public use and/or provide technical assistance for the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in accordance with the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That prior to entering into any cooperative agreement the Secretary shall transmit a copy of the proposed agreement together with a report explaining the reasons for the agreement to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Appendix B: NPS Museum Collections

The Department of Interior defines a museum collection as a subset of personal property that is retained for long-term preservation, study, and interpretation consistent with statutory requirements and its relationship to the mission of the respective bureau and park. The NPS affirmed its mandate to actively acquire and preserve objects, specimens, and archives in *NPS Management Policies* (2006, section 5.3.5.5), stating that “The Service will collect, protect, preserve, provide access to, and use objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections . . . in the disciplines of archeology, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology to aid understanding among park visitors, and to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences.”

Parks acquire and manage museum collections because they are:

important park resources in their own right as well as being valuable for the information they provide about processes, events, and interactions among people and the environment. Natural and cultural objects and their associated records provide baseline data, serving as scientific and historical documentation of the park’s resources and purpose. All resource management records that are directly associated with museum objects are managed as museum property. These and other resource management records are preserved as part of the archival and manuscript collection because they document and provide an information base for the continuing management of the park’s resources (NPS-28 *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, 1998: 137).

Because of their significance, *NPS Management Policies* (2006, section 1.4.6) includes museum collections among the park resources and values which are subject to the no-impairment standard.

[NPS Management Policies \(2006, section 1.4.6, pg 11\)](#)

1.4.6 What Constitutes Park Resources and Values

- The “park resources and values” that are subject to the no-impairment standard include the park’s scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife, and the processes and conditions that sustain them, including, to the extent present in the park: the ecological, biological, and physical processes that created the park and continue to act upon it; scenic features; natural visibility, both in daytime and at night; natural landscapes; natural soundscapes and smells; water and air resources; soils; geological resources; paleontological resources; archeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic and prehistoric sites, structures, and objects; museum collections; and native plants and animals;
- appropriate opportunities to experience enjoyment of the above resources, to the extent that can be done without impairing them;

- the park's role in contributing to the national dignity, the high public value and integrity, and the superlative environmental quality of the national park system, and the benefit and inspiration provided to the American people by the national park system; and
- any additional attributes encompassed by the specific values and purposes for which the park was established. (See introduction to chapter 4 of NPS Management Policies (2006)).

Appendix C: Legislation Related to NPS Museum Collection and Other Related Conventions, Laws, and Regulations

These laws provide the legal mandates for NPS management of museum collections:

- 16 USC
 - 469-469c: Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960, as amended
 - 470aa-mm: Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
 - 470aaa: Paleontology Resources Preservation Act of 2009
 - 668a Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended
 - 703-711 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
 - 1361-1407 Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972
 - 1531-1543 Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- 18 USC 43-44 Lacey Act of 1900 [The Black Bass Act of 1930 (16 USC 851) added fish to the list of wildlife under the Lacey Act]
- 25 USC 3001-3013 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- 41 USC 102-41 Subpart C Voluntarily Abandoned Property
- 42 USC 1996 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- 54 USC
 - 100101: Promotion and Regulation
 - 100301-100302: Establishment (Organic Act of 1916)
 - 100701 et seq.: System Resource Inventory and Management (National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1988)
 - 102501-102504: Museums (Museum Properties Management Act of 1955)
 - 300101 et seq: Historic Preservation (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966)
 - 312501-312507: Preservation of Historical and Archeological Data (Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974)
 - 320301-320303: Monuments, Ruins, Site, and Objects of Antiquity (The Antiquities Act)
 - 321010-321016: American Antiquities [Policy and Administrative Provisions], (Historic Sites Act of 1935)

The following regulations include major requirements for NPS museum collections management.

- Copyright Act of 1976 (17 USC 101 et seq. [1988 & Supp. V 1993])
- Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archeological Collections” (36 CFR Part 79) and in something about the update for deaccessioning
- Disposition of Federal Records (36 CFR 1228)
- Disposal of Records (44 USC 33)
- Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR, Sections 17.11 and 17.12)
- Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 USC 483[b])
- Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended (44 USC 3101 et seq.)
- Freedom of Information Act of 1966, as amended (5 USC 552)

- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Regulations (43 CFR 10)
- Preservation, Arrangement, Duplication, Exhibition of Records (44 USC 2109)
- Preservation of American Antiquities (43 CFR Part 3)
- Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a)
- Protection of Archeological Resources (43 CFR Part 7)
- Research Specimens (36 CFR, Section 2.5)
- Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 (43 USC 2101 through 2106)
- Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (7 USC 2131 through 2159)
- Copies of records, documents, etc.: charges, disposition of receipts (43 USC 1460)
- Commercial filming activities on federal land (Public Law 106-206)
- Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Policy: State-Federal Relationships (43 CFR 24)
- Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies were published in the Federal Register as 67 FR 5365
- Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (16 USC 63)
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 35)
- Federal Technology Transfer Act of 2012 (15 USC 3710)
- Information Quality Act (passed in section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554; H.R. 5658)
- National Archives and Records Administration Act of 1984 (44 USC 21)
- Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997 (Public Law 104-208)
- Permits (36 CFR 1.6)
- Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and Archeological Resources (36 CFR 2.1)
- Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014 (Public Law 113-187; H.R. 1233)

Presidential memoranda pertinent to museum and archival collections include:

- Memorandum on Preserving Scientific Integrity in Government Decision-Making (2009) and the Presidential Memorandum on Managing Government Records (2011)
- “Technical Edits” for 36 CFR were published in the Federal Register as 80 FR 36474, effective as of on June 25, 2015

The following international conventions apply to NPS cultural collections:

- 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (implemented in the United States by P.L. 97-446 in 1983, 19 USC 2601)
- 1983 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The following governmentwide and departmental policies and standards apply to NPS museum collections:

- 41 CFR 101 Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR)

- Departmental Manual Part 11, Museum Property Management, Chapters 1-3
- Departmental Manual Part 517, Chapter 1, Pesticide Use Policy
- Interior Property Management Regulations, Departmental Manual Part 410, Personal Property Management (Subpart 114-60)

Excerpts from NPS Management Policies (1988) that are specifically relevant to museum objects are as follows:

- Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Management
 - Natural Resource Collections (Page 4:4)
 - Integrated Pest Management Procedures (Page 4:13)
 - Paleontologic Resource Management (Page 4:19)
- Chapter 5 - Cultural Resource Management
 - Inventories (Page 5:1)
 - Preservation of Data and Collections and Protection of Research Potential (Page 5:3)
 - Treatment of Museum Objects (Pages 5:9-10)
 - Acquisition, Management, and Disposition of Museum Objects (Page 5:10)
 - Historic Furnishings (Page 5:10)
 - Archives and Manuscripts (Pages 5:10-11)
 - Fire Detection and Suppression (Page 5:14)
 - Pest Management (Page 5:14)
- Chapter 7 - Interpretation and Education: Interpretation and Native Americans (Page 7:5)
- Chapter 8 - Use of the Parks: Research and Collection Activities (Pages 8:15-16)
- Chapter 9 - Park Facilities: Curatorial Facilities (Page 9:15)
- Chapter 10 - Concessions Management: Merchandise and Handcrafts (Pages 10.8-9)

Director's Orders (DO) supplement the NPS Management Policies. The following DO include guidance for museum collections

- Director's Order #11D: Records Management
- Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management
- Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management
- Director's Order #44: Personal Property Management
- Director's Order #77: Natural Resource Protection
- Director's Order #77-10: NPS Benefits Sharing
- Director's Order #79: Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities

For a more detailed description of legislation and regulations as related to NPS museum collections, please see [Museum Handbook, Part I, Appendix A: Mandates and Standards for NPS Museum Collections.](#)

Appendix D: Uses and Restrictions of Museum Collections

A. General Use

The site's museum collections may be used for exhibits, interpretive programs, research, and other interpretive media such as publications. The governing consideration on the use of museum objects is the conservation of each object in question and of the park's collection:

- All exhibits or displays containing museum objects must have proper security and appropriate environmental controls to ensure their long-term preservation.
- Social Media posts must follow the guidelines outlined in *Director's Order #70*.
- Objects and records will be available for research purposes consistent with the preservation of the collection, subject to the guidelines outlined in *Director's Order #28* (1998) and *Director's Order #24* (2008).
- No use of the museum collection will be permitted without a curatorial staff member present. Prior arrangements must be made to examine museum collection materials. Non-NPS researchers who wish to use the collection must complete an application form, which will be reviewed by Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site curatorial staff.
- Museum objects are prohibited from being used in living history demonstrations. For more information regarding museum collection use in demonstrations, see [Museum Handbook, Part III, Chapter 6](#). Exhibits may be incorporated into programs through organized tours or other non-consumptive techniques.
- Requests for consumptive analysis or testing of museum materials will comply with restrictions and procedures outlined in *Director's Order #28* (1998) and the [Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 4](#).
- Requests for monetary and/or non-monetary benefits sharing stemming from research results derived from NPS-permitted research including progeny and unmodified derivatives of collected specimens, museum specimens, living collections, and multiple generations thereof, i.e. *Material*, will comply with [Director's Order #77-10](#) (2013) and [NPS Benefits-Sharing Handbook](#) (2018).

With appropriate authorization, documentation, and tracking, collected specimens may be used in the laboratory to create *Material*. The Collected Specimen Transfer Agreement (CSTA) authorizes the movement of collected specimens when a determination has not been made regarding final disposition. The Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) authorizes the movement of material that a researcher has created in a laboratory, and the loan agreement authorizes the movement of permanently retained museum specimens or living collection items.

Parks must use research permits, CSTAs, cataloging records, loan agreements, and MTAs, as applicable, to track collected specimens, museum specimens, and material.

Tracking collected specimens, museum specimens, and material is critical to monitoring commercial use of research results and eventual benefits sharing.

- Objects may be loaned to qualified institutions for exhibition or research use in keeping with the conditions cited in “Conditions for Outgoing Loans (Form 10-137A)”. No loans are made to individuals. Institutions must be able to adequately care for the loan and the borrowing institution must complete a facility report to determine the risk of lending an object. A standard facility report can be purchased from the American Alliance of Museums. A condition report (Form 10-637) along with photographs of the loan shall be completed by collections staff before it leaves NPS custody. Sensitive materials may require additional conditions prior to a loan commitment. Expenses related to the loan of museum collection objects, including shipping and insurance, will be assumed by the borrower.

No exemption will be granted for use of museum objects where such use may lead to loss or destruction of human remains, associated or unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony as defined by NAGPRA, unless such use is approved by the culturally affiliated group(s) in addition to the regional director or director as described in NPS-28, Cultural Resource Management Guidelines. Exhibition of Native American skeletal or mummified human remains or photos or replicas of them are specifically prohibited.

An exhibit plan and design (EPD) serve as a guide for the development of exhibits that support the interpretive themes of a park. The final production-ready exhibit plan identifies the museum objects and graphics to be exhibited and provides label text. Detailed design drawings provide specifications on environmental and security needs for objects, special mounts needed to support objects, and techniques in exhibit case construction that facilitate access to museum objects. Park curatorial staff, conservators, and regional curators must be included in the development and review of EDPs. Indigenous groups associated with archeological and ethnographic objects will be consulted about their use in exhibits. (The NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part III provides guidance on the exhibit plan and design.)

Any and all uses of materials from the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site museum collection will be consistent with the preservation standards set out in *Director's Order #28: Guideline for Cultural Resources Management* (1998). Any consumptive or destructive use of museum objects must be approved by the Regional Director.

B. Commercial Uses

1. Filming & Photography

Filming and photography that will subject collections to unacceptable light levels, heat buildup, deterioration or possible breakage or theft shall not be permitted. Items subject to copyright and privacy shall have all appropriate releases obtained before filming or photography is permitted. Traditionally affiliated groups shall be consulted to determine whether filming or photography would have an adverse impact on them before permitting use of museum collections.

On January 22, 2021, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued an order in *Price v. Barr*. The decision declared the provisions applying to commercial filming under 54 U.S.C. 100905, 43 C.F.R. Part 5, and 36 CFR 5. are unconstitutional under the First Amendment. The National Park Service is working with Department of Interior solicitors and the Department of Justice attorneys to determine the ramifications of the decision and how this decision will be implemented.

Until further instructions are provided, the implementation and enforcement of the commercial filming portions of 43 CFR part 5 including: 1) accepting applications and issuing permits for commercial filming; 2) enforcing the terms and conditions of permits or issuing citations and 3) collecting cost recovery and location fees for commercial filming activities will cease.

If filming activities in your park that would have previously been managed under a commercial filming permit could potentially impact park resources or the visitor experience, please reach out to the NPS Special Park Uses WASO program manager for further assistance. We anticipate issuing additional guidance about how parks can manage filming activities in a manner that complies with the court order. If you have questions, please contact the NPS Special Park Uses WASO program manager at 202-513-7092.

2. Reproduction of Museum Objects for Profit

Only the Superintendent can authorize reproduction of a museum object, archive, or specimens. A park can enter into agreements with a cooperating association to reproduce museum collections as sales items. Parks can also enter into a reproduction agreement with contractors or other organizations to reproduce a museum object for sale or distribution. All reproductions of NPS museum objects must carry a reproduction mark, NPS credit, and interpretive label.

For detailed information regarding factors to evaluate when considering a reproduction request, legal issues, information about reproduction agreements, and other issues, see the NPS [Museum Handbook, Part III: Museum Collections Use](#). Additional information is provided in DO-21: Donations and Fundraising, DO-32: Cooperating Associations, and DO-53: Special Park Uses.

Appendix E: Sensitive and Confidential Information Statement

In accordance with 54 USC 300101 et seq.: Historic Preservation, commonly called the National Historic Preservation Act; ARPA, NHPA, as amended (16 USC 470aa-mm); 54 USC 100701-100707: System Resource Inventory and Management, and NPS Management Policies (2006, sections 4.1.2. and 5.2.3), the Park may withhold from the public sensitive and confidential information, including the specific location, character, nature, ownership, or acquisition of cultural resources, and the nature and specific locations of rare, threatened, or endangered species, commercially valuable resources, caves, minerals, and paleontological resources.

Under some circumstances, the NPS may be required by law to disclose confidential information acquired during consultations, public meetings, and other research, planning, and stewardship activities, or in association with the acquisition of resources, including museum collections. Therefore, the park cannot guarantee confidentiality of all information received. To the extent permitted by law, the park will withhold from public disclosure information provided by individuals who wish the information to remain confidential and the identities of individuals who wish to remain anonymous and who are protected from release by exemption under FOIA. The park should refer inquiries to the regional FOIA and Privacy Act officer for consultation and possible review.

The archives within the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site museum collection include sensitive information such as the specific nature and location of archaeological resources. These files and others that contain similarly protected sensitive information will be withheld from public disclosure. Members of the public who request to access to such files will be directed to submit a FOIA request for regional and Privacy Act officer consultation.

Appendix F: Hazards in Collections

Potential health and safety concerns may exist in NPS collections due to the nature of the object or specimen or to past management strategies. Some examples of inherent risks for natural science collections include: rocks and minerals may be radioactive or contain asbestos, mercury, or arsenic; fossils from some formations may be radioactive and may emit high levels of radon; fluid-preserved specimens are sometimes fixed or stored in formalin; and taxidermy collections may contain arsenic.

Samples of materials from historic structures may contain asbestos, lead, arsenic, or other potential hazards. History, ethnology, and archeology collections may include objects with radioactive compounds; mercuric or arsenic compounds; chromium, cadmium, zinc, and lead; and pyrotechnic compound fillings, chemicals, or gas. Deteriorating cellulose nitrate film emits nitrogen oxide gases. Deteriorating cellulose acetate film emits acetic acid. Ammunition for historic firearms and unexploded ordnance (UXO) such as bombs, cannonballs, grenades, rockets, & other projectiles and explosives may be live. Spears, swords, and arrows have sharp edges and may be coated with poisons. Medical, dental, and veterinary equipment may contain viable pathogens, or toxic or controlled substances. Industrial equipment, machines, and vehicles may also contain many types of hazards such as broken glass, rust, and other contamination.

Suspected unexploded ordnance (UXO), live ammunition, and other explosives and energetic materials may be discovered in storage and on exhibit, during archeological excavation, construction, or other approved ground disturbing activities, and by park visitors. UXO is extremely dangerous and constitutes a major safety risk. Treat all ordnance with extreme caution and never assume it is disarmed. Upon discovery, secure the space where the UXO resides. Do not attempt to touch, handle, or move any suspected UXO. Contact your regional curator and park Law Enforcement Ranger or Safety Officer and provide them with the following information:

- The circumstances that the items were found, a detailed description of events, current storage conditions, and the information on instructions/labeling already completed.
- Provide a catalog number list of the UXO and any other ammunition (small arms and ordinance).
- Provide any photos that can be found and scan/include those in the correspondence. Do not go back and photograph.
- Include the number of cabinets in which these items are stored or if there are any on open shelving, in boxes, etc.

The service-wide policy outlined in NPS DO-50B, Occupational Safety and Health, along with the Museum Handbook, outlines a framework for establishing and implementing a Risk Management process when managing hazardous collections including:

- Recognize and identify the hazards
- Evaluate the hazards
- Reduce or eliminate the hazards to the extent possible

NPS DO-24 (section 4.3.11) requires that curatorial staff notify users that collections may have been treated with potentially toxic substances. All individuals seeking direct access to NPS museum collections must be provided with DI-3320 “Notice of Potential Hazards in Museum Collections.” The form must be completed before providing access to collections, including repatriations, traditional use, and loans of materials from the collection for management or research. Completed DI-3320s with original signatures must be retained by the park that is accountable for the collection being accessed for 120 years from the date the form is signed. If the recipient of the form declines to sign the form, document this in the notes section at the bottom of the form.

Known hazardous collections may be acquired or deaccessioned on a case-by-case basis and only when the hazards have been identified and can be appropriately and safely mitigated.

There are several hazardous materials within the Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site museum collection. This includes acetate negatives with the potential to off-gas acetic acid and which are stored in cold storage (below 0°F) to prevent vinegar syndrome. Staff health and safety regarding the collection is focused on safely lifting heavy materials, maintaining respirator certification to be prepared to handle mold or rodent feces which may occur in collection spaces or on incoming acquisitions, and wearing PPE such as nitrile gloves to prevent contamination from historic objects made of heavy metals. The park’s Scope of Collection Statement identifies hazardous materials as items “not to be acquired”.

Appendix G: Research Collections and Permits

Per NPS Management Policies (2006), the Service encourages appropriately reviewed natural and cultural resource studies and research whenever such studies and research are consistent with applicable laws and policies. All studies and research in parks will employ nondestructive methods to the maximum extent feasible with respect to resource protection, research methodology, and the scientific and management value of the information and collections to be obtained. Although studies and research involving physical impacts to park resources or the removal of objects or specimens may be permitted, studies and collecting activities that will lead to the impairment of park resources and values are prohibited.

In implementing NPS policies and procedures to ensure scientific integrity and resource stewardship, NPS managers should consider that:

- The science is not complete until the specimens and associated data which voucher the study are appropriately documented and preserved.
- Field work and analysis are the most expensive components of scientific projects.
- The cost of field work means that each collected specimen has high financial value. Requiring that researchers deposit voucher specimens in permanent collections protects that financial investment.
- Failure to retain appropriate scientific collections to document the scientific validity of the research is not economical or ethical.
- Identifications of species in faunistic and ecological studies (versus taxonomic studies) are more often made by non-specialists using only published keys. This increases the likelihood that misidentifications may occur, resulting in lower levels of confidence in identifications which will need to be verified by specialists in the future to validate the research.
- Using scientific collections to answer research questions can reduce some costs for new field work.
- As scientific advances are made and new techniques are developed, existing well-documented scientific collections will become even more important to NPS resource management and science.
- A specimen available today may not be available in the future, just as many specimens collected decades ago can no longer be recollected due to habitat loss, population decline, and other issues. Environmental specimens collected in a time series can never be replicated.
- Each biological specimen is a “snapshot in time” which reflects the biology and ecology of the living animal and its environment. Collecting another specimen decades later does replicate the earlier specimen of the same species.
- The passage of time, technological challenges, and prohibitive costs make it impossible to replace specimens collected but not retained when they are needed later.
- Periodic (and in some cases, routine) collection of scientific specimens for permanent retention is vital to understanding the processes, rates, and impacts of climate change.

As noted above, museum collections serve as the verifiable and reproducible evidence of a scientific study. Therefore, their collection and long-term preservation is a crucial aspect of ensuring scientific integrity.

Per Directors Order #24, and the standard permit requirements, all resource projects in parks must include funding for curation of specimens collected to prevent an increase in the backlog of uncataloged materials. The standard permit conditions require that associated project records including data, field notes, photographs, maps, etc. are submitted as part of the project's deliverables and that they are cataloged according to NPS standards. A project is not considered completed until everything, including specimens, is cataloged and the data entered into the NPS official museum cataloging system.

Natural Resource Research Collections and Permits

Natural resource collections include non-living and living specimens. Research that includes taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals is governed by 36 CFR 2.5; additional guidance for research, collecting, and managing specimens and associated field records is found in the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS), Director's Order #77, Director's Order #77-10, and the NPS Museum Handbook. Non-living specimens and their associated field records are managed as museum collections. Living collections will be managed in accordance with the provisions of a park's general management plan, the Animal Welfare Act, and other appropriate requirements.

RPRS is the online system used by the NPS to manage the research application and reporting process. Park museum staff with collection custodial duties can effectively use RPRS to collaborate with park research coordinators, resource management staff, research permittees, and repositories to help manage permanently retained collections including completion of specimen labels, submission of catalog data, and submission of copies of field notes.

RPRS is also used to help track agreements with non-NPS repositories. When a researcher applies for a permit and proposes that collected specimens be retained in a non-NPS repository, the applicant must obtain the signature of a repository official (on Appendix A of the application) agreeing to the proposal and the terms of the NPS loan agreement that would be required upon deposit of the collections. Park museum staff coordinate completion of catalog records and issue loans to document collections deposited at repositories.

Currently, NPS policy allows superintendents discretion to issue permits to park staff and other NPS staff (i.e., network Inventory and Monitoring staff), especially when specimens will be collected for retention in park collections.

Cultural Resource Research Collections and Permits

All archeological research must comply with ARPA, the Antiquities Act, and NAGPRA, as applicable. Guidance for collecting and managing field data, objects, specimens, and features of sites and structures retrieved during cultural resource research and treatment projects, together

with associated records and reports, can be found in 36 CFR 79.4, Director's Order #28, and the NPS Museum Handbook. Archeological collections and their associated records are managed within the park museum collection, stored in NPS or non-NPS repositories, as appropriate, including repositories maintained by partners.

Permits that allow cultural resources to be physically disturbed or allow objects or specimens to be collected must require provisions for the long-term preservation and management of any recovered objects and specimens and for their cataloging, together with any associated records, in the NPS museum cataloging system. Independent researchers will be authorized to conduct archeological research on park lands only through the issuance of an ARPA or Antiquities Act permit by the appropriate regional director. This permitting authority cannot be further delegated. As appropriate, parks will also issue other necessary permits, such as a special use permit.

While RPRS is most used for natural resource-related research, all external research on NPS-managed lands must be documented in RPRS and may include archeological or other cultural resource research.

Reviewing Research Permits

Current guidance does not require park museum staff or the CAC to work collaboratively with park resource management staff or the research coordinator to control collecting through permit conditions or specific requirements for collections. It is recommended, however, that park museum staff work with park research and/or resource management staff to advise the superintendent on what objects and specimens should be (or must be, according to statute) collected and managed as museum property. In some parks, curatorial and natural resource staff work together to review collection permit requests and advise the superintendent to reject certain collecting requests that are duplicative of existing collections and re-direct the researcher to conduct research on existing collections at the park or in other repositories. This process is particularly valuable to support park goals in protecting rare species, limiting/preventing duplicative or repetitive collecting, and ensuring there is no impairment of park resources or values.

At Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, the Natural Resources program manager is responsible for leading the review of all permit applications in RPRS. Should the application propose to collect specimens for long-term curation, the Supervisory Museum Curator reviews the permit and works with the researcher to establish collecting parameters and complete an Appendix A to permanently retain collections in a non-NPS repository, if required. The Supervisory Museum Curator may reject a proposed repository and/or suggest a different repository. If an Appendix A is required, the permit is approved only after the Appendix A has been signed by a representative from the agreed upon repository. Additionally, the following responsibilities are assigned:

- The Supervisory Museum Curator shall:
 - provide clear and complete instructions for collections and data submission under "Park-specific Research Conditions" on Park Information page in RPRS
 - provide instructions for permittees to coordinate with park curator and prepare and submit labels, cataloging data, and specimens for collections to be retained, as

well as resource management records and copies of field notes.

- The Natural Resources program manager monitors annual submission of IARs and reminds delinquent investigators of their responsibilities

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site does not have any park-specific instructions or restrictions listed in RPRS beyond the standard NPS permit terms. As of FY24, no research permit applications have been submitted for Eugene O'Neill NHS.

Helpful links:

[National Park Service Organic Act](#)

[National Park Service Omnibus Management Act of 1998](#)

[National Park Service Management Policies 2001](#)

[Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77](#)

[Director's Order #77 \(Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring\)](#)

[Director's Order #77-10: NPS Benefits Sharing](#)

[Director's Order #24 \(National Park Service Museum Collection Management\)](#)

[Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 41 \(Wilderness Preservation and Management\)](#)

[Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act \(16 USC 470f\)](#)

[Endangered Species Act of 1973](#)

[Wilderness Act of 1964](#)

[Archeological Resources Protection Act](#)

[43 CFR 7](#)

[36 CFR 2.5](#)

[Research Permits - Everglades National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

[NPS Archeology Program: Federal Archeological Permits](#)

[Research Permits - Yellowstone National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

[Obtain a Research Permit - Bering Land Bridge National Preserve \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Appendix H: Selected Bibliography

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