

Preserving the **Past** for the **Future**

Archaeology is the study of past human behavior. It seeks to identify patterns in human activity and explain how and why they change. Archaeology is also descriptive. It paints a picture of how people once lived. Using information recovered from the ground, archaeologists can reconstruct the histories of societies who do not have written records as well as minority populations who were insufficiently documented due to their social standing.

One way archaeologists study the past is by examining locations (sites) where people once lived, played, and worked. Prehistoric and historic sites are non-renewable resources. When a site is destroyed, information about the past is lost forever. Unfortunately, sites are ruined on a daily basis due to modern development and urban sprawl. Because unrecorded archaeological sites are those most often destroyed, every effort must be made to locate, evaluate, and record their content for the benefit of future Pennsylvanians before a development project is undertaken. If you know of locations where artifacts have been found and wish to assist with the preservation of archaeological sites, we encourage you to record these locations with the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS). Information, recording forms, and instructions can be obtained at:

- www.PaArchaeology.state.pa.us
- www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp/
- www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

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www.phmc.state.pa.us

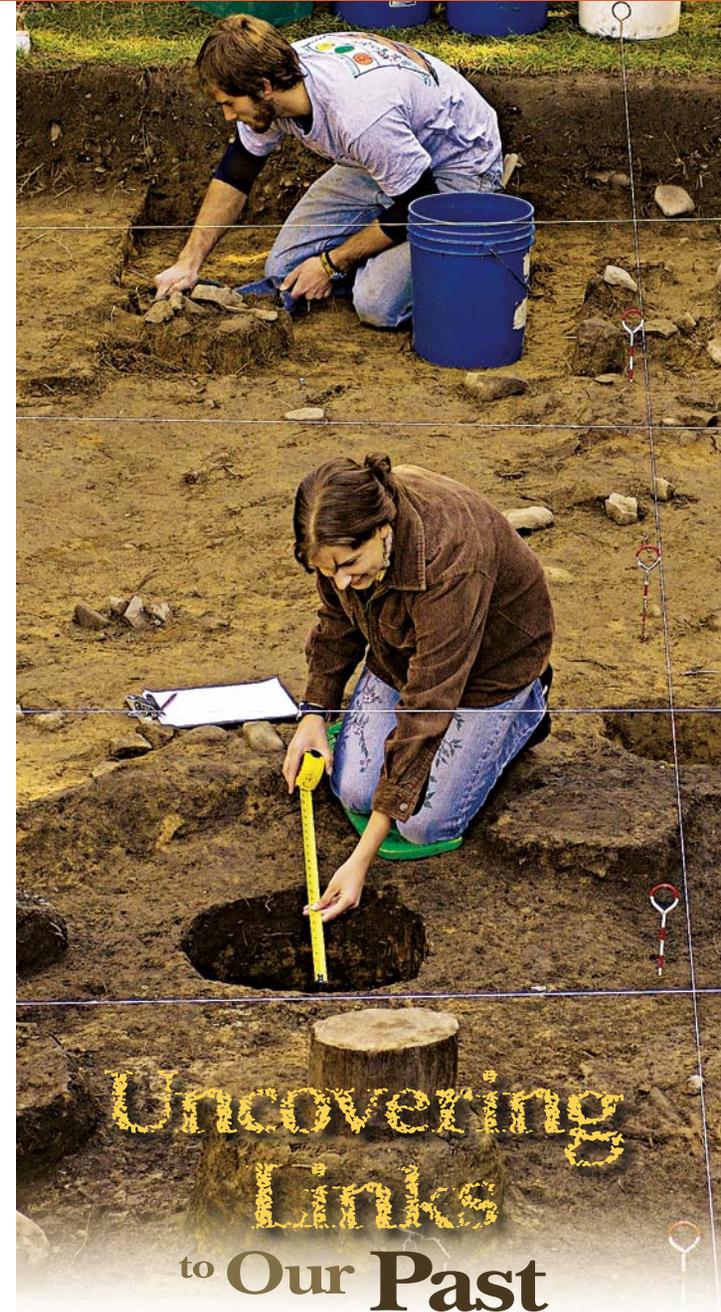


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National Park Service
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ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMS





Discover Pennsylvania Archaeology at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission!

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's archaeology programs offer a variety of educational, research, and historic preservation opportunities for everyone!

Discover Pennsylvania archaeology at: www.phmc.state.pa.us

The Commission's **Web site** facilitates research, educates, and informs everyone about Pennsylvania archaeology. Students, teachers, and **avocational** archaeologists can find popular summaries, curricula, a list of resources, distance learning, and a video tour of the Hall of Anthropology and Archaeology at The State Museum of Pennsylvania. Professional archaeologists can view report abstracts, watershed syntheses, and Commission guidelines, policies, and forms as well as summaries of reports and new research being conducted around the state. The site also lists staff that can respond to your specific interests.

Exhibits: Walk through thousands of years of history and prehistory

The **Hall of Anthropology and Archaeology at The State Museum** provides a comprehensive tour of Pennsylvania archaeology and cultural history from the Paleoindian period through the 19th century. You'll see exhibits on archaeological laboratory and field methods, prehistoric technology, historic archaeology, excavations conducted by the Commission, dioramas depicting prehistoric lifeways in Pennsylvania, and a reconstructed Delaware Indian village.

Education

Educating everyone about Pennsylvania archaeology is a high priority of the Commission.

The State Museum has a long history of **field research**. Its work in the Lower Susquehanna River Valley with Susquehannock sites and the stratified islands represents substantial contributions to Pennsylvania archaeology.

Additionally, field research is done on Commission properties to enhance their interpretation and recover information prior to construction projects.

Archaeology Month educational programs take place every October around the state with assistance from the Commission and its partners: the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc., the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Excavation demonstrations and experiments in the replication of artifacts are held for the public during Archaeology Month. These activities draw public attention to the importance of archaeological resources and the need to protect them.

The annual **Pennsylvania Farm Show** in Harrisburg offers another opportunity to learn about Pennsylvania archaeology. Each January, the Commission and its partners staff an informative exhibit on new topics in Pennsylvania archaeology. Stop by, talk to us, and see archaeology "on the road."

Internships in archaeology are available for students with a wide range of academic interests. Opportunities for fieldwork, data analysis, mapping, and collections management exist with many of the Commission's archaeology programs.

The **Scholars in Residence** program awards stipends to independent scholars to conduct research that will enhance the understanding and interpretation of the Commission's collections.



Uncovering Pennsylvania Archaeology

Collections: Unlock archaeology's wealth of information

The Commission's archaeological **collections** contain a wealth of valuable information. Since 1906, The State Museum has collected nearly 3.5 million artifacts that it manages on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth. These collections are the result of excavations conducted by Commission staff as well as private donations by individuals and universities. Other collections have been acquired as a result of archaeological investigations required by historic preservation laws. The collections continue to grow annually, and donations of mapped and documented artifacts are welcome.

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Collections: Unlock archaeology's wealth of information

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Documentation of collections includes photographs, excavation records, maps, and over 1,400 unpublished manuscripts. **These resources are only available at the Commission.** Access to these collections requires a written proposal submitted to the Section of Archaeology of The State Museum.

The Commission also manages a **loan program for exhibit and research purposes.** A general list of collections and a bibliography of unpublished manuscripts are available on the Commission's Web site: www.phmc.state.pa.us.

Funding for archaeology

Grant assistance is available to support activities that promote or enhance the understanding of Pennsylvania's prehistoric and historic archaeological resources for public benefit. Projects that are eligible for funding include: public education programs, surveys, artifact analyses, development of regional site sensitivity models, preparation of syntheses, field schools, and excavation projects. Activities may not be associated with state or federal compliance projects.

State and Federal Project Review: Managing impacts and safeguarding cultural resources

Review of federal and state projects, authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act and the State History Code, is the primary archaeology program managed by the Bureau for Historic Preservation. These laws require that archaeological resources be considered by state and federal agencies during the planning process. They also ensure that mitigation is conducted for sites destroyed by state and/or federal actions.

The **Commonwealth's Archaeology Program** (CAP) assists with investigations needed for archaeological resources threatened by private development and other projects that involve state permits. Summaries of these investigations can be found on the Commission's Web site.

Recording and protecting sites

Recording archaeological sites helps to protect them. The Commission encourages the recording of archaeological site information on **Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey** (PASS) forms. Thousands of avocational and professional archaeologists have already shared site locations with the Commission resulting in 20,000+ archaeological sites being recorded in the PASS files.



The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is dedicated to the preservation of archaeological resources. The State Museum and the Bureau for Historic Preservation administer a variety of programs that protect, manage, and enhance the archaeological resources of this state. We also offer grants, internships, the Scholars in Residence program, education programs, and volunteer opportunities. However, we need your participation for these to continue.

A new Susquehannock Indian exhibit at the Hall of Anthropology and Archaeology at The State Museum documents the tribe's history and decline over a period of two centuries in the Lower Susquehanna Valley. Extraordinary trade items illustrate the effects of European influence on native culture.

The Commonwealth's Archaeology Program was established for public outreach and to excavate significant sites threatened by private development that are not covered by government funding or federal permits. The excavation of this major prehistoric farming village outside of Millersville, Lancaster County documents Native American life in the 16th century.



Recent excavations at Fort Augusta document the northeast bastion of this French and Indian War fort, located in Sunbury, Northumberland County. Kutztown University conducted the excavation and their work was supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to the Northumberland County Historical Society.

Students, interns, and volunteers assist State Museum Archaeology Section staff with artifact cleaning, cataloging, and inventory. Thousands of artifacts are processed in the section's lab each year. After processing, artifacts are carefully packaged and placed into storage. Artifact collections are used for research, educational programs, exhibits, and loans to qualified historical organizations.



The State Museum of Pennsylvania curates more than 3.5 million archaeological artifacts and serves as the Commonwealth's repository for archaeological collections. All artifacts are carefully inventoried before they are placed into storage.

Both archaeological sites and historic sites are mapped in our Cultural Resources Geographic Information System. The Bureau for Historic Preservation reviews nearly 8,000 state and federal projects for their effect on archaeological resources. This system has greatly increased the efficiency of these reviews. Through our Web site, this system is available to the public and qualified researchers. This program was developed in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.



Students map remains of a 1745 cellar at Ephrata Cloister Historic Site, Lancaster County. This archaeology field school project was directed by The State Museum of Pennsylvania in cooperation with Elizabethtown College.

The **Cultural Resource Geographic Information System** (CRGIS) is a map-based inventory of more than 125,000 historic properties, 5,000 archaeological surveys, and the PASS files combined into one electronic system. These resources are constantly updated and can help communities and local governments develop plans and streamline project review.

The Commission promotes the listing of significant archaeological sites on the **National Register of Historic Places.** Guidelines for listing sites on the register can be found on the Commission's Web site.

Learn more about archaeology

The **State Bookstore** contains numerous popular and technical publications about Pennsylvania archaeology. These include titles on Native American prehistory, Native American cultures, and archaeology in the Commonwealth. Visit our bookstore online or our store located in the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg for publications that bring archaeology to your fingertips.

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