



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative and selected portions of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the Division of Preservation and Access application guidelines at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/sustaining-cultural-heritage-collections> for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Preservation and Access staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative and selected portions, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title: Preserving Collections in the 1871 Harriet Beecher Stowe House

Institution: Harriet Beecher Stowe Center

Project Director: Katherine Kane

Grant Program: Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center's Collections: Phase II – Harriet Beecher Stowe House

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center (HBSC) seeks implementation funding in the amount of \$400,000 for Phase II of a multiyear project to protect the Stowe Center's nationally significant collections. This request is for environmental and climate control improvements and fire suppression in the 1871 Harriet Beecher Stowe House, replacing outdated and minimally functional equipment, conditioning spaces that have never been conditioned and adding fire suppression. HBSC successfully completed Phase I, the Library/Archives Storage Vault, and that experienced team of staff and consultants will conduct Phase II. Improving environmental conditions in the Stowe House is the highest institutional preservation and strategic priority.

HBSC holds the largest collection of materials related to the life and work of Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896), author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The collections are nationally important, for understanding the social impact of slavery, the historical and literary significance of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and the lingering legacy of racism in America. Published in 1851-52 as a serial in the abolitionist paper *The National Era*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life Among the Lowly* changed American's attitudes about the economic system where people were property, made Stowe an international celebrity, and had a theatrical afterlife with her characters as stereotypes. Stowe's writing career lasted 50 years and she published more than 30 books. She was the most widely read author of the 19th century. The Center's collections illustrate important themes in 19th century U.S. history: women's history including women's suffrage; abolition; African American history and racial attitudes in the U.S.; the activist Beecher family; and decorative arts and architecture. A large portion is exhibited in the Stowe House.

The Stowe House in Hartford CT, was Harriet Beecher Stowe's home for 23 years, is the Center's main interpretive exhibit and platform for many programs. The Stowe House's climate control will be improved and expanded to the unconditioned 3rd floor. Fire suppression will be installed using the mist fire suppression infrastructure recently installed for the Library/Archives Storage Vault. The building envelope will be tightened and light control improved. In conjunction, but not part of this funding request, Stowe House interpretation will be improved and the interior refurbished to reflect recent scholarship and enhance the visitor experience. Collections, stored and exhibited, will be concentrated in the improved spaces of the Library/Archives Storage Vault and the Stowe House.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center was founded in 1941 and opened to the public in 1968. The 2.5-acre site contains 3 historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and the Connecticut Register of Historic Places. **The Center preserves and interprets Stowe's Hartford home and the Center's historic collections, creates a forum for vibrant discussion of her life and work, and inspires commitment to social justice and positive change.** The mission expresses the belief that Stowe's life and work are powerful examples for today and the future. HBSC is an international tourist destination and community resource.

The collections in the Stowe House carry a particular message to today's public of a woman who, in the restricted environment of the 19th century, picked up her pen to write a story that changed the country. Stowe's example is a starting point for conversations about American issues and the Stowe House and its collections are the stage.

NARRATIVE**INTRODUCTION**

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center (HBSC) seeks implementation funding support for the key component of a multiyear project to protect the Stowe Center's nationally significant collections of 3 historic buildings and their contents in a project begun in 2001. This request is for the installation of environmental and climate control improvements and fire suppression systems in the 1871 Harriet Beecher Stowe House, replacing outdated and minimally functional equipment and conditioning some spaces that have never been conditioned. It is an institutional priority.

Funding will support Phase II, the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, the Hartford CT, home where the most famous American woman of the 19th century lived for 23 years. The house is the Center's main interpretive exhibit. HBSC is concentrating preservation efforts to the highest quality collections areas. Phase I, improvements in the Library/Archives Vault, has been successfully completed and the experienced team of staff and consultants from that project will conduct Phase II. Improving environmental conditions in the Stowe House is the highest institutional preservation and strategic priority. The Stowe House's climate control will be improved, upgraded, and expanded to the unconditioned 3rd floor. Fire suppression will be installed using the infrastructure for mist fire suppression recently installed for the Library/Archives Vault. The building envelope will be tightened and light control improved. Collections, stored and exhibited, will be concentrated in the improved spaces of the Library/Archives Vault and the Stowe House. In conjunction, but not part of this funding request, Stowe House interpretation will be improved and the interior refurbished to reflect recent scholarship and enhance the visitor experience.

Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Beecher Family

Published initially in 1851-52 as a serial in the abolitionist paper *The National Era*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life Among the Lowly* made Stowe an international celebrity and gave her lasting fame. Stowe's writing career lasted 50 years and she published more than 30 books. She was the most widely read author of the 19th century. Born in Litchfield, CT in 1811 into the prominent Beecher family, Stowe was the 6th of 11 children. As the daughter of Lyman Beecher, one of the leading clergy of the 19th century, the young Harriet received an advanced education for a girl of her time.

All of the Beecher children were raised to think they had a special mission, and the Beecher clan became a family of reformers. Three of the 4 Beecher daughters played public roles when middle class women were relegated to the domestic sphere. Catharine Beecher was a pioneer in women's education, and Isabella Beecher Hooker a leading feminist. The Beecher men were equally active. Edward Beecher was an early abolitionist and Henry Ward Beecher held one of the most influential pulpits in America, Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights, NY.

A vital and energetic member of this activist family, Harriet Beecher Stowe believed her purpose was to be a "literary woman." Eventually she believed her mission was to write a story that would "set forth the sufferings and wrongs of slavery." Written in 1851, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was the result of Stowe's grief at the loss of her 18-month old child, and what Pulitzer Prize winning historian Joan Hedrick called Stowe's "white hot anger" at the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* became the first international best seller. Within days, 10,000 copies sold. By year's end, worldwide sales reached 1.5 million. Only the Bible sold as well.

Hundreds of “spin offs” related to *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Wallpaper, fabric, hats, ceramics, candy, silver, paintings, and prints were created to depict scenes or recall characters from Stowe’s book. The biggest spin-off was stage plays. Despite Stowe’s refusal to grant permission to cast her novel as a theatre piece, limited copyright laws gave her no protection. Once the novel was published, plays appeared in theaters and traveling shows across the country. Loosely based on Stowe’s story, the plays frame modern understanding of the novel. White actors in blackface simplified plots, highlighting racial stereotypes, adding special effects and minstrel show traditions. Discussions of racism vanished, and after the Civil War, so did most references to slavery. Stowe’s characters changed, too. Topsy became a slapstick figure; and strong, young Tom who died protecting other runaways and defending his faith aged to a submissive old man. Professional “Tom Shows” toured for 75 years. The long popularity of the plays is much of the source of modern feelings towards Stowe’s work.

A century and a half after the first chapters appeared, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* is part of American history and cultural life. “Grow like Topsy,” Simon Legree, and the racial slur “Uncle Tom” are in the nation’s lexicon. So is the book’s political legacy. Stowe’s work was always more complex than it seemed. Historian Arthur Schlesinger said *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was one of the 13 most important books to read in order to understand American history.

Slavery was not Stowe’s only controversial topic. *The Minister’s Wooing* explored Protestant America’s movement from Calvinism to faith based on mercy. *Lady Byron Vindicated* attempted to bring the realities of marital rape and incest to public discussion. *The American Woman’s Home*, ostensibly a book about domesticity, connected nutrition, hygiene and shelter with intellectual growth. Stowe helped establish schools for emancipated people and white women in Florida, her winter home. In her later years, Stowe moved to Hartford’s Nook Farm, settling into her dream-house in 1863 then moving to a smaller home in 1873 and it is this house that has survived and is interpreted by the Center.

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Profile

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center was founded in 1941 and opened to the public in 1968. The 2.5-acre site contains 3 historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and the Connecticut Register of Historic Places. **The Center preserves and interprets Stowe’s Hartford home and the Center’s historic collections, creates a forum for vibrant discussion of her life and work, and inspires commitment to social justice and positive change.** The mission expresses the belief that Stowe’s life and work are powerful examples for today and the future. The Center promotes the lessons of Stowe’s life and work, particularly around issues of race and gender, through programs using the site and extensive collections. HBSC is an international tourist destination and community resource. The Connecticut Humanities Council awarded their 2010 Wilbur Cross Award for the program series *Salons at Stowe*: “With its rich collections, the Stowe Center is in the exceptional position of having the material foundation and mission particularly suited to link contemporary issues to their historic context.”

HBSC holds the largest collection of materials related to the life and work of Harriet Beecher Stowe. The collections are nationally important, particularly for understanding the social impact of slavery, the historical and literary significance of Stowe’s anti-slavery novel and the lingering legacy of racism in America.

All programs are based in the Center’s strong collections. Using various interpretive strategies, programs present the audience with choices, connecting history to their lives and demonstrating how Stowe’s words changed the world. Using the collections, program experiences include seasonal and themed tours, Salons at Stowe contemporary issue conversations, school and public programs, book clubs, author talks, exhibits and symposia.

Of paramount historic and cultural significance is the **Harriet Beecher Stowe House** (1871). The novelist's home from 1873 until her death in 1896 is now a house museum. Restored and opened to the public in 1968, it was one of the first Victorian house museums in the country and one of the first focusing on a woman. A painted brick and wood trim, 12-room Victorian Gothic "cottage" where the author wrote her later works, it features the modern kitchen advocated by Stowe and her sister, Catharine Beecher, in *The American Woman's Home* (1869). The first and second floors of the house are open through guided tours; the third floor has artifact storage.

Next door is the **Katharine Seymour Day House** (1884), a magnificent Queen Anne mansion designed by Francis H. Kimball for attorney Franklin Chamberlin and his wife Mary. It houses the collections reading room, offices, programs and collections storage. Contiguous to the basement is the underground **Library Archives Vault**. Phase I of the Collections Preservation Project, completed in 2010, renovated and upgraded this space with fire suppression and compact shelving and improved climate control. NEH provided partial funding. The **Visitor Center** (1873, Kimball), carriage house for the Day House, houses admissions, museum store, program space, public restrooms and offices.

The 2011 budget is \$1,357,232 and annual attendance is 25,000-30,000. Web site unique visitors are steadily rising and with online and social media, the Center is reaching an even wider audience. Two thirds of visitors are from outside Connecticut and 10% international. There are 10 full-time and 15 part-time employees.

HBSC is recognized for innovative programs. A 2008 *Hartford Courant* editorial lauded the Center for "connecting historic purpose with present concerns" and for "demonstrating creative and entrepreneurial spirit" as a "wonderful example for many heritage sites." Britain's *Independent* said that the Stowe Center "is rather more than a museum. It is also a platform for social change" (March 10, 2008). Themed tours bring visitors into Stowe's home. Salons at Stowe present conversations about contemporary issues designed to move from talk to action. Teacher institutes cover Abolition and Slavery in New England and 19th Century Protest Novels. "*Uncle Tom's Cabin* in the Web of Culture" featured 12 national scholars from 7 academic fields. The Underground Railroad Symposium used innovative approaches tracing African American ancestors.

Harriet Beecher Stowe: 200 Years of Inspiration to Action is a year-long program initiative recognizing Stowe's 200th birthday in 2011, onsite, online and offsite programs and collaborations with other Stowe-based organizations around 2 themes: *Her Words Changed the World* explores Stowe's impact and the legacy of slavery; and *Inspiration to Action* uses Stowe's story as a powerful example.

Collections and Relevance to the Mission

HBSC holds the largest collection of materials related to the life and works of abolitionist and novelist Harriet Beecher Stowe. The collections illustrate important themes in 19th century U.S. history: women's history including women's suffrage; abolition; African American history and racial attitudes in the U.S.; the activist Beecher family; and decorative arts and architecture, including horticulture and landscape architecture. A large portion is exhibited in the Stowe House.

The collection contains memorabilia, artifacts and correspondence from Stowe, her family and other notables, artifacts relating to *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and its impact, art and decorative arts, photographs, print and graphics, diaries, journals, manuscripts, scrapbooks and correspondence. Items belonged to Stowe or the extended Beecher and Stowe families or her culturally significant Hartford, CT neighborhood, Nook Farm.

Strategic Plan and Preservation Priorities

The Center's commitment to collections care and conservation are emphasized in the mission statement and strategic plan. This project is the next step in the museum's preservation priorities. A process of strategically reinventing the Stowe Center has been underway since 1998 resulting in audience expansion and diversified funding. Strategic planning has been critical in a competitive and changing world. Strategic plans are revised every 3 years, reviewed annually, and are the base of annual budgets. In 2008 the board adopted a vision and strategic plan to lead the organization to 2011, the 200th anniversary of Stowe's birth. Collection responsibilities are specified in the mission, and the strategic plan has a collection-specific goal: Protect and preserve the Center's physical assets – from its facilities to its historic collections.

Preservation priorities are developed as part of this ongoing planning process. The board collections committee and staff prioritize preservation using a Long Range Preservation Plan. Priorities are set through a cost/value analysis. This project continues the Center's philosophy of measured, incremental and substantive improvements that can be implemented and maintained within the economic and human capacity of the institution.

This implementation proposal for systems and building envelope improvements to the Harriet Beecher Stowe House is Phase II of the *Master Plan for Interior Environmental Improvements for the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center* prepared by Watson & Henry Associates (W&HA) in 2003 and the *Final Schematic Design Report for Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections: Phase II – Harriet Beecher Stowe House* in 2010. It builds on the successful execution of Phase I – Library/Archives Vault environmental improvements, completed in 2010 and is guided by the same principles of sustainable conservation used for Phase I – Library/Archives Vault Project, with adjustments reflecting the issues of an interpreted house museum.

Plans and Policies Guiding Collection Development

The board-approved Collections Policy governs the museum's responsibilities to the collections, describes the collections scope and designates management responsibilities. It covers all aspects of the collections and is supported by specific procedures. Collections are added when they meet specific mission-related criteria.

SIGNIFICANCE OF COLLECTION

The Stowe Center collection is nationally important for understanding the social impact of slavery, the profound effect *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had on the imaginations of 19th century America and the world; and the lingering legacy of racism. The collection illustrates important themes in 19th century U.S. history: women's history, including women's suffrage; abolition; African American history and racial attitudes in the U.S.; civic reform; and Stowe's legacy as a writer. The collection has materials relating to the career of Reverend Lyman Beecher (America's last great Puritan minister) and his activist family, especially Stowe. The collection also contains materials on 19th century domestic life, decorative arts, and architecture including horticulture and landscape architecture.

The collection was initially developed by Katharine Seymour Day (1870-1964), Stowe's grandniece and founder of HBSC. Much of the collection belonged to Stowe, members of her family, or the residents of her Hartford neighborhood, Nook Farm many of whom had national or international reputations including Mark Twain, actor and writer William Gillette and Stowe's sister suffragist Isabella Beecher Hooker.

The collection provides insight into the way people lived in the 19th century. Items are used for historical and educational purposes and provide source materials for historical research; for writing and illustrating

scholarly and popular books, monographs, and articles that advance and disseminate knowledge; and as sources for artistic productivity. They provide the tangible means for interpreting the products of that research through programs and exhibits, and through loans of items to responsible educational institutions. The collection inspires and stimulates program ideas and products and prompts discussion about Stowe's life and impact, the importance of civic engagement and the themes of Stowe's work, especially *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and the issues around racial stereotyping. The collections are available for study by staff, scholars, students, and the general public.

The site and collection provide the means to understand the similarities and differences between the present and the past, and to recognize the powerful statements objects can make about social standing and political beliefs.

Museum Collection

The museum collection of almost 7,500 items provides a rich laboratory for studying the economic, social and cultural history of middle-class 19th century Americans. There are objects with strong historical associations with Stowe and her time, the lives of her neighbors, and abolition and women's suffrage. Many of these objects are connected to family records in the library collection, further enhancing their value. When installed in the home where she lived for 23 years they give a powerful glimpse into domestic life and transformative writing.

The collections are rich in their ability to show how racial attitudes were created and perpetuated through everyday household items, and how objects were used didactically in a domestic sphere to oppose social injustices. The association with everyday household objects exhibited in a historic house creates the potential to better understand material, social and economic aspects of the 19th century.

The museum collection contains: ***Uncle Tom's Cabin* memorabilia and popular culture** including card games, puzzles, silver, paintings, textiles, and ceramics. **Ceramics** described in Stowe's work or designed by her. **Paintings and sketches** of and by Stowe, collected by Stowe and her family. **Metalware** including presentation pieces given to Stowe such as a silver and cut crystal inkstand by "the Ladies of Surrey Chapel, London, as a memento of their estimation of the Genius, Piety, and Zeal manifested in her efforts for the Emancipation of the American Slaves, May 26th, 1853." **Household objects** and accessories. **Games and toys** including Stowe's paint boxes, playing cards, blocks, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* jig-saw puzzles, and dolls belonging to Stowe's daughters. **Costumes and textiles** including clothing from Stowe and her famous siblings and a quilt presented to Eunice Beecher by an antislavery member of her husband Henry Ward Beecher's congregation. **Furniture**: 1830s parlor table (wedding gift of Stowe's father Lyman Beecher) Stowe used for writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; Henry Ward Beecher's pulpit table from his Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights, NY. **Sculptures** such as a bust of Stowe created by Susan B. Durant, noted American sculptor.

The Stowe House is full of paintings by Stowe and collected by Stowe. Several from the 18th century depict members of the Beecher, Hooker and Stowe families including portraits by Ralph Earl and early 20th century miniaturist Margaret Foote Hawley. They illustrate the aesthetics and collecting priorities of the mid-to late 19th century, revealing a little known aspect of Stowe as a painter. As teaching tools they demonstrate cultural symbols, forms of personal expression, and social ritual.

Library and Archives Collection

The Stowe Center Library contains a wealth of rare and hard-to-find publications of 19th century Americana and rich primary source material. The core consists of letters, diaries, journals, literary manuscripts, graphic materials, scrapbooks, and personal correspondence of Harriet Beecher Stowe and the extended Beecher and Stowe families. There are 210,000 items. Books, graphics, photographs and periodicals fill the Stowe House and inform its interpretation.

Manuscripts include diaries, journals, literary manuscripts, scrapbooks and personal correspondence; personal and family letters, and business records including Beecher family circular letters of the 1830s, correspondence between suffrage leader Isabella Beecher Hooker and her husband, abolitionist lawyer John Hooker, and letters between Stowe and her husband, theologian Calvin Stowe; and letters to Stowe from famous people in the U.S. and Europe, including abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, Lady Byron, the Duchess of Sutherland (British noblewoman and abolition advocate), Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, William Dean Howells, John Greenleaf Whittier, Charles Sumner, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Julia Ward Howe, Edward Everett Hale and Charles Dickens.

Bound special collections and books including pamphlets and scrapbooks, rare autographed material, abolitionist pamphlets and newspapers. First editions of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner.. Collections of works long out-of-print by poet Lydia Huntley Sigourney; educator Catharine E. Beecher; suffragist Isabella Beecher Hooker; ministers Lyman Beecher, Henry Ward Beecher, Thomas K. Beecher and Calvin E. Stowe; U.S. Senator Francis Gillette; and author William Dean Howells. Beecher family members and the actor William Gillette (who grew up next door and portrayed Sherlock Holmes in many films) assembled the majority of the scrapbooks.

Graphic materials such as architectural drawings, broadsides, maps, postcards, prints, drawings and collages of more than 5,000. The **Birdoff collection** on the dramatization of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the book's popular impact in the 19th and 20th centuries: posters, broadsides, playbills, newspaper clippings, and photographs related to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. **Photographs and media** – more than 12,000 daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, film negatives, film, glass negatives, lantern slides, albums, photographic prints and sound recordings. Approximately 4,500 images of Stowe and her family, extended Beecher family, Hartford architecture and well-known acquaintances of the Stowe family.

Use of the Collection in Support of the Humanities

HBSC uses the collection for exhibits, particularly the central exhibit, the Harriet Beecher Stowe House. Nine different thematic tours are offered over a year, changing seasonally, each using different portions of the installed collection. The “*Uncle Tom's Cabin: A Moral Battle Cry for Freedom*” exhibit in the Visitor Center begins the site experience, providing historic context to Stowe, and her famous anti-slavery work.

Scholars studying the use of material culture in the didactics of anti-slavery, the history of slavery in the U.S., women's roles, and fine and decorative arts routinely contact the Stowe Center. High school and college students use the collection to understand how objects send messages about their owners and how history can be brought to life. Neighborhood residents use the collection to help their restoration projects through the architectural drawings and wallpaper samples. 300 researchers conduct in-depth work using the collection per year. They range from those writing doctoral dissertations on the impact of women's literature on 19th century society, scholars exploring the didactics of domestic decorative arts, to junior high school students working on history day projects.

Several researchers have used the collection for groundbreaking work. Joan D. Hedrick used the materials for research on *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life*, for which she won a Pulitzer prize in 1995. Dr. Hedrick also used the collection to edit *The Oxford Harriet Beecher Stowe Reader* (1999) and other works. Debby Applegate's *The Most Famous Man in America: Henry Ward Beecher* (2008) also won the Pulitzer. Jeanne Boydston, Mary Kelley, and Anne Margolis, researched much of their 1988 book, *The Limits of Sisterhood: The Beecher Sisters on Women's Rights and Woman's Sphere* at the Stowe Center. Louise Stevenson used the artifact collection for her work on the American middle class parlor. Contemporary playwrights creating dramatic presentations of Stowe and her Beecher family's life have conducted research using the materials in the archives, adding depth to their understanding by touring Stowe's house to see her home and possessions and study her paintings.

How the Collection Has Been Used To Examine Humanistic Themes and Ideas

The collections are at the core of the main daily program, a dialogue-based guided tour of the 1871 Stowe House, where Stowe and her husband lived for 23 years. Eighty-five percent of collection in the Stowe House belonged to the Stowes or extended family members. Artifacts such as the paintings Stowe collected when she traveled in Europe at the height of her fame, and those she painted herself; a Charles Cumberworth bronze “African Woman at the Well”, which Stowe acquired because it reminded her of Sojourner Truth; the table where she wrote some of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*; personal artifacts like chairs, books, desks, inkwells and stationery, are used in the Stowe House. The objects illustrate Stowe’s life and impact, her multitalented nature, her correspondence with and admiration for notable Americans such as Frederick Douglass, and the worldwide response to *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

The house tours change on a seasonal cycle and use artifacts and the Stowe House itself to illustrate the impact of Stowe’s work. Tours present the similarities and differences between the present and the past, and recognize the powerful, if non-verbal, statements objects can make about social standing and political beliefs. The very ordinariness of Stowe’s life is used to underscore the Center’s mission, stressing that ordinary people can do extraordinary things. The core tour content covers Stowe’s biography, impact and Stowe as an example of civic engagement; and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* reception and impact, the legacy of slavery; and a call to action: what will you do?

The collections are used for onsite and offsite school groups, classes, and programs such as “Effecting Social Change” use family images, illustrations and artifacts. Younger visitors are encouraged to complete an “I-Spy” activity locating specific collection items on the Stowe House tour, and participate in seasonal craft activities which tie to the collection and the house tour.

Access to the collection is by visiting the site, through loans to other museums, and through the internet based research engine, iConn. Tavis Smiley’s *America I AM: The African American Imprint* traveling exhibit, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Boston Artists’ Guild, Women’s Museum in Dallas, National Building Museum, Mark Twain House & Museum and the *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* Historic Site in Dresden, Ontario have recently borrowed items. Collections staff are thoroughly familiar with the collection and provide reference assistance to researchers.

The impact of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* is used in programs and partnerships. The Center is a partner in the website “*Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and American Culture” (<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/utc/>), overseen by Dr. Steve Railton at the University of Virginia and featuring the Center’s collection. The website received an e-Lincoln Prize from Gettysburg College in 2001. The site puts *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in its cultural and social context and illustrates the book’s impact, from stereotypes and imagery to abolition and literary criticism. In 2007, HBSC hosted the conference “*Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in the Web of Culture,” funded by NEH. The papers were added to the web site.

Comparison to Other Collections

The strength of the Center’s collection lies in the full story it tells of Stowe’s life and times, the combination and context of materials, and its size. The depth of Stowe’s influence, and that of her Beecher siblings, came from their ability to articulate middle-class American concerns and changing values. The furnishings and the art Stowe collected and painted reflect how much she was of her time. While other repositories, like those at Yale, Harvard and Smith, have Stowe-related primary sources, HBSC has nearly 300 letters and dozens of manuscripts plus Stowe-associated and owned artifacts. HBSC works cooperatively with other collections such as: Alderman Library, University of Virginia-Harriet Beecher Stowe Collection; Yale’s Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library American Literature Collection and Sterling Memorial Library, Beecher Family Papers; Connecticut Historical Society Isabella Beecher Hooker Papers; Connecticut State Library Elizabeth Lyman Collection; Henry

E. Huntington Library James T. Fields Papers; Houghton Library, Harvard, Houghton Mifflin Papers; Massachusetts Historical Society Follen Papers; Mount Holyoke College Library/Archives Beecher Family Papers; Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe, Beecher-Stowe Family Papers, Olympia Brown Papers, Alma Lutz Papers; Sophia Smith Collection, Garrison Family Papers, Sara Payson Parton Papers; Vassar College Library, Susan B. Anthony Papers.

CURRENT CONDITIONS AND PRESERVATION CHALLENGES

All of the Stowe Center's mechanical systems are reaching the end of their life expectancy except for the newly renovated Library/Archives Vault climate control system. In the Stowe House, double pane windows from the 1960's have failed, UV film is past its useful life and above normal light levels threaten the collection. Temperature and humidity vary widely. The third floor is not conditioned.

The collections are exhibited and stored using the 3 floors of the Stowe House, KS Day House third floor, and the Library/Archives Vault. In 2010 the Center upgraded climate control systems in the Library/Archives Vault and added state-of-the-art fire protection to the space. While the 3 Stowe Center buildings have fire notification systems, only the vault has fire suppression.

Harriet Beecher Stowe House

The Stowe House (1871) is a 2 1/2 story 5,000 sf painted brick building with Gothic features used today as a historic house museum. The 2 main floors have central heat and air conditioning. The third floor, used for collections storage, is not conditioned. Since this third-floor space is neither heated nor cooled, collections less susceptible to climate changes are stored there.

The Stowe House is constructed with stone and brick masonry foundation, brick masonry exterior walls and interior load-bearing walls, wood-framed interior partitions, concrete slab on grade in the basement, wood-framed floors, porches and roof with slate shingles, wood window sash with thermal glazing, wood doors, and plaster interior finishes. The house has air exchange caused by visitor traffic; however, its size helps the interior space stabilize once the door is closed.

The first and second floors of the Stowe House have a central mechanical system providing heating and air conditioning with 2 gas-fired, warm air furnaces, 2 air-cooled condensers with direct expansion cooling coils, 2 fan coil units with residential particulate filters and thermostatic control with setpoints at 65°F (winter) and 70°F (summer). The lower winter setpoints elevate relative humidity. The Stowe House does not have a humidification system or a controlled source of outside air for ventilation. The third floor is not served by the mechanical system. All equipment is located in the cellar except the condensers, which are located at grade on the north side of the house (see Visual Documentation, "Harriet Beecher Stowe House air-cooled condenser units"). While the 2 furnaces have been replaced within the past 15 years, most of the mechanical system of the Stowe House dates from the 1980s.

Improving environmental conditions in the Stowe House is the highest institutional preservation priority. The first and second floors exhibit daily and seasonal variations of temperature and relative humidity consistent with what might be expected of a basic HVAC system in a small historic house museum rather than a building housing collections of national significance. Winter relative humidity may dip below 25% RH; the frequency and severity of these fluctuations has been mitigated by manually setting back the thermostat setpoint in the winter. In spring and summer, relative humidity may occasionally approach the high-mold-risk extreme of 75% RH. The system does not provide dehumidification during Connecticut's brief warm, moist weather events in the heating months of spring. The unheated/uncooled third floor has large daily and seasonal fluctuations of temperature and relative humidity as well as high summer temperatures. Mildew on duct insulation in the cellar suggests that cellar conditions can be sufficient for microorganisms that may be distributed throughout the building.

The Stowe House is presented much as it was when Stowe lived there. Interpretive decisions are based on photographic evidence, written descriptions from Stowe and her contemporaries, descriptive published pieces from the time, and from Stowe's publications advocating domestic standards, such as *American Woman's Home* (1869). She promoted light filled rooms and limited window coverings (see Visual Documentation, "Harriet Beecher Stowe House interpreted back parlor") presenting conservation challenges. Windows have shades which are closed when the house is not open. During the 1960s restoration, windows were installed with double glass panes with interior seals; these seals have failed (see Visual Documentation, "Harriet Beecher Stowe House failed double-paned window seal"). UV filters adhered to the windows are outdated, and light levels hover around 5 footcandles on a cloudy day. In 2004, North East Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) conservators surveyed print, photographs and manuscripts and referenced above-normal light levels and failing UV film filters.

Katharine Seymour Day House and Visitor Center

The Katharine Seymour Day House (1884) is a 3-story brick and granite structure. It has a gas boiler but is not air conditioned. Collections are stored on the third floor. After recent Library/Archives Vault improvements, and with the Stowe House Phase II implementation, KS Day House collections can be moved to the improved spaces. A 1 1/2 story brick carriage house (1873) serves as the Visitor Center. The basement, first floor and mezzanine are heated and cooled. The third floor is not conditioned.

Library/Archives Vault - Katherine Seymour Day House. Associated with the Day House is a contiguous below-ground structure for library/archives storage. The Library/Archives Vault, specially built in 1974, is constructed of concrete slab on grade, reinforced concrete walls, pre-cast reinforced concrete roof, and a waterproof membrane. The below-ground location and high-density construction materials result in a stable well buffered interior environment.

Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections: Phase I – Library/Archives Vault was successfully completed in 2010. Based on the *Master Plan*, several key envelope improvements and a new mechanical system resulted in smaller equipment capacity and improved interior environmental stability. Exterior insulation on the subgrade roof was improved and exterior wall insulation extended outward based on frost-protected foundation designs. Interior foam insulation was a smoke and flame risk and of no thermal benefit; it was removed, taking advantage of the thermal mass of the walls and the stable temperature of the surrounding soil. Doors and openings were refitted to reduce air infiltration. Mechanical systems were resized to reflect the inherent stability and low heating/cooling loads of the subgrade space. The original approach to dehumidification by cooling then reheating the air using the heating and air conditioning equipment was abandoned and replaced by dedicated high-efficiency dehumidification, further reducing both heating and cooling needs. A small (7KW) modulating, duct-mounted electric heater is sufficient for the entire vault, and the cooling equipment is half the original capacity. Ventilation air is controlled to minimize conditioning requirements. A simple digital control system manages HVAC equipment operation. Filtration was upgraded, and lighting was upgraded with high efficiency fixtures, ultraviolet filtration and zone controls to minimize energy use and collections damage. A mobile storage system has increased capacity by 30% without enlarging the vault. A mist-based fire protection system was installed, and the primary equipment for this system (located in the KS Day House basement) was sized so that it can be extended to the Stowe House. Aspirating smoke detectors provide rapid detection of smoke/fire. The new equipment holds conditions stable, unlike the system it replaced. The average temperature is 62-65°F and the relative humidity 45%.

Storage spaces are equipped with baked-enamel metal shelving, file cabinets and map cases, and have separately monitored, 24- hour security. Storage arrangements and furniture have been enhanced based on a 1999 survey. Compact storage equipment and fire suppression was installed in the Library/Archives

Vault in 2010. Floor level water alarms in the subgrade vault report 24 hours a day to the monitoring service, collections are at least 8 inches off the floor, and a high volume sump pump is in place.

Preventive Conservation Policies and Practices

The Board of Trustees designates collections care and conservation an institutional priority; this is demonstrated in the mission, Strategic Plan (Goal 3 is “Protect and preserve the Center’s physical assets – from its facilities to its historic collections”) and Vision: “The Center’s historic collections will animate and enrich programs, research and teaching, and they will be accessible around the world.” Guided by the Strategic Plan and Collections Policy, and implemented by the Long-Range Preservation Plan (LRPP), the Center systematically manages preservation priorities and addresses issues. The Collection Policy describes collection scope and sets acquisition and deaccession criteria. (See appendices for these policies.)

With staff, conservator David Colglazier developed a LRPP in 2005 from surveys and reports prioritizing preservation and conservation activity. The LRPP is revised yearly after an annual site inspection and informs institutional and individual plans of work, capital project plans, and fundraising planning.

Environmental Monitoring

Building environments are monitored using HOBO dataloggers, hydrothermograph, sling hygrometer and environmental strips, yielding accurate and consistent data for a comprehensive understanding of interiors and building response to exterior climate. Data is routinely reviewed and helps limit extreme interior and exterior humidity levels detrimental to historic structures by manual temperature control adjustments. Monitoring data also informs replacement interior environmental management systems design described in W&HA’s *Master Plan for Interior Environmental Improvements for the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center* (2003) and *Final Schematic Design Report* (2010).

Fire Detection and Protection

Buildings are monitored by a central fire detection system of smoke and heat detectors in principal and secondary spaces at all floor levels in each building including manual pull stations at key locations and visual and audible alarms. It notifies a central monitoring service that notifies the Hartford Fire Department and staff. Portable fire extinguishers are throughout the buildings. In 2010 a state-of-the-art Marioff Hi-Fog fire protection system was installed in the Library/Archives Vault. The system controls, suppresses and extinguishes fire by discharging a fine water mist mixed with nitrogen through specially designed sprinkler heads. It fights fire by cooling air, blocking radiant heat and neutralizing local oxygen. Triggered by particulate sensors, mist is discharged by high-pressure pumps only to the area needed and uses 90% less water than traditional sprinkler systems, causing less damage to collections.

Additional Protective Measures

Central station also monitors glass breaks, motion detectors and door contact security for 3 buildings. Staff daily walks through each space of every building, visually monitoring collections stability, security and building condition. Integrated pest management, regular cleaning and routine site maintenance schedules are practiced. Access to collections exhibit and storage areas is controlled by limited key and security system codes. Collections inventory is scheduled every 10 years; a comprehensive inventory was initiated in 2008 is almost complete. Collections assistants, interns and volunteers receive collections handling training. Annual review of the Emergency and Disaster Plan includes staff training and practice drills. Local contacts with police, fire and emergency personnel are maintained.

Administrative and Intellectual Control of the Collection

The Center's collections are 100% accessioned and 98 % cataloged. They have benefited from strong institutional attention and stable staffing. HBSC has 2 cataloging systems: for material culture and for the print and archival collection. Each new item meeting acquisition criteria is given the next available accession number in the combined library and museum accession book, where a one-line description is filled in. The item is marked with its accession number using the proper method for its classification and staff puts the accession number on accompanying paperwork and paperwork into a folder with that accession number. The item is prepared for cataloging.

The library/archives catalog has print and manuscript materials. Depending on the type of material, records list author and/or recipient, publisher, date, place from which it was written, content note, cross-references, length, and description, etc. and are cataloged on the national library database OCLC, available through the Connecticut catalog, iConn.org. Manuscripts are processed and finding aids created for each collection. Over the life of the museum, large portions of the manuscripts were processed at item level. Current policy is that only manuscripts written by or to members of the Beecher or Stowe family receive item level cataloging. Items in the museum collection are cataloged using Past Perfect and the Chenall nomenclature. Additional information -- conservation treatments, correspondence or articles -- are in registration files. Paper catalog records are being converted to Past Perfect. Electronic records are backed up daily.

In 2008 a comprehensive inventory of the entire collection began in preparation for improvements in the Library/Archives Vault. The library and archives collections, and artifacts in Stowe House public areas and stored in the KS Day House, have been inventoried. The full inventory will be complete by the end of 2011.

Administrative and intellectual collections controls for moving collections were developed and tested during the Collections Preservation Project Phase I. Robust inventories (digital and paper) are used to prepare collections for relocation. Packing and box lists with corresponding numbers and colors ensure tracking.

HISTORY AND PLANNING OF PRESERVING THE STOWE CENTER COLLECTIONS

HBSC approaches collections activities systematically. A series of reviews and conservation surveys prioritized activity. Collections care and conservation planning include Museum Assessment Program (MAP) II in 1994; Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) and Architectural Condition Survey in 1995; and a Furniture Conservation Survey in 1988. In 2000, NEH funded an artifact storage plan built on the earlier CAP. Recommendations from these surveys were implemented and conservation/preservation accomplishments include:

- Comprehensive engineering survey of electrical, mechanical and structural systems (1998-99) resulting in phased capital projects focusing first on health and safety issues, second on building envelopes, completed in 2002
- Initiated systematic environmental monitoring program (2000)
- Artifact storage space plan (2001)
- Paint analysis - Stowe House (2001), KS Day House (2007)
- Fire notification and security system upgrades for all buildings (2002)
- Secured and restored the envelopes of the 3 historic buildings including roof stabilization and replacement, masonry, wood components, prep and paint (2002-3)
- Planning for climate control and fire suppression *Master Plan for Interior Environmental Improvements for the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center* (2003) and *Final Schematic Design Report* (2010).

- Historic Landscape Report (2003)
- Conservation surveys of the print and archival collections by NEDCC (2004)
- Long-range Preservation Plan (2004 and updated annually)
- Replaced copper valleys on Stowe House roof (2004)
- Re-housed scrapbooks, photo albums, record books, textiles (2008-9)
- Historic Structures Reports: Stowe House (2001); Katharine Seymour Day House (2007)
- Comprehensive collections inventory (2008-2011)
- Collections Preservation Project Phase I Library/Archives Vault improvements - upgraded climate control, installed fire suppression and fire detection, improved roof and installed compact storage furniture (2008-2010)

Project Rationale

The results of architect/engineer, conservator and staff evaluations of Stowe House conditions (as listed above) demonstrate multiple issues with the Stowe House environment:

- HVAC system does not perform for collections of national significance
- Mechanical systems are old and reaching the end of their life expectancy
- Fire notification but not suppression
- The third floor, used for collections storage, is not conditioned and has large daily and seasonal fluctuations of temperature and relative humidity
- Relative humidity can approach high-mold-risk extremes and system does not dehumidify
- Cellar conditions can be sufficient for microorganisms that may be distributed through building
- Above-normal light levels and failing UV film filters on windows
- Failing window seals
- Interiors are worn and showing symptoms of air-conditioning an historic building: failing paint and plaster

This project is the highest institutional priority. The Board of Trustees' commitment to care and conservation of the collections as an institutional priority is articulated in the mission and strategic plan. That plan, adopted in 2008, identifies collections preservation as a major focus: Goal 3 "Protect and preserve the Center's physical assets – from its facilities to its historic collections" and action step "Improve collections preservation capability by upgrading climate control, fire suppression and storage capability; plan and fundraise for upgraded climate control and fire suppression systems in the Stowe House."

For assistance planning environmental improvements, in 2003, using an RFP the Center chose Watson & Henry Associates (W&HA) of Bridgeton, NJ because of their individualized approach and extensive historic site experience. W&HA emphasize preservation of collections as well as of historic structures.

To develop the schematic plan, Michael C. Henry and Katherine Switala Elmhurst of W&HA facilitated collaborative workshops with staff and trustees for interior environmental improvement. Their plan, *Master Plan for Stowe Center Interior Environmental Improvements*, was the basis for the successful 2004 application to NEH for Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections. The *Final Schematic Design Report Phase II - Stowe House* was completed in 2010. The Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) determined that the project had no adverse affect on the cultural resources. The determination letter is included in appendices.

The original scope of Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections was for upgraded climate control and fire suppression in all 3 buildings including climate control in the KS Day House for the first time. As planning evolved, the scope was revised given competing priorities for limited resources and the changing economy, and a focused, manageable and fundable plan was created. Staff and Michael Henry,

Architect/Engineer and principal partner of W&HA, concentrated on 2 spaces: installing fire suppression and upgrading existing climate control in the Stowe House and Library/Archives Vault. These areas that house the largest parts of the collection could most effectively be configured to exhibit and store them. This strategy maximizes climate controlled areas for collections and, with compact storage in the Library/Archives Vault, concentrates the most environmentally threatened collection pieces. And with expanded capacity, additional collections can be moved to the Library/Archives Vault. This change reflects the trend to centralize climate controls to specific areas.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House has had complete climate control for more than 40 years, and it is showing symptoms associated with air conditioning an historic building, such as crumbling plaster and paint failure. Improving out-dated and failing systems will help stabilize the building. Stowe House interiors will be refurbished and reinstalled to reflect recent scholarship and enhance the visitor experience.

Concentrating improvements in the Stowe House and Library/Archives Vault, cooling will not be introduced to the 1884 KS Day building, preserving Day House historic fabric and reflecting recommendations by the Association for Preservation Technology. The Visitor Center already has heating and air conditioning and as a public space, has less need for the higher standard and higher operational costs of a collections specific system. Focusing on the Stowe House and the library/archives vault better uses scarce resources.

Phase I: Library/Archives Vault (completed 2010)

HBSC improved and upgraded climate control and installed fire suppression in the primary collection storage area, a 1,700 square foot underground vault contiguous to the KS Day House. Collections were inventoried and moved to a climate controlled storage facility, space repaired and improved, compact storage installed, new HVAC systems and state-of-the-art Marioff Hi Fog mist fire suppression system installed. After 2 months of monitored system operation, in October 2010 staff began moving collections back to the vault. The Phase I budget was \$911,114. Funding was from NEH (\$400,000), Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (\$300,000), United Technologies Corporation (\$25,000), and National Park Service *Save America's Treasures* program (\$45,000 of a \$150,000 grant) and HBSC (\$141,114). The project team of HBSC staff, W&HA, fire consultant Nick Artim and contractor Bartlett Brainard Eacott successfully managed the project on time and on budget.

Phase II: Harriet Beecher Stowe House

With the Phase I team, HBSC will improve and upgrade the climate control capabilities and install fire suppression in the Stowe House, including the third floor, which does not have climate control. Window glazing will be replaced to improve thermal performance and light levels. After a detailed survey by Wendy Jessup, conservator, the collection will be moved to the off-site storage space used for the vault project. Additionally (but not part of this funding request) some individual pieces will be conserved, and the Stowe House will be refurbished and reinstalled to reflect recent scholarship and enhance the visitor experience. The scope of Phase II – Harriet Beecher Stowe House includes:

- Install a water mist fire protection system on all 3 floors of the Stowe House and the basement;
- Install an aspirating fire detection system and reporting alarms to the existing system;
- Excavate between the Stowe House and the KS Day House for fire protection conduit;
- Install air handlers and new heating, cooling, dehumidification and ventilation systems;
- Improve thermal and UV performance of the windows;
- Rewire lighting fixtures;
- Minimally invasive cutting and patching of wall, floor and ceiling finishes permitting installation of new systems and equipment.

Project Outcomes

- Improved Stowe House interior environment
- Stabilized collections environment
- Fire protection
- Collections conservation priorities and treatment
- Interior finishes refurbished
- Improved interpretation

STANDARDS AND METHODS

This implementation request is for Systems & Building Envelope Improvements to the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, referred to as Phase II in the *Master Plan for Interior Environmental Improvements for the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center* prepared in 2003 and updated by the *Final Schematic Design Report* November 2010, all by Watson & Henry Associates.

Standards and Practices Guiding the Project

Phase II - Harriet Beecher Stowe House follows and builds on the successful completion of the Phase I - Library/Archives Vault project, completed in 2010 for \$911,114. Phase II – Stowe House is guided by the same principles for sustainable conservation used for the Library/Archives Vault, with adjustments reflecting the environmental issues of an interpreted house museum on the National Register of Historic Places. Guidance for Phase II – Stowe House includes the following:

- *Final Schematic Design Report for Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections: Phase II – Harriet Beecher Stowe House* by W&HA (November 2010);
- *Master Plan for Interior Environmental Improvements for the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center* by Watson & Henry Associates (September 2003);
- *Chapter 21 Museums, Galleries, Archives and Libraries* of the 2007 *Applications Handbook* of the American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE);
- Secretary of Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties 1995*;
- *New Orleans Charter for the Joint Preservation of Historic Structures and Artifacts* adopted by the Association for Preservation Technology, International, and the American Institute for Conservation for Historic and Artistic Works;
- *Guidelines for Light and Lighting in Historic Buildings that House Collections* adopted by the Association for Preservation Technology, International, and the American Institute for Conservation for Historic and Artistic Works;
- The *Code of Ethics* of the American Institute for Conservation for Historic and Artistic Works.

Project design has also been informed by proven trends in sustainable approaches to collections environments, including such pragmatic and cost-effective measures as:

- Specification of realistic and achievable temperature and relative humidity conditions to be maintained by the improvements;
- Passive control of moisture at the source;
- Passive improvements to the building envelope for thermal energy and moisture vapor management;
- Reduce solar heat gain, visible and ultraviolet light through windows;
- Reduce energy consumption and waste heat from interpretive lighting
- “Right-sized” high efficiency equipment for heating and cooling, and separate high-efficiency equipment for dehumidification (for relative humidity control during seasons when cooling is not required);

- Automatic humidistatic control of the heating system in winter to depress temperature and elevate relative humidity without resorting to humidification, since humidification could damage the historic building envelope;
- Simple, easily maintained systems and controls for long-term performance within the target environmental specifications;
- Maximize the new mist fire protection tank and pump infrastructure (installed for the Phase I Library/Archives Vault) by extending the system to serve the Stowe House.

This project continues the Center's philosophy of undertaking measured, incremental and substantive improvements that can be implemented and maintained within the economic and human resources of the museum. This philosophy is expressed in the *Master Plan* and *Final Schematic Design Report*:

- Conform with sound preservation practice and principles;
- Provide for stimulating and interesting public interpretation of the site;
- Can be achieved with reasonable expense over time;
- Represent appropriate and proper stewardship of the historic resource for the public.

Before construction, collections will be inventoried, packed and moved to the same facility used during Phase I. Staff will visit the facility at least monthly to monitor conditions. HBSC's insurance providers approved the facility prior to the 2009 Library/Archives collections move.

Current and Expected Conditions

HBSC carefully monitors environmental conditions in its 3 structures. The 2003 *Master Plan* was the first step in improving collections environments; strategies were based on analysis of data and setting realistic objectives by the Center, guided by W&HA. The 2003 *Master Plan* and 2010 *Final Schematic Design Report* identify objectives for Phase II - Stowe House:

Conservation Objectives:

- Minimize physical intervention of historic fabric and landscape resources;
- Reduce risk of fire;
- Recognize performance limits of building envelope;
- Improve interior air quality, especially particulates;
- Reduce microorganism opportunities;
- Reduce impact of light on collection
- Reduce potential for pest activity (air-borne insects, vermin and feral cats);
- Improve collections storage and access to stored collections;
- Protect collections from exposure to damage from construction operations.

Operational Objectives:

- Arrive at fundable solutions and implementation sequence;
- Improve staff and visitor comfort and safety;
- Improve general storage;
- Limit systems capital and operating costs;
- Keep systems simple, reliable, easily maintained and environmentally friendly;
- Address unique characteristics of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center location;
- Provide for system operation and maintenance documentation;
- Improve access to systems and equipment;
- Improve and simplify monitoring of interior and exterior environment and of mechanical systems operation;
- Satisfy Secretary of Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, 1995, New Orleans Charter for the Joint Preservation of Historic Structures and Artifacts*, the AIC Code of Ethics, governing building and fire codes, and the Stowe Center mission.

Functional Objectives:

- Improve access to resources;
- Provide for program and visitation growth;
- Improve visitor experience.

The strategies for achieving these objectives are organized by the following categories:

- Space use: maintain existing space use allocation, with adequate space for mechanical system/use zones, minimize risks to collections and building fabric;
- Building envelope performance and source moisture control;
- Artificial and natural light management;
- Achievable goals and HVAC systems replacement;
- Fire detection and fire protection.

The completed Library/Archives Vault Project (Phase I) exemplifies this approach:

- External liquid water entry has been eliminated and moisture vapor entry substantially reduced;
- Thermal insulation has been reconfigured to take advantage of stable soil temperatures, and envelope areas of seasonal heat loss/gain near the surface have increased thermal insulation;
- Replacement heating and cooling equipment is “right-sized,” resulting in smaller capacities than installed originally, and yielding lower first cost and more efficient performance;
- Air-handling equipment is “right-sized” and recirculating air flow has been reduced, reducing fan size and energy consumption;
- Dehumidification is provided separate from cooling, eliminating the need for over-cooling, then reheating, and simplifying control of both temperature and relative humidity;
- Interior finishes were selected for environmental compatibility, for collections and occupants;
- High efficiency lighting is used, with automatic and manual controls that allow lighting to be energized for specific areas of work/occupancy, eliminating unnecessary exposure of the collections to light and reducing electrical consumption for lighting;
- Construction was completed on schedule and within the budget.

Solving Issues and Improving Conditions

Glazing will be replaced and exterior wood-framed storm windows added. Light control strategies will be a nuanced balance of several strategies rather than a single solution: light-filtering/light-blocking roller shades; storm windows on all facades with light filtering and ultraviolet filtering glass; simple method for tour guides to control artificial light sources; and rewired receptacles and outlets.

Two air handler, dehumidifiers will be used, one each for the first and second floors. Heating supply for the first and second floors will be a small, high-efficiency, gas-fired condensing boiler heating water coils in the two basement air handling units. The first and second floors will be cooled with 2 high efficiency, air-cooled direct expansion air conditioning systems with independent dehumidifiers. The first and second floors will be heated in winter to 55-65 °F, but temperature will be managed based on RH level. They will be cooled to 75-80 °F in summer. High RH will be depressed by separate dehumidification.

The third floor will be cooled by a small air handler with a direct expansion system for summer cooling and a small electric heater to maintain minimum temperature in winter. A separate high efficiency dehumidifier will depress relative humidity in the summer with condensate drained to the basement. The dehumidifier will be set in a drain pan which is alarmed. The third floor will be heated in winter to at least 40 °F based on RH. The third floor will be cooled to 75-80 °F in summer.

A new fire detection system with aspirating smoke detection will be installed in the first, second and third floors, with spot detection in the basement and thermal detection in the under-roof cavities. A mist fire

suppression system of wet system tubing in the heated spaces and dry system tubing in unheated spaces will connect the Stowe House to the existing mist system equipment infrastructure in the basement of the KS Day House via utility trench between the buildings. Electrical wiring will be replaced throughout with a three-wire grounded system, and grounding upgraded and any antiquated circuit protection devices replaced. A master electrical shut-off switch will isolate non-critical services when the building is unoccupied.

WORK PLAN

Phasing and Implementation

Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections: Phase II – Stowe House is a preservation project with substantial capital and logistical considerations and HBSC has planned accordingly. The schedule and sequencing was developed around the date the house will close to the public, January 1, 2013, beginning the slow winter season. The Stowe House will reopen 15 months later, April 2014, for groups that visit in the busy spring season.

Collections Handling and Conservation

Collections in the Stowe House will be checked against the inventory, packed and moved to the same facility used during Phase I – Library/Archives Vault. Moves will be under the direction of the Collections Manager and conservator Wendy Jessup, who will be contracted for this project.

Ms. Jessup will assess collections stability prior to the move, assess collection condition for vulnerabilities, write a survey report with recommendations, and oversee collection packing and moving. Based on the survey, the Collections Manager and Ms. Jessup will develop a plan for Stowe House collections activity and treatments. Outside the scope of this request, specialized conservators will be contracted as necessary to evaluate and treat groups and types of collections, including textiles, paintings, and furniture. Some collections will be treated while the Stowe House is closed. Although conservation treatment is not part of this funding request, it will be coordinated with other work. Conservation evaluation and planning will begin in the spring of 2012 and take 6 months. Items for conservation will be removed from the house during this time.

The Collections Manager and Conservator will oversee collections packing and moving. Trained collections assistants who worked on the Library/Archives Vault project will be trained for handling artifacts. Small object packing will begin in October 2012 before the house is closed, and non-collections items such as curtains, rods and vent covers will be removed. Contract workers specially trained in collections moving and handling will wrap and move furniture and other large items, commencing January 2013, when the house is closed to the public. When construction is complete, the same staff and contractor workers will reinstall collections in spring 2014.

Construction

Construction is 3 phases: pre-construction, construction and testing. Watson & Henry Associates (W&HA) was consulting architect/engineer for Phase I – Library/Archives Vault and this team remains in place for Phase II.

Pre-construction includes design development and preparation of construction documents. Beginning November 2011, W&HA will work with staff to develop design specifications, then documents will be prepared by W&HA by September 2012. Conservator Wendy Jessup will monitor collections preservation in the system designs, and Nick Artim, specialist in fire detection and protection systems, will design fire prevention systems. Environmental consultants Fuss & O'Neill EnviroScience, Inc. who worked on Phase I, will conduct a hazardous materials evaluation by spring 2012, so any mitigation can be included in construction planning.

Once construction documents are completed, W&HA will develop a contractor pre-qualification package. Only contractors with experience working in historic buildings will bid. W&HA will send request for proposals to selected contractors. W&HA and the staff will conduct a pre-bid meeting and tour of the project site prior to receipt of sealed bids. W&HA will review and vet bids, then make a recommendation to HBSC. The process is scheduled so potential contractors can view the Stowe House when it is largely empty; W&HA believes bids will be better and lower if the house is empty when contractors tour the site. Bidding will run from September 2012 through February 2013, with the expectation of signing a construction contract in March 2013.

Trench excavation to connect fire suppression piping from tanks in the KS Day House to the basement of the Stowe House will be monitored by Nick Bellantoni, Connecticut state archaeologist. Nick Artim, PE, Fire Protection Consultant, specializes in historic buildings and consulted on the Library/Archives Vault Phase I and will provide consultancy services to Phase II.

The contractor will be responsible for determining the sequence and timing of construction activities, based on their expertise and experience on similar projects and availability of subcontractors. Construction work will take approximately 9 months, commencing April 2013 and concluding by January 2014. The project will adhere to all Davis-Bacon Act related wage requirements for renovation projects, as was the practice in the recently completed Library/Archives Vault project.

Systems commissioning and proofing will run 60 days, from January 2014 to March 2014, verifying performance and making any adjustments prior to bringing collections into the house. For the first 30 days, the house will be kept closed with no other work. Once W&HA is confident that systems are operating correctly, staff will begin returning collections to the 3rd floor storage space. Interior refurbishing such as painting, wallpaper or carpeting, will begin. Collections will be installed in the interpreted rooms after the proof period and interior refurbishing are complete.

The Collections Manager will work with the Center's security contractor to program the security system in March 2013, accommodating construction activity. Upon completion of construction an updated security system will be installed.

Fundraising

Fundraising for Phase II – Stowe House will begin in spring 2011. The relationships developed during Phase I –Library/Archives Vault will carry over to the Stowe House and HBSC projects the balance of funds will be timely.

Refurbishing and Reinterpreting the Stowe House (not part of this request)

Emptying the Stowe House presents the opportunity to refurbish interior finishes and reinterpret the storyline to reflect recent scholarship and enhance the visitor experience. With the house empty, interior finishes will be refreshed based on the 2001 historic structures report and recent research. Revised interpretation will include dramatic elements such as lights, sounds and smells, and creating an area for talk-back sessions. Interpretive plans will be finalized by November 2011, before design and construction documents are created.

Visitor Experiences with the Stowe House Closed (not part of this request)

With the major site experience closed for over a year, staff will develop alternative visitor experiences using the 2 other historic buildings and the grounds, and expanding off site programs for schools and other public locations. A hard hat tour will be possible during certain portions of the construction, allowing an "inside look" at the process. These experiences will be ready for implementation in January 2013, when the Stowe House closes to the public.

Major Project Activities

Dates	Activity
September 2011	HBSC contracts with W&HA for professional services
November 2011	HBSC finalizes interpretive plan for Stowe House
November 2011	W&HA initiates Design Development
February 2012	W&HA completes Design Development
February 2012	Environmental consultant evaluates Stowe House for hazardous materials
March 2012	W&HA initiates Construction Documents phase (6 months)
March 2012	Conservator assesses Stowe House collections for stabilization
April 2012	HBSC begins development of alternative on-site experiences
September 2012	W&HA completes Construction Documents
September 2012	HBSC/W&HA begin contractor pre-qualifications
September 2012	HBSC trains staff in handling, packing collections in House
October 2012	HBSC begins packing, moving small collection items in House
January 2013	HBSC closes Harriet Beecher Stowe House to public.
January 2013	HBSC de-installs collections and stores off-site
January 2013	HBSC sends selected items out for conservation
January 2013	HBSC/W&HA open bidding process for construction (2 months)
March 2013	HBSC awards construction contract
April 2013	HBSC completes fundraising
April 2013	Contractor starts construction (9 months)
January 2014	Contractor completes construction
January 2014	HVAC system begins proof period (2 months)
February 2014	HBSC begins decorative finishes interior (2 months)
February 2014	HBSC begins collections reinstallation of stored collections
March 2014	HBSC begins collections reinstallation in interpreted rooms
April 2014	HBSC reopens 1st floor of Harriet Beecher Stowe House to public.
May 2014	HBSC reopens entire Harriet Beecher Stowe House to public.

PROJECT TEAM

The project team is an experienced and qualified staff and consultant team who have completed Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Collections: Phase I - Library/Archives Vault.

HBSC project staff are:

Katherine Kane, Project Director, Executive Director for 12 years, is an experienced collections project manager who will be responsible for overall budget and project management. She managed numerous collections and construction projects.

Elizabeth Giard Burgess, Collections Manager, has worked for HBSC for 10 years. She will be involved in all aspects of the project, and manage collections care and safety and work with conservation consultants. She was a key member of the library archives storage vault project team.

Deirdre Redden, Director of Finance and Administration, will oversee project budget, contract negotiations, schedules and expenses. She managed the Library Archives/Vault project and is an experienced project manager.

Collections Assistants will pack and relocate small collection items under supervision of the Collections Manager and contract conservator. This pool of Stowe Center employees has experience working with the collections and understands special handling and care. They were integral for inventorying, packing, and re-housing on the completed Library/Archives Vault project. Specially trained collections movers and handlers will pack and move furniture and other large artifacts.

Project consultants with specific expertise for this project:

Architects/Engineers: Watson & Henry Associates will serve as principal advisors for design development, construction documents and bids, and construction management. **Michael C. Henry, PE, AIA**, is Principal in charge and Historical Engineer/Architect has over 25 years practice in assessment, analysis and preservation of historic structures, building systems, materials and technology, including preparing historic structure reports, preservation plans and conservation assessments. He is experienced in the effects of building envelope and building systems performance on long-term preventive conservation of collections and finishes and has consulted for museums internationally. **Penelope S. Watson, AIA**, Principal and Historical Architect has practiced in historic preservation for over 24 years, 18 as a preservation architect. She has been responsible for historical research, building documentation, preservation/restoration design, and construction services for a wide range of historic resources.

Nick Artim, PE, Fire Protection Consultant is director of Heritage Protection Group, a collaborative of fire protection and security consultants and engineers specializing in historic buildings. He was the Chief Fire Protection Engineer for the Architect of the U.S. Capitol. Over 25 years his project experience includes the U.S., Canada, U.K., Bermuda and Ireland with clients including National Park Service historic sites, National Libraries of Canada and Ireland, Scottish Supreme Court, Canadian Museum of Civilization, and the home of President James Madison.

Wendy Claire Jessup, President and Conservator, **Wendy Jessup and Associates (WJ&A)** will work with W&HA to facilitate collections preservation in system designs, and advise the Center on collections care and conservation throughout the project. Ms. Jessup established WJ&A in 1987 after working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts and the Smithsonian. She has over thirty years experience, authored multiple publications, lectures extensively on the agents of deterioration and preventative conservation and has trained over 500 museum professionals in collections care.

PROJECT RESULTS AND DISSEMINATION

Staff, board and consultants will know the project is a success when expected outcomes are met: the project is completed safely, on time, and on budget meeting conservation, operational and functional goals. The Stowe House interior environment improves, collection environment is stable, there is fire protection, collections conservation priorities and treatment are implemented, the interior is refurbished and interpretation improved, and operational costs are sustainable.

HBSC will share the Phase II project results with events and programs at the Center, articles and presentations for professional journals and conferences. Progress will be reported in the bimonthly eblast and frequent social media posts.

These improvements will strengthen HBSC's work in the humanities because the Stowe House is a national treasure, a critical interpretive element in telling Stowe's story and carrying out the Center's mission. The collections in the Stowe House are nationally important for understanding the historical and literary significance of Stowe's anti-slavery novel and the legacy of racism in America. They carry a particular message to the public of today of a woman who, in the restricted environment of the 19th century, picked up her pen to write a story that changed the country. Stowe's example is a starting point for conversations about American issues and the Stowe House and its collections are the stage.