



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Preparation of a Special History Study on:
African Americans at Fort Pulaski National Historic Site
November 2018

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking the services of a qualified historian through a cooperative agreement with the Organization of American Historians (OAH) to prepare a Special History Study (SHS) on African Americans at Fort Pulaski National Historic Site (FOPU) from the eighteenth century through desegregation. The selected historian will be the Principle Investigator (PI) for the project.

Interested historians should submit a complete proposal (specified below) in response to this RFP to the OAH and NPS no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, December 7th, 2018.

Project Background

Fort Pulaski National Monument is located on Cockspur Island between Savannah and Tybee Island, Georgia. Declared a National Monument by the War Department in 1924, the fort became a unit of the NPS in 1933. The park preserves Fort Pulaski military fort, where in 1862 during the American Civil War, the Union Army successfully tested rifled cannon in combat, the success of which rendered brick fortifications obsolete. These accurate, long-range weapons shattered Fort Pulaski's walls from more than a mile away. After 30 hours of bombardment, the fort surrendered. The battle surprised military strategists worldwide, signaling the end of masonry fortifications. The fort was also used as a prisoner-of-war camp. The National Monument includes most of Cockspur Island (containing the fort) and all of adjacent McQueen's Island.

Fort Pulaski was opened to the public only for a short time before the beginning of World War II. This war would see further use of Cockspur Island as a section base for the U.S. Navy. Following World War II, Fort Pulaski reverted to NPS control, and it was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966. Fort Pulaski remains open to the public, with a museum opened in the 1980s.

Cockspur Island is a small island located in a strategic position at the mouth of the Savannah River, and since the 1830s, has been the site of Fort Pulaski and its support village (no longer extant). Although the park's boundaries are entirely on Cockspur Island, the study will explore historical connections the park has with the city of Savannah, Tybee Island, and Hilton Head/Beaufort, SC.

Project Goals

The purpose of this project is to produce a Special History Study for Fort Pulaski National Historic Site. The proposed study will address currently unknown history associated with African Americans on Cockspur Island, in Savannah, and on Hilton Head Island, and other Sea Islands. Fort Pulaski recently became an NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site, and both its General Management Plan and draft Foundation Document call for more research into the underrepresented African American history of this site. In FY 2016, the NPS received funding to support high priority cultural resource projects at NPS sites associated with African-American civil rights and experiences, including slavery, resistance,

Reconstruction, and the American Civil Rights Movement of the 20th Century and beyond. The proposed SHS fulfills the objectives of the NPS Civil Rights Initiative and will provide vital primary research for park staff to use in interpretation, education, and resource management initiatives.

Scope of Work

The PI will produce a multiple-chapter research document that will include historic and contemporary images and maps and interpret the history and significance of African Americans in the study area from the eighteenth century through desegregation in the NPS. The study will include an introductory chapter and appendices as appropriate. Themes to be covered shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Colonial and Antebellum Period
 - 1. The “Lazaretto” or quarantine station for human cargo on Tybee Island
 - 2. Free and enslaved black culture in Savannah, including the establishment of First African Baptist Church
 - 3. Slavery and plantation culture in coastal Georgia and the South Carolina Low Country
 - 4. The construction of Fort Pulaski using enslaved laborers
 - 5. Local builders, such as Isaiah Davenport, renting their enslaved laborers to the U.S. Army Corps
 - 6. Brick manufacturing in the area, including at the Hermitage Plantation
- B. The Civil War and Reconstruction
 - 1. Use of enslaved laborers by the Confederates after seizing Fort Pulaski in 1861
 - 2. General David Hunter’s General Orders Nos. 7 and 11, and Abraham Lincoln’s response
 - 3. The Underground Railroad in Savannah and other nearby areas, including at First African Baptist Church
 - 4. Mitchellville, an early Freedman’s town, on Hilton Head Island
 - 5. March Haynes, a formerly enslaved man who may have been a Union spy
 - 6. General William T. Sherman’s Field Order No. 15
 - 7. United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.s) at Fort Pulaski after the Civil War
- C. The 20th Century
 - 1. The Civilian Conservation Corps on Cockspur Island during restoration efforts, 1933-1938.
 - 2. The U.S. Navy on Cockspur Island during World War II
 - 3. Racial segregation in the park, including for visitor facilities

FOPU staff will provide the PI with access to relevant source material housed in their offices. Copies of the materials in possession of the NPS will be provided to the PI in cooperation with FOPU staff.

This study will require archival and primary source research at repositories including, but not necessarily limited to:

- A. Georgia Historical Society (Savannah, GA)
- B. City of Savannah Research Library and Municipal Archives (Savannah GA)
- C. Bull Street Public Library, Kaye Kole Genealogy and Local History Room (Savannah, GA)
- D. Heritage Library History and Ancestry Research Center (Hilton Head, SC)
- E. The Georgia State Archives (Morrow, GA)
- F. The National Archives and Records Administration (College Park, MD)
- G. Other local repositories as necessary

Some travel to collect data is inevitable. However, we expect the PI will take all reasonable efforts to acquire research materials located in distant repositories via the internet when possible. When travel is required, the PI will be responsible for all costs related to this travel, to be drawn from the PI's compensation for this project.

Oral Histories and Image Collection

Oral histories are a vital component of this project. When the PI conducts any oral history interviews or collects copies of images from individuals and institutions as primary research for the study, official release forms must be used and, in the case of oral histories, interviews must be recorded in an archival-quality medium. The NPS will provide release forms for the interviews, transferring ownership and copyright of the material to the NPS. The original interviews and copies of the transcripts will be given to the NPS, to be added to the FOPU archives.

The PI will be responsible for obtaining permission to use any images or other material that is not in the public domain.

Deliverables and Outcomes

The PI will submit the following deliverables as part of completing this project. A suggested time table is included as a starting point for discussion; specific deadlines will be determined at the start of the project.

- Start-up meeting with PI, park staff, NPS ATR, and OAH at FOPU, within 2 months of researcher selection
- PI submits a detailed outline for the study that includes a working title, a general overview of the organization of the report and specific topics to be covered, projected length of the written manuscript, and a preliminary bibliography, within 3 months of start-up meeting. (NPS and OAH will review the outline and submit comments to the PI, within 30 days of outline submission.)
- PI submits a rough draft of the study, within 4 months of receiving comments on the outline. (NPS and OAH will review the chapter and submit comments to the PI, within 30 days of chapter submission.)
- PI submits full draft of the Special History Study, including proposed images, drawings, maps, and other illustrations, as well as appendices, within 8 months of receiving comments on the rough draft. (This draft will be sent out for scholarly peer review; NPS and OAH will return comments, including peer review comments, within 2 months of full draft submission.)
- PI submits final, copyedited Special History Study, which includes all the elements of the full draft plus a title page, table of contents, and executive summary, within 3 months of receiving comments on the full draft. PI will also submit permission to publish all images not in the public domain.
- PI submits five bound copies of the report and all research materials to the park, within a month of the electronic submission of the final study.

Based on consultation with the ATR and the park superintendent, the PI will write and conduct a public presentation summarizing his/her work and experience in researching and writing the SHS, including visual aids of historic images and documents. The date and location of this presentation will be sometime after the submission of the final draft.

Proposal Submissions

For evaluation purposes, proposals should provide sufficient information as to assist OAH and the NPS in determining the most qualified historian for the project. Historians interested in bidding should submit a formal written proposal that includes the following elements in a single digital file:

1. Contact information for the Principal Investigator.
2. Project Narrative. Please explain how this project will be accomplished and the desired outcomes achieved. Indicate if work is to be subcontracted and/or student/intern labor used. This would also be the place to discuss any adjustments to the suggested time table presented in the “Deliverables and Outcomes” section of this RFP.
3. Researcher Qualifications. Please include a narrative discussion of qualifications, relevant experience, and past projects of the individual(s) who will be involved in the research, including a designation of a principal investigator, if there will be more than one person on the research team. In addition to the narrative discussion, please include a curriculum vitae or résumé for all known members of the research team
4. Project Budget. Indicate how much money is required to complete the work described, indicating how much will be spent for labor, travel, research supplies, printing etc. A budget template can be provided upon request.

Please Note: It is expected that the PI will complete this project with a budget between \$50,000 and \$52,500. Project Budgets should total within this dollar range.

Proposals will be evaluated for selection based on the project narrative; and the experience and qualifications of the historian(s).

All proposals must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. EST** on Friday, December 7, 2018. They should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the consultant’s qualifications and capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this RFP.

Please submit **electronic** proposals to:

Paul J. Zwirecki

Public History Manager

Organization of American Historians

pzwirecki@oah.org

Laura Waller

Agreements Technical Representative (ATR)

Cultural Resources Specialist

Fort Pulaski National Monument

Laura.Waller@nps.gov

Please submit any inquiries or requests for budget templates to Paul J. Zwirecki **by November 16th, 2018**. **Only proposals received by 5:00 p.m. EST on December 7th will be considered.**

OAH will confirm receipt of submissions. If there are any issues (e.g., with attachments working correctly), the consultant is responsible for resolving these issues with an alternative submission method acceptable to OAH and the NPS.

Selection Criteria

Candidates for principle investigator should hold a Ph.D. with specific areas of research in the themes outlined in the scope of work. Ideal candidates will have done research in the history and culture of the Georgia coastal barrier islands.

Proposals will be evaluated for selection based on the project narrative; and the experience and qualifications of the historian.

Terms and Conditions

- A. OAH reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, and to waive minor irregularities in any proposal.
- B. OAH reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted, and to request additional information from any consultant.
- C. OAH and NPS will not be responsible for any costs incurred by consultants in preparing, submitting, or presenting its response to this RFP.
- D. All electronic documents produced through this project must fully comply with Section 508 accessibility standards (<https://www.section508.gov/content/build/create-accessible-documents>)
- E. Any and all rights to work produced through this project will be vested in the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, including any copyrights.

Questions

Respondents are invited to submit written questions requesting clarifications or explanations of the information contained in this RFP. Please direct all proposal or project-related questions to Paul J. Zwirecki, Public History Manager at the OAH, pzwirecki@oah.org.