FACT SHEET: 2020

Mission Statement: Historic Deerfield opens doors to new perspectives that inspire people to seek a deeper understanding of themselves, their communities, and the world.

Vision Statement: The goal of Historic Deerfield is to provide the traveling public, students and families with a day-long experience in a place defined by authenticity, human scale, profound historic preservation, and beauty that delivers an understanding of early New England life with a memorable recreational event of the best possible kind. Our means to this end are to structure learning that is both entertaining and informative, to increase visibility and visitation, to maintain the reputation of the museum and the Deerfield Inn, to develop our cohorts in Deerfield and around the country, and to devise efficient operations that upgrade visitor services, orientation, and a better sense of arrival and that all measure success.

Personnel: 58 full-time and 122 part-time employees, including the staffs of the Deerfield Inn and Museum Store, as well as 70 volunteers. Philip Zea is the President & C.E.O. Anne Lanning is the Senior Vice President. Deborah Kallman is the Chief Financial Officer.

Beginnings: Historic Deerfield was begun in 1947 by Henry and Helen Geier Flynt, Greenwich, CT. The first museum house, the Ashley House ca. 1733, was opened to the public in 1948.

Governance: Incorporated in 1952, Historic Deerfield is a 501-c-3, not-for-profit museum chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Board of Trustees is chaired by Joseph P. Gromacki (Chicago, IL). The Officers are Vice Chair Anne K. Groves (New York, NY), Treasurer Ann W. Lord (Peterborough, NH), and Secretary Lynda Hotra (Rochester, NY). The Trustees are Nancy J. Barnard (Wayland, MA), Fraser Bennett Beede (Northampton, MA), Anthony Berner (Williamsville, VT), Lawrence C. Caldwell (New Canaan, CT), Colin Calloway (Norwich, VT), Courtney Chapin (Washington, D.C.), Wesley C. Fredericks (New Canaan, CT), Barbara A. James (Westport, CT), James D. Meltzer (Hancock, NH), Gerald C. Mingin, MD (Burlington, VT), Lindsay W. Ormsby (Greenwich, CT), Paul C. Peters, Jr., MD (Dallas, TX), Charles D. Schewe (Amherst, MA), Ellen Snyder-Grenier (Rutherford, NJ), Joseph Peter Spang (Deerfield, MA.), William P. Veillette (Amherst, NH), and Emerson Tuttle (Ipswich, MA.)

Endowment: $49.1M Net Assets: $64.2M Annual Operating Budget: $7.5M

Membership and Development: The Friends of Historic Deerfield supports the museum through annual gifts from individual and corporate donors. Membership stands at 1,798 across the nation.

Regular Publications: Magazine HISTORIC DEERFIELD, Newsletter Member News and Calendar. Historic Deerfield also publishes occasional exhibition catalogs.

Old Deerfield National Historic Landmark 1962: Historic Deerfield is located in The Old Deerfield National Historic Landmark encompassing 1000 acres of active farmland in the valley between the Deerfield and Connecticut Rivers. Staff and Trustees from around the country work with local, regional and national agencies to preserve the agricultural way of life in this beautiful village.
Physical Plant and Landscape: 12 museum houses, Flynt Center of Early New England Life (an exhibition and public storage facility), Henry N. Flynt Memorial Libraries, Deerfield Inn and Champney’s Restaurant, Museum Store, and 39 other buildings on 110 acres. In all, the Old Deerfield National Historic Landmark counts the survival of 26 eighteenth-century houses, and 14 more that pre-date 1850, on their original sites with related archeology in a village that retains its original scale and town plan from the 1670s.

Museum and Collections: Historic Deerfield exhibits 12 houses dating from c1730 to 1872 and one of the top half-dozen collections of American decorative arts in the country, including more than 28,000 objects made or used in America from 1650 to 1930, with special interest in the history, art, and culture of the Connecticut River Valley and with significant collections of 18th and 19th-century American furniture; English and Chinese export ceramics; American silver; and American and English textiles and clothing. The Flynt Center of Early New England Life features changing exhibitions as well as “The Museum’s Attic:” the study/storage of 2500 antiques, and a seminar room for workshops and lectures.

Libraries: The Memorial Libraries include the 21,000-volume Henry N. Flynt Library of Historic Deerfield (reference works, microfilm and newspapers) and the printed books, manuscripts, diaries, ledgers, and related materials of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association Library. The Memorial Libraries attract both visitors and scholars and represent the most comprehensive collection of materials relating to the history and material culture of Deerfield and the Connecticut River Valley.

Deerfield Inn and Museum Store: Historic Deerfield owns and operates the 1884 Deerfield Inn with our restaurant, Champney’s, and the Museum Store.

Visitation: Annual visitation to Historic Deerfield is 25,000 people. Thousands more come to walk The Street and to create their own Deerfield experience.

Annual programming: Historic Deerfield offers a full calendar of events to the traveling public including museum house tours, self-guided tours, special exhibitions, and 75 annual public programs: History Workshop and weekend family programming, decorative arts workshops and forums, Historic Trades demonstrations, Winter and Summer Lectures Series (free to the public), Summer Fellowship Program for college undergraduates since 1956, Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife since 1976, Historic Deerfield/Wellesley College Symposium on the History of American Culture, school and college field trips, annual Patriots’ Day Muster, Deerfield Inn special events, and the Historic Deerfield/Antiques Dealers of America Antiques Show.

Affiliations: Historic Deerfield is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. We are also a member of Five Colleges, Inc., since 1986, a consortium of Historic Deerfield, Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; as well as several regional chambers of commerce, the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the New England Museums Association (NEMA).

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