

***Cliveden of the National Trust***  
**Proposal for Hurford Humanities Center Internship 2009**

**Mission and Description of the Organization**

Cliveden of the National Trust has a mission to help people understand history and to motivate them to preserve it by providing access to the rich continuity of history and preservation in one community and family over time, and by offering the direction and knowledge about preserving our built heritage for economic future use. We fulfill this mission:

- by preserving our houses, grounds and collections;
- by interpreting Cliveden and Upsala meaningfully to the public based on solid research;
- by working with local businesses, community revitalization and historical organizations to be a catalyst for preserving and reusing historic buildings to sustain economic development for historic Northwest Philadelphia;
- by promoting our community's cultural life and historic preservation efforts; and
- by being a model of historic site management and preservation outreach.

Cliveden is one of America's most famous and least-altered colonial houses. Built in 1767 as the country estate of Benjamin Chew, Philadelphia jurist and statesman, the building has been called "one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in America." It is historically significant because its British defenders repulsed George Washington's troops' attempt to liberate Philadelphia during the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, which forced the American army to spend the winter at Valley Forge. The Chew family cared for Cliveden for two centuries until it became a National Trust for Historic Preservation property in 1972. In a city of unparalleled historic resources, Cliveden is a site where collections, family records, historic architecture and spacious grounds which come alive at a variety of outreach programs. Staff interpret the Chew family, its history and records (which included nearly 100 enslaved Africans, including the well-known African American minister Richard Allen), and the family's 230 effort to preserve the grounds where 150 American patriots were killed. In 1972, Cliveden became a property of the National Trust. Recently, Cliveden merged with the Upsala Foundation and in May 2004 expanded its mission to include Upsala (1798) a Federal-style house erected after the Battle; it was the long-time home of the Johnsons, part of a prominent Germantown family. Upsala exemplifies the development of Germantown in the decades after the American Revolution, and its story of community-based preservation efforts complement the family-oriented preservation of Cliveden.

This expanded mission offered Cliveden the opportunity to develop a greater strategic vision in the last two years, developing and approving a mission to engage the Germantown community in preservation and education efforts, and to bring the resources of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to bear in Philadelphia. This will mean new approaches to exhibits, school programs and public events, while also committing the organization's resources to enhancing the importance of the Germantown community, one of America's most significant neighborhoods. The National Trust has itself expanded its mission and activities into greater community engagement, to enhance the understanding of historic preservation as a tool for economic development.

Cliveden opens for tours April-December, Thursday –Sunday 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. and at all other time by special appointment. There is a staff of three full-time employees, four part-time employees, and four caretakers of the property. Cliveden has regular intern help, particularly in the areas of research, education and exhibit preparation. Education lessons and site tours reach 3,700 people each year, while public events (such as the Summer Jazz Festival and the battle reenactment which is the centerpiece of the Revolutionary Germantown Festival) bring in over 14,000 more. The audience is comprised of a diverse mix of ethnic groups, ages, and people from the Philadelphia region as well as a growing number of national and international visitors from all over who seek out the house for its architectural and historical importance. The number of people served by Cliveden over the last three years has grown 75%.

Cliveden of the National Trust has a prominent place in its community in many ways. Geographically, it rests on a hill between the Philadelphia neighborhoods of Mt. Airy and Germantown, not far from Chestnut Hill or the Wissahickon section of Fairmount Park. Cliveden plays a lead role in several collaborations, such as with the Historic Germantown Preserved consortium of 15 historic sites in the neighborhood; as such, Cliveden plays a lead role in preservation efforts for the Concord School and Upper Burying Ground. Cliveden's spacious grounds afford the opportunity for community festivals and concert events, such as Mt. Airy Day and the Northwest Jazz Festival. And Cliveden works closely with the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation, area community development corporations and other regional agencies active in the promotion of Germantown's diverse historic and cultural offerings. As the only National Trust for Historic Preservation site in Pennsylvania or New Jersey, Cliveden seeks to bring the new vision for the National Trust and for Cliveden into sharper focus for the good of the neighborhood, the community and the region.

## **Intern Project Description**

A summer internship at Cliveden will provide experience in many facets of non-profit management, particularly with regard to museum work. We envision the student intern at Cliveden to assist in three areas: general museum assistance at Cliveden (including tours, marketing, and assistance at Cliveden's summer events); assistance with Cliveden's collaborative partners in Germantown, including the Historic Germantown consortium and the Germantown Avenue Business Improvement District; and work on a specific project, in this case a program planning project, The Cliveden Freedom Project.

This community has fascinating history. In addition to Cliveden and Upsala, the Concord School is a fully outfitted 1775 historic school house with hundreds of historic artifacts, maps, and images to be catalogued and inventoried, and the Johnson House, a National Historic Landmark on the Underground Railroad, is a block down the street. Cliveden is the largest of 14 historic sites in the community and currently Cliveden's director serves as president of the Historic Germantown consortium and some of the assistance provided by the intern will involve assistance to the consortium of historic sites on marketing and coordinated program planning, such as for the July 4 event and preparations for school-year programs.

The specific project will involve the intern assisting with the coordination of the *Cliveden Freedom Project*. The project implements a grant-funded project that will bring together a blue-ribbon panel of scholars, teachers, community stakeholders, and museum professionals to plan effective programming involving the Chew slave papers. The family records of the Chew family involving their plantations include incredible research materials about 100 enslaved Africans in 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century Philadelphia, Delaware and Maryland. Not only will the research provide more specific information about daily life of slaves in the mid-Atlantic region, but it also reshapes our knowledge of the Underground Railroad as much earlier than commonly thought. Cliveden will use the project to examine how best to make use of these documents in exhibitions, programs, and student and teacher training to showcase the complex history of freedom in America encapsulated at one historic site.

A Summer Museum Internship at Cliveden of the National Trust will involve all three aspects of museum work: programming, collections, and public relations. Each aspect informs work in the other, and will provide a useful introduction to the professional world of museum work, historic house management, and public history in a remarkable neighborhood in Philadelphia.

### Project goals

- To provide student with an introduction to professional museum work through hands-on experience in three areas of museum work, exhibits and education, research and collections, and marketing.
- To provide student with an introduction to public history at a National Historic Landmark, one of 30 National Trust sites in the United States, and the only one in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland or Delaware.
- To support Cliveden's aims for research and education in ways which engage the community in the fulfillment of its updated mission.

### Areas of responsibility for student intern

- General Museum assistance, which will involve assisting with programs and operations, such as helping with tours or groups, and planning for special events (such as the public programs, summer camp, and Germantown's Fourth of July program) and promoting Cliveden's role in the neighborhood and work with its other historic sites.
- Project work. Project will take shape after visiting with student and a job description is crafted between student and the executive director of Cliveden. Intern will work with the project facilitator and is encouraged to share experiences on Cliveden's webblog and Cliveden's neighborhood history blog.

### Stages of the project include:

1. Training (2 weeks) -- Training in the basics of museum collections, history of the Cliveden, Upsala, Johnson House, Concord School, and Germantown; training in fundamentals of museum education and giving guided tours. Introduction to the project.
2. Project development (2 weeks) -- Definition of project within larger goals of student, organization, and collaborative programs. Will involve site visits to other places, research and information gathering in area archives and historic sites.
3. Museum work (3 weeks) -- This will involve working with the many events going on at Cliveden and Germantown.
4. Project coordination (3 weeks) -- There will be one, perhaps two meetings of the Cliveden Freedom Project planning team. Student intern will help project facilitator with coordination of the entire team with assistance on communications, providing materials, updates and follow-up.

### Special skills needed

Background in American history, interest in education or public speaking. Computer skills a plus. Good writing skills. Digital photography will be involved. Good social and interpersonal skills needed for the student will engage visitors and neighbors of a variety of ages. Student will need to have ability to work with a diverse audience and be flexible and team-oriented to work with a small staff. The student will come away with a meaningful experience in a diverse community, several discreet aspects of the project for his or her portfolio, and considerable professional experience working as a trusted member of a team.

The challenges to this project include travel to Philadelphia; though Cliveden is near regional rail, a car might be helpful. Research trips may also involve local travel. Working well under supervision of executive director will require ability to meet objectives set by Cliveden heritage education committee, including some on deadline. Hours will be during the week and may include some Saturdays or Sundays at special events (no more than one or two).

Supervision will be conducted by David W. Young, executive director of the Cliveden of the National Trust. Mr. Young also serves as president of Historic Germantown Preserved and vice-president of the Concord School Association. Prior to coming to Cliveden in January 2006, Mr. Young was executive director of Johnson House Historic Site and of the Salem County Historical Society in Southern New Jersey. He was director of education and community service at Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia History for 5 years. With a BA in German from Northwestern University, and an MA in History from Ohio State, Mr. Young is a former Fulbright scholar and has published on Germantown and abolitionist history, and has co-authored a children's book on the Declaration of Independence for Capstone Press. He is completing his dissertation on the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century Germantown and is due to graduate in June. Mr. Young has experience supervising an intern from the Hurford Humanities Center from his extremely positive experiences while director of Johnson House in 2005 and Cliveden in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Other staff members who will work with the student intern on this project include Anne Roller (BA, Temple), Deputy Director for Development; Phillip Seitz (MA, George Washington University) Curator of History at Cliveden; and Rick Fink, Education Director (MA, Temple).

Rewards for the student will include professional experience in a dynamic historic site on a project of local and national interest. The student will contribute to building a body of knowledge in a creative way in a collegial working environment.