

A GUIDELINE FOR HISTORIANS “THE COAST THAT BUILT THE NATION” VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES

The Project

A small number of short documentary films are being produced for an upcoming media project, “**The Coast That Built the Nation**”. These films are only a part of a larger endeavor that will use the U.S. 23 Heritage website, brochures, and visual media available on Smartphones to promote all the things to see and do in northeast Michigan. The role of these “mini documentaries” will be to chronicle the most *visually appealing* stories within Arenac, Iosco, Alcona, Alpena, Presque Isle, and Cheboygan counties – along the U.S. 23 Heritage Route.

Role of the Historian

Stories rich in history, local culture, and an area’s wildlife and natural beauty will be considered, so long as they have a *strong visual element*—what travelers can see and experience when they arrive in the area. Obviously, we need to be able to capture these elements on film, too. And *that* is the major goal of this guideline sheet: to help the historian define what we can put on film! **The checklist below is very important.** It will help you and the project’s historical team narrow down the scope of the video projects as we move forward.

Telling the Story

Tell us a good yarn, please, but make sure we can see it—if not in the landscape, then at the archives of a local museum, or in the voice of a reenactor in an historical costume. Local legends—even ghost stories—are being considered, so long as they have historical significance (nothing cheesy). Stories about current culture and lore, archeology, ghost towns, and natural scenic wonders must be able to inspire the northeast Michigan traveler. Cultural stories ranging from the American Indian to the settlers, *voyageurs*, lumberjacks and pioneers are equally significant, even cultures that exist in present-day. Poignant stories about local wildlife and captivating scenic wonders (man-made and natural) will share the stage with the human stories of northeast Michigan.

Our Goals

The “mini documentaries” must meet a certain visual criteria that are entirely separate from the historical worthiness of the story you might have in mind. Stories and events that do not lend themselves to this media form will be considered for narrative descriptions on the website, accompanied with photographs. Our goal is to make sure visitors explore all of the stories, not just the short films.

We are here to promote northeast Michigan. There are stories here that have yet to be told. This project is unprecedented in its scope and as we reach out to the people who have spent years in painstaking research, collecting facts and artifacts—you, the historians—we hope to tap into a resource that will enlighten the northeast Michigan traveler for years to come.

NOTE: Please submit one completed sheet for each story.

TEAM HISTORIAN’S CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ASSOCIATION or AFFILIATION: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

STORY: HISTORICAL, CULTURAL ASSET, LANDMARK, OR NATURAL FEATURE

Name: _____

COUNTY: Arenac Iosco Alcona Alpena Presque Isle Cheboygan

Location to nearest Town/City : _____

THEMES: (Please indicate the theme of landmark, asset, and/or natural feature)

- Shipwreck / Maritime History Geological Feature (Ancient Formation)
- Indian (Native American Heritage) Lumbering Era
- Art & Culture Legends/Lore
- Unique Family Attraction Natural Resources (environmental, eco-tourism)
- Other, please list: _____

Description: _____

RESOURCES

Historians should provide contacts information for, or supply the following information for story development and filming. Check any box that applies in each category. Please submit additional resource contact information, where applicable, including phone numbers and email addresses.

Story Summary (written or compiled by historian)

- Word file
- Printed Copy
- Audio CDs
- Contact List of Subject Experts –phones, email, etc.**

Name/phone/email: _____

Subject Experts (Scholars) Availability

- On-camera Talent (Interviews)
- Off-camera Interviews (audio recording or research-only)
- Contact List for Interview Subjects**

Name/phone/email: _____

Archives

- Archive Stills (Prints and Photographs)
- Archive Stills (Prints and Photographs in Digital Form as JPEG files)
- Archive Movies (Super 8mm, 16mm, videotape)
- Newspaper Clippings
- Paintings (state format – i.e. digital photo or original)
- Drawings/Etchings (state format)
- Carvings
- Artifacts (available for filming in situ)
- Audio CDs or WAV files (music, speeches)
- Contact Lists for Archive Material**

Name/phone/email: _____

Sites

- Access to Museum Collections (for filming)
- Archaeological Dig Sites (available to public)
- Archaeological Dig Sites (not available to public, available for filming)
- Public Access to Sites (sites filmed must be also available to public)
- Access to Sites Availability (public access not available, but available to film crew with special permissions)
- Historical Building Interiors
- Historical Building Exteriors
- Kiosks & Signs
- Contact Lists for Sites Personnel**

Name/phone/email: _____

NOTE: It is important to provide accompanying contact list information for all materials. Filmmakers must have permission to use materials. THANK YOU!

CONTACT INFORMATION for ADDITIONAL RESOURCE PERSONS

NAME	AREA OF INTEREST	PHONE	E-MAIL