



# LancasterHistory

## Wheatland Historic Site Internship Description Summer 2025

**Statement of Purpose:** LancasterHistory is a community-based, not-for-profit organization established to educate the public on the history of Lancaster County and its place in the history of Pennsylvania and the United States, to advance the missions of regional historical organizations, and to promote the acquisition, preservation, and interpretation of resources representing the history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania within the broader context of state and national history, including the life and legacy of America's fifteenth president, James Buchanan, and to preserve and maintain Wheatland, his home.

**Mission Statement:** LancasterHistory exists to engage and educate the public about the people, places, and events that shaped Lancaster County within the broader context of the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America. As custodians of a complex past, we collect, preserve, exhibit, and make accessible materials chronicling Lancaster County's heritage as we seek to engage audiences in multi-layered stories of that past.

**History Interpretation and Operations:** President James Buchanan's Wheatland, is comprised of three 1828 structures that includes the mansion residence, the smoke/ice house and the privy. Buchanan owned Wheatland from 1848 until his death in 1868. These twenty-years define the primary interpretive period, which includes three sub-set eras: (1) *Buchanan's Semi-Retirement from Public Life; April 1849 - 6 August 1853.* (2) *The Presidential Campaign; 27 April 1856 - 2 March 1857.* (3) *Buchanan's Final Retirement; 6 March 1861 - 1 June 1868.* The site's historic objects' connection with interpretation are described in the Wheatland Furnishing Plan. The Plan employs historic evidence to inform the appearance of the mansion's interior spaces. Approximately 47% of the objects have Buchanan provenance; these are complemented by period artifacts to complete the 20 year story of James Buchanan's life at the Wheatland farm.

**Intern Supervision:** The Intern will report to the Director of President James Buchanan's Wheatland. Additionally, the Intern will work closely with Wheatland's Historic Site Administrator.

### Duties:

- The Wheatland Intern will participate in an intensive ten-day interpretive training and be scheduled to serve as an interpretive tour guide for the duration of the internship.
- The Wheatland Intern will receive training in historic site daily operations that will include, but not be limited to coordination of tour guide schedules, assistance for ADA visitors and care of the historic collection.
- With the approval of the Director of President James Buchanan's Wheatland, the Wheatland Intern will identify a Buchanan/Wheatland topic, issue or subject to research, create a script and record a YouTube video LancasterHistory's "*Wheatland in Detail*" online programming.

### Qualifications and Skills:

- Interest in historic site interpretation, material culture and museum operations.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively.
- Ability to organize and prioritize personal duties.
- Proven ability and experience conducting primary and secondary research.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Realize an appreciation for material culture and the work of museum professionals.
- Understand the range of professional skills and proficiencies required to work within a historic house museum.
- Demonstrate familiarity with accepted standards and best practices for primary and secondary research.
- Demonstrate skills to refine research into an educational storyline and lesson.
- Appreciate the importance of communication and working in a collaborative work environment in order to achieve a positive outcome.

### Time Commitment:

- Monday through Thursday, 10am to 4pm with a 30-minute lunch break.
- 8-week position beginning on June 2, 2025 and ending on July 24, 2025.
- At the discretion of the supervisor, dates and hours may have flexibility as long as the total commitment is met.

### Applying For Internship:

Interested internship candidates should complete the application form found here:

<https://www.lancasterhistory.org/learn/internships/summer-internship-program/application/>

Interested candidates should also supply **one** professional or academic letter of recommendation.

Recommenders can email their letter to Patrick Clarke, Director of President James Buchanan's Wheatland: [Patrick.Clarke@lancasterhistory.org](mailto:Patrick.Clarke@lancasterhistory.org).