

UNIACKE ESTATE MUSEUM PARK

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To present, through an appreciation of the home, furnishings and estate of Richard John Uniacke, the life and times of a landed gentleman and his family in early 19th century colonial Nova Scotia.
- » To tell the story of Richard John Uniacke and his key role in the political history of the province (as member and Speaker of the House of Assembly, Attorney General and member of the Legislative Council) prior to the arrival of Responsible Government in the 1840s.
- » To encourage exploration, appreciation and understanding of the natural environment of the Uniacke Estate by maintaining and promoting the 12 km trail system, and printing pamphlets and guides and presenting programs on natural history topics.

PROPOSED CONTENT

*Note: Topics are drawn from the NS Interpretive Master Plan Content Framework.

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

B. EVOLVING

B.4 Migration, Outmigration, Exodus

- Early 19th Century Immigration: Who came to Nova Scotia and why?

C. EXPLOITING

C.2 Resource Development

- Agriculture
- Forestry

C.5 Transportation

- Roads/Vehicles: History and use of the Windsor to Halifax road.

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Gender Roles and Home Life
- Childhood Experiences

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

A. FORMING

A.5 Biodiversity

- Ecosystem Diversity: Use trail system and lake to explore natural history content.

B. EVOLVING

B.1 Vegetation

- Diversity of Plant Life

B.2 Birds, Fish, and Animals

- Bird and Fish Environments & Habitats
- Diversity of Birds and Fish: Inland, Coast, Sea
- Mammal Environments & Habitats
- Diversity of Mammals

B.7 Understanding Our World

- Archaeology: What more should be done? Explain what has been done.
- Amateur Inquiry and Collecting: Uniacke fiddled with scientific instruments and had an intellectual curiosity common in his social circle.

D. RELATING

D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia

- European: Irish immigration.

D.2 Governance and Politics

- British Colonial Government: Uniacke's political life provides a unique opportunity to deal with this subject in greater depth.
- Responsible Government: Reaction to the oligarchy represented by Uniacke and his companions.

D.7 Social Equality

- Privilege/Social Circles: Home entertaining.

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Food on the Table

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Architecture
- Folklore and Celebrations
- Clothing and Costume
- Heritage Preservation

E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Justice

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

A. FORMING

A.2 Making Landscapes

- Glaciers, Deposits, and Erosion: Glaciated landscape.
- Rivers and Lakes

B. EVOLVING

B.5 Response to Place

- Building Technologies/Materials

D. RELATING

D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia

- Indigenous

D.5 Education

- Higher Education
- Lifelong & Informal Learning

D.6 Religion and Spirituality

- 'Non-Conformity'

D.7 Social Equality

- Class

E. LIVING

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Landscapes/Gardens: English landscape garden traditions of the period helped determine where Uniacke sited and built house.
- Fine/Folk Art

E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Fraternal Organizations

CONCLUSIONS

The context of Uniacke's social and political life can be expanded. Explore the landscape and its natural history, as well as the evolution of the estate as an experimental farm. Although not noted as new content to develop, the topic "European/Mi'kmaq contact" (part of B.3 Exploring & Settling the Unknown) is an important talking point that should be addressed at this site.