

The Public Historian

*Sponsored by the National Council on Public History
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The Public Historian

Editorial Policy

The Public Historian, a quarterly journal sponsored by the National Council on Public History and published by the University of California Press, is the voice of the public history movement. It emphasizes original research, fresh conceptualization, and new viewpoints. The journal's contents reflect the considerable diversity of approaches to the definition and practice of public history.

The Public Historian provides practicing professionals and others the opportunity to report the results of research and case studies and to address the broad substantive and theoretical issues inherent in the practice of public history. The journal aims to provide a comprehensive look at the field, publishing articles from the following sectors, among others:

- Public Policy and Policy Analysis
- Corporate Biography and Information Services
- Federal, State, and Local History
- Oral History
- Archival, Manuscript, and Records Management
- Historic Preservation
- Museum and Historic Site Administration
- Cultural Resources Management
- Litigation Support and Expert Witnessing
- Planning
- Historical Editing, Publishing, and Media

The Public Historian publishes a variety of article types: research articles, essays, and reports from the field. Research articles deal with specific, often comparatively framed, public historical issues. They are based on documentary or oral historical research; in some cases, however, findings from interviews, surveys, or participant observation may supplement historical source materials. These articles should be no more than thirty pages, including footnotes. Essays are reflective commentaries on topics of interest to public historians. Their length varies, but they are ordinarily no longer than twenty-five pages. Reports from the field are intended to convey the real-world work of public historians by highlighting specific projects or activities in which the author is directly involved; these articles may describe new or ongoing projects, introduce or assess new methodologies, or bring in-the-field dilemmas (methodological, ethical, and historical) into print. Reports from the field should be no more than fifteen pages and may include footnotes to relevant material.

In its review section, *The Public Historian* assesses current publications by and of interest to public historians, including government publications, cultural resources management reports, and corporate histories, as well as selected scholarly press publications. The journal also reviews films and videos, digital and electronic media productions, exhibits, performances, and archival and manuscript collections.

The editors welcome the submission of manuscripts by all those interested in the theory, teaching, and practice of public history, both in the United States and abroad. We are looking for manuscripts which make a significant contribution to the definition, understanding, and/or professional and intellectual progress of the field of public history. We conceive of the term *public history* broadly, as involving historical research, analysis, and presentation, with some degree of explicit application to the needs of contemporary life.

Research articles, essays, and reports from the field are subject to blind peer review, and revisions will be suggested, if necessary, before the editors will accept an article for publication.

In general, only manuscripts not previously published will be accepted. Authors must agree not to publish elsewhere, without explicit written consent, an article accepted for publication in *The Public Historian*. We do not accept unsolicited reviews or essays.

We welcome letters to the editor that expand the discussion of topics covered in the journal. If a letter specifically concerns an article or review published in *TPH*, the author or reviewer will be invited to respond. Letters responding to reviews may not exceed 250 words; letters responding to articles may not exceed 750 words. The editors reserve the right to refuse to publish any letter whose tone or content is inconsistent with the conventional standards of scholarly discourse expected in a historical journal.

Editorial Offices:

Randolph Bergstrom, Editor
Lindsey Reed, Managing Editor
Lee M. A. Simpson, Review Editor

Department of History
University of California
Santa Barbara, California 93106
Telephone: 805/893-3667
Fax: 805/893-7522
E-mail: LREED@history.ucsb.edu