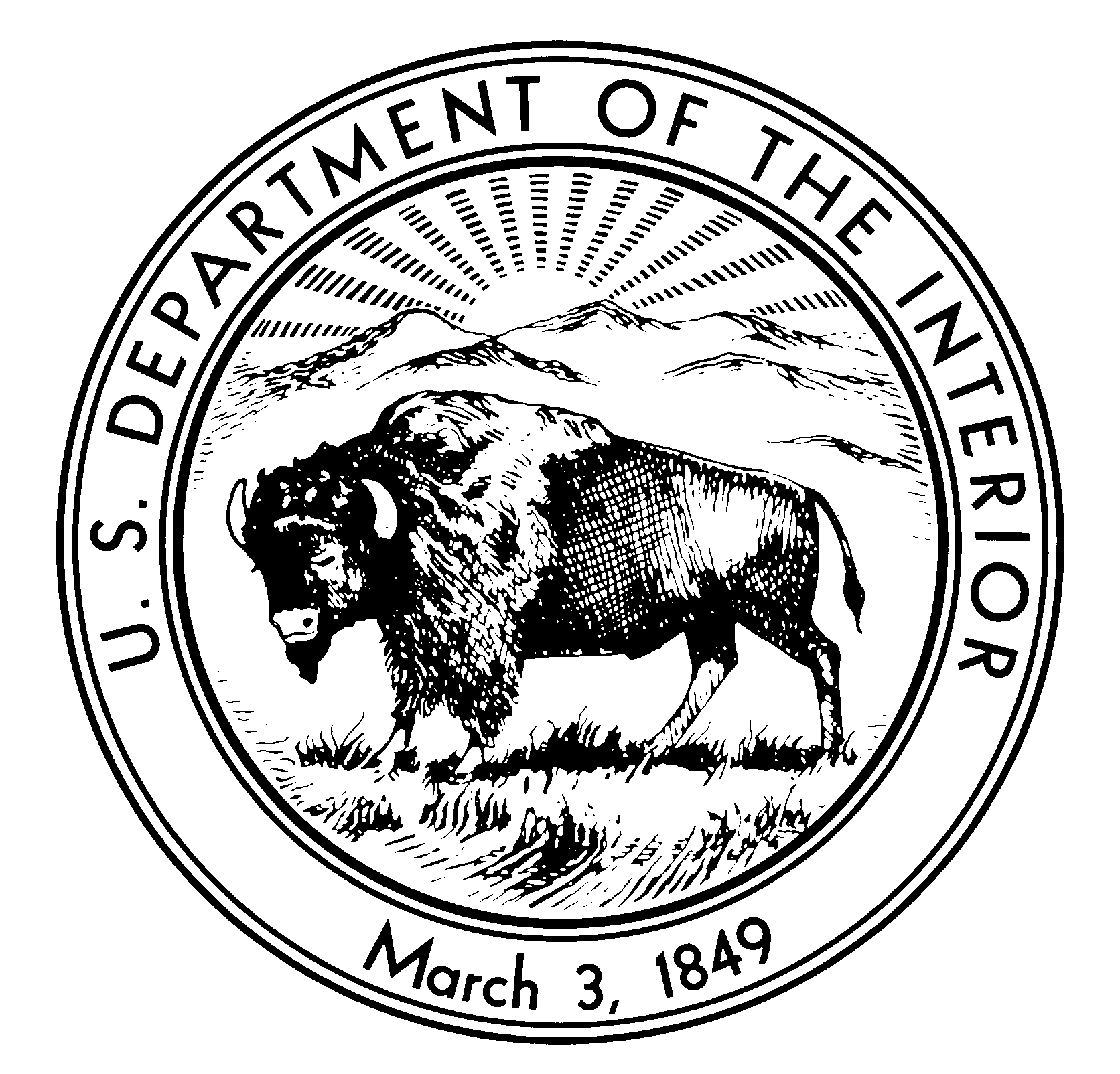
United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Northeast Region

15 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

**North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (NA CESU)**

**And Roger Williams National Memorial**

**Letter of Research Interest (LOI)**

**Title: Completion of National Register Documentation for Roger Williams National Memorial**

Roger Williams National Park Service (the Park), with the support of the Northeast Region History Program, has identified the needed to complete National Register of Historic Places (National Register) documentation and is seeking a researcher(s) to inventory, evaluate, and register the park’s resources in all appropriate historic contexts. The project will produce National Register documentation which evaluates all Park resources according to National Register criteria for significance and integrity. [A detailed Scope of Work is attached to this announcement.]

Roger Williams National Memorial is a small urban park (4.58 acres), established by Congress to commemorate Williams, the founder of Rhode Island, and significant contributions to the principles of individual freedom in the United States. The Park is located at 282 North Main Street, at the foot of College Hill in downtown Providence. Williams arrived in what he called Providence in 1636, after banishment from the Massachusetts Bay Colony on charges of sedition and heresy. Williams was attracted to an area within the homelands of the Narragansett peoples by the presence of a fresh-water spring, and laid out a settlement where the principles of religious freedom were ensured for citizens through the principles of separation of church and state and majoritarian democracy. Williams built his house across the street from the spring and lived there on and off until his death in 1683.

During the subsequent four centuries, the spring—later described as a symbolic wellspring of both Rhode Island and the concept of religious freedom in the United States—became hidden by urban development. The spring was revealed in the early twentieth century and was enshrined within Roger Williams National Memorial, which was designated in 1965 and was substantially completed in 1982. Although mostly a contemporary resource, the park, with its winding paths, open lawns, and groves of trees, includes an early twentieth-century municipal memorial to Roger Williams and the founding of Providence. It also includes the eighteenth-century Antram-Gray House, which was moved 40 feet south onto the empty lot, cleared as an urban renewal project in 1974.The Antram-Gray House houses a visitor center with exhibits, a film, and a bookstore, as well as administrative offices.

**Nature of Work Required**

The Park expects that:

1. Interested researcher(s), including a Principal Investigator and key team members, must meet the requirements specified in 36 CFR Appendix A, Professional Qualification Standards and the intent of Section 112 (a)(1)(of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as Amended through 1992 <https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/nhpa1966.htm>.
2. The selected researcher(s) will prepare National Register documentation for Roger Williams National Memorial located in Providence County, Rhode Island in accordance with current standards and scholarship and takes into account the full extent of the park’s resources and history.
3. The researcher(s) will prepare new documentation that evaluates all Park resources as part of the district, whether they relate to the primary significance of Roger Williams National Memorial or independently meet National Register criteria.
4. The completed documentation will fulfill all National Register technical requirements, as outlined in technical bulletins and in the attached Scope of Work and project agreement.

The National Park Service’s substantial involvement in the project includes collaboration in completion of a detailed Scope of Work; assistance in identifying relevant primary and secondary sources and existing inventory data; substantive review of all research products; and, submission of completed National Register documentation for review and certification by all applicable state and federal authorities.

**Products**

The products from this project is completed National Register documentation for Roger Williams National Memorial.

**Funds Available**

Available project funding is $25,000, inclusive of the negotiated CESU overhead rate of 17.5 percent. The project will be funded by the National Park Service. Only universities within the CESU network are eligible to apply.

**Letters of Interest**

A Letter of Interest (Letter) should be sent to the addresses located in the “contact” section. LOI’s will be reviewed by a panel. The panel will select will select the top candidate(s) who will be asked to provide and submit a full proposal detailing the work to done, providing and describing the methodology and research design, and outlining a schedule of deliverables.

The Letter should describe your research interest(s) in the projects, past projects that are similar in topic and/or form, and any relevant experience in completing ethnographic projects. Please include your name, affiliated organization(s), and contact information. The Letter should be limited to two pages of text.

**Project Timeframe**

Interested researcher(s) should submit a Letter of Interest by May 18, 2016. [Please note that the selected researcher(s) will need to work closely with the Park and the Northeast History Program to complete a draft project agreement, including budget, for review by June 6, 2016.]

**Contact**

Letters of Interest should be directed before the closing date to Bethany Serafine ([bethany\_serafine@nps.gov](mailto:bethany_serafine@nps.gov)). Please address any comments or questions to Serafine by email or phone (802-457-3368 x 250).