

A black and white photograph of a mummy and a man in a museum setting. The mummy is on the left, leaning over a desk. The man is on the right, sitting at the desk and looking up. The background shows museum shelves with various objects.

Managing The Afterlife Of A Collection

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 10:45 AM -12:15 PM
New England Museum Association Conference**

MODERATOR

Laura Nemmers

Museum Collections Consultant

Gainesville, FL

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PANELISTS

Madeline Sweeney

Registrar

Vero Beach Museum of Art

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Stephanie Hebert

Collection Manager

Historic New England

Haverhill, MA

Laura Marion

Collections Manager

Governor's House Library

University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries

St. Augustine, FL

Casey Wooster, M.F.A.

Collections Assistant

Governor's House Library

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge we are presenting virtually from Florida and Massachusetts on land which have been continually inhabited by Indigenous peoples for the past 12,000 years. We remember that our regions are deeply tied to the colonial systems that claimed an uncounted number of Indigenous people and cultures in the creation and in the continuation of our nation. By offering this acknowledgement we seek to pay our respects to the memories of those whose lives were lost, to celebrate the vibrant living culture of Indigenous people today, and to affirm the importance of Native Sovereignty and truth telling as we move forward.

BACKGROUND

University Museums

Florida Tech
Melbourne, FL

Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts

- 2006 - Founder, Ruth Funk, opens gallery on Florida Tech campus
- 2009 - Purpose built Textile Museum opens on Florida Tech campus
- 2020 - University Board votes to close the Museum due to the economic fallout of COVID-19 pandemic



BACKGROUND

University Museums

Florida Tech
Melbourne, FL

Foosaner Art Museum

- 1978 - Brevard Art Center and Museum Inc. opens
- 2011 - Museum merges with Florida Tech
- 2018 - University Board votes to close the Museum July 2021



COLLECTIONS

University Museums

Florida Tech
Melbourne, FL

Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts

- 1600 objects
- Global textile collection

Foosaner Art Museum

- 5000 objects
- General art collection



CONTINUING THE STORY

University Museums

Florida Tech
Melbourne, FL

Collection

The majority of objects and non-collection materials from both Museums transferred to the Appleton Museum of Art at the College of Central Florida in Ocala, FL.



AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM

Lowell, MA

BACKGROUND

1960

- Caroline Stevens Rogers founded Merrimack Valley Textile Museum in North Andover, MA

1996-1997

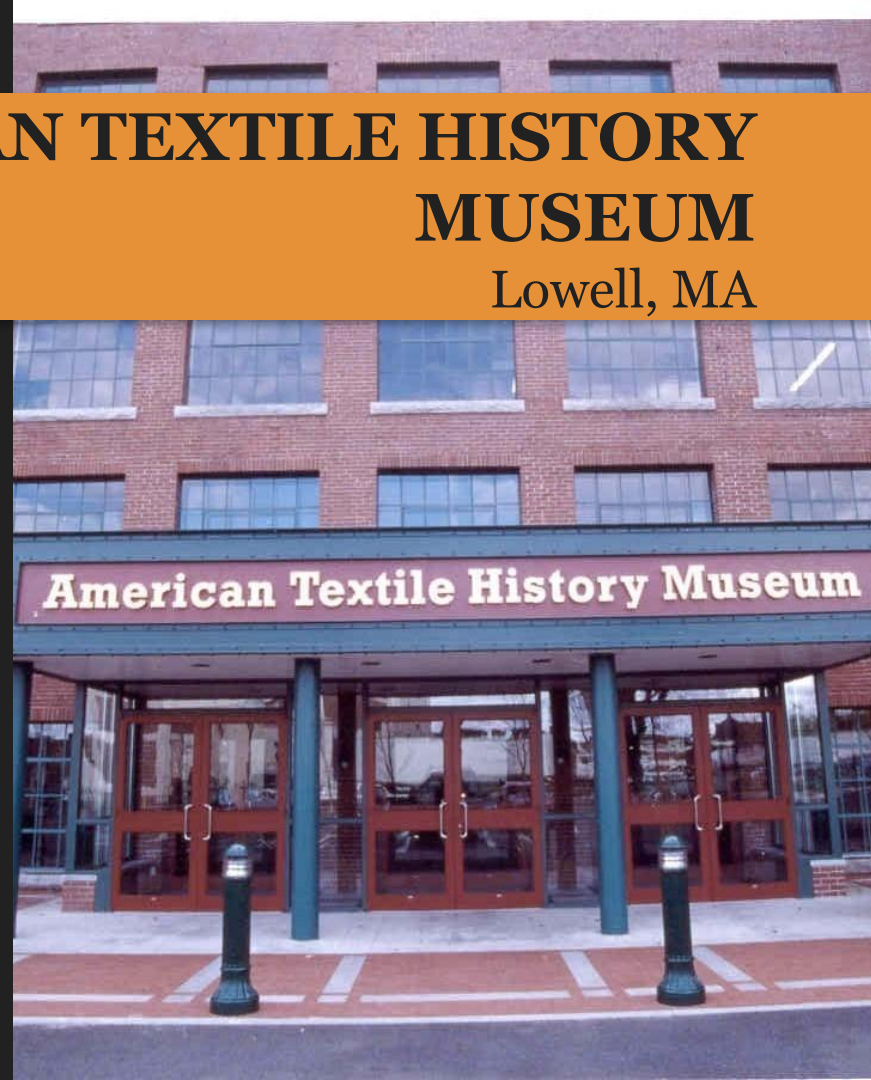
- Costume collection established and ATHM moved to Kitson building in Lowell, MA

2006

- Organizational restructuring began - part of building sold and became mixed-use space

2015-2018

- BoT sought strategic partnerships and major fundraising to protect core collection and mission
- In 2016, BoT voted to close ATHM's doors and staff dispersed collections through early 2018



AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM

Lowell, MA

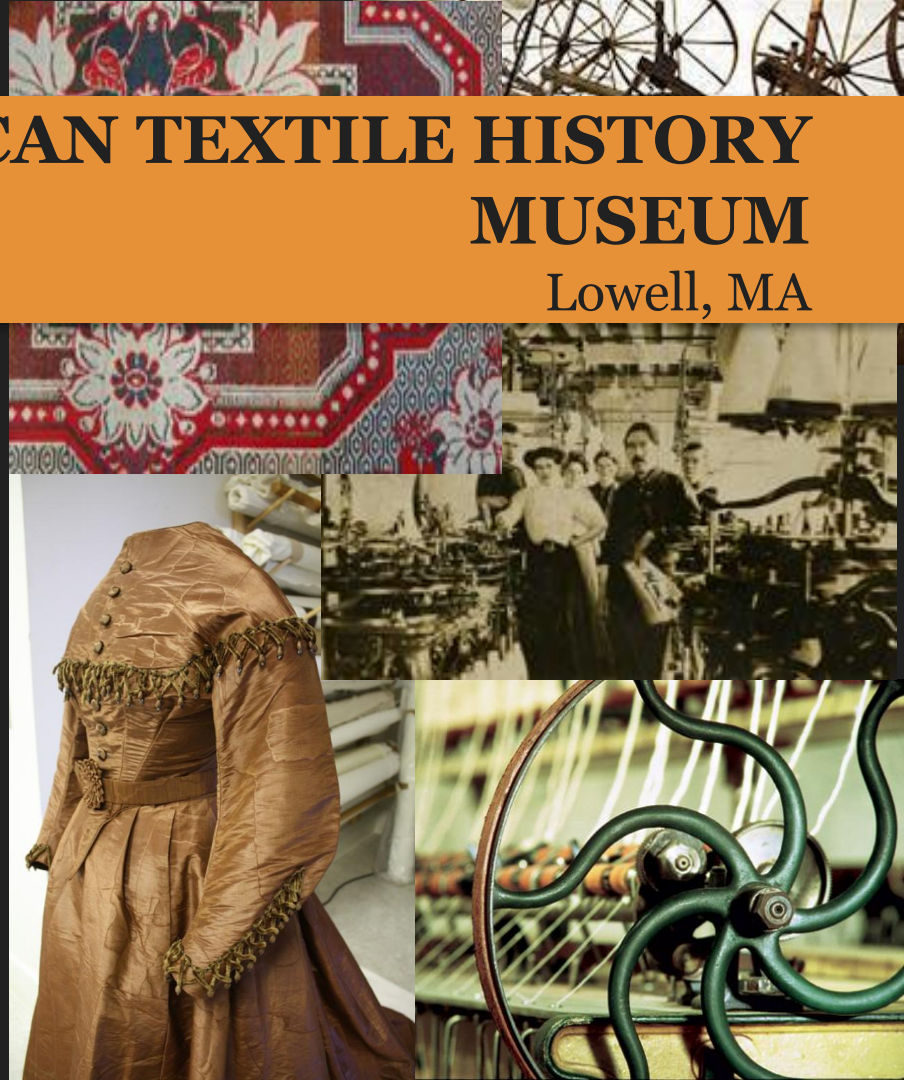
COLLECTIONS

ARTIFACT COLLECTION: 17,000+

- TEXTILES: 3,000
- SAMPLES: 3,700+ (individual swatches number in the millions)
- COSTUME: 6,000
- TOOLS & MACHINERY: 4,000
- DECORATIVE ARTS: 400

OSBORNE LIBRARY: 90,000+

- BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, GOV'T DOCS: 30,000
- PHOTOGRAPHS & PRINTS: 47,000
- MANUSCRIPTS: 8,500 linear feet comprised of 1,100+ separate collections



CONTINUING THE STORY

AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM

Lowell, MA

**COLLECTIONS ARE NOW HOUSED IN APPROX. 150
INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE U.S.**

- **OSBORNE LIBRARY:** the bulk went to Cornell University in Ithaca, NY
- **COSTUME:** the bulk went to The Henry Ford in Dearborn, MI
- **INDUSTRIAL TOOLS & MACHINERY:** the bulk went to Randolph Heritage Conservancy in Franklinville, NC
- **REMAINING FINANCIAL ASSETS:** pots of money earmarked for many recipient institutions to support the processing and integration of ATHMs collections into their own



GOVERNOR'S HOUSE LIBRARY

UF George A. Smathers Libraries

St. Augustine, FL



GOVERNOR'S HOUSE LIBRARY

UF George A. Smathers Libraries
St. Augustine, FL

BACKGROUND

1959 - 1997

HISTORIC ST. AUGUSTINE PRESERVATION BOARD

- Acquire, restore, & reconstruct 30+ properties
- Managed museum village - San Agustin Antigua
- Abolished by the Sundown Act

1997 - 2010

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

- Took over properties & library

2010 - today

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (UF)

- UF George A. Smathers Libraries became steward of library
- UFHSA became steward of properties



GOVERNOR'S HOUSE LIBRARY

UF George A. Smathers Libraries
St. Augustine, FL

COLLECTIONS

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

104 linear feet of archival material

MAPS

800+ maps

DESIGN RECORDS

Approx. 400 blueprints

PHOTOGRAPHS

Nearly 28,000 prints, negatives, & slides

MUSEUM ARTIFACTS

1,567 museum artifacts



CONTINUING THE STORY

WEBSITE

govhouse.uflib.ufl.edu

INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK

[@govhouselibrary](#)

WORDPRESS

governorshouselibrary.wordpress.com

UF DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

ufdc.ufl.edu/hsa1

GOVERNOR'S HOUSE LIBRARY

UF George A. Smathers Libraries
St. Augustine, FL



QUESTIONS?



“Seance at von Erhardt's -
Table in the air”
[1909]
Courtesy of the
Library of Congress

653-8
SEANCE AT VON ERHARDT'S - TABLE IN AIR

CONTACT INFO

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