



# Old Fort Western

Old Fort Western Fund  
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## News from Old Fort Western

For immediate release

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### Old Fort Western receives grant from the Odiorne Fund

Old Fort Western, the National Historic Landmark fort, store, and house museum on the riverfront in downtown Augusta, has received a \$9,290 grant from the Maine State Archives' Odiorne Fund. The money will be used to catalog, analyze, and interpret the Fort's 19th-century archaeological collection.

The Odiorne Fund seeks to better inform our understanding of the past in part by linking the findings from archaeological excavations with information from documentary and other historical sources.

"We are extremely grateful to the Maine State Archives for this generous and timely support," said Fort director and curator, Jay Adams. "It is fairly easy to find funding to undertake new archaeological investigations. It is harder to attract assistance for cataloging and interpreting the objects collected as a result of those investigations. Thanks to the Odiorne Fund, we will soon be able to share with the public artifacts and stories that have been in storage for 25 years."

Rick Morris, of In-Depth Archaeology in Lewiston, has been selected as project archaeologist. He is currently creating a catalog of the estimated 10,500 19th-century objects recovered from excavations at the Fort between 1974 and 1983. His full report is due by mid-summer.

Old Fort Western's new Nineteenth Century Initiative seeks to fill in gaps in our knowledge of Fort and community history from 1840 and 1920, during which period the main house as it is known was converted from a three-family dwelling to an eight apartment tenement. Of particular related interest is the theme of immigration, its consequences for and contributions to life in Augusta at what was a time of rapid, sweeping change.

Please go to <http://maine.gov/sos/arc/> for more about the Maine State Archives, including its grant programs, on-line records, and new on-line store. See [www.oldfortwestern.org](http://www.oldfortwestern.org) for more about Old Fort Western.



*Protecting, Preserving and Interpreting the National Historic Landmark Fort, Store and House  
on the Kennebec River in Augusta, Maine's Capital City*

Old Fort Western participates in the Time Travelers and Collette Vacations World Connect membership benefit programs