

A Century of Change



VICTORIA MANSION
EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

WHY SHOULD MY CLASS VISIT VICTORIA MANSION?

Victoria Mansion is widely recognized as one of the highlights of 19th century architecture and interior design in America, but there is so much more that it can offer students than just being an “important” historic site. The Mansion was constructed at an exciting time in American history, on the eve of the Civil War when technological developments were happening more rapidly than ever before and the world was becoming smaller thanks to advances in communication, transportation, and education.

Having been built as a summer home for a man who spent most of his time in luxury hotels, the Mansion incorporated the best of everything. Inside are examples of art, literature, technology, connections to the political climate of the time, and glimpses of what life was like for privileged classes in the mid-19th century. The story doesn't stop there, however, and Victoria Mansion can just as easily be used to tell the story of those who worked in and who labored to build this grand summer home, and what was going on both inside and outside its walls.



Danforth and Park Streets.—Residence of Ruggles S. Morse.

Cover images:

Commercial Street, from *Portland and Vicinity* by Edward H Elwell, 1881.

Above Commercial Street, Night, July 2015. Photo courtesy of Corey Templeton.

IS A CENTURY OF CHANGE A MUSEUM TOUR?

Yes and No. *A Century of Change* is an interdisciplinary program designed to draw deep and meaningful connections between classroom and field trip experiences for elementary and middle school students. Using Greater Portland and Victoria Mansion as concrete examples of the themes covered, students are given multi-part lessons on one of eight topics, selected by the teacher. At each stage of this interactive program, the teacher-selected theme is emphasized, helping students retain the information provided to them and to make connections between the classroom, the museum, and their own lives. These lessons help to bridge the gap between the Colonial era and the 21st century by focusing on a specific site and the factors that contributed to its creation, as well as making clear connections between the past and present.

Each unit has a primary subject area (social studies, language arts, science, visual arts) but all span many topics and are truly interdisciplinary. Units are based on:

Etiquette	Brownstone
Symbolism	Immigration
Technology	Portraiture
Architecture	Travel and Transportation

While there is an emphasis on Greater Portland (stronger in some lessons than in others), this program is in no way meant to be exclusive for Portland students and all lessons can easily be adapted to be applicable to other communities.



While striving to meet the needs of classroom teachers, we have taken into consideration standards put in place as part of the Common Core, as well as other educational parameters recognized by the state of Maine. For a list of which requirements are met by each lesson or with any questions regarding the sources we have used to determine these, please send an email to shanscom@victoriamansion.org with the subject heading "standards."

HOW MUCH DOES A VISIT COST?

Victoria Mansion strives to be accessible to all schools regardless of economic circumstances. Thanks to generous underwriting support, at this time we are able to offer classroom presentations and Mansion visits **FREE OF CHARGE** for Cumberland County students, teachers, and one-on-one aides during the school tour season, February 15th through April 30th.*

For classes interested in a classroom presentation and extension activities only, lessons are \$40 per class plus mileage reimbursement for the Educator.**

If you are outside of Cumberland County, fee structures would be on a case-by-case basis. Please Contact the Director of Education to discuss options.

*Because of space limitations, additional chaperones may attend the visit to the Mansion at our group rate of \$12 per person.

**Mileage reimbursement for the Mansion educators based on the IRS standard mileage rate.



Contact:

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HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

All eight units begin with a:

CLASSROOM PRESENTATION

Discussion conducted by a Victoria Mansion educator

Approximately 45-55 minutes or one class period

Includes interactive/creative activity for class and teacher to complete

FOR ALL UNITS TEACHERS ARE ALSO GIVEN:

- Classroom Extension Activities provided by Victoria Mansion to the classroom teacher to be done following the tour of the Mansion.
- Activities related to the unit theme and vary based on topic.
- A unit-specific vocabulary list at the beginning of the program.

*Depending on the unit, lessons fall into two categories
during the Mansion-part of the visit:*

MULTI-STATION UNITS:

(SYMBOLISM, TECHNOLOGY, & ETIQUETTE)

During an integrated lesson led by Victoria Mansion guides and tailored specifically to the chosen unit, students will move around the Mansion to various “stations” where they learn about the theme and have a chance to draw or write about the house and the topic. This is a very interactive program, with examples of hands-on items available and lots of discussion encouraged.

ON-SITE ACTIVITY UNITS:

(IMMIGRATION, PORTRAITURE, TRANSPORTATION, ARCHITECTURE, & BROWNSTONE)

A Tour of Victoria Mansion

Led by a Victoria Mansion guide and tailored specifically to the unit, these units offer a more traditional tour, with a great deal of discussion between guides and students.

and

An On-Site Activity

Facilitated by a Victoria Mansion educator, the on-site activity offers direct tie-ins to the classroom presentation and is an engaging lesson that allows for creativity, curiosity, and exploration of the selected theme.

The following pages offer a more detailed description of each of the lessons, beginning with the Multi-Station Units, then the On-Site Activity Units.

MANNER MATTERS

(Etiquette)

CLASSROOM LESSON

Students explore the differences between proper manners in Colonial, Victorian, and contemporary America using examples from published etiquette books, artistic representations, and diaries. Discussion also focuses on why certain manners evolved to what they were and are still today, and how that can vary with different cultures. Time permitting, there will be a creative activity following the presentation.

EXTENSION

Use excerpts from Mansion resident Mary Louise Chamberlain's diaries and publications to compare and contrast Victorian and contemporary manners.

SAMPLE VOCABULARY

etiquette, behavior, culture



Detail, *Dinner at Haddo House*, Alfred Edward Emslie, 1884



COLORS AND IMAGES: WHAT DO THEY SAY?

(Symbolism)

CLASSROOM LESSON

Using historical and contemporary symbols, students discuss significance attributed to images. The relationships between pictures and meanings are explored in order to help students decode images and gather information from objects as they would from documents. The visit to Victoria Mansion demonstrates the way that meaning can be gathered from visual cues and prompts students to look deeply at what is in front of them to understand both the people who lived in the house and the era in which it was created. Time permitting, there will be a creative activity following the presentation.

EXTENSION

Research several state seals/flags and decode the images.

SAMPLE VOCABULARY

represent, niche, illiterate



Columbia, Victoria Mansion, ca. 1860

INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS OF THE VICTORIAN AGE

(Technology)

CLASSROOM LESSON

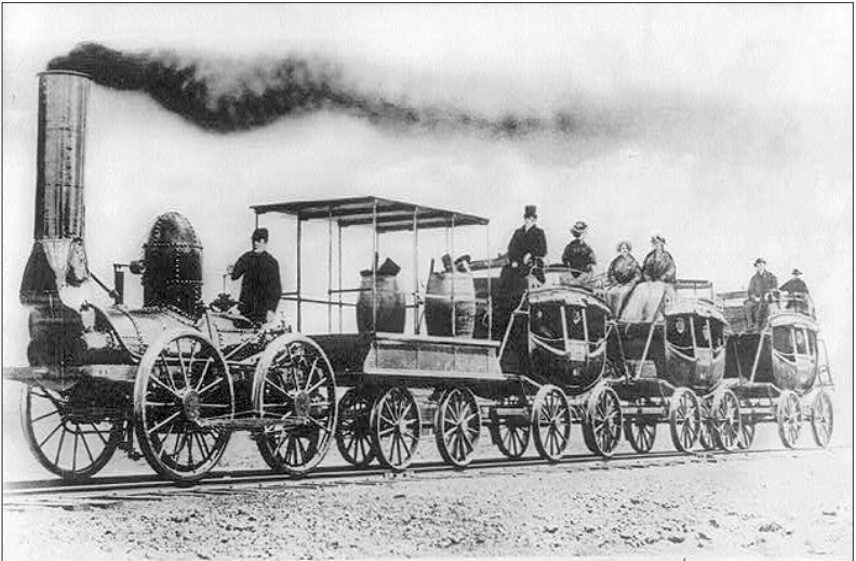
Victoria Mansion, completed in 1860, was equipped with the most advanced technology available. Looking at the “luxury” technologies included in the Mansion, students learn about the rapid advances taking place in technology in the mid-nineteenth century. Connections are drawn to show how these changes continue to influence the way we live today. Time permitting, there will be a creative activity following the presentation.

EXTENSION

Students explore the evolution of common technology.

SAMPLE VOCABULARY

cistern, ducts, piston



DeWitt Clinton Locomotive, This reproduction of the original was created in 1893.

GABLES, CORNICES, AND QUOINS

(Architecture)

CLASSROOM LESSON

An exploration of the historic architectural styles most common in Maine, this unit teaches students where their familiar landscape fits in a broader context based on politics, immigration, fashion, and engineering. Time permitting, there will be a creative activity following the presentation.

ON-SITE ACTIVITY

Architectural walking tour of the Victoria Mansion neighborhood. (This lesson is best used during the later spring, due to the outdoor nature of the activity.)

EXTENSION

Spot the style inspiration.

SAMPLE VOCABULARY

revival, Gothic, ornate



Clapp House, Portland, ME



Parthenon, Athens, Greece

FROM PORTLAND STONE TO PORTLAND, MAINE

(Brownstone)

CLASSROOM LESSON

The brownstone lesson combines geology, architecture, technology, and history to explain the reason for choosing this material for Victoria Mansion. Time permitting there will be an interactive activity following the presentation.

ON-SITE ACTIVITY

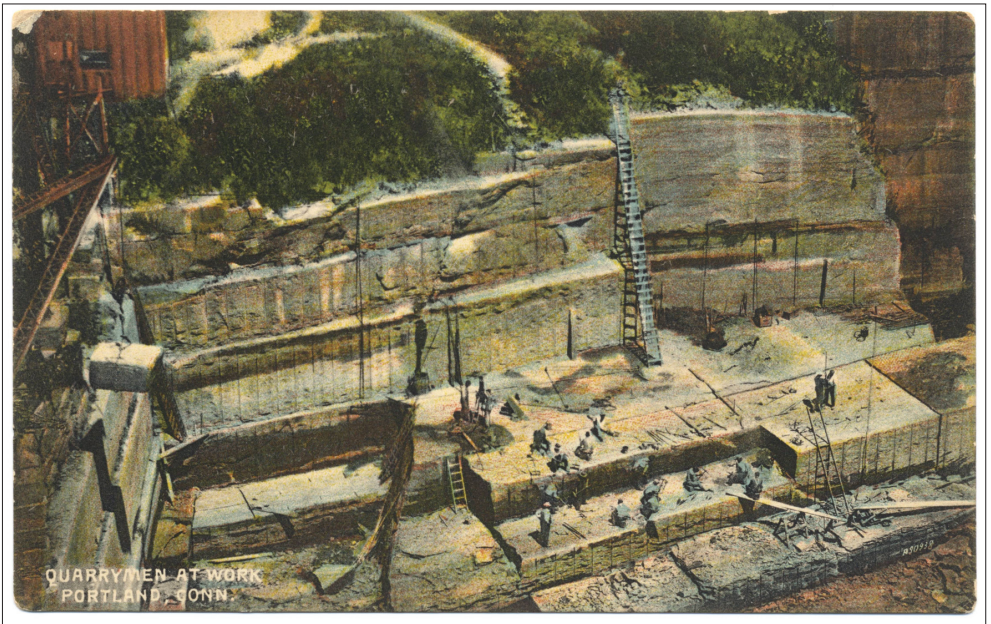
Building material scavenger hunt: What is Victoria Mansion really made of? (This lesson is best used during the later spring, due to the outdoor nature of the activity.)

EXTENSION

Make your own sedimentary rock.

SAMPLE VOCABULARY

striation, quarry, restoration.



Portland, CT Brownstone Quarry ca. 1911

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM, WHAT DID THEY DO?

(Immigration & Backstairs Life)

CLASSROOM LESSON

The history of Portland is largely a history of immigrants and the changes they made to the city. This unit looks at immigrants and the working class who made up most of the Forest City's 19th century population, where they came from, where they lived, and where they worked. It provides a context in which students can place Victoria Mansion as the exception to the rule of the 19th century Portland experience. Time permitting, there will be a creative activity following the presentation.

ON-SITE ACTIVITY

Design your own organization banner based on the banners of the Maine Charitable Mechanics Association.

EXTENSION

Explore immigration close to home either by having students delve into their own family histories or the neighborhoods in which they live/study.

SAMPLE VOCABULARY

census, textile, resident



House Island Immigration Station, Maine Portland Press Herald, Courtesy Kim MacIsaac

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA?

(Painted Portraits & Photography)

CLASSROOM LESSON

This lesson examines the evolution of portraiture in America. Beginning with painted portraits in the 18th century, students will see how the information communicated by a portrait changed over time as styles, tastes, and technologies evolved over the course of the 19th century. Portraits examined in the lesson are drawn in part from the collections of Victoria Mansion. Time permitting, there will be a creative activity following the presentation.

ON-SITE ACTIVITY

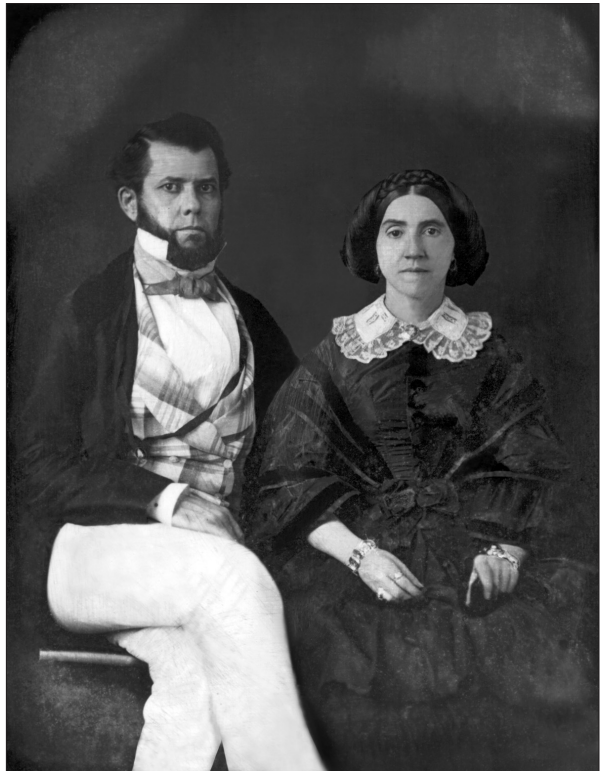
Kinds of Victorian photography: cute cats, headless portraits, and hidden mothers.

EXTENSION

Animation and how it works.

SAMPLE VOCABULARY

itinerant, landscape, limner



Ruggles & Olive Morse, ca. 1855

SAMPLE MIDDLE SCHOOL LESSON

Victoria Mansion is happy to work with middle schools! While we have not developed a variety of detailed lessons as of yet, we are happy to partner with schools to meet their curricular needs. Below is a sample designed in cooperation with a science and history team. Any units can be adapted for middle schools students by request. Please contact the Director of Education if you are interested in this or other possible lessons.

TECHNOLOGY AND TOURISM IN THE 19TH CENTURY

CLASSROOM LESSON

Maine over the years has become a destination for visitors from around the United States and around the world. But how did a place so geographically remote become “Vacationland?” What influences led people to begin traveling for enjoyment, instead of only for necessity? This lesson explores both the science behind travel and tourism, and the history of travel in the United States over the centuries.

ON-SITE ACTIVITY

In addition to a tour of the Mansion, students will discuss a variety of technologies that were developed during the Victorian period, and how they relate to many of the things we use today.



Broad Tavern, Collections of Maine Historical Society, www.MaineMemory.net, item 40332



Westin Portland Harborview



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