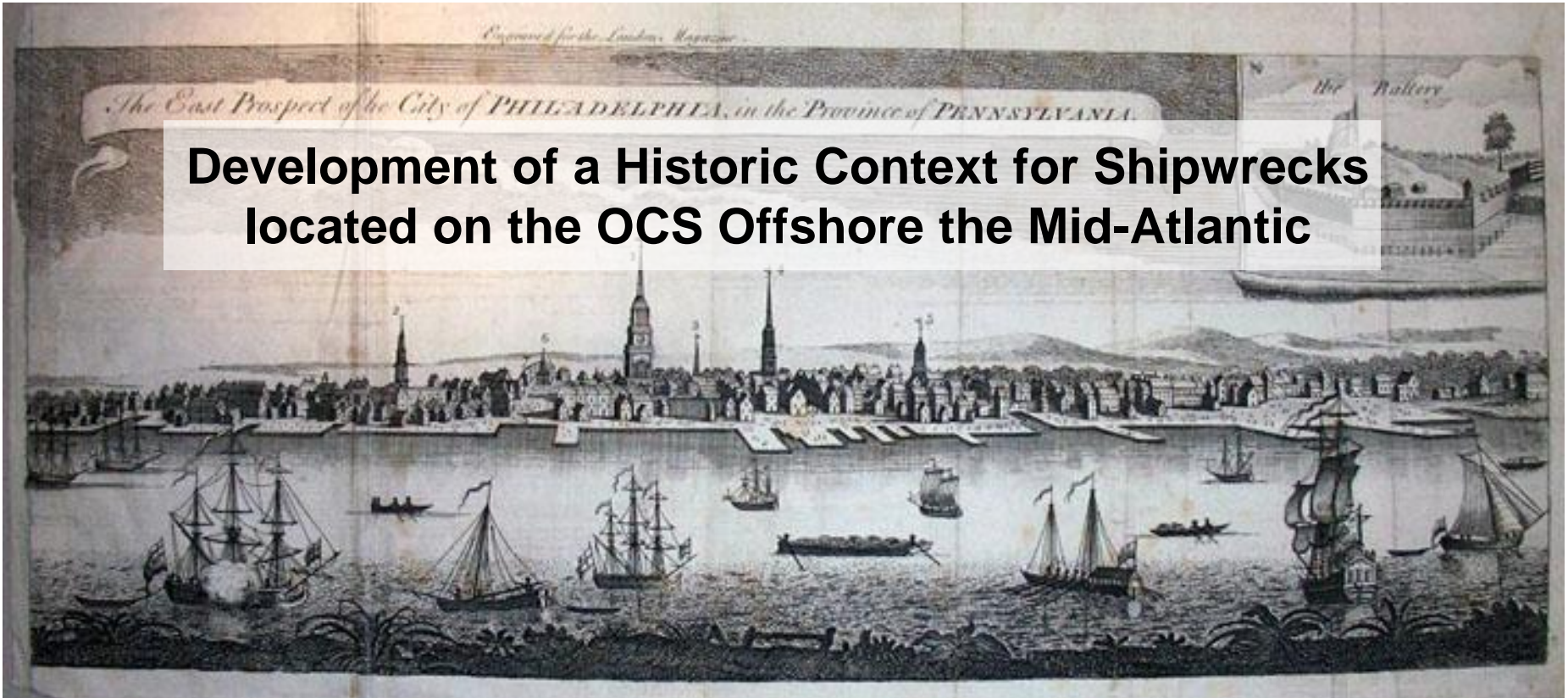


**Development of a Historic Context for Shipwrecks
located on the OCS Offshore the Mid-Atlantic**



- “Historic contexts are those patterns and trends in history by which a site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within history or prehistory is made clear. (AKA: trend, pattern, theme, cultural affiliation, etc..)
- Facilitates a perspective that places individual archaeological sites on the OCS within a larger historical and social context rather than viewing them as isolated and unrelated.

Background:

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that BOEM considers the effects of its undertakings on historic properties that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

As outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, a historic context is a planning tool that provides a thematic framework of global, regional and local significance and outlines major historical themes and concepts all of which are tools used to assist in determining the eligibility of a site for listing in the **National Register of Historic Places**.

Background:

Relationship with other Efforts:

- Atlantic Shipwreck Database (ASD)
- Rhode Island Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) and a cultural landscape approach that BOEM seeks to utilize for other areas of the Atlantic OCS

Study's Objectives:

The objective of this study is to prepare a regionally-specific historic context for the Mid-Atlantic region of the OCS as a management tool to aid BOEM in the consideration of shipwrecks during the planning and decision-making process for renewable energy projects on the Atlantic OCS.

Study's Methods:

- outline a thematic framework of global, regional and local significance.
- consider the types of cultural resources that may be associated with each of these themes.
- identify repositories of primary archival materials and provide a synopsis of the material available for future research.
- include limited archival research at regional repositories that contain relevant primary source documents.
- provide a baseline of contextual information for the region to be used as a starting point for planning, analysis, project review, and interpretation of known and newly identified sites.