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Parker served as Adjunct Professor at the University of No. Florida; Historian for the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board, Florida Department of State, from 1987 to 1997; and as a consultant for museum exhibits, media productions, and performed historic sites assessments for the National Park Service and for projects compliance with Federal laws.

Publications include “The Oldest City,” a weekly column in in the St. Augustine Record which has run since 1996; “The Endangered Bridge of Lions,” with E.L. Roy Hunt, Preservation Forum; “Success through Diversity” and “Cattle Trade in Spanish Florida,” Colonial Florida Plantation; and “Second Spanish Period,” The New History of Florida.

She was awarded the Arthur W. Thompson Prize for Florida History (1991) by the Florida Historical Society, and the LeRoy Collins Prize (1997) for best graduate essay, also by the Florida Historical Society. She received the Beveridge Grant for research in the history of the western hemisphere from the American Historical Association.