



NRHP E-Blasts

Electronic blasts from the National Register of Historic Places, sharing news and information with the Historic Preservation Community

July 2021

New NHL Theme Study—Ready Applicability to National Register Nominations

The National Historic Landmarks Program recently announced the release of a new theme study, *Civil Rights in America: Racial Discrimination in Housing*. This study by Matthew D. Lassiter and Susan Cianci Salvatore, prepared in cooperation with the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), is the fourth in a five-part *Civil Rights in America* series which uses the provisions of 1960s civil rights acts as a framework. The study examines the history of housing discrimination against African American, Latinx, American Indian, and Asian American people leading to passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. As always, the historic context developed here can be useful when preparing National Register nominations. This and other NHL Theme Studies are available for download at

www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/recent-theme-studies.htm

National Register Program Welcomes NCPE Intern Alicia Guzman

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our social media coordinator and summer intern, Alicia Guzman. Alicia joined us in June, following the May receipt of her Master of Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Alicia was selected as a National Council on Preservation Education (NCPE) intern and will spend the summer as the National Register program's social media coordinator. Speaking recently about her role, Guzman stated, "I find my position enriching as I am able to learn more about unique histories outside of my primary region of studies and share their narratives with the larger public through social media platforms I believe my work with the NRHP has . . . flexibility for my input and interests to flourish under their guidance."

Ms. Guzman brings to her work with the NPS prior professional experience with historic sites and museums, local and state historic preservation non-profits, and city government. Her most recent work was as the Jenny Thurston Fellow with the City of Atlanta's Office of Design Preservation Studio, where she assisted an initiative focused on LGBTQ+ and Black American spaces, conducted research and drafted reports for potential landmark designations, engaged with homeowners and neighborhood associations in Urban Design Commission meetings, and analyzed previous Master and Neighborhood Plans. In this capacity, Alicia researched and co-authored two designations which secured approval for local landmarking from the city's Urban Design Commission. One of those designations is for the Fuller-Freedom House, a contributing property to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District (Boundary Increase). Alicia's research and interviews, coupled with the enthusiasm and

dedication of the property's owner, resulted in the documentation and acknowledgment of the home's association with national figures like Congressman John Lewis and Stokely Carmichael, as well as local figures such as Bishop Fuller, Sr., who built the house and established the Fire Holiness Baptized denomination in the early 20th century.

This summer Alicia is working to build upon and improve the National Register program's social media presence by planning, scheduling, and developing relevant Facebook, Instagram, and Flickr posts, focusing on commemorative historical events and featured National Register listings.

National Register Program Resuming Work on Revised *National Register Bulletin 38*

Colleagues will recall that several years ago the National Register program undertook listening sessions and informational meetings with our preservation partners on proposed revisions to *National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*. *Bulletin 38* was last revised in 1998. In 2017, this effort was paused at the direction of Department of the Interior leadership. We are pleased to report that work on the document and its distribution for public comment is counted among Associate Director of Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science and Keeper of the National Register, Joy Beasley's highest priorities.

In coming months, the draft revised document will be made available for public comment. Stay tuned for announcement of its availability via notice in the Federal Register, email notification, notice on the National Register website landing page, and social media pages, and as a banner atop the National Register Weekly List of Actions Taken which is distributed electronically each week.

A New Look at Old Garages as Contributing Buildings

When preparing nominations for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, authors and reviewers should ensure that garages, carriage houses, and other buildings and structures "that are substantial in size and scale" are included in nomination counts (Section 5) and inventories (Section 7). For additional guidance, refer to "Rules for Counting Resources" in *National Register Bulletin 16A* (p. 17). If ancillary buildings cannot be seen from public rights-of-way and are indecipherable from Google Earth and similar sources, please note in the nomination that an unevaluated structure is present but is not visible and not included in the resource count. All ancillary buildings that are not in the inventory or resource count should be treated as unevaluated—and therefore warranting evaluation—when they are the subject of federal historic preservation tax credit projects, Section 106 actions, or comparable situations that require an evaluation of contributing or noncontributing status. In the near future, the National Register program will issue formal guidance on garages and other outbuildings in historic districts.

When Aluminum Siding is an Acceptable Alternative: Individual Eligibility and Synthetic Siding

The following guidance is provided for consideration regarding the eligibility of individual properties with synthetic or aluminum siding and their potential impacts to historic integrity when added to historic buildings and structures. When nominating properties under Criterion C, the case needs to be made that the siding is an acceptable alternative; otherwise, these properties are rarely considered eligible. The appropriate preservation decision on the use of a substitute material in the rehabilitation of a historic building must always center on two principal concerns: (1) the possible damage or destruction of historic building materials and (2) the possible negative impact on the historic character of the building.

In order for historic wooden buildings to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, aluminum or synthetic siding may be an acceptable alternative *only* if: (1) the existing siding is so deteriorated or damaged that it cannot be repaired, (2) the substitute material can be installed without irreversibly damaging or obscuring the architectural features and trim of the building, or (3) the substitute material matches the historic material in size, profile, and finish so there is no change in the character of the historic building. Not adhering to these standards can threaten the eligibility of a building for listing in the National Register.

Justification for the use of synthetic siding is done through exterior descriptions and photographs of the existing wood siding. The narrative description of the property must explain how the property still retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Please refer to the Technical Preservation Services (TPS) *Preservation Brief* 8 at the following link for further information regarding aluminum and vinyl siding:

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/preservedocs/preservation-briefs/08Preserve-Brief-Aluminium-Vinyl.pdf>

Electronic Submissions Status Report

National Register and National Historic Landmarks staff delivered two online discussions during May in honor of Historic Preservation Month. Comments received indicated that participants are eager to see the electronic submissions process remain a permanent fixture. Program Chief Sherry Frear has committed to securing resources to create a more robust submissions platform that will build upon the advances made in the last year. Many thanks to all who have assisted as beta testers when we first launched, to those posing questions (whether in online discussions or reaching out to National Register staff), and to all who have provided feedback on the electronic submission process.

As we enter the second year of electronic submissions, please remember that the subject line of an electronic submission needs to contain the following information: **name of resource, county, and state abbreviation**. This ensures greater accuracy in acknowledging receipt and tracking the timely completion of submissions.

Full instructions and contact information for technical assistance with any questions regarding the electronic submissions process can be found on the National Register program's website at:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/electronic-only-submission-instructions.htm>

Lonesome Highways Seek Labels

National Register nominations often include address information or references (e.g., "123 Hwy 7" or "5923 Route 66") that do not specify the type of highway. When referencing such an address, please specify the type of highway or road, such as US, Interstate, State, or County. Recommended styles are Federal highway (US 66), Interstate- (I 80), State (VA 28) (abbreviate state name), and County - Cty. Rd. 554. Contact Kevin Moriarty in the control unit with any questions about this at kevin_moriarty@nps.gov

NPS Releases Illustrated Guidelines on Flood Adaptations for Historic Buildings

The National Park Service (NPS) has developed *Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings* to help property owners make historic buildings more resilient to flooding risks while preserving their historic character. These guidelines are downloadable at:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/guidelines-on-flood-adaptation-for-rehabilitating-historic-buildings.htm>

Thank you for working with us in preserving history!