



NRHP E-Blasts

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

April 2022

Update on National Register and National Historic Landmarks Initiatives to Expand and Ensure Diversity in Recognizing Places of Significance to All Americans

On Thursday, March 10, 2022, the NPS' Preservation Assistance Programs held a virtual Open House for participating members of the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers. National Register & National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program Chief Sherry Frear was joined by Dr. Lisa Davidson, National NHL Program Manager, and Dr. Julie Earnstein, Supervisory Archeologist, in updating approximately 80 attendees on National Register and NHL Program initiatives to expand and ensure diversity in recognizing places of significance to all Americans.

Operating Status Update

- Pandemic Response

Electronic submission process has proved successful, comparing favorably with previous years

1. 2019 22,000+ contributing resources
2. 2020 20,000+ contributing resources
3. 2021 21,000+ contributing resources

- National Register Electronic Submission Platform Enhancements

Work is underway on the following:

1. No limitation on file size
2. Ability of approved users to create and manage their accounts, including addition of "forgot my password" feature that allows approved users to reset their password
3. Additional user support, e.g., of success or failure of upload, hotlinks to instructions, additional guidance, troubleshooting tips, and FAQs
4. Delivery expected in FY22 Q3

NHL Program Updates

- New designations FY21
 1. 22 new NHLs
 2. 2 updated NHLs
- NHL Committee
 1. Meeting held October 2021: 9 new nominations, 1 update
 2. Next meeting scheduled for May 11-12: 7 new nominations, 5 updates

NPS/NCSHPO Collaboration

- Summit Camp Archeological District, Tahoe National Forest, CA
- Camp housed thousands of Chinese workers building tunnels and walls for the transcontinental railroad; structural remains, possibly snow sheds, and Chinese coin fragments discovered
- NHL nomination being developed by consultant retained through NCSHPO

Cold War Handbook

- Working with the Cold War Advisory Committee and a NCSHPO contractor on this free, online publication
- Collection of thematic essays intended for a broad popular audience and to aid NPS staff in interpretation
- Companion to the Cold War NHL Theme Study (also a NCSHPO collaboration)

NHL Theme Studies

- Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites (2020)
- Civil Rights in America: Racial Discrimination in Housing (2021)
- Labor History in America (forthcoming)
- Civil Rights in America: Racial Discrimination in Employment (forthcoming)
- Underground Railroad Theme Study update – RFP with Network to Freedom program pending

Initiatives

- Updated Guidance: Reissuance of TCP Bulletin, proposed schedule 18 – 24 months
- Enhanced sample nominations page under development
 1. Expanded categories and additional examples, including additional documentation, discontinuous

districts, multiple property documentation, integrity, TCPs

2. Expanded descriptions
 3. Delivery FY22 Q3
- Improved data collection and management project launched
1. Assessment of legacy nominations to identify possible additional areas of significance, e.g., ethnic heritage, gender, and other identity groupings
 2. Assigns associated level of effort (supported as written, minor additional information needed, and major rewrite needed)
 3. Initial 500 nominations identified via judgmental sampling strategy beginning with listings for plantations, asylums, African American churches, Indian boarding schools, women's clubs, and similar institutions

Thanks and Farewell to Jeff Mansell

Jeff Mansell completed his 120-day detail with the National Register of Historic Places in March, 2022. During his time with the National Register program, Jeff reviewed nominations and processed requests for National Register actions from Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, Nevada, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming. He has subsequently returned to his permanent role as a Historian at the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park in Natchez, Mississippi. Originally placed under the tutelage of National Register and National Historic Landmarks Historian Barbara Wyatt, prior to her retirement, and already conversant with the National Register nomination process, Jeff assumed Barbara's National Register duties after she retired on December 31, 2021. The staff of the National Register wishes Jeff Mansell good luck in his future endeavors, and appreciates his professionalism, thoroughness, and good humor during his tenure with the program.

Interim Reassignment of Eight States

With the retirement of long-time National Register Historian Barbara Wyatt and Jeff Mansell's return full-time to Natchez National Historical Park, the states for which Wyatt and Mansell performed reviews have undergone an interim reassignment. The staff to whom these responsibilities have been passed are as follows.

- National Register Historian **James Gabbert** now reviews the nominations from **Illinois** and **West Virginia**.
- National Register Historian **Lisa Deline** has taken on the reviewing duties for **Colorado**, **Missouri**, and **Wisconsin**.
- National Register Historian **Paul Lusignan** now reviews nominations from **Nevada** and **Wyoming**.
- **Sherry Frear**, Chief of the National Register & National Historic Landmark Programs, is reviewing nominations from **Arizona**.

These interim reassignments can also be found on the National Register website at:

[Contact Us - National Register of Historic Places \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Much Ado about Condos

The National Register program has witnessed a recent uptick in the submission of condominium properties for listing, which has raised two important issues. First, regarding owner notification and counting procedures it is important to remember that each unit owner in a condominium is regarded as a fee simple owner and must receive notification of any pending nomination. This will generally also include the condo association or point of contact, such as the chair of the Board of Directors. The existence of a condominium within a historic district could have serious impacts on notification and objection counting procedures. With regard to documenting significance for condominium properties, careful thought must be given to identifying the proper area(s) of significance and comparative context. The mere fact that property ownership rests in the form of a condominium association is not necessarily grounds for listing, unless it can be shown that such a factor had direct, long-term impacts on local planning, development, or construction activities in a community--for instance, was the property an early attempt at diversifying local home-ownership options that significantly stimulated a rush of new similar developments at a certain point in local history? Reviewers should carefully question whether the fact that a property was owned as a condominium, cooperative, or private rental represents any real importance in terms of local construction and occupancy patterns. A comparative context is necessary for assessing significance, and to determine whether all such properties should be grouped together as sharing a common theme and context. It is essential that all nominations clearly identify how and why a particular property represents a *significant* example of its type rather than depending on vague associations to broad, general patterns.