



PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

Cultural Resources News from the Department of Energy

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Welcome to the Cultural Resources Newsletter

Welcome to volume 1, number 1, of the quarterly newsletter *Partners in Preservation: Cultural Resources News from the Department of Energy*. The goal of *PiP* is to distribute information about the Department's cultural resources programs to practitioners and interested parties both within and outside the Department of Energy. The newsletter will be edited and distributed by the Federal Preservation Officer. Sites are encouraged to submit material for possible inclusion and to suggest additional newsletter features. Active participation by sites is critical to the success of the newsletter--completion of major projects, "lessons learned" on projects, availability of documents, upcoming conferences, staff accomplishments, etc. The deadline for submission of material for volume 1, number 2, of *PiP* is December 1, 2003. This initial edition of *PiP* is being sent to a limited audience, including those listed on the DOE cultural resources forum site. Subsequent editions will be sent to anyone who provides an e-mail address to: HistoryDivision@hq.doe.gov. Please feel free to suggest additional subscribers.

Executive Order Update

First Lady Laura Bush held a Preserve America event at the Mobile, Alabama, City Museum on September 15. Appearing with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman John L. Nau, III, and Interior Secretary Gale Norton, the First Lady introduced the Preserve America Community designation and the Preserve America Presidential Awards programs.

Information, criteria, and forms regarding the awards and community designation information can be found at www.preserveamerica.gov. The

awards support the intent of Executive Order 13287, *Preserve America*, signed by President Bush on March 3, 2003, which commits the Federal Government to providing "leadership in preserving America's heritage by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of the historic properties owned by the Federal Government [and] promoting intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships for the preservation and use of historic properties." A key element of Executive Order 13287 is promoting the use of historic properties for heritage tourism and local economic development. The DOE Federal Preservation Officer is responsible for coordinating the Department's compliance with *Preserve America*.



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DOE Participates in International Cold War "Memory" Conference

On September 8-9, 2003, the Woodrow Wilson Center's Cold War International History Project hosted an international conference that focused on preserving and interpreting the physical legacy of the Cold War. The final session of the conference, "Preservation, Interpretation and Department of Energy Properties," was chaired by Skip Gosling. Gosling's presentation, "Battlefields of the Cold War: The Department of Energy and Historic Preservation," discussed how the Department has developed the Manhattan Project "Signature Facilities" initiative and then showed and described Cold War properties from around the nuclear weapons complex that were potential Cold War "Signature Facilities." Gary Hartman, Oak Ridge Operations Office, gave an overview of cultural resources activities at Oak Ridge and analyzed the difficulties associated with balancing preservation with accelerated cleanup. Kris Mitchell, Pantex Plant historian, discussed the challenges involved in managing historically valuable properties at a national security site where public access is unlikely for some time to come. Mitchell agreed with Hartman that expedited cleanup presented difficulties for historic preservation planners. Gene Weisskopf, representing the B Reactor Museum Association, described the historic significance of the world's first full-scale plutonium production reactor and urged the Department of Energy to be more aggressive in seeking partnerships to ensure that the first Hanford reactor becomes a museum. From l to r in the photo above are Weisskopf, Mitchell, Hartman, and Gosling.



Other DOE-related sessions included presentations by Art Wolf, Director of the soon-to-be-dedicated [Atomic Testing Museum](#) in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Troy Wade, President of the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation, who is one of the moving forces behind creation of the new museum. Cindy Kelly, President of the [Atomic Heritage Foundation](#), made a case for the importance of preserving the Department's Manhattan Project and Cold War legacy in her talk.

2004 DOE Cultural Resources Forum

The 2004 DOE Cultural Resources Forum will be hosted by Los Alamos National Laboratory. The tentative agenda includes a tour of the Trinity Site on Monday, May 3, which would require participants to arrive in Albuquerque on Sunday, May 2. The meeting will take place in Los Alamos on May 4-5, with presentations and briefings each morning and tours of Cold War resources (May 4 pm) and archaeological resources (May 5 pm). The Historic

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the national level.**

Coming in the December issue:

ES&H Update

Featured Site: Pantex

Washington Report

Preservation Executive Committee will meet the morning of May 6. Lodging information and other meeting and travel information will be provided when available. In the photo at right, 2003 forum participants pose for a group shot at the Nevada Test Site's *Ice Cap* drilling site.



The 2004 Society of American Archaeologists meeting is March 31-April 4 in Montreal, Canada.

Federal Preservation Officer Site Visits

In late August, Drs. Gosling and Fehner visited three DOE sites: Savannah River Site, Oak Ridge Operations Office, and the National Energy Technology Laboratory. At Savannah River, the two toured the site with John Knox, who directs the Savannah River Site Cold War Historic Preservation Project, and his supervisor, Dennis Godbee, who heads SRS's Decommissioning Project, along with Mary Beth Reed of New South Associates, the contractor that provides historic preservation support to SRS. (Knox and Godbee are flanking the FPO and DFPO [note the SRS ball caps] in the photo at right taken by Reed.) The primary focus was on identifying properties that might be considered for preservation and future public access consistent



with the Department's Cold War preservation initiative and the requirements of Executive Order 13287, *Preserve America*. At Oak Ridge, the two participated in a meeting regarding potential preservation options for East Tennessee Technology Park (formerly known as the K-25 site). This meeting focused on preliminary design options presented by the architectural and engineering firm and is discussed more fully in the following article of this issue. Gosling and Fehner ended the week with a site visit to the [National Energy Technology Laboratory](#) (NETL) in Morgantown, West Virginia, where they received a program briefing followed by a detailed tour of some of the current research being done at NETL. The primary mission of NETL, which has its major facilities in Morgantown and Pittsburgh, is to develop advanced technologies related to coal, natural gas, and oil. NETL became a national laboratory in December 1999.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences:

2004 Society of American Archaeologists meeting, Montreal, Canada, March 31-April 4, 2004

2004 DOE Cultural Resources Forum, Los Alamos, New Mexico, May 3-5, 2004

Historic Preservation Executive Committee Meeting, Los Alamos, New Mexico, May 6, 2004

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Oak Ridge K-25 Memorandum of Agreement

In July, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was finalized among DOE Oak Ridge Operations (ORO), the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office, the DOE Federal Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the K-25/K-27 gaseous diffusion buildings decontamination and decommissioning project at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) located in Oak Ridge. This MOA was developed after considering comments provided by a wide range of consulting parties, including the City of Oak Ridge and the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association, during a series of meetings held during the past two years. Several stipulations have been included in the MOA to ensure that the contribution these facilities made to the Manhattan Project are not lost and are preserved for the American people. One of the key issues that the consulting parties are wrestling with is how to convey the sheer size (40 acres) and internal complexity of the K-25 facility to the public after the structure is decommissioned. To assist DOE with this difficult task, one of the stipulations in the MOA was that DOE would hire an architectural-engineering type firm with demonstrated experience in designs for commemoration, preservation, and public interpretation of historic facilities. A contract has been awarded to the respected New York and Washington-based consulting firm, Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut, and Kuhn Architects (EE&K), and a study is presently underway to develop design options for these facilities as well as the remainder of the ETTP as the site undergoes accelerated cleanup.

EE&K presented some initial design concepts for K-25 commemoration at a meeting in Oak Ridge on August 27 (photo at right, from l to r, Edith Dunn, EE&K; Bill Biloski, Bechtel Jacobs; Skip Gosling, DOE FPO; Denis Kuhn, EE&K; Dick Tune and Joe Garrison, Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office; Gary Hartman, DOE ORO, standing; David Ucko, Museums+more; Terry Fehner, DOE DFPO; and Mac West, Informal Learning



Experiences). The concepts ranged from demolition of the entire building down to the slab and commemoration with an historic plaque to various alternatives involving preservation of parts of the original structure with possible in situ interpretation to the "whole enchilada" option--retention of the entirety of the outside of the building, perhaps with some in situ interpretation and probably with almost all process equipment removed. The EE&K study is expected to be completed by the end of 2003, and, following completion of the study, DOE ORO, with the participation of all consulting parties, will identify the best and most cost-effective mitigation to permanently commemorate, interpret, and preserve the significance of these historic scientific and technological facilities.

Oak Ridge Manhattan Project Strategic Plan


Oak Ridge Operations Office has awarded a contract to David Ucko's Washington-based consulting firm Museums+more to develop an overall ORO Manhattan Project Strategic Plan. The plan will make recommendations on telling a comprehensive and unified story of the Oak Ridge Reservation, including the preservation and interpretation not only of the Manhattan Project properties but also of other historically significant properties and technologies at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Y-12 National Security Complex, East Tennessee Technology Park (K-25), and within the City of Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge is home to three of the eight "Signature Facilities" of the Manhattan Project (the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Building, ORNL (X-10) Graphite Reactor, and the Y-12 Beta-3 Racetracks) initially identified by DOE's History Division and subsequently endorsed by a panel of nationally-recognized historic preservation experts brought together by DOE's Corporate Board on Historic Preservation and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These eight facilities best convey and interpret the scale and importance of the Manhattan Project and provide the core for the Department's ability to successfully interpret, whether in situ or through a museum or other interpretive setting, its Manhattan Project mission of developing atomic bombs during World War II. Museums+more, with the assistance of Mac West, President of Informal Learning Experiences, Inc., will be looking at all the DOE Oak Ridge Signature Facilities to try and find an appropriate balance between utilizing valuable historic resources and achieving DOE's environmental cleanup responsibilities. Ucko's study is being coordinated with the EE&K effort (see previous article) and is also scheduled for completion by the end of 2003.

Other ongoing DOE historic preservation activities in Oak Ridge include development of Programmatic Agreements and Historic Preservation Plans for the National Nuclear Security Administration (Y-12 National Security Complex) and ORNL for managing their historic properties, including documenting oral histories of the Manhattan Project.

Johnson Delivers Paper at European Association of Archaeologists

In early September, Dr. William Johnson of Desert Research Institute, the Nevada Site Office's cultural resources contractor, presented a paper entitled "Cold War Historic Preservation: An Overview of USA Efforts" at the European Association of Archaeologists meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. According to Johnson's abstract: "The Cold War has been termed 'a placeless war' that happened everywhere and nowhere. It is an enigma in modern military history as there are no battlefields, it is virtually impossible to detail the number of casualties, and so much of it was covert that it is difficult





to understand its landscape completely. Historical researchers in the U.S. are steadily illuminating these hidden places of the Cold War resulting in a patchwork of nationally (if not internationally) significant properties. Mirroring the patchwork nature of preservation, interpretation of these resources is gaining momentum through four museums dedicated to this period."

For more on this conference see <http://www.eaa2003am.spb.ru/program.html>. In the above photo, Johnson is at work in the field.

