

## II.1 Introduction

(See Section 1 of the current Nomination Form and Section 1, 2 and 3 of the original Nomination Forms)

1a) State Party:

United States of America

1b) Name of World Heritage property:

Independence Hall

1c) Please provide geographical coordinates for the site to the nearest second. (In the case of large sites, please give three sets of geographical coordinates.)

Geographical coordinate: 39 degrees 57' North Latitude

Geographical coordinate: 75 degree 9' West Longitude

1d) Give date of inscription on the World Heritage List.

date (dd/mm/yyyy): October 26, 1979 (3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee)

1e) Give date of subsequent extension(s), if any. NA

1f) List organization(s) responsible for the preparation of this site report.

### Organization #1

Organization Name: National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park

Last Name: Bomar

First Name: Mary

Title: Superintendent

Address: 143 South Third Street

City: Philadelphia

State/Prov: PA

Postal Code: 19106

Telephone: 215-597-7120

Fax: 215-597-1003

Email: mary\_bomar@nps.gov

**II.2 Statement of Significance (see Section 2 of the current Nomination Form and Section 5 of the original Form)**

2a) *When a State Party nominates a property for inscription on the World Heritage List, it describes the heritage values of the property which it believes justifies the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. Please summarize the justification for inscription as it appears in the original nomination of the property.*

*The original justification stated that Independence Hall witnessed the adoption and signing of two of the most important political documents in human history: the United States Declaration of Independence (1776) and Constitution (1787). Marking the transition of the country from colonial status to independence and self-government, these two instruments were devised to serve national ends. Nevertheless, they enunciate enduring as well as universal principals and eloquently express mankind's aspirations for justice and freedom. The two charters have transcended the particular circumstances of their creation and any deficiencies in their scope or application to become part of the political and philosophical heritage of the world.*

2b) *At the time of initial inscription of a property on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee indicates the property's outstanding universal value(s) (or World Heritage value(s)) by agreeing on the criteria for which the property deserves to be included on the World Heritage List. Please consult the report of the World Heritage Committee meeting when the property was listed and indicate the criteria for which the Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List. (Choose one or more boxes.)*

Cultural Criteria

- i
- ii
- iii
- iv
- v
- vi

Natural Criteria

- i
- ii
- iii
- iv

2c) *At the time of initial inscription, did the World Heritage Committee agree upon a Statement of Significance for the WHS? (Consult the report or minutes of the World Heritage Committee meeting when the property was listed.*

No

2c1) *If YES, please cite it here.*

2c2) *If NO please propose a Statement of Significance for the World Heritage Site based on the consideration given the property by the Committee when it inscribed the property on the World Heritage List. (Note: Following the completion of the Periodic Report exercise, the State Party, in consultation with appropriate authorities, will determine whether to proceed with seeking a Committee decision to approve any proposed Statement of Significance. The Committee must approve any proposed Statement of Significance through a separate, formal process. See 7g.)*

Criterion (vi)

Independence Hall is significant as the site where the United States Declaration of Independence was adopted (1776) and the United States Constitution was framed (1787). Those two political documents have become models for similar charters of other democratic nations throughout the world. The political philosophies expressed in those documents herald a modern era of government. The building in which those two documents were created continues to inspire international visitors.

2d) *Since the original inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, has the World Heritage Committee agreed with a proposal by the State Party that the property be recognized for additional World Heritage values and added additional criteria to the inscription as a result of a re-nomination and/or extension of the property?*

No

2d1) *If YES, please indicate which new criteria were added and the date.  
(dd/mm/yyyy)*

**II.3 Statement of Authenticity / Integrity**  
**(See Section 2 of the current Nomination Form and Section 4 of the original Form)**

*3a) In addition to meeting one or more of the criteria, which justify inscription on the World Heritage List, a natural or cultural property must meet the appropriate conditions of authenticity and/or integrity, as defined in clauses 24b and 44b of the Operational Guidelines for Implementing the World Heritage Convention. If at the time of inscribing the property on the World Heritage list, the State Party and the International Council on Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS and/or the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN, evaluated the authenticity and integrity of the property, please cite those evaluations here. (Please quote directly from the nomination, Committee minutes and the Advisory Body's evaluation.)*

In the nomination of Independence Hall, the United States noted, "Independence Hall is in the highest possible state of preservation. The building is in excellent condition structurally as well as externally. It has received the benefits of careful and comprehensive restoration studies and expert technical advice in the execution of their findings." (Nomination, 4a, page 14)

*3b) Have there been significant changes in the authenticity or integrity of the property since inscription?*

Independence Hall underwent a complete replacement of its heating, ventilation and air conditioning [HVAC] system from 1995 to 1997. During that project, a new fire detection and suppression system was installed, as well as a new security system. The systems are monitored via fiber optics from a new chilled water plant and from our central security station.

*3b1) If YES, please describe the changes to the authenticity or integrity and name the main causes.*

These improvements contributed to the building's preservation by improving the interior building environment and protecting it from destruction by fire or unauthorized entrances.

## II.4 Management

(See Section 4 of the current Nomination Form and Section 2 and 4 of the original Form)

### *Management Regime*

4a) How can the ownership/management of the property best be described? (Select all that apply.)

- management under protective legislation
- management under contractual agreement(s) between State Party and a third party
- management under traditional protective measures
- other

*Please describe.*

Independence Hall is legally owned by the City of Philadelphia [Broad and Market Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 USA]. The building became part of Independence National Historical Park which was created by Public Law 798, 80<sup>th</sup> U.S. congress, approved on June 28, 1948. The National Park Service, a federal agency, is the steward of the building according to the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and the City of Philadelphia dated July 14, 1950. As part of Independence National Historical Park, Independence Hall receives the highest level of conservation protection afforded by federal law in the United States.

4b) Please indicate under which level of authority the property is managed

The property is managed at the national level by the National Park Service, Department of Interior.

*Please describe*

Public Law 795, 80<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress, approved on June 28, 1948, created the park "for the purpose of preserving for the benefit of the American people...certain historical structures and properties of outstanding national significance located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and associated with the American Revolution and the founding and growth of the United States..." Its "administration, protection, and development" were to be "exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service."

In furtherance of particular terms of the act, the Secretary of the Interior entered into a cooperative agreement with the City of Philadelphia on July 14, 1950, providing for administration and preservation of Independence Hall as a unit of the park. Specifically, the agreement assured "access at all reasonable times to all public portions of the property", and the "no changes or alterations should be made in...its buildings and grounds ... except by mutual agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and the [City of Philadelphia] ...." The National Park Service assumed custody of Independence Hall on January 1, 1951. The building is in the charge of park authorities and is open to the public every day of the year.

*4c) Please describe the legal status of the property. For example, is it a national, provincial or territorial park? A national or provincial historic site?*

The property is part of a U.S. National Historical Park. Independence Square is approximately 5 acres (2 hectares). It is part of Independence National Historical Park which consists of just under 45 acres (18 hectares).

*4d) Please provide the full name, address and phone/fax/e-mail of the agency(ies) directly responsible for the management of the property.*

Contact #1

Agency Name: U.S. National Park Service  
First Name: Mary  
Last Name: Bomar, Superintendent  
Address: 143 South Third Street  
City: Philadelphia  
State/Prov: PA  
Postal Code: 19106  
Telephone: 215-597-7120  
Fax: 215-597-1548  
Email: mary\_bomar@nps.gov

Contact #2

Agency Name: U.S. National Park Service  
First Name: Fran  
Last Name: Mainella, Director  
Address: National Park Service  
City: Washington  
State/Prov: D.C.  
Postal Code: 20240  
Telephone:  
Fax:  
Email:

Contact #3

Agency Name: U.S. Department of the Interior  
First Name: Gale  
Last Name: Norton, Secretary  
Address: U.S. Department of the Interior  
City: Washington  
State/Prov: D.C.  
Postal Code: 20240  
Telephone:  
Fax:  
Email:

*4e) Please provide a list of key laws and regulations, which govern the protection and management of the cultural and natural resources of the property.*

Antiquities Act, 1906, 34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431-433.  
National Park Service Organic Act, 1916, 16 U.S.C.1.  
Historic Sites Act, as amended, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467).  
Establishment of the park: Public law 795, 80<sup>th</sup> Congress, June 28, 1948.  
Stewardship of city property: Memorandum of Agreement, Secretary of the Interior and City of Philadelphia, July 14, 1950.  
National Park Service Management Policies.

*4f) Please describe the administrative and management arrangements that are in place for the property concerned, making special mention of the institutions and organizations that have management authority over the property and the arrangements that are in place for any necessary coordination of their actions. Make special reference, if appropriate, to the role of First Nations in managing the property.*

Independence Hall is part of Independence National Historical Park which was created by P.L. 795, 80<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress, and approved June 28, 1948. The National Park Service is responsible for the stewardship and daily operations of Independence Hall by a cooperative agreement with the City of Philadelphia (dated July 14, 1950) which includes provisions for communication and coordination of actions of the federal and municipal entities. The City of Philadelphia retains ownership of the building and its site. The Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park reports to a Regional Director who reports to the Director of the National Park Service. The Director of the National Park Service reports to the Secretary of the Interior.

*4g) Please also note whether there have been any significant changes in the ownership, legal status, contractual or traditional protective measures, or management regime for the World Heritage Site since the time of inscription.*

No.

4h) *Is there a management plan for the property?*

Yes. In the National Park Service, management plans are required by law.

4h1) *If YES, please summarize the plan, indicating if the plan is being implemented and since when, and the URL where the plan can be located, if available. (A copy of the plan should be submitted in December 2004. See Section 8)*

Independence National Historical Park has a General Management Plan (Environmental Impact Statement) that was executed in 1998. The WHS is an important part of this plan. The plan encompasses the entire park. It notes that Independence Hall was under rehabilitation at the time of publication. That project is now complete. The plan also notes the park's intention to install exhibits of the park's copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution in the west wing of Independence Hall. This exhibit is now in place. The east wing will continue to be used as a staging area for tours of Independence Hall. The General Management Plan is posted on [www.nps.gov/inde/](http://www.nps.gov/inde/). Click on the Facts and Documents section of the welcome page.

Independence National Historical Park consists of just under 45 acres (18 hectares) of land; Independence Square occupies approximately 5 of those acres (2 hectares).

4h2) *If NO, is a management plan under preparation or is preparation of such a plan foreseen for the future?*

NA

#### *Financial Resources*

4i) *What is the annual operating budget for the property in the current fiscal year? (For sites consisting of more than one property provide the budgets of constituent parts.)*

The total base operating budget for Independence National Historical Park for Fiscal Year 2003 is \$18,440,700 USD. Please note that these funds apply to the entire park, not only to the WHS. It is not possible to break out costs that only apply to Independence Hall. In addition to operating funds, the park receives special project funds for Independence Hall on an intermittent basis. Some examples of special projects are the utility improvement project which included all of the buildings on Independence Square, and our present project to rehabilitate Independence Square (\$6 million USD).



4j) Please provide information about the number of staff working at the World Heritage Site (enter figures).

Full Time: 238 (Value must be a number)  
Part Time: 5 (Value must be a number)  
Seasonal: 25 (Value must be a number)  
Other: 1,355 (Value must be a number) This figure includes other categories of federal employment (26), federal and non-federal staff at our visitor center (67), concessionaire employees (55), staff of the National Constitution Center (200), park volunteers (206), and members of the park's friends group (800). Not all of these people directly serve the WHS. However, the park and the many people who are associated with it ultimately are here because of the historic events that occurred in Independence Hall. There is no position in the park that is assigned exclusively to Independence Hall.

#### *Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques*

4k) Please describe any sources of specialized expertise, training, and services that come from sources off-site (e.g., training centers, museum conservation facilities).

Specialized personnel of the Independence National Historical Park staff are at hand around the clock to afford examination, repair, and maintenance services as required. As part of the national park system, Independence has access to several national centers for preservation and conservation professionals for consultation and specialized training. Located in a major metropolitan area, there are preservation professionals with expertise in every area of concern for the park available for consultation.

Professional staff at Independence National Historical Park have advanced university degrees in History, Anthropology, Architecture (with a concentration in historic preservation), Landscape Architecture (with a concentration in cultural landscapes), Early American Culture, Folklore, Library Science, Archives Administration, Civil and Mechanical Engineering, and Business Administration.

Through a cooperative agreement with the University of Pennsylvania's Preservation Program, the park professional staff works with the University's Building Conservation Laboratory on defined tasks and issues. The agreement permits Independence National Historical Park to engage in collaborative research and education. In the past 5 years, the park has worked with the University to perform an exterior survey of one of our historic buildings for purposes of developing a long-term treatment plan and a predictive model of stone failure. Use of this expertise would be available through the university for similar projects for Independence Hall.

*Please list the job categories of these staff (e.g., Park Superintendent, Historian, Ecologist, Interpreter, General Works/Maintenance Manager) and describe the specialized skills and expertise of the World Heritage Site's staff members.*

Organizational Structure:

Park Superintendent/Asst Superintendent – Oversees the management of the Park

Division of Cultural Resources Management – Responsible for the care of historic buildings, landscapes, collections; historical research; management of park archives and library; ethnography program; archeology program.

Cultural Resources Manager

Historian

Museum Curator

Museum Specialist

Registrar

Archivist

Library Technician

Historical Architect

Landscape Architect

Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services - Primarily responsible for interpretive programs, informational contacts at visitor centers, reception desks, and kiosks, and for roving contacts at the sites. Also coordinate interpretive signage; work on various park exhibitions; and plan special programs for school-age children.

Division Chief

Park Ranger (interpretation)

Park Guide

Education Specialist

Division of Resource and Visitor Protection – Charged with the safety and security of park resources, staff and visitors.

Division Chief (chief ranger)

Park Ranger (law enforcement)

Law Enforcement Specialist

Division of Maintenance – Physical care of buildings and grounds. Maintains physical integrity of park sites.

Division Chief (Civil Engineer)

Historical Craftsperson

Historical Maintenance Person

Gardener

Safety Officer

Mechanical Engineer

Office of Administration- Responsible for the planning, development, implementation, and execution, of all phases of administration such as budget/fiscal programs, personnel management, procurement/contract administration, information resources management and property management.

*Visitation*

*4l) Are there any visitor statistics for the site?*

Yes

*4l1) If YES, please provide the annual visitation for the most recent year it is available, indicating what year that is, a brief summary of the methodology for counting visitors, and briefly describe the trends in visitation. (In describing these trends, please use the year of inscription as a baseline.)*

Independence Hall had 553,134 visitors in 2002. Park staff uses hand-held counters to obtain visitation figures. Although our statistics don't date to the late 1970s, our impressions are that, since 1979, visitation to Independence Hall tended to increase gradually each year. On average, Independence Hall receives 800,000 visitors per year. There are three exceptions to this rule:

1. Our impressions are that visitation for 1987 and 1988 were substantially higher than previous or following years. This increase probably resulted from the celebration of the bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

2. Visitation dropped dramatically in 1997. This drop resulted from the closure of the building to visitors for the months of April and May during asbestos abatement work which was part of the above-referenced rehabilitation project. Normally, those are months of very high school visitation. We do not have precise statistics for that year.

3. Visitation dropped 9.7% in 2001 due to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. We had 742,000 visitors for the year. Visitation stayed low in 2002, totaling 553,134.

*4m) Please briefly describe the visitor facilities at the property.*

Implemented on June 1, 2002 the timed ticket program gives visitors a timed "reservation" for Independence Hall tours. The park's General Management Plan called for this program. Visitors have a number of options to obtain their tickets. Advance reservations are available either through the contractor's call center or through an Internet site. There is a small handling fee for advance reservations. There is a limit to the percentage of tickets available for advance reservations. The majority of the tickets are always available for first-come-first-served distribution on site.

Visitors pick up their tickets at the Independence Visitor Center and then report to the East Wing of Independence Hall at their tour time.

Additional facilities for visitors include the provision of restrooms, water fountains, a café, and book and souvenir store. The park is located in a large, urban area with numerous shopping, dining, and cultural opportunities nearby.

Visitors to Independence Hall arrive on foot from nearby hotels, by public transportation, by privately-owned vehicle, and by tour bus. There are two below-ground parking facilities in the park, one for automobiles and one for busses. There are public parking facilities contiguous to the park as well as limited street parking. There is also a bus drop-off location where tour busses may discharge and pick up passengers. The busses are then encouraged to go to a nearby on-grade parking lot.

*4n) Is there tourism/visitor management plan for the property?*

The only plan is the park General Management Plan. The Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services has Standard Operating Procedures and training manuals, but they are for internal use only.

*4n1) If YES, please briefly summarize the plan, and provide a URL where the plan can be located.*

Please see 4h above.

#### *Scientific Studies*

*4o) Please list key scientific studies and research programs that have been conducted concerning the site. (Please use the year of inscription as a baseline.) Arranged by year of publication and alphabetically by author within a given year.*

Daniel J. Sharp. Furnishing Plan (parts C, D & E) Supreme Court Chamber of Independence Hall. 1979.

Anna Coxe Toogood, National Register Nomination: Independence National Historical Park, 1984.

Steven Edward Patrick, Deposited in this City: the Archeological Evidence of Philadelphia, the Capital City, 1790 to 1800, 1987. Appendices include lists of investigations performed on Independence Square.

NPS Staff. Independence National Historical Park: Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Plan; Part 2 – Interpretive and Informational Signs, 1988. Includes information on interpretive signs on Independence Square.

Penelope Hartshorne Batcheler, Historic Structures Report, Part 2 (portion) – Architectural Data Section on Independence Hall: the Central Hall and Tower Stairhall, 1989.

Penelope Hartshorne Batcheler, Historic Structures Report Part 2 (portion) – Architectural Data Section on Independence Hall: The Physical History of the Second Floor, 1992.

- Orth, Rodgers & Associates, Inc. Draft Report Traffic Data and Analysis, 1994.  
Includes discussion of traffic around boundary block of WHS.
- Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement  
for Independence National Historical Park (National Park Service, INDE.  
1996).
- Linda Berger, "Pennsylvania Marble a.k.a. Pennsylvania Blue Marble, Pennsylvania  
White Marble, Montgomery County Marble". 1997.
- General Management Plan for Independence National Historical Park (National Park  
Service, INDE), 1997.
- Historic Masonry Repair and Repointing Workshop, May 28 & 29, 1997. Includes  
case study of historic wall around the south side of Independence Square.
- Charlene Mires. *Memories Lost and Found: Independence Hall in American History  
and Imagination* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997).
- Anna Coxe Toogood, Independence Square: Historical Summary, 1997.
- Roy Broadbent, "Information on Flagpole on Independence Square," 1998.
- NPS Staff, Cultural Landscape Report: Independence Square. Volume 2. 1998.
- NPS Staff, Cultural Landscape Report: Historical narrative: Independence Square  
(revised copy), 1998.
- Caitlin Fitz, "Securing the Blessings of Liberty: Independence Hall and the Creation  
of Independence National Historical Park," 2000.
- Paul Y. Inashima. Bibliographic Listing of Selected References Contained with the  
Library of Congress with Relevance to the Historical Cartography of  
Independence National Historical Park, 2000.
- Management Services Group, Denver Service Center, National Park Service,  
Overland Partners, Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC, Ducibella Venter & Santore,  
Mini-Value Analysis Study for Anti-Terrorism Screening Structure and Security  
Fence, Independence Mall, Independence National Historical Park,  
Philadelphia, PA. Draft, March 20, 2003.

*4o1) Please describe how the results of these studies and research programs have been used in managing the World Heritage Site.*

We use information in these studies to inform decisions regarding the preservation, conservation and maintenance of Independence Hall, and the historical landscape within the boundaries of the WHS. For example, Penelope Batcheler's and Lee Nelson's historic-structures reports on the physical history of the building inform decisions during the design phase of the 1960s restoration project and the more recent 1990s utilities improvement project. Batcheler's and Nelson's work permitted designers to avoid original fabric, thereby continuing our preferred preservation direction.

*4o2) What role, if any, has the property's designation as a World Heritage Site played in the design of these scientific studies and research programs? For example, has there been a specific effort in these programs to focus on the recognized World Heritage values of the property?*

Independence Hall's World Heritage status is noted in all funding requests to inform reviewers' of the building's international significance. It has aided the park in obtaining support for various projects and programs. Most recently, WHS status has influenced decisions to implement additional building security.

#### *Education, Information and Awareness Building*

*4p) Is there a plaque at the property indicating that it is a designated World Heritage Site?*

Yes

*4q) Is the World Heritage Convention logo used on all of the publications for the property?*

It is our practice to include the World Heritage logo on all park produced publications about Independence Hall.

*4r) Are there educational programs concerning the property's World Heritage values aimed at schools?*

Not at this time. Maybe someday the Independence Park Academy, a projected new facility devoted to in-depth educational programs about the park's themes, will address this. Tour groups of secondary school Civics classes and college-level political science classes often inquire about Independence Hall's designation as a World Heritage site. The park's regular tours of Independence Hall focus on the values that determined the site's inscription.

*4r1) If YES, please briefly describe these programs.*

Tours of the Assembly Room of Independence Hall discuss the momentous events that occurred there. Interpreters explain the international impact of those events and the spread of democracy. The staff points out the use of the United States Constitution as a model for the constitutions of democratic countries throughout the world.

There is a Teacher's Guide on the Park's website that focuses on instruction about the "ideas and ideals" that lead to the American Revolution and the founding of American government.

*4s) Are there special events and exhibitions concerning the property's World Heritage values?*

Yes

*4s1) If YES, please briefly describe them.*

The interior of Independence Hall has been restored to its appearance during the years when the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution were debated and signed. This interpretation focuses on the values identified in the World Heritage nomination. Special programs also focus on these events. Each year, on July 8, there is a re-creation of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Groups with long associations to the site hold annual ceremonies in front of or behind the building. Since 1989, the Liberty Medal is presented in front of Independence Hall. This award is given by an international committee to the person whose actions typify the values declared in Independence Hall. Recipients have included Nelson Mandela, Václav Havel, Shimon Peres accepting for the late Itzhak Rabin, and Thurgood Marshall.

*4t) Please briefly describe the facilities, visitor center, site museum, trails, guides and information material that are available to visitors to the World Heritage Site.*

In addition to the facilities described in 4m, Independence National Historical Park has several facilities that support WHS: There is a regional visitor center one city block away from the WHS. There, visitors may obtain free maps of the entire park, a unigrid brochure and a free timed ticket to see Independence Hall. There is also a bookstore in that building. To visit Independence Hall, visitors must pass through a security screening point where they are checked for weapons and explosives. Visitors then proceed to an orientation station that is located in a wing building east of the WHS. There, a park ranger gives visitors an orientation to the site and its historical significance. From the orientation site, visitors proceed in groups with a park ranger to tour the WHS. Visits are by guided tour only. After the tour of the building, visitors are welcome to tour other historic buildings on Independence Square on a self-guided basis. Congress Hall, the documents exhibit in the west wing, and Old City Hall are open without tickets or reservations. The buildings are staffed with park rangers who are available to interpret the sites and answer questions. The park also maintains a website at [www.nps.gov/inde](http://www.nps.gov/inde).

The American Philosophical Society, also located on Independence Square, has an exhibition program and is open to the public. Visitors may wish to see this facility prior to leaving the area.

Visitors to Independence Hall are welcome to visit the other buildings and sites in the larger park.

*4u) What role, if any, has the property's designation as a World Heritage Site played with respect to the education, information and awareness building activities described above? For example, has the World Heritage designation been used as a marketing, promotional, or educational tool?*

World Heritage Site designation has not been used generally as a marketing and promotional tool. We do discuss our designation during special tours for our professional colleagues, both local and international, and students in historic preservation programs. We also mention the designation in all funding requests for preservation projects for the building and the site. Finally, we also mention it in documenting our rationale for preservation decisions.



## **II.5 Factors Affecting the Property (See Section 5 of the current Nomination Form)**

*5) Please briefly identify factors affecting the property under the following headings: Development Pressures, Environmental Pressures, Natural Disasters and Preparedness, Visitor and Tourism Pressures, Number of Inhabitants Within Property and Buffer Zone and Other - major factors likely to affect the World Heritage values of the property. First discuss those that were identified in the original nomination, in the same order in which they were presented there, then those that have been discussed in reports to the World Heritage Committee since inscription, and then other identified factors.*

*This section should provide information on all the factors which are likely to affect a property. It should also relate those threats to measures taken to deal with them, whether by application of the protection described in Section 4e or otherwise.*

*Not all of the factors suggested in this section are appropriate for all properties. The list provided is indicative and is intended to assist the State Party in identifying the factors that are relevant to each specific property.*

*(In describing these trends, please use the year of inscription as a baseline.)*

*For EACH Factor, please specify the following:*

*key actions taken to address factor*

*any plans that have been prepared to deal with factor in the future*

*whether the impacts of factor appears to be increasing or decreasing, and the timeframe for which the comparison is being made.*

### *Development Pressures*

*5a) Provide information about Development Pressures on the following: demolitions or rebuilding; the adaptation of existing buildings for new uses which would harm their authenticity or integrity; habitat modification or destruction following encroaching agriculture, forestry or grazing, or through poorly managed tourism or other uses; inappropriate or unsustainable natural resource exploitation; damage caused by mining; and the introduction of invasive nonnative species likely to disrupt natural ecological processes, creating new centers of population on or near properties so as to harm them or their settings.*

The original nomination did not identify any development pressures. There have been no development pressures subsequent to the inscription. Independence Hall is on protected land in the downtown area of one of the country's largest cities.

### *Environmental Pressures*

*5b) Environmental pressures can affect all types of property. Air pollution can have a serious effect on stone buildings and monuments as well as on fauna and flora. Desertification can lead to erosion by sand and wind. What is needed in this section is an indication of those pressures which are presenting a current threat to the property, or may do so in the future, rather than a historical account of such pressures in the past.*

The original nomination did not discuss environmental pressures. The greatest environmental threat to the building is air pollution. Independence Hall is located in an area of high vehicular traffic. We visually monitor for signs of acid-rain degradation on the building. We also visually monitor for evidence of damage due to acid rain.

### *Natural Disasters and Preparedness*

*5c) This section should indicate those disasters which present a foreseeable threat to the property and what steps have been taken to draw up contingency plans for dealing with them, whether by physical protection measures or staff training. (In considering physical measures for the protection of monuments and buildings it is important to respect the integrity of the construction.)*

The original nomination does not discuss natural disasters and preparedness and the property faces no immediate threats by natural disasters. In 1995, Independence Hall received a new fire detection and suppression system. Monitoring of the building environment was also improved with a new utility system and building monitoring system. The designers took all care to protect historic fabric during these improvement projects.

### *Visitor and Tourism Pressures*

*5d) In completing this section what is required is an indication of whether the property can absorb the current or likely number of visitors without adverse effects (i.e., its carrying capacity). An indication should also be given of the steps taken to manage visitors and tourists. Possible impacts from visitation that could be considered include the following:*

The original nomination did not discuss visitor and tourism pressures. However, since the National Park Service assumed responsibility for Independence Hall, the effect of tourism on the structure has increased because visitation has increased.

The park's decision in 1976, to remove the Liberty Bell from Independence Hall to a dedicated nearby facility, was timely. That action took tremendous visitation pressure off Independence Hall and permitted it to operate within its calculated carrying capacity. The institution of timed ticketing as an additional visitation control measure has permitted park staff to continue to deliver quality experiences to visitors and to further protect the structure.

Within the past 5 years, the park has undergone major development whose goal is to improve service to visitors while taking pressure off the WHS. Today, on the three large city blocks north of Independence Hall, there is a new center for the Liberty Bell that includes explanatory exhibitions about the icon, a new regional visitor center, and a new National Constitution Center. The park intends to monitor usage closely in the future to maintain the correct balance between visitor service and preservation. Because these structures are new, we have no previous usage at their locations for comparison. However, we will observe our visitation statistics to monitor overall change.

*i. damage by wear on stone, timber, grass or other ground surfaces;*

We have installed carpeting and matting in high-traffic visitor areas in an effort to protect flooring. This flooring is reproduction but our intention is to conserve scarce resources by extending its lifespan as much as practicable.

We are about to begin a program to rehabilitate Independence Square. This project was identified in volume 2 of the Cultural Landscape Report [CLR] (1998). That study analyzed the landscape features and determined a treatment philosophy of rehabilitation according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. The rehabilitation project will replace damaged exterior paving surfaces in-kind, replace the irrigation system and improve drainage throughout the historic landscape, repair brick boundary walls, and selectively rehabilitate or replace lighting and furniture.

*ii. damage by increases in heat or humidity levels;*

We installed a building monitoring system that permits us to collect data on temperature and humidity. This data is analyzed and used to set the building's operating parameters.

*iii. damage by disturbance to the habitat of living or growing things;*

We inspect the structure annually. We monitor indoor air quality on an annual basis; and

*iv. damage by the disruption of traditional cultures or ways of life.*

The park has several groups who view Independence Hall and its surrounding area as integral to their values. These groups are given access to the area for the performance of ceremonies. They contribute to the vitality of the site.

In 1996, the park installed a temporary ramp to the south entrance of the building in order to comply with accessibility laws. This is a masonry ramp that sits on the 1915 paving surface and which covers the historic steps and sill of the building. It is completely removable.

### *Number of Inhabitants Within Property and Buffer Zone*

*5e) Include the best available statistics or estimate of the number of inhabitants, if any, within the property and any buffer zone and describe any activities they undertake which affect the property.*

There are no inhabitants within the boundaries of the nominated property on WHS. The site is bounded by commercial office buildings on the east and south sides. During the normal business day, occupants of the buildings view their proximity to Independence Hall as an enhancement; they are respectful of the site.

### *5f) List Other Factors*

In addition to pressure from tourism, the park is currently seeking an appropriate protective response to additional security threats posed to American heritage sites due to 9/11. The park has created a temporary enclosure formed by bicycle racks that segregates Independence square along its Chestnut Street, Sixth, and Fifth Streets sides, and at the mid-point of the south side. Visitors to this area must pass through a temporary screening facility which is housed in a tent on the south side of the square. The National Park Service has also curtailed visitor access to the north side of Independence Square as an additional protective measure for visitors in response to the City of Philadelphia's decision to keep Chestnut Street open to vehicular traffic.

A more permanent security plan is under study. While no final decisions have been made at this writing, within the next six months the National Park Service will begin formal public consultation on a security plan that protects the WHS and our visitors.

NPS has a business relationship with Lights of Liberty [LOL], a non-profit organization that conducts an ambulatory sound and light show throughout the park from sunset until 9 p.m., April through November. The program's finale is on Independence Square south of Independence Hall. The NPS restricts the show's potential to adversely affect Independence Hall through a very detailed business permit that governs all of LOL's activities on our property. We monitor them closely. We have refused their requests to make permanent alterations to the site that would destroy below-ground archeological resources. Park staff is aware of the adverse impact the request would cause. We insist that any equipment LOL uses must be completely removable and must cause no damage or permanent change of any sort to the site.

## **II.6 Monitoring** **(See Section 6 of the current Nomination Form)**

### *Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring Property*

*6a) Is there a formal monitoring program established for the site? In this case, "monitoring" means the repeated and systematic observation and collection of data on one or more defined factors or variables over a period of time.*

Yes.

*6a1) If YES, please describe the monitoring program, indicating what factors or variables are being monitored and which partners, if any, are or will be involved in the program.*

The National Park Service works closely with the Historical Commission of the City of Philadelphia to monitor Independence Hall's interior environment. We monitor interior temperature and relative humidity in order to ensure that the building's performance won't exceed established parameters that could cause condensation within the walls. This information is used to regulate the building's operating system. We also monitor exterior relative humidity and rainfall for comparative information about our operating system's performance. In addition, the park performs a Facility Condition Assessment Survey (FCAS) of the building annually. This includes an inspection of the building's structural system, its tower, roof and guttering system, exterior and interior walls and trim, interior flooring, the grand staircase, and all finishes. We inspect the mechanical, electrical, fire detection and suppression system, and security alarm system throughout the year. We also conduct interior air quality inspections. The results of these inspections are entered into the NPS Facility Management and Software System [FMSS]. This data contributes to a condition inventory of the structure that assists the park in assigning maintenance priorities and identifying preservation needs.

### *Key Indicators for Measuring State of Conservation*

*6b) At the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage list, or while in the process of reviewing the status of the property at subsequent meetings, have the World Heritage Committee and the State Party identified and agreed upon key indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the property's World Heritage values?*

No

*6b1) If YES, please list and describe these key indicators, provide up-to-date data with respect to each of them, and also indicate actions taken by the State Party in response to each indicator.*

*6b2) If NO key indicators were identified by the World Heritage Committee and used so far, please indicate whether the World Heritage Site management authority is developing or plans to develop key indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the property's World Heritage Values.*

Independence uses the NPS standardized format, FMSS, for evaluating the condition of the property. Data is loaded into a program that permits monitoring, identification of needs, and treatment planning.

*Results of Previous Reporting Exercises*

*6c) Please describe briefly the current status of actions the State Party has taken in response to recommendations from the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription or afterwards, through the process known as "reactive reporting." (Note: The answer to this question will be "not applicable" for many sites.)*

Not applicable

## II.7 Conclusions

### *World Heritage Values*

*7a) Please summarize the main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2. and II.3. above).*

The World Heritage value of Independence Hall is cultural criterion #6, the site is directly and tangibly associated with events and ideas of universal significance. Independence Hall is the site where the Declaration of Independence was signed and the United States Constitution was framed. Those documents have become models for similar charters of other democratic nations throughout the world. The political philosophies expressed in those documents herald a modern era of government.

This value has not changed since the property's original inscription to the World Heritage List. The property remains in an excellent state of preservation and there have been no significant changes in its authenticity or integrity since inscription.

### *Management and Factors Affecting Site*

*7b) Please summarize the main conclusions regarding the management of and factors affecting the property (see items II.4. and II.5. above).*

Independence Hall is located within the boundaries of Independence National Historical Park. It is managed under protective legislation and under contractual agreements between the State Party and the City of Philadelphia. While the City retains ownership of the building and its site, NPS is responsible for the daily management, maintenance, and operations.

There have been no significant changes in ownership, legal status, traditional protective measures or management regime since the time of inscription. Independence Hall figures prominently in the Park's current General Management Plan (1998). This plan is available on [www.nps.gov/inde/](http://www.nps.gov/inde/).

Operation and preservation of the WHS are funded by the United States of America. NPS professionals are stationed at the site. The staff also has access to NPS centers and the international preservation community for consultation. The site's World Heritage designation has been helpful in competing for preservation funds. The Park employs 243 individuals. In 2002, there were 553,134 visitors to the site. Since inscription in 1979, we have added 19 studies to the site's bibliography. These studies are used to inform management decisions. In 2002, the Park opened a new visitor center that is closer to Independence Hall and where timed tickets to the WHS are issued.

In order to preserve Independence Hall and serve our visitors, the site is operated according to a calculated carrying capacity. The most significant pressures presently facing the site are visitor pressures and security pressures. Since 9/11, we have studied ways to improve overall security without compromising visitor enjoyment. Currently, magnetometers screen visitors at fixed security points and Independence Hall is isolated by temporary fencing. Studies for a more permanent solution are underway.

*Proposed Future Action(s)*

*7c) Please describe briefly future actions that the State Party has approved to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage values of the property.*

*These sample headings can be used as a checklist.*

*Modification of legal or administrative structure  
Changes to financial arrangements  
Increases to staffing level  
Provision of training  
Modification of visitor facilities  
Preparation of a visitor management plan  
Studies of public knowledge of the World Heritage Site  
Emergency preparedness  
Establishment or improvement of a monitoring program.*

Current plans for preserving the values of Independence Hall center on managing the need for improved security while preserving as much of the freedom of access associated with the values of a free, democratic society which are associated with this site. Studies for a new security plan could result in the addition of a permanent security screening facility. INDE has revised its emergency preparedness plan and conducted training for park staff about appropriate actions to take in the event of a terrorist attack. The park has recently put into place a plan for the movement of staff, contractors and other authorized personnel on Independence Square. This forms a critical section of a non-visitor use plan for the WHS. It will be incorporated into our Superintendent's Compendium; this park management document defines the authorized uses of Independence Hall by both visitors and non-recreational groups who request access to the building. Park staff review and update the Compendium annually. As new security measures are put into place, the park consider whether to develop a separate visitor use plan or to continue our practice of using the Compendium as our primary visitor management document.

*Responsible Implementing Agency(ies)*

*7d) Please identify the agency(ies) responsible for implementation of these actions described in 7c, if different from those listed in Section II.4.*

*Timeframe for Implementation*

*7e) If known, or predictable, please provide a timeline for the implementation of the actions described in 7c.*

The park is in the early stages of settling upon a definite course of action. When the direction is chosen, a timeline for implementation will follow. It is estimated that the implementation will begin in 2004.



*Needs for International Assistance*

*7f) Is it anticipated that International Assistance, through the World Heritage Fund, will be requested for any of the planned actions described above?*

No

*Potential Decisions for the World Heritage Committee*

*7g) Please indicate if the World Heritage Site management authority has preliminarily identified, as a result of this reporting exercise, an apparent need to seek a World Heritage Committee decision to change any of the following:*

*(Note: Following completion of the Periodic Report exercise, the State Party, in consultation with appropriate authorities, will determine whether to proceed with seeking a Committee decision on these changes. To request such changes, the State Party will need to follow a separate, formal process, subsequent to submitting the report.)*

- change to criteria for inscription
- change to Statement of Significance
- proposed new Statement of Significance, where previously missing
- change boundaries or buffer zone

## II.8 Documentation

(See Section 7 of the current Nomination Form and Section 3 of the original Nomination Form)

8a) Please review the original nomination for the property to determine whether it is necessary or advisable to supply, update or amend any of the following documentation for the World Heritage Site. Indicate what documentation will be supplied to supplement the information found in this report. (This documentation should be supplied at the time the Periodic Report is submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in December 2004.)

- a) Photographs, slides and, where available, film. This material should be accompanied by a duly signed authorization granting, free of charge to UNESCO, the non-exclusive right for the legal term of copyright to reproduce and use it in accordance with the terms of the authorization attached.
- b) Topographic or other map or site plan which locates the WHS and its boundaries, showing scale, orientation, projection, datum, site name, date and graticule.
- xx  c) A copy of the property management plan.
- d) A Bibliography consisting of references to all the main published sources on the World Heritage Site, compiled to international standards.

8b) Do you have a digital map of the WHS, showing its location and boundaries?

Yes

8bi) If yes, in what format(s) is the map?

pdf document

8bii) Is it published on a publicly-accessible website?

Yes

8biii) If yes, please provide the URL of the site where the map can be found. Must be a valid URL.

[www.nps.gov/inde/ppmaps/acf1b.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/inde/ppmaps/acf1b.pdf)