

Draft of a proposed new
National Register Photographic Imaging Policy
Comments due by March 18, 2009

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Introduction

The National Register of Historic Places is releasing a draft of a proposed new National Register photographic imaging policy for a 30-day comment period. All comments should be emailed to alexis_abernathy@contractor.nps.gov , faxed to 202-371-6447, or sent by alternate carrier to:

National Register of Historic Places,
1201 I “Eye” St. NW,
8th floor
Washington, DC 2005

All comments must be received by March 18, 2009. Please feel free to use the policy as current guidance; if there are changes to the policy in the future you will not be penalized for using this draft policy during the comment period.

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Outline of National Register of Historic Places photographic imaging goals:

The proposed draft photographic imaging policy is being designed to help transition into an electronic and web accessible National Register of Historic Places. Here is an explanation of what goals the NR hopes to accomplish:

1. An entirely electronic National Register of Historic Places nomination form (Form) process within the next 60 months
 - This would include an electronic template, maps, images and signature all delivered electronically.

2. An electronic Form available within the next 24 to 36 months
 - Form will be standardized and produce a consistent looking Form when viewed on screen or printed out

 - Form for the entire National Register nomination (text, images, maps) will be submitted entirely through a portal or disk, i.e.: Printed copies of National Register nomination no longer required

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Digital Option

I. Camera:

A. BEST:

- **At Least 6 megapixel digital SLR Camera**

B. Acceptable:

- Minimum 6 megapixel point-and-shoot digital camera

C. Acceptable:

- 2 – 5 megapixel SLR or point-and-shoot digital camera

D. Not acceptable

- Camera phones
- Disposable or single-use digital cameras
- Digital cameras with fewer than 2 megapixels of resolution

II. Image format:

A. BEST:

- **First generation Tag image file format (TIFF)¹ or RAW²**

B. Acceptable:

- Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG)³ converted to TIFF
 - *JPEG must not be altered in any way prior to conversion*
 - *After the image has been saved as a TIFF, use the guidelines outlined in the section titled “Labeling the Image.”*

¹Unknown, *Digital Photography Glossary*, “TIFF: Short for Tagged Image File Format, TIFF is an image file format that does not lose any quality when it is saved and compressed. Many advanced cameras offer a TIFF format option.” *Digital Camera HQ* http://www.digitalcamera-hq.com/digital-cameras/glossary-info_guide.html

²Bob Atkins, “RAW, JPEG and TIFF” “RAW data (which Nikon call NEF data) is the output from each of the original red, green and blue sensitive pixels of the image sensor, after being read out of the array by the array electronics and passing through an analog to digital converter... As far as I know, RAW isn't an acronym, it doesn't stand for anything, it just means raw, unprocessed, data.” *Photo.net* Revised June 2008. <http://photo.net/learn/raw/>

³*Business Dictionary*, *Jpeg*” (pronounced, Jay-peg) a file formatted in the color graphics compression format devised by the Joint Photographic Experts Group and having the filename extension .jpg. The JPEG standard uses a ‘lossy’ [Data Compression](#) method in which some data is sacrificed (lost) to achieve greater compression. ..”*Answers.com*. <http://www.answers.com/topic/jpeg>

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III Capturing the Image:

A. BEST:

- **Minimum 6 megapixels (2000 x 3000 pixel image) at 300 dpi**

B. Acceptable:

- **Minimum 2 megapixels (1200 x 1600 pixel image) at 300 dpi**

IV Labeling the image:

A. BEST:

- **State_county_Multiple (if applicable)_property name_0001**
- **Leading zeros prior to image number required.** See example above

B. Not Acceptable:

- **All other labeling methods**

V Printer paper and inks⁴:

B. BEST

- **Inks: Manufacturer recommended ink for photograph printing**
- **Some examples:**
 - Epson UltraChrome K3
 - Kodak No. 10 Pigmented Inks
 - HP Vivera Pigment Inks
 - Epson Claria “Hi-Definition Inks”
 - Epson DuraBrite Ultra Pigmented Inks
 - HP Vivera 95 dye-based inks

⁴ *The list below includes products known at this time to meet the minimum documentation specifications established for the compilation of National Register nomination documents. The list is not intended to be restrictive or comprehensive, and does not constitute, and shall not be taken as, endorsement by the National Park Service or the Department of the Interior of any of the specific products or manufacturers identified.*

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B **BEST**

- Papers: Manufacturer recommend paper for photograph prints

- Some examples:
 - Epson Premium Glossy Paper
 - Kodak Ultra Photo Premium
 - HP Professional Satin Photo Paper
 - Matte Epson Ultra Premium Glossy Photo Paper
 - HP Premium Plus Photo Paper

C. Not acceptable

- Regular copy or printer papers
- Paper or ink not equivalent to the examples listed above
- Disk only, without prints

VI The Disk:

A. **BEST: CD-R - with patented Phthalocyanine dye and 24 Karat gold reflective layer.**

- Examples:
 - Delkin's Archival Gold™ (also referred to as eFilm® Archival Gold)
 - MAM-A Gold™(also know as Gold-On-Gold™)
 - Verbatim UltraLife™ Gold Archival Grade CD and DVD-R

B. **Acceptable:CD-R or DVD-R**

C. **Not acceptable:**

- CD-RW or DVD- RW

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VII Labeling the Disk

A. **BEST:**

- **Labels printed directly on the disk by way of inkjet or laser printers**

B. Acceptable:

- Labeled using CD/DVD safe markers,
- Examples:
 - Sharpies™
 - Prismacolor®

C. Not acceptable:

- Ammonia or solvent based markers

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35mm Option

I. Camera

- A **BEST:**
- **35MM SLR Camera**
- B Acceptable:
- 35MM point-and-shoot camera
- C Not Acceptable:
- Disposable Cameras

II. Film

- A Acceptable:
- Traditional 35MM black-and-white film
- B Acceptable:
- 35MM color film with accompanying disk

III. Paper

- A Acceptable
- 35mm photographic paper specifically designed for black-and-white Photography (For black-and-white prints specifically)
- B Acceptable
- 35mm black-and-white images printed on paper designed for color prints with an accompanying disk containing digital copies of the images (Disk generated at the time of developing the film)
- C Acceptable:
- 35mm color images printed on paper designed for color images with an accompanying disk containing digital copies of the images
 - Disk generated at the time of developing the film⁵

⁵ This option is ONLY for those incapable of meeting any other standard.

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