



Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program

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National Historic Landmarks - Data Reconciliation and Comparative Analysis

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**Department of Defense National Historic Landmarks Internship Report
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The objectives of this internship included creating an inventory of the Department of Defense's National Historic Landmark (NHL) files located in the National Park Service (NPS) archives and finding data gaps and inconsistencies within the files and between the NPS and DoD sources of information on NHLs. The created inventory consists of scanned copies of all the information within the NHL files and a detailed list of documents in the files. Items scanned include all the correspondence in the file as well as nomination forms and photos not yet digitized by NPS, which are not part of any previous DoD record. The inventory document notes the items contained in each file. The National Register nomination form, photos, and correspondence are usually present in each file. Items listed but not scanned include long technical reports, United States Geological Survey maps, other large maps, newspaper and journal articles, visitor brochures and postcards. Many files contained duplicate copies of correspondence; thus efforts were made to scan only one copy of each document. Citations for articles are listed as accurately as possible, though article clippings often contained insufficient information for a full citation.

Due to time constraints several NHLs, including archaeological sites owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the US Marine Corps were not scanned. Though the DoD has electronic copies of the nomination form from these NHLs, there are 11 archaeological NHLs that have redacted forms relating to the location of the site. Specifics on the location of the site are blacked out on forms available to the public. The original nomination form should be scanned in and added to DoD records. The 11 sites with retracted information are Deer Creek

Site, OK, Crow creek Site, SD, Ft. Thompson Mounds, SD, Molstad Village, SD, Langdeau Site, SD, Marmes Rockshelter, SD, Charlesfort Santa Elena, SC, The Clover Site, WV, Maple Leaf, FL, Yuchi Town Site, AL, and Vanderbilt Archaeological Site, SD.

The NHL files were out of date and provided inconsistent amounts of information from one file to the next. In general, most of the correspondence in the files concerned the nomination of the landmark or past Section 106 processes. Due to the fact that NHL files have been not been kept up to date, it is not possible to determine their current status, particularly in regards to determining the boundaries of the NHLs from reading the files. Site visit reports, current updates on boundary studies, or updated forms are not current or present within the files. Therefore, the files do not present a complete and accurate picture of the NHLs. This presents an enormous data gap not only within each NHL file but also within the entire NHL archiving system.

NPS updates the NHLs they own but it is up to the NPS regional offices to check up on other NHLs in their region. It is also up to NHL owners to assist the regional offices in updating NHL information. Often the offices do not update the files or the owner of the NHL does not respond to inquiries by the NPS regional office. The offices are supposed to forward updated information to the Washington office but often don't do so.

Additionally, this summer project included verifying whether or not the NPS information on NHLs correlated with the DoD information. As it has been stated, NHL files are not an accurate picture of current NHL information. A list at the end of this report denotes the NHL files that presented gaps of information when compared to other sources of information concerning the NHLs. This information was gathered from the NPS NHL public web site and

from conversations with NHL staff members at the Washington office. The NHL website is updated quarterly by the NHL office.

In preparation for the NPS's NHL condition assessment document issued every other year, the NHL office requests updates on NHLs from the NPS regional offices every even numbered year. These updates are added to the NHL website. The following DoD NHLs remained on the NPS NHL Watch list for 2004; Adak Army Base, AK, Ladd Field, AK, Fort Adams, RI, Crow Creek Site, SD, Molstad Village, SD, Fort Sam Houston, TX, Wake Island, and Fort D.A. Russell, WY. Two new DoD NHLs were added to the Watch List in 2004; Watervliet Arsenal, NY and United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. NHLs on the watch list are defined as facing potential damage. In addition to the Watch List, the NPS issues a list of landmarks with a threatened or emergency status. DoD NHLs on this list include Mare Island, CA, Cape Canaveral, FL, Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL and United States Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, HI.

NPS boundary studies and NHL documentation improvement studies are ongoing studies that are a result of the 1980 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. NHLs that had no clear boundary demarcation at the time of designation were required to establish appropriate boundary definitions. According to the NPS National Register *Bulletin How Prepare National Historic Landmarks Nominations*, "the regional and support offices have primary responsibility for conducting research, identifying, and justifying boundaries, preparing documentation, and obtaining the names and addresses of property owners, appropriate state officials and local governments." More information concerning the NHL designation process and boundary and documentation improvement studies can be found in 35 CFR 65 and the NPS

National Register Bulletin *How to Prepare National Historic Landmarks Nominations* available at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nhl/nhlstart.htm> and by request from the NPS.

Additional information concerning boundary studies of the DoD NHLs was found in an NPS Status Report on the Boundary/Improved Documentation Study issued on July 1, 2002. This report comprised of a list prepared by the NPS regional offices of NHLs that formed part of the original Boundary Study begun by the regional offices in the early 1980s. Two lists formed part of the Status Report; one identified NHLs needing boundary definitions or expanded documentation and one listed NHLs with completed boundary studies. DoD NHLs on these lists are identified in this report. It is beneficial to the Department to know the current status of the boundary studies. This list provides more accurate information on the status of boundary delineation efforts than the NHL files. The NHL Survey staff assists the Regional offices in conducting the studies, but it is ultimately up to the Regional offices to provide information for the study.

It is recommended that the remainder of the NHL files be scanned in order to complete the inventory. This inventory presents a comprehensive look at the contents of the NHL files and has the potential to provide researchers with assistance in researching Defense NHLs. The inventory also contributes to a better understanding of the overall inventory of the Department's historic properties. This project also highlighted problems within the NPS archiving system, for it is beneficial for both NPS and DoD to have current NHL information in one file. While the NPS is in the process of digitizing all NHL nomination forms, they are not digitizing correspondence or other related information located in the files. It is therefore valuable to have such a list of the contents of the file.

Identified below in this report are gaps of information evident in the files and between the DoD and the NPS sources of information. To acquire a better understanding of the condition of the NHLs and to confirm ownership status it would be beneficial to follow up on the issues identified under the NHL titles. Follow up would require contacting the NPS regional offices as well as cultural resource managers at the installations. To further expand the inclusive inventory of DoD NHL documents, research and digitization of files would need to be conducted at the regional offices and at the installation

At the end of the document is a list of problems identified concerning NHL information on the DENIX site. There is a complete list of NHLs with no link on DENIX to the NHL nomination package in PDF version. As a result of this summer's project DoD should have electronic copies of all but 18 DoD NHLs. An electronic copy of the nomination package is available for all NHLs on the NPS Focus website, which can be found at <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do>. NPS is in the process of digitizing all nomination forms for NHLs. If the form is not up on the website yet it will be added within the year.

Adak Army Base and Adak Naval Operating Base, Alaska

-NPS NHL site states that Navy transferred ownership to private hands. Nothing in NHL file related to the Navy's transfer or BRAC closure.

Bonneville Dam Historic District, USACE, Bonneville, Oregon

-In 1987 the Boundary Increase for the NHL district was given a separate number by NPS but the NHL still remains one district.

City of Oakland/USSS Hoga, Navy, Benicia, California/ North Little Rock, Arkansas

-DoD no longer owns this NHL. The Navy transferred ownership to the city of North Little Rock, Arkansas in 2005 through the Navy Ship Donation Program. The ship was scheduled to be moved to Arkansas in January 2007. As of July 2007 the ship has yet to be transferred from California to Arkansas. This NHL should be removed from the DoD NHL list.

The Defense Link News release article announcing its transfer of ownership can be read here:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=8729>

Crow Creek Site, Crow Creek Sioux Reservation, USACE, Buffalo County, South Dakota

-According to a 1985 document from the Army to the Department of the Interior the USACE owns three-fourths of the site. According to the 1985 nomination form part of the site is owned by the Tribal Council of the Crow Creek Indian tribe with USACE reservoir stewardship responsibilities.

Eaker Site, Air Force, Blytheville, Arkansas

-Nothing in NHL file notes of transfer of ownership.

Fort Douglas, Army, Utah

-2002 NTHP documents states that the fort was decommissioned and transferred to the University in 1991. The Stephen A. Douglas Army Reserve Center is located within the NHL.

Fort Monroe, Army, Virginia

- 2005 e-mail mentions a possible update of the nomination form. No further information on this is in the file.

Fort Sam Houston, Army, Texas

- Correspondence from late 1990s to 2000s indicates a study to update the nomination form and expand the NHL boundaries. No completed updated form in the file.

-1986 letter from NRHP indicating a technically corrected boundary to the NHL district. This was a minor change. It was discovered in 1980 that the original NRHP form had inadvertently omitted a cluster of buildings.

Fort Thompson Mounds, Buffalo County, USACE, South Dakota

-NPS states that no response was received from the owner of the NHL to a 2004 inquiry about the condition of the site. Nothing in the NHL file relates to the current condition of the site.

Hangar 9 Brooks Air Force Base, Air Force, Texas

-Ownership transferred to the Brooks Development Authority in 2002. Nothing in NHL file indicates this transfer. DENIX notes the transfer. According to DENIX, although ownership was transferred, the Air Force maintains leasehold on the NHL. Ownership of this NHL needs to be clarified by OSD and the Air Force.

Las Flores Adobe, USMC, California

- NRHP form indicates it is on lease from the Marines to the Orange County Council of Boy Scouts. Little information in NHL file as to this arrangement except for a 1973 letter from the Navy indicating that the Boy Scouts had plans to restore some buildings and make improvements upon approval of the lease. NPS NHL site lists the current use of this site as a Boy Scouts Facility.

Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Navy, California

-Nothing in file indicating current status of ownership. NPS NHL site states that most of Mare Island is owned by a private developer. The site was listed as threatened in 2004 but there is no information in the NHL file indicating the most recent site visit.

Nash (Harbor Tug), USACE, Erie, New York

-The 1990 NRHP nomination form notes that the tug was in the process of being offered for by sale from ownership by the Corps of Engineers by the General Services Administration. A piece of 1991 correspondence writes of three organizations interested in acquiring the Nash.

Pensacola Naval Air Station Historic District, Navy, Pensacola, Florida

-NPS NHL site states that Hurricane Ivan (2004) destroyed many contributing resources and should therefore be reevaluated for boundary clarifications and even possible delisting as a landmark. No discussion of the Hurricane's destruction in the NHL file.

Seventh Regiment Armory, Army, New York

-Nothing in NHL file notes of transfer of ownership

Space Launch Complex 10, Air Force, California

- A 2005 e-mail indicates that the nomination form was revised in 2002. This form never made it into the files. The e-mail states that there were some inconsistencies in the original form.

St. Mary's Falls Canal, USACE, Michigan

-A 2005 e-mail states a revision of the nomination form in the works. No further information on the update is in the file.

United States Military Academy, Army, West Point, New York

- A 2003 letter states an updated nomination form was in the works. No follow up on this in the file. NHL staff has not heard from landmark staff. NPS NHL site states that due to

deterioration there is a loss of distinguishing characteristics that makes the site eligible to the National Register.

United States Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Navy, Hawaii

-NPS NHL site notes that proposed new development might have adverse affects on the NHL district and the USS Arizona and Utah. The site also states that a programmatic agreement to manage the NHL was signed in the spring of 2003.

-There are a few pieces of correspondence from 2000 and 2002 concerning a Notice of Intent to prepare a programmatic agreement and a 2002 letter from NPS saying that have reviewed a notice of adverse effect of a proposed building demolition.

Washington Aqueduct, USACE, Washington DC

-Pulled in fall 2003 for consideration for a boundary extension due to environmental and subsequently public relations concerns. A piece of correspondence from 1999 writes of NHL documentation submitted to NPS for review.

NPS Status Report for the Boundary/Improved Documentation Study (July 1, 2002) Need to be Completed List

DoD NHLs identified as having a boundary study needing to be completed by the support office:

- Adak Army Base and Adak Naval Operations Base, AK
- Fort Sill, OK

DoD NHLs identified as needing improved documentation or having additional circumstances

- Molstad Village, SD – Recommended for de-designation
- St. Mary's Falls Canal, MI
- Army Medical Museum and Library, DC – Recommended for de-designation
- Washington Aqueduct, DC – documentation presented at the 2002 Board meeting
- United States Naval Academy, MD
- Hangar No. 1 Lakehurst Naval Air Station, NJ
- United States Military Academy, West Point, NY
- Original US Naval War College, RI
- Ft. Monroe, VA

NPS Status Report for the Boundary/Improved Documentation Study (July 1, 2002) Completed List

- Ft. Thompson Mounds, SD
- Langdeau Site, SD
- Marmes Rockshelter, WA
- Molstad Village, SD

- Fort Sam Houston, TX
- Crow Creek Site, SD
- United States Naval Base, Peal Harbor, HI
- Old Lock Pump House, Chesapeake and Delaware
- Watervliet Arsenal, NY
- Carlisle Indian School, PA

DoD NHLs identified as needing improved documentation:

- Coso Rock Art District, CA

Problems on DENIX

The introduction to NHLs on DENIX notes that the Department of Defense has 75 NHLs. While it is not known exactly how many NHLs the department owns, it is certain that the Department does not own 75 NHLs as several have been eliminated through the BRAC process and other elimination or transfer programs.

Carlisle Indian School, PA

- A paragraph of Carlisle's history is repeated at the bottom of the description.

List of NHLs on DENIX with no link to NHL nomination package in PDF format:

- Coso Rock Art District, CA
- US Air Force Academy, Cadet Area, CO
- Hangar 9 Brooks Air Force Base, TX
- Ladd Field, AK
- USS Constitution, MA
- White Sands V-2 Launching Site, NM
- Huffman Prairie Flying Field, OH
- Fort Sill, OK
- Carlisle Indian School, PA
- HA 19 Midget Submarine, TX
- Fort Monroe, VA
- Wake Island