



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Financial Officer
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

SEP 30 2011

Chairman Milford W. Donaldson
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ATTN: E.O. 13287, Section 3 Progress Report
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 803
Old Post Office Building
Washington, DC 20004-2501

Dear Chairman Donaldson:

In accordance with Executive Order 13287, Preserve America, Section 3 "Improving Federal Agency Planning and Accountability," enclosed is the triennial report submission for the Department of Commerce.

If you have any questions or need additional information, my point of contact is Rob Tomiak at (202)-482-6212 or rtomiak@doc.gov.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Pleffner

Director for Administrative Services

Cc: US. Department of the Interior (Historic Preservation Officer)

Enclosure

OCT 04 2011

U.S. Department of Commerce

**Historic Property Management
Preserve America Report**

Pursuant to Executive Order 13287

Preserve America

September 30, 2011



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I. Introduction

It is the goal of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) to preserve, protect, and manage the Department's historic properties and promote federal stewardship for the preservation and use of historic properties. To accomplish this, DOC is committed to identifying and evaluating historic properties within the DOC real property asset portfolio and managing those properties in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order (EO) 13287, *Preserve America*, signed by President George W. Bush on March 3, 2003.

EO 13287 requires Federal agencies with real property responsibilities to, beginning September 30, 2005, and every three years thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying, protecting, and using historic properties in its ownership. In the preparation of this report, DOC followed guidance prepared by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation entitled Updated Advisory Guidelines Implementing Executive Order 13287, *Preserve America*, April 2011.

DOC is a diverse Federal agency organized by operating units which include 12 bureaus and various other offices supporting the DOC mission and operations. The majority of the DOC asset inventory belongs to two bureaus, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA currently maintains, operates or owns all of the listed historic properties within the DOC inventory and is responsible for the largest percentage of the DOC real property assets. In addition, the DOC headquarters is housed in the Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) that is part of the Federal Triangle and therefore eligible for historic status.

II. DOC Historic Preservation Program

With the exception of the HCHB, the historic properties owned, occupied, or administered by DOC have generally been attributed to NOAA and NIST in the Federal Real Property Profile. Accordingly, NOAA and NIST have developed policy and guidance incorporating historic preservation considerations into their infrastructure management programs. Finally, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) administers a federally funded grant program and considers historic preservation as a criteria before awarding grants.

A. Policies and Directives

The DOC Real Property Management Manual currently provides the DOC policy for managing the historic preservation program. An effort to expand upon the guidance in an Energy and Environmental Management Manual (E&EMM) is currently underway with an expected publication date in FY 12. In addition, DOC operating units, specifically NOAA and EDA, have supplemented the DOC policy with bureau-specific policies.

It is NOAA's policy to work with experts in government, the private sector, and academia to develop comprehensive conservation plans for resources of historical significance to the nation. The efforts to preserve heritage resources, from historic maps and charts to building and

shipwrecks, and to make them accessible to the public through innovative programs and partnerships is reflective of NOAA's heritage stewardship commitment. NOAA's mission and the identification and use of historic properties and heritage assets are integrally related, as illustrated in the restoration of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Fort Point Crissy Field, San Francisco, CA which will serve as the Ocean Climate Center in San Francisco. The Ocean Climate Center will serve as an ocean and climate change communication center for the Bay Area and facilitate the exchange of technical, scientific, policy, and education information and ideas. As part of the long-range facility capital planning process, NOAA leverages opportunities to protect and restore historic properties, such as the adaptive restoration at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in developing the NOAA Pacific Regional Center.

Through museums, Web sites, and other venues, NOAA also provides opportunities for the public to learn more about the agency's heritage resource conservation and preservation activities. For example, NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary offers a Web-based "shipwreck trail" that highlights the region's rich maritime history and encourages the public to visit the Keys and dive the trail's nine carefully chosen, mapped, and interpreted sites.

The NIST Museum and History Program preserves the history and heritage of NIST and the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) by collecting, recording, organizing and exhibiting achievements of NIST staff. It is NIST policy, through this program, to collect, conserve, document, research, catalog and display significant artifacts and copies of records to provide an institutional memory and to preserve them for future analyses and contribute to the study of the history of technical development in the Nation. The management and staff of NIST are required (per NIST Administrative Manual, Subchapter 5.02, Appendix A) to identify and preserve unique, symbolic, or typical items, old and new, that are important to the past and present programs and personnel of NIST, and to make them available to the NIST Museum and History Program for evaluation as to appropriateness for preservation in the NIST Museum collection.

B. DOC Historic Property Inventory

The DOC Historic Preservation inventory is managed through the DOC real property asset management database. The system currently in use by DOC is the Federal Real Property Management (FRPM) database. Over the past three years, the inventory has improved and the number of properties that have been identified and evaluated have increased. DOC, including the Department operating units such as NOAA and NIST, utilize the DOC FRPM database to record owned and leased historical properties as well as provide the status of historic properties and whether they have been identified and evaluated.

The following matrix compares the number of properties that have been identified and evaluated between the 2011 and the 2008 FRPM Historical Status;

<u>Historical Status</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2011</u>
National Register Listed	37	36
National Register Eligible	11	12
National Historical Landmark	15	25

These data represent a significant improvement mainly as of the result of the improved data entry to the DOC FRPM. We continue to evaluate properties for inclusion in these categories. Overall, the condition of the Department's historical properties range from fair to excellent.

Additionally, The Maryland Historic Trust and the Montgomery County Planning Department have been contacted regarding the NIST-Gaithersburg Site. Both agencies reviewed the site in 2009 and concluded that no historic properties exist at this site. The NIST-Boulder Site has not been reviewed for historic sites in the past three years. In 1995, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office reviewed the campus and found no historic sites. Historic Preservation Specialists were also contracted to review the campus and found no historic sites.

C. Goals for identification and evaluation of historic properties

Although DOC has yet to establish specific goals for the identification and evaluation of historic properties, we intend to pursue a systematic process with the use of the FRPM data to ultimately identify and evaluate all of our historical properties. In addition, NOAA intends to engage on a property verification process of all state nominated and registered historic facilities in the United States. This effort will include a search strategy to include the use of all current and past NOAA organizational names and initializations to ensure that all facilities are properly identified. NOAA will use existing state historic preservation office (SHPO) internet applications and written correspondence with each SHPO. The listing will be posted on the NOAA Preserve America web site. Our efforts and progress are obviously affected by resource availability.

D. Internal Reporting

The primary method of reporting within DOC is through the Department's real property management system. Currently, the Department utilizes FRPM to manage real property assets. In addition, NOAA uses a facility assessment model, the Integrated Facilities Inspection Program (IFIP), to collect and manage survey data for each facility and to identify the characteristics of the current inventory, the age and condition of the facility, and the historical status of the facility. The respondent identifies the property according to one of the five real property data management system historical categories. This data is useful to prioritize which property should be further investigated and evaluated for eligibility on the National Register List.

E. Partnerships

DOC encourages public-private partnerships. For example, NOAA works with experts in government, the private sector, and academia to develop comprehensive conservation plans for resources of historical significance to the nation. When acquiring property, NOAA works with the existing owner to identify whether the property is a historic property.

NIST contracts with Environmental/Historic Preservation Specialists to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Historic property assessments are coordinated with local agencies such as the Maryland Historic Trust, and the Maryland Department of Planning.

F. Challenges, Successes, and Opportunities

The primary challenge that DOC faces in managing historic assets is the limited available resources to assess the current real property inventory and to implement a property verification program to improve historic property identification and recordation.

A second challenge exists in the actual use of an historical property. For example, one of the challenges is retrofitting the facility to house a totally new function and bringing it up to current buildings codes while maintaining the historical integrity of the building. The Old Coast Guard Building 1 at Lake Michigan Field Station in Muskegon MI, part of NOAA's Ocean Air Research (OAR) Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL), provides such example.



Old Coast Guard Building 1

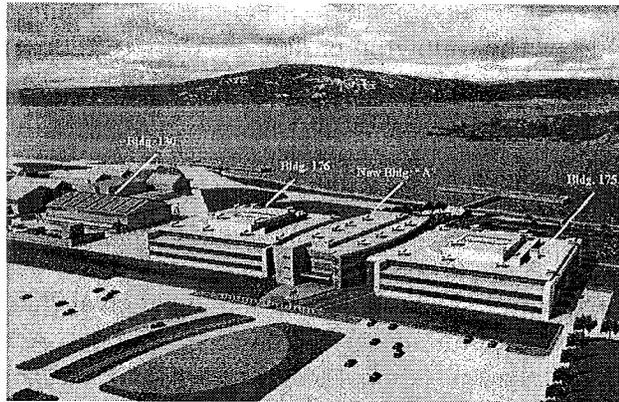
This three story building with an observation tower was constructed in 1900 as a Life Station and a former Coast Guard Station. The facility was renovated into research laboratories, offices, lecture center, dormitory and library, expanding the opportunities for multi-institutional collaboration and partnerships on a local, regional and national basis. It also accommodates visiting scientists from GLERL and other agencies to work and live while at the Lake Michigan Field Station (LMFS). The LMFS hosts over 400 visiting scientists and visitors each year, with some scientists staying over a month at a time. As a historical building and a high profile building in the community, the appearance of the facility required substantial restoration and refurbishment. Great care was taken to recreate the exterior architecture and maintain the historic details of its original design. While modern materials were utilized, this prominent building appears just as it did to the lumber schooners in the last days of sail. Much of the interior spaces, mechanical, and utilities were upgraded but maintain the color schemes and layout of its early days in the Life Saving Service.

G. Protection of Historic Properties

DOC fosters the recognition of historic properties and is proud to occupy, maintain, and protect historic buildings and sites. Two examples of DOC's stewardship efforts in protecting historical properties include the Pacific Regional Center on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor Naval Complex, Hawaii, St. Georges Island Sealing Plant restoration project in Alaska, and Fort Crockett, NOAA Fisheries Service Galveston Laboratory, Texas.

The Pacific Regional Center: NOAA is currently undertaking a major construction project that will consolidate NOAA's programs and operations on the island of Oahu into a single facility on federally-owned property at Ford Island. A major part of this project involves the restoration and preservation of six buildings that are located within the boundary of the U.S. Naval Base Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark and are contributing properties to the landmark. All of the buildings have been deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These buildings will be rehabilitated to accommodate NOAA's new mission while protecting and restoring the architectural historical value of the building.

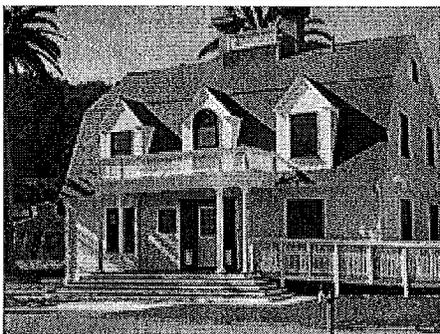
The first phase of the multi-phase construction program involved the restoration of one of the five historic buildings (Building 184), and renovation of piers required to support NOAA's ship operations in the Pacific region. The modernization of Building 184 was accomplished using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Due to historical preservation, work on Building 184 required retaining as



Pacific Regional Center

much of the original facility as could be salvaged and reused. Although much of the wood panels and framing were deteriorated and damaged by termites and aging, most of the structural columns, beams, and roof frame were salvaged and reused. The building's new siding and roofing were selected as best matching the original materials (only the color was changed to comply with NOAA's general campus theme). Even new electrical substation buildings were designed using siding and roofing that matches the materials used on Building 184. The newly renovated facility, which supports warehouse and office spaces, and was completed and occupied in October 2007. In April 2008, the NOAA PRC Ship Operations Facility project won the General Contractor Association of Hawaii Award of Excellence for Federal Construction.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Fort Point Crissy Field, San Francisco CA:



The Center will bring together a diversity of knowledge and expertise among several federal, states, and local agencies and other academic and non-profit partners to identify, assess, and address the effects of climate variability and climate change on the sanctuary and the surrounding marine region from Sonoma to Santa Cruz County. The Farallones Sanctuary will use the center to promote partnerships within the greater San Francisco Bay and Northern-Central Coast area to share resources and knowledge and to work together to address this and other effects of climate change in the

region.

NOAA works closely with Advisory Council on Historical Preservation, State Historic Preservation offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, certified local governments, private entities and organizations for the protection and management of information about historic properties. Benefits of this close working relationship are exemplified in several major projects, in particular the Pacific Regional Center at Ford Island Hawaii in which close collaboration with the Historic Preservation Partners addressed and resolved preservation challenges and explored design opportunities, and the statewide Programmatic Agreement being developed between NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center and the State of Hawaii SHPO.

NOAA's Pacific Regional Center has been a major success in the protection of a historic resource. The following project provides excellent examples of how NOAA is providing leadership in preserving America's heritage by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of the historic properties and resources owned by the federal government.

NOAA Pacific Regional Center: As previously stated NOAA is currently undertaking a major construction project to consolidate programs and operations on the island of Oahu into a single facility. A major part of this project involves the restoration and preservation of five buildings located within the boundary of the U.S. Naval Base Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark and is contributing properties to the landmark. All of the buildings have been deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These buildings will be rehabilitated to accommodate NOAA's new mission while restoring architectural historical value of the building. The first phase of the multi-phase construction program involved the restoration of one of the five historic buildings (Building 184), and renovation of piers required to support NOAA's ship operations in the Pacific region. The modernization of Building 184 was accomplished using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Due to historical preservation, work on Building 184 required retaining as much of the original facility as could be salvaged and reused. Although much of the wood panels and framing were deteriorated and damaged by termites and aging, most of the structural columns, beams, and roof frame was salvaged and reused. The building's new siding and roofing were selected as best matching the original materials (only the color was changed to comply with NOAA's general campus theme). Even new electrical substation buildings were designed using siding and roofing that matches the materials used on Building 184. The newly renovated facility supports warehouse and office spaces, and was completed and occupied in October 2007. In April 2008, the NOAA Pacific Regional Center Ship Operations Facility (SOF) project won the General Contractor Association of Hawaii Award of Excellence for Federal Construction.

At NIST, no historic properties have been identified. Construction sites are screened in the Environmental Assessment to ensure no historic sites will be impacted. NIST plans to establish an independent NEPA program in FY2012 that will address sections 106, 110 and 111 of the NHPA. The current NIST policy is for full compliance with NEPA in coordination and under approval of NOAA as the DOC NEPA lead.

H. Uses of Historic Properties

DOC is proud to occupy and maintain a number of historic buildings and sites and makes every effort to adaptively reuse and renovate facilities to support ongoing DOC missions while preserving historic assets. The agency makes these important resources available to the public through open houses, public events, exhibitions, and other outreach activities. NOAA has numerous properties with an assigned mission and/or purpose that include; The Pacific Region Center project, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor Hawaii, The NOAA Fisheries Service Galveston Laboratory, Texas, The Pribilof Islands, St. Paul Island and St. George Island, Alaska, and The NOAA's Monitor Marine Sanctuary to name a few.

NOAA supports preservation and economic development through heritage tourism, museums, Web sites, and other venues, NOAA provides opportunities for the public to learn more about the agency's heritage resource conservation and preservation activities. For example, NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary offers a Web-based "shipwreck trail" that highlights the region's rich maritime history and encourages the public to visit the Keys and dive the trail's nine carefully chosen, mapped, and interpreted sites. NOAA has also initiated mini-grants within NOAA to develop heritage assets. NOAA employees applied for mini-grants to support projects that pursue *Preserve America* goals and tell the NOAA story. Other agencies and the public are encouraged to participate as partners.

The NOAA's Pacific Regional Center (PRC) on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor Naval Complex in HI illustrates how NOAA has employed the use of partnership in the use historic properties. NOAA, in partnership with the US NAVY, ACHP, National Park Service, Hawaii's SHPO, and multiple other partners, will adaptively reuse existing buildings as well as constructing several new buildings to house a new consolidated facility that would become NOAA's Pacific Regional Center. All of the buildings on the base have been deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A carefully crafted MOA has brought all the partners in this project in to partnership allowing alternative use of historical properties.

One of the major challenges in using a historical property is retrofitting the facility to house a totally new function and bringing it up to code while maintaining the historical integrity of the building. The modernization of Building 184 was accomplished using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Due to historical preservation, work on Building 184 required retaining as much of the original facility as could be salvaged and reused. Although much of the wood panels and framing were deteriorated and damaged by termites and aging, most of the structural columns, beams, and roof frame was salvaged and reused. The building's new siding and roofing were selected as best matching the original materials (only the color was changed to comply with NOAA's general campus theme). Even new electrical substation buildings were designed using siding and roofing that matches the materials used on Building 184. The newly renovated facility supports warehouse and office spaces, and was completed and occupied in October 2007. In April 2008, the NOAA Pacific Regional Center Ship Operations Facility (SOF) project won the General Contractor Association of Hawaii Award of Excellence for Federal Construction.

I. Section 111 (16 U.S.C. § 470h-3) of NHPA

Section 111 allows you to use the authority in one of three ways. Lease or exchange historical properties when assets are not needed for current or future use; proceeds from any lease can be used in the operation and maintenance of other historic properties; or contract the management of agency historic properties to an outside entity. Although DOC has not used this authority to manage properties it is aware of its potential benefit and will use it when appropriate.

J. Sustainability

NOAA's goal and objectives is to evaluate and implements to all of our facilities projects, particularly to our historical assets, the principals of sustainability in accordance to EO 13514. This effort is exemplified in such projects as; Old Coast Guard Building 1 at Lake Michigan Field Station in Muskegon MI, and the Pacific Regional Center (PRC) on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor Naval Complex in HI.

It is NIST's intent to meet all of the sustainability goals specified in EO 13514. NIST does anticipate any impact to historic properties in the efforts required to meet the sustainability goals.

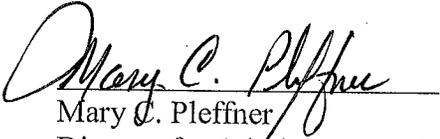
III. Summary

The goal of DOC is to preserve, protect, and manage the historic properties in the DOC real property asset inventory. In addition to preserving and managing those sites already identified as having historical significance, the Department is committed to continuous improvements in our reporting and identification system. With improvements made to our Federal Real Property Management d

+atabase, we have been able to identify one new site that is eligible for listing, and ten new National Historic Landmark Site since 2008. We intend to continue the verification process with an effort by NOAA to search past organizational names and initializations to ensure all facilities are properly identified.

In addition to our work in identifying and preserving our nation's historic properties, we are extremely proud of our partnerships with local governments, academia, and the private sector. These partnerships enable us to better educate the public not only on our resource conservation and preservation activities, but our nation's rich maritime and technical history. The Department continues to make great strides in the identification and evaluation of historic properties and through partnerships will continue to maintain, restore, conserve, and protect the historic resources of the Department and of the Nation.

The DOC points of contact are Rob Tomiak, Associate Director, Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs, at 202-482-6212 or rtomiak@doc.gov and Andy Duran, Associate Director, Office of Real Property Programs, at 202-482-5053 or aduran@doc.gov.



Mary C. Pleffner

Mary C. Pleffner
Director for Administrative Services

Sept 30, 2011
Date