**Executive Order 13287, Preserve America Fiscal Year 2017 Triennial Report**

**United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

As directed by Section 3(c) of Executive Order 13287, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides the following report on its progress in identifying, protecting, and using historic properties under its ownership from fiscal years (FYs) 2015 through 2017.

**IDENTIFICATION**

1. VA owns 6,287 buildings totaling 156,176,885 gross square feet of space – of which 2,210 square feet are identified as historic [[1]](#footnote-1).
2. From FYs 2015 through 2017, the National Park Service (NPS) approved the Inter-World War National Cemeteries, 1934-1939, MPS cover documentation (NRIS 64501261) and listed 20 VA properties on the National Register of Historic Places:
3. West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Historic District (includes both medical center and cemetery), NRIS 14000926
4. Jefferson Barracks VA Hospital, NRIS 15000419
5. Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, NRIS 16000054
6. Golden Gate National Cemetery, NRIS 16000058
7. Baltimore National Cemetery, NRIS 16000059
8. Fort Snelling National Cemetery, NRIS 16000060
9. Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, NRIS 16000065
10. Fort Bliss National Cemetery, NRIS 16000066
11. Saint Augustine National Cemetery, NRIS 16000271
12. Black Hills National Cemetery, NRIS 16000258
13. Willamette National Cemetery, NRIS 16000426
14. Santa Fe National Cemetery, NRIS 16000588
15. Eagle Point National Cemetery, NRIS 16000626
16. Fort Logan National Cemetery, NRIS 16000810
17. Marinship Machine Shop, NRIS 16000865
18. Howard Home for Aged Men (Building 60, Brockton VAMC), NRIS 16000871
19. Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, NRIS 16000874
20. Camp White Station Hospital Administration Building (B200), NRIS 16000881
21. Fort Lyon National Cemetery, NRIS 100000472
22. Houston National Cemetery, NRIS 100000697
23. Two historic buildings, McAlister Funeral Home and Carriage House, were identified as part of site acquisition for a Fisher House in Charleston, SC. Fifty-one new monuments were donated to national cemeteries, for a total of 1,242 – all contributing features to historic sites.
24. VA completed archeological surveys of 19 medical centers (MCs). Survey of the VAMC in Tomah, WI included a partnership with the Ho-Chunk Nation to investigate a potential burial site (no remains or artifacts were discovered). Two surveys at Chillicothe, OH resulted in recovery of pre-historic and historic artifacts.
25. Sixty-six historic properties were removed from VA’s inventory during the reporting period.
26. Transferred to external parties (35): 18 buildings, Fort Thomas, KY to city; Building 1, New Orleans, LA to city; 16 buildings, Highland Drive, Pittsburgh, PA to GSA
27. Demolished (31): Building 205, Menlo Park, CA; Building 14, West Haven, CT for Fisher House; Buildings 1001 and 1401, Honolulu, HI for burial expansion; Buildings 12, 26, 40 and 74, Danville, IL; Buildings 23, 24 and 38, Lexington, KY; Buildings 39, 40, 41, 42 and 54, Bedford, MA for Veteran housing; Building 98, Battle Creek, MI; Buildings 9, 10 and 11, Montrose, NY; Buildings 5 and 7, Fayetteville, NC for Community Living Center (CLC); Buildings 220 and 221, Dayton, OH (National Historic Landmark (NHL)) for Fisher House; Building 3001, Willamette, OR; McAlister Funeral Home, Charleston, SC for Fisher House; Buildings 6, 107, 124 and 132, Hampton, VA; Building 80, American Lake, WA

**PROTECTION and UTILIZATION**

1. Despite the continued significant challenge of limited staffing and inadequate funding to meet VA’s identified capital asset needs, VA has successfully protected and utilized the majority of its many historic properties. In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Secretary issued a Department-wide statement in late 2016 about the importance of VA’s history and support for historic preservation.
2. VA’s historic preservation program consists of two professional staff positions, one currently vacant. In addition, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has full-time cultural resource staff at Palo Alto, CA, Walla Walla, WA, Milwaukee, WI, and Tomah, WI, along with one professional historian. The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has one preservation architect and three professional historians with a majority of VA’s preservation work done by contractors.
3. VAMC Tuscaloosa, AL hosted preservation training for 10 facility and planning staff from across Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 7, with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) participating. VAMC Dayton, OH hosted preservation training for 32 facility and planning staff from across VISN 10, with ACHP participating. VAMC Bay Pines, FL hosted preservation training for VISN 8 staff, and VAMC Reno, NV held training for its facility and planning staff, with ACHP and Nevada SHPO participating. VAMC Milwaukee, WI has developed online training for its facility staff. VA’s preservation office continues to work with the VA Acquisition Academy to develop online training that will be accessible to all staff. In addition, approximately a dozen VHA staff from across the country report having taken individual preservation training during the reporting period.
4. Preservation plans were completed for seven VAMCs: Tuskegee, AL; Bay Pines, FL; Bedford, MA; Fort Harrison, MT; Chillicothe, OH; Mountain Home, TN; Tomah, WI; and plans are nearing completion for Lexington, KY and Danville, IL. National Cemeteries Administration (NCA) is completing a preservation management plan for the Fort Mackinac, MI post cemetery.
5. A statewide programmatic agreement (PA) for 10 medical centers in Florida was executed in 2015 to increase compliance efficiency and focus preservation review on the single historic medical campus. VAMC San Francisco, CA executed a PA for implementation of its Long Range Development Plan in 2015. VAMC Milwaukee, WI executed a campus-wide PA in 2016 and continues to regularly consult and meet with preservation partners. A significant outcome from these ongoing efforts is the planned enhanced use lease (EUL) to rehabilitate six buildings for Veteran housing, including Buildings 1 and 2, Old Main, and significant resources have been spent to stabilize the vacant Ward Memorial Theater, Building 41. VAMC Reno, NV executed a campus-wide PA for routine maintenance in 2017.
6. VA completed an initial formal use of its National Environmental Policy Act compliance process for NHPA Section 106 purposes, per 36 CFR 800.8(c), for the proposed reconfiguration of the Black Hills Healthcare System. VA intends to continue use of this process for future undertakings, including review of the draft master plan for the West Los Angeles VAMC.
7. VA is completing a contract for development of an Excel-based building reuse assessment tool based on space standards and requirements for several typical service delivery uses. The goal of the tool is to objectively evaluate whether existing building configurations and conditions are suitable for further reuse analysis.
8. VA pursues multiple initiatives to retrofit its historic buildings to achieve energy sustainability goals, including Energy Savings Performance contracts. Numerous VHA historic properties have been designated as Green Globe buildings.
9. Most VA historic properties are used to meet mission needs. Notable adaptive uses include: Building 7 at VAMC Battle Creek, MI renovated as a Mental Health Clinic; and Buildings 3, 9, 33, 36, and 37 VAMC Canandaigua, NY renovated for VA program offices including the Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Line call center; and Buildings 3 and 4, VAMC Hot Springs, SD (NHL) for Member Services call center.
10. VA’s two oldest buildings, both ca. 1750, were recently renovated by the VAMC Perry Point, MD.  Building 501, the Mansion, will continue to be used for staff training, and formerly vacant Building 504, the Mill, will now house a museum interpreting the site’s history.
11. Plans are underway for rehabilitation of several other non-care/service delivery historic properties, namely the 1888 Smyth Tower (Building 11), VAMC Manchester, NH; and the ca.1900 carriage house, VAMC Charleston, SC.
12. NCA recently agreed to accept 11 small post cemeteries from the Army by the end of FY 2018. They are located on former military installations closed during Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiatives. NCA also has invited NPS to transfer its 14 national cemeteries to VA.
13. In June 2017, the Secretary announced the intent to reuse or dispose of 430 vacant buildings within 24 months. VA is actively working on this effort and has already completed actions for 110 of these. Many of the remaining buildings are historic and VA will seek other users to renovate and occupy them. VA is currently consulting with ACHP on a possible program comment to more efficiently meet regulatory compliance for these undertakings.
14. For those historic buildings not suitable or needed for mission requirements, VA has pursued numerous arrangements with external partners, through sharing agreements, revocable licenses and leases. Examples include: Building 13, Battle Creek, MI to youth challenge academy; Building 53, Lyons, NJ for homeless housing; Building 38, Bath, NY to state Veterans program; Building 76, Bath, NY to community service provider; Building 34, Canandaigua, NY to Montessori School; Buildings 3, 7, 18 and 94, Canandaigua, NY to local school district; Building 6, Canandaigua, NY to state Veterans program and Veteran Service Organizations; Buildings 24 and 48 Canandaigua, NY to Blue Star Mothers; Building 11, Northport, NY for homeless housing; Buildings 20 and 21, Northport, NY for childcare; multiple buildings, Fort Meade, SD to National Guard. The American Veterans Heritage Center continues to use buildings at VAMC Dayton, OH in promoting the history and preservation of that campus. In addition, multiple partners made possible an award-wining restoration of the historic grotto and associated landscape features at that campus.
15. NCA is working with Friends of Historic Jefferson to rehabilitate the Jefferson City, MO lodge, and the Wilmington Historical Society to rehabilitate the Wilmington, NC lodge.
16. The Office of Asset Enterprise Management continues to oversee existing and engage in new EULs. Such partnerships have benefited Veterans through creation of housing units, and taxpayers through reduction of maintenance liabilities and operating expenses for VA. Examples of historic building EULs for Veteran housing include: Building 33, Tuscaloosa, AL – 50 units; Building 209, West Los Angeles, CA – 54 units; 3 buildings, Augusta, GA – 98 units; Building 60, Brockton, MA – 14 units; 4 buildings, Walla Walla, WA – 24 units; and Buildings 11 and 13, Danville, IL; and, in planning: 4 buildings, Lexington, KY; 29 buildings, Perry Point, MD – 29 units; 11 buildings, Fort Harrison, MT; and 6 buildings, Milwaukee, WI (NHL). Non-housing EULs include: Building 8, Tuscaloosa, AL for hospice; and Building 8, Memphis, TN for office. An amendment to the EUL at VAMC Columbia, SC returned 8 buildings to VA.
17. Secretary Shulkin approved use of the authority found in NHPA Section 111 to lease historic VA properties to external parties. The Office of Construction and Facilities Management is charged with standing up and executing this program. A handbook detailing leasing procedures has been drafted and initial solicitation for a pilot project in Sausalito, CA has begun. More than a dozen vacant cemetery lodges are also be considered for partnerships under this authority.
18. Beyond facilitating fulfillment of mission by accommodating service and benefit delivery to Veterans, numerous VA sites host occasional and recurring events open to the public. These include community Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances, farmers markets, school sports events, concerts, lectures, arts festivals, and tours. Many VA facilities have displays interpreting their histories: Research Center Sunnyvale, CA in Building 1002; VAMC Bedford, MA in a heavily trafficked area near its auditorium; VAMC Bath, NY in Building 29a; VAMC Canandaigua, NY in Building 1; VAMC Chillicothe, OH in Building 60, the Mace House; VAMC Tuscaloosa, AL has a brochure; VAMC Perry Point, MD has brochures; VAMC Danville, IL completed a facility history; and VAMC Walla Walla, WA has a travelling exhibit available to the community. Numerous VAMCs have a history page on their websites.
19. NCA installed 190 interpretive signs in 78 of its sites associated with the Civil War. NCA’s history program digitally published two books resulting from research done to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War: *Federal Stewardship of Confederate Dead* and *Interpretive Signs in VA National Cemeteries*. Several entities operate museums within historic VA buildings: Vancouver Military Barracks Museum in Building T1819, Vancouver, WA campus of VAMC Portland, OR (mitigation stipulated a decade ago); Camp White Military Museum, VAMC White City, OR; Building 11, VAMC Prescott, AZ VAMC is licensed to Sharlot Hall for the Fort Whipple Museum; and the Fort Meade Museum operates in Building 55, VAMC Fort Meade, SD.
20. The Secretary has entered into two formal agreements to permit external fundraising for specific historic preservation projects: at VAMC, Dayton, OH, which was selected to host a Departmental history center, a community coalition will fundraise to rehabilitate Buildings 116 and 129; and at Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, the 1887 Fund will fundraise to rehabilitate five West Los Angeles VAMC campus buildings, including a long-vacant chapel.
21. The Veterans Benefits Administration continues to occupy historic Building 65 and Building 111 at the VAMC North Little Rock, AR campus.

Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction

November 2017

1. VA Capital Asset Inventory, September 25, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)