



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

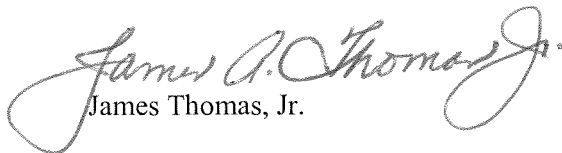
September 13, 2011

Chairman Milford Wayne Donaldson
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Attn: Section 3 Progress Report
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004-2501

Dear Chairman Donaldson:

Please find, enclosed the "Preserve America, Section 3 Progress Report" for the Department of the Treasury. I am enclosing two copies of the report and have forwarded an electronic copy to Caroline Hall via e-mail.

Sincerely,


James Thomas, Jr.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Departmental Offices Operations
Treasury Department
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Enclosures

Executive Order 13287, Section 3, Report to ACHP & the Secretary of the Interior

Section 3, Progress Report, 2011

- 1. Building upon previous Section 3 reports, please explain how many historic properties have been identified and elevated by your agency in the past three years? Has your inventory improved?*

The Department of Treasury has not added any historic properties to its inventory in the last three years, the inventory has not changed.

Within the existing inventory, improvements have been made at the Main Treasury building where a multi-year restoration and repair project was completed which received the ACHP Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation in February 2008. For the Treasury Annex building, a building Design & Engineering Study was completed of the Cass Gilbert designed building to guide future renovation and restoration projects. The Annex is currently undergoing life-safety building upgrades including a new fire alarm system.

- 2. Describe your agency policies that promote and/or influence the identification and evaluation of historic properties.*

The Department of Treasury claims title to only a small number of properties and leases additional buildings through the General Services Administration (GSA).

While the Department's ability is limited in regards to the promotion of its historic properties, the Department has systematically improved its means of communication with points-of-contact at those Treasury owned and operated historic buildings or those buildings that house and archive historic collections. These improvements have increased a sharing of information between bureaus of the Department and supported ongoing efforts at placing more digital media online for those buildings which are difficult for the public to visit and appreciate their historic features.

- 3. How has your agency established goals for the identification and evaluation of historic properties including whether they have been met?*

The inventory of Treasury owned buildings is for the most part, static. While identification is not typically an issue unless new properties have been delegated or acquired, continuing to evaluate the conditions and alterations of historic properties in use is a priority goal.

The Office of the Curator in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Departmental Offices Operations, Assistant Secretary for Management, is the Treasury-wide Federal Preservation Office who directly oversees the stewardship of the Main Treasury building (NHL) and the Treasury Annex (contributing building in the Lafayette Square National Historic Landmark District).

Through contacts at each of the bureaus who operate in and manage historic properties, Section 106 consultation is coordinated and annual reporting of activities insures compliance and successful partnering relationships. A current goal for the reporting structure is to provide an online group site for providing updates, questions and consultation for historic properties throughout the Treasury Department.

- 4. Describe any internal reporting requirements your agency may have for the identification and evaluation of historic properties, including collections (museum and archaeological).*

Through a Treasury directive establishing it as the Federal Preservation Officer, the Curator's Office provides a framework for the management and internal reporting of historic properties, archives and collections for all of Treasury. Within the overall reporting requirements, each organization is encouraged to utilize the type of information recording system that works best for their specific needs.

For example, the Office of the Curator manages the Main Treasury and Annex collection of historic artifacts, i.e., artwork, decorative arts, and architectural fragments through a *Gallery Systems* software database. The movement of artifacts is recorded in the database and an annual inventory is conducted of the Collection to track location and condition of all collection objects. Annually, the loan of artwork from the National Gallery of Art and Smithsonian are inspected, conditioned and inventoried by a contract conservator to fulfill the terms of the respective loan agreements.

With regards to historic architecture, the reporting structure is more formalized across the Department using the external Section 106 and Federal preservation guidelines established by the ACHP and NPS for internal reporting requirements.

- 5. Explain how your agency has employed the use of partnerships to assist in the identification and evaluation of historic properties.*

As indicated previously, our inventory is typically static and the identification of historic properties is not an issue.

Partnerships for evaluating the condition, repair, restoration and preservation of existing historic properties are a combination of internal partnering and shared resources between bureaus, private sector partnering with architecture and preservation consultants and external agency consultation and review by the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts.

- 6. Provide specific examples of major challenges, successes, and or opportunities your agency has experienced in identifying historic properties over the past three years.*

Treasury has had no initiatives regarding identifying historic properties because the properties inventory has remained unchanged. There have; however, been staff changes at some historic

buildings which continually require the Department to orient new administrators to the historic nature of their property and to fulfill ongoing reporting requirements.

7. Explain how your agency has protected historic properties.

The Treasury Department has judiciously followed the guidelines of the Secretary of the Interiors Standards in work performed on historic properties. Also, the Department continued over the past three years to follow Section 106 guidelines on any changes that merit consideration of this review process.

8. Describe the programs and procedures your agency has established to ensure the protection of historic properties, including compliance with Sections 106, 110 and 11 of NHPA.

The Treasury building is a National Historic Landmark and any major building project that will have an effect on the historical integrity of the structure is subject to Section 106 review which includes a review by the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. The last project that was reviewed for the Treasury building was the replication of 1910 grille on the East Elevation.

The Treasury Annex, a National Register building recently sought and received approval from the three agencies for a window sash replacement project. The Bureau of engraving and Printing and the San Francisco Mint have also had projects reviewed for Section 106.

All Treasury buildings listed on the National Register are used as originally intended by the Department.

9. Describe your agency policies that promote and/or influence the protection of historic properties.

The Treasury Department has formalized an internal policy through the issuing of a Directive to all bureaus which is consistent with the NHPA, DOI standards and the guidelines of the ACHP as highlighted in the answers to questions #7 and #8. Internal and external policies are consistent.

10. Explain how your agency has employed the use of partnerships to assist in the protection of historic properties.

The Treasury Department views protection not just as a preventative enforcement action but as a cycle of continuously engaging our historic properties in their ongoing preservation. For enforcement protection of historic properties the Treasury Department has fostered an exchange of “best practices” between the bureaus and under a wider umbrella has hosted meetings of the Federal Building Curator’s group to demonstrate and get feedback on in-progress preservation projects in the main Treasury building.

11. Provide specific examples of major challenges, successes, and/or opportunities your agency has encountered in protecting historic properties over the past three years.

The major challenge facing many of the historic properties within the Treasury Department is their continued adaptive use as functioning office/production/factory buildings encompassing a range of activities from economic policy to the production, storage and distribution of currency and coins.

The exteriors of the historic properties have retained their integrity and in some cases, such as the Main Treasury building and the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, have undergone recent restoration and renovation projects that have stabilized their condition after a mid 20th century period of ongoing deferred maintenance.

While many of the historic properties in the Treasury Department portfolio still serve the same functional needs as when they were first built, the production machinery, equipment, utilities and safety requirements have changed over time. The Department has successfully mitigated these changes to accommodate modern requirements while protecting the unique character of our historic properties.

12. Explain how your agency has used historic properties.

The Treasury Department uses almost all of its historic properties in ways that are remarkably similar to the way they were intended to be used originally.

The Treasury building, a National Historic Landmark, is used as the headquarters of the Treasury Department and houses the Office of the Secretary, executive policy and administrative offices. The Annex building, constructed as an expansion of the main building in World War I to administrate the funding of the war, continues to be used as office space for Treasury programs. Likewise, the Mint buildings continue to produce coins, the purpose for which they were designed.

13. Explain the overall condition of the historic properties within your agency's control.

The Treasury building, a National Historic Landmark, has been a model for other preservation efforts of significant historic federal buildings in Washington, DC. The building was recently been restored modernized (completed in 2007, winner of ACHP Chairman's Award) and individual restoration projects have continued in the building since the Curator's Office was created in 1985.

The Annex building across the street is currently undergoing a window restoration and repair project approved by the DCSHPO, NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts. Other historic properties are functioning to their original design intent and other than preventative maintenance, any construction or alterations are subject to Section 106 review.

14. Describe your agency policies that promote and /or influence the use of its historic properties.

Due to the specialized use of those Treasury buildings that are historic properties, there hasn't been an occurrence whereby the Treasury Department has deaccessioned a building out of our inventory or where a function has dramatically changed that would require finding a new use for a building. Our efforts typically are focused on maintaining the historic integrity and condition of the buildings whenever there is a modernization to their functional roles.

Since the late 1980s, the Treasury building has maintained a public tour program so that Americans and our visitors can visit the historic Treasury building. The tour program, like the White House, is a Congressional tour program with tour reservations made through Congressional offices. The tours highlight the significance of the Treasury Department in American history as well as the ongoing care and restoration of the Treasury building. The tour program at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing building is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Washington, DC. Special tours at some of the Mint buildings are also available.

15. Explain how your agency has used Section 111 in the protection of historic properties.

The Treasury Department has not used Section 111 for its historic properties. The properties are used solely by the Treasury Department.

16. Explain how your agency has employed the use of partnerships to assist in the use of historic properties.

The Treasury Department has partnered with two "friends" groups, the Committee for the Preservation of the Treasury Building and the Treasury Historical Association, in the restoration of the Treasury building and the conservation and acquisition of Treasury collection objects. The partnerships have produced significant restoration activity in the Treasury building that has continued to maintain the appearance of the building as a premiere federal agency office building in Washington, DC.

The Treasury Historical Association continues to support the Treasury building restoration and is currently involved in a capital campaign effort to fund even more projects. The Association has also established an endowment for the maintenance of the historic spaces that they helped restore in the past.

17. Provide specific examples of major challenges, successes, and/or opportunities your agency has encountered in using historic properties over the past three years.

As noted in previous answers, the Treasury Department has a modest sized inventory of historic properties whose use has been adapted over the years, yet essentially serves the same purpose for which the buildings were designed. Absent more dramatic challenges to convert historic properties to new uses, most efforts of the Department fall into the category of maintaining and gradually adapting buildings for modern production and office needs.

What can become difficult is that historic features that are more decorative in nature can be difficult to get funded, particularly in an economic downturn. In the case of the recent repair and restoration project at the Main Treasury building that was completed in 2007, discoveries during

construction created a preservation “to do” list that was longer after the project than it was before the project began.

The Treasury Historical Association partnership has provided funding to allow Treasury to restore significant architectural features such as the West Stair balustrade which complements the funding that the group donated for the restoration of the West Dome, located immediately over that stair. The group has also partnered with the Department in funding the conservation of objects in the Treasury Collection.

18. Describe your agency’s sustainability goals in accordance with EO 13514 and how these goals are being met, taking stewardship of historic properties into account.

The Treasury Department has nominated the historic Treasury building for gold certification to the US Green Building Council, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), under the Existing Building (EB) version 2.0 guidelines. This award will mark the Department’s continual effort to not only preserve and restore the Treasury building as a National Historic Landmark but also insure that the building is a model for environmental sustainability.

The Treasury Department’s application for LEED certification is unusual because the building recently underwent a major renovation from 1996 – 2006, and the Department is retroactively pursuing LEED certification. While completing the LEED-EB certification, the Department is not implementing new changes in the building, but instead is documenting changes that were made during the renovation. Current “best practices” adopted during the ten-year renovation have been, whenever possible, adjusted to improve the building’s operating performance.

In compliance with EO 13514, the LEED certification addressed issues dealing with sustainability sites, water efficiency, energy reduction, waste and indoor environmental quality improvement. In addressing these issues, the Treasury building underwent a series of enhancements that are directly related to environmental sustainability. In this case, the existing building is also a National Historic Landmark whose character and integrity was preserved when consideration was given to any potential improvement.

At this writing, the certification has not yet been awarded.
