UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

September 29, 2017

via Email—Section3@achp.gov

Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
John M. Fowler, Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Re: Executive Order 13287—Preserve America, Section 3 Progress Report

Dear Secretary Zinke and Mr. Fowler:

Attached hereto please find the United States Postal Service's EO 13287 report submission for 2017 (in Adobe Acrobat PDF format).

You are welcome to contact the undersigned at (202) 268-2782, or by email at Daniel.B.Delahaye@USPS.gov with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Delahaye
Federal Preservation Officer

Attachment: as

Executive Order 13287
Preserve America

Report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

September 2017

Submitted by

U.S. Postal Service, Facilities Headquarters
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-1862

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
EXECUTIVE ORDER 13287, "PRESERVE AMERICA"**

**SECTION 3: REPORTING PROGRESS ON THE
IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, AND USE OF FEDERAL
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

SEPTEMBER 2017

Identifying Historic Properties

1. Building upon previous Section 3 reports, how many historic properties have been identified by your agency in the past three years? Have your identification methods improved? Approximately what percentage or portion of inventory has been surveyed and evaluated for the National Register?

The Postal Service uses its real property database, electronic Facilities Management System (eFMS), to track properties, including historic buildings, in the USPS portfolio. Currently, the USPS Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) is responsible for indicating the appropriate historic status of USPS owned and leased properties in eFMS. USPS owns 8,761 real property assets, which includes post office buildings, plants, distribution centers, and vacant land for post office development or modular post offices. USPS has surveyed and evaluated those properties 50 years of age or greater for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility and has determined the following:

- 36% of the owned inventory is 50 years of age or greater.
- 14% of all owned properties were evaluated for NRHP eligibility in the last three years.
- 35% (3,070 properties) of its owned inventory is characterized by USPS as historic.
    - 1403 properties are NRHP listed, which may include underground resources.
    - 1667 properties considered possibly historic, generally by virtue of their construction date of 1967 or before.

- This is an increase of about 1,250 properties, or 14%, in the USPS inventory of owned historic properties since the last reporting period.

The USPS assesses a property's historic significance when the USPS engages in Section 106 compliance for proposed undertakings, and as properties reach 50 years of age, to determine if they are eligible for listing on the NRHP. Furthermore, when a non-historic Postal property is determined to be located proximate to an NRHP listed historic resource or within an NRHP listed historic district, whether as a contributing or non-contributing resource, it is identified as "historic" in eFMS. The USPS, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), most often makes a property's 'final' evaluation when that property is subject of an undertaking.

2. Does your agency have policies that promote awareness and identification of historic properties?

Yes, it is the policy of the Postal Service, by a resolution of the Board of Governors, (Board of Governors Resolution No. 82-7, November 9, 1982), to abide by the general policies and requirements for historic preservation applicable to the Federal government set out in Sections 106, 110 and 111 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) for activities in the areas of property acquisition, management and disposal. The Postal Service, in accordance with these policies, identifies historic properties consistent with methods and procedures described in Question 1.

3. Describe reporting mechanisms or programs your agency uses to manage information about historic properties. What information do they contain about your historic properties?

The Facilities Department's primary recordkeeping system and real property database, eFMS, contains information on all owned and leased facilities and is accessible to all authorized USPS staff. The database includes, but is not limited to, the facility identification number; location; address; dates of occupancy, construction and/or land acquisition; ownership status (owned, leased); historic status; and may include building images. The data set also notes whether an item from the New Deal Arts Collection is located within the building. eFMS was enhanced in 2016 and the new "Historic Documents" section accepts and organizes compliance correspondence, NRHP evaluations and nominations, covenants/easements, Memoranda of Agreement, and images, among others.

The eFMS system is continuously updated by Facilities personnel with information collected during maintenance, leasing, acquisition, or disposition of property. Though any Facilities personnel with historic preservation responsibilities may update eFMS, the FPO is specifically responsible for identifying Postal properties as historic or non-historic and revising the database accordingly.

The Postal Service also maintains a collection of New Deal artworks. USPS tracks these resources in eFMS. This database contains basic information on each artwork including location, title, artist, media, installation date, program under which the artwork was commissioned, original cost, last known status, and, for most of the entries, a historic image of the artwork. This database is maintained by the FPO.

4. Has your agency employed partnerships to assist in the identification and evaluation of historic properties?

The Postal Service has, during this reporting period, worked with State Historic Preservation Offices, certified local governments, local organizations and private citizens regarding the identification and evaluation of historic properties for the possible nomination of properties to the NRHP. For example, the USPS supported the individual nomination of the United States Post Office Department Mail Equipment Shops located in Washington, DC; the United States Post Office—Los Alamos, New Mexico; and the United States Post Office and Court House in Topeka, Kansas. The Postal Service also partnered with these entities and individuals to support proposals to nominate Postal facilities as part of a historic district to the NRHP, such as in Crete, Nebraska; Morristown, Tennessee; Lithonia, Georgia; Crown Point, Indiana; Quitman, Mississippi; and Le Roy, New York, among others.

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

As an independent establishment of the Executive Branch of the Federal government, the Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. The Postal Service has responded to its pressing financial constraints with efficiency and effectiveness in achieving its objective of improving the identification and evaluation of potentially historic properties in its real property portfolio of over 34,000 properties (see the USPS response to Question 1).

The USPS has faced challenges in locating and centralizing information on such a large number of facilities.   In response, USPS launched an initiative to inventory and track data electronically in eFMS with respect to historic properties, including compliance correspondence, documents, images, reports and other records important to a successful cultural resources management program. eFMS upgrades were developed in close coordination with USPS Facilities Information Systems to make eFMS a more responsive vehicle for supporting USPS identification and evaluation efforts. USPS began phased deployment of these database improvements in 2016 (see the USPS response to Question 3).

Protecting Historic Properties

6. Have your agency's programs and procedures to protect historic properties, including compliance with Sections 106, 110, and 111 of NHPA, changed over the past three years in ways that benefit historic properties?

Yes, the Postal Service has commenced a training program for Facilities personnel on the provisions of the NHPA that affect Facilities projects. This is an interactive process and is repeated as required.

7. Has your agency employed partnerships to assist in the protection of historic properties?

The Postal Service, during this reporting period, participated in the successful development of guidance on the use of preservation restrictions for transfers of historic properties out of Federal ownership or control. The preservation workgroup, led by ACHP, also included the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

The Postal Service has also worked with State Historic Preservation Offices, certified local governments, local organizations and private citizens regarding the protection of historic properties in connection with undertakings with respect to those properties. Many such entities participate in consultation on USPS undertakings. The Postal Service has in this reporting period worked successfully to do so with State

Historic Preservation Offices such as Florida, Illinois, Kansas, District of Columbia, Virginia, California, and Texas; and private organizations including the New Jersey Historic Trust, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and Napa County Landmarks.

8. Does your agency use program alternatives such as Programmatic Agreements, Program Comments, and other tools to better manage and protect your agency's historic properties?

USPS currently addresses undertakings involving historic or potentially historic properties on a case-by-case basis.

9. Provide specific examples of major challenges, successes, and/or opportunities your agency has encountered in protecting historic properties over the past three (3) years.

The Postal Service has engaged in disposals of historic properties in order to achieve efficiencies of operations and cost savings. Examples include the former Mail Equipment Shops in Washington, DC; Palmer Square Finance Station in Princeton, New Jersey; Penniman Station in Plymouth, Michigan; Atlantic Street Station in Stamford, Connecticut; and, Reading Main Post Office in Massachusetts. These disposals have presented opportunities for adaptive use by the new owners. One example of a major challenge was that of a historic property damaged in a natural disaster that initially led USPS to propose a demolition undertaking. The Section 106 consultation process concluded, instead, in the sale of the property to a private party with preservation restrictions.

Using Historic Properties

10. Do your agency's historic federal properties contribute to local communities and their economies? Is the use of historic properties encouraged and promoted within your agency?

The Postal Service real property portfolio includes many historic owned and leased facilities. The Postal Service uses those historic properties in the same way it uses all of its properties to support of the mission of the Postal Service.

11. Explain how your agency uses historic properties to foster heritage tourism, when consistent with agency missions.

The former Washington DC City Post Office building, constructed in 1914, serves, among other things, as the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum, which is dedicated to the preservation, study and presentation of postal history and philately. Tourists have the opportunity to view the exhibits, including the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, the world's largest gallery dedicated to philately.

12. If your agency is subject to the requirements of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act (Property) and the Federal Property Management Reform Act (described above) how will their requirements affect your agency's ability to protect and use its historic properties?

The requirements of the Federal Property Management Reform Act of 2016 have not affected the Postal Service's ability to protect and use its historic properties.

13. How is your agency meeting the requirement of EO 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade?

It is the policy of the Postal Service to voluntarily pursue the objectives set forth in EO 13693, even though its requirements are not applicable to USPS as a self-supporting, independent establishment of the Executive Branch. To that end, USPS set specific goals and adopted internally-binding policies that seek to meet the EO's requirements. USPS's Office of Sustainability, Energy Initiatives team provides an annual report (known as the "Sustainability/Energy Scorecard") that details USPS's progress in reaching EO 13693 requirements. USPS makes these reports available to the Office of Management and Budget, and posts copies of these online at its website (http://es-about.usps.com/what-we-are-doing/green/making-the-grade.htm).

14. Does your agency use Section 111 (now 54 U.S.C. § 306121) of NHPA to lease or exchange historic properties?

Postal Service responsibilities under Section 111 of the NHPA include, to the extent practicable, the development and establishment of alternatives for historic properties that are not needed by the Postal Service for operations. Leasing of the Postal Service's historic properties to others has not been determined to be practicable for the Postal Service.

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

When the Postal Service determines that it will engage in an undertaking with respect to a property that the Postal Service determines is historic, it invites the State Historic Preservation Offices, certified local governments, and other appropriate persons or entities to consult.   See also the response to Question 11.

16. Provide specific examples of major challenges, successes, and/or opportunities your agency has encountered in using historic properties over the past three (3) years.

The same challenges described in Question 9 apply here and the same examples listed in Question 9 are incorporated here.