

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

RESPONSES TO

THE MAJOR QUESTIONS IN THE

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

SECTION 3: REPORTING PROGRESS ON THE IDENTIFICATION,

PROTECTION, AND USE OF FEDERAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES

September, 2017

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| <p>1. Building upon previous Section 3 reports, how many historic properties have been identified and evaluated 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?</p> |
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NIST manages an inventory of eligible National Register resources nationwide on its campus locations in both Gaithersburg, Maryland as well as in Boulder, Colorado

Previously, no Gaithersburg, MD resources had been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP. Since then NIST contracted with professional architectural historians for a full survey and an historic assessment of the entire 579-acre campus. As a result of this survey and evaluation, NIST originally proposed to the Maryland Historical Trust (SHPO) a limited historic district confined to the center of the campus. Upon review, the SHPO recommended a much larger district that covers the entire campus from gate to gate. NIST brought the two recommendations to the Keeper of the NRHP for his final determination. In June of 2016, the Keeper sided with the SHPO, determining that the entire NIST Gaithersburg Campus is eligible for listing due to its significance under criteria A & C. Of the 64 campus structures, 26 were determined to be contributory and 38 were determined as non-contributory at this point. Thus, the entire campus inventory (100 %) has been surveyed and evaluated in accord with NRHP criteria. For a listing of the contributory and non-contributory resources within the NIST Gaithersburg eligible district, please see Attachment A.

Similarly, in Boulder, CO since the last report was filed, the entire campus has been surveyed (100%) and evaluated as part of an historic assessment based upon the NRHP

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criteria. As a result of this assessment, and in consultation with Colorado History Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation (SHPO), the only one of the approximately 26 structures to be determined eligible for listing is the 1954 Radio Propagation Building (Bldg. 1).

NIST's other major campus is located in Fort Collins, CO with six structures. The survey and evaluation of those resources according to Section 110 is currently in progress.

The NIST Kekaha, Hawaii campus consists of one building built in 1972 which is technically owned by the Department of Defense.

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

This information is collected through studies that are performed in accordance with processes outlined by the Department of the Interior for historic property evaluation and identification and as specified in Section 110 of the NHPA. The record copies of the studies are filed and maintained in both electronic and hard-copy format with Historic Preservation Officer. Our Real Property Inventory database also contains information that identifies a property's historic status.

Our Federal Preservation Officer, with the concurrence of the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer, determines if a property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places based on National Registration Criteria and in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Evaluation.

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

Like many federal agencies NIST uses the standard FRRP definitions to classify its heritage assets. The categories NIST uses to classify heritage assets are:

- National Historic Landmark (NHL) (1) [*not used as NIST has no NHLs*]
- National Register Listed (NRL) (2) [*not used as NIST currently has no NRLs*]
- **National Register Eligible (NRE) (3)**
- **Non-contributing element of NHL/NRL district (4)**
- **Not Evaluated (5)**
- **Evaluated, Not Historic (6)**

Estimates of future capital expenditure are included in the FRRP. The Federal Preservation Officer checks the FRRP and the regular updates to verify it for accuracy in so far as the above determinations,

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

NIST does not employ any partnerships to assist in the identification and/or evaluation of historic properties. Given that surveys and historic assessment of 100% of our resources on our two major campuses have been completed, partnerships would serve no purpose for NIST.

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

NIST has been very successful in the identification of historic resources on its Gaithersburg and Boulder campuses. Similarly, it is in the process of identifying and documenting resources on its Fort Collins, CO campus. In Gaithersburg, the survey and evaluation has resulted in the determination of eligibility (DOE) of the 589-acre NIST HQ campus with 64 buildings (26 contributing resources). Likewise, at the Department of Commerce Boulder Laboratories, an exhaustive architectural survey, as well as communications with the Colorado SHPO, resulted in the determination of eligibility of the iconic Radio Propagation Building, or Building One.

The challenge at Building One has been that because the renovation of two wings took place prior to the Section 110 identification and evaluation phase was completed, we are only now completing Section 106 for past actions. To this end we have met with Colorado SHPO, the ACHP, the City of Boulder and other potential consulting parties as the first step in crafting Agreement(s) [PA and/or MOA].

Protection

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?

Over the last three years NIST has taken on the herculean task of conducting exhaustive architectural surveys of its two primary campuses in Boulder and Gaithersburg (Section 110 compliance). The research was performed by qualified consulting architectural historians and professional preservationists, all meeting the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) qualification standards.

In April of 2016, NIST hired its first Federal Preservation Officer, a seasoned historical architect by training, a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects recognized for his

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contributions to preservation of historic research campuses and with relevant experience at other federal agencies.

All Section 106 consultations for all campus locations are managed by the Federal Preservation Officer in close coordination with NIST project management staff and leadership. This assures that best practices and character defining features of the NRHP eligible properties are carefully considered and prioritized in proposed Undertakings.

The FPO is in the process of drafting a Programmatic Agreement for the day to day management of O & M activities on the Gaithersburg Campus. Similarly, as part of on-going Section 106 consultation for Building 1 in Boulder, he is developing a MOA with the Colorado SHPO and the ACHP.

In order to increase awareness among facilities staff, the FPO has conducted training workshops on both major campus locations.

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

As noted earlier, NIST has not used partnerships in the surveying and identification of historic resources.

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?

In the last three years NIST has not employed Programmatic Agreements, Program Comments and the like. NIST is, however, in the process of working with the Colorado SHPO and the ACHP to better manage the day to day maintenance as well as the long-term renovations affecting Building One at the Department of Commerce Boulder Laboratories.

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

We have recently commenced with the initial construction phase of a major, multi-year renovation and extension to the Radiation Physics Laboratory, one of the original special purpose laboratories built on the Gaithersburg campus from 1962-1964. Working closely with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) NIST staff and its consultants devised a façade treatment that, in response to suggestions made by the MHT, references the "A-B-A-B" vertical rhythm of the existing building's North elevation and is referenced, both vertically and horizontally by articulated scoring and strategic placement of the joints in the new precast panels.

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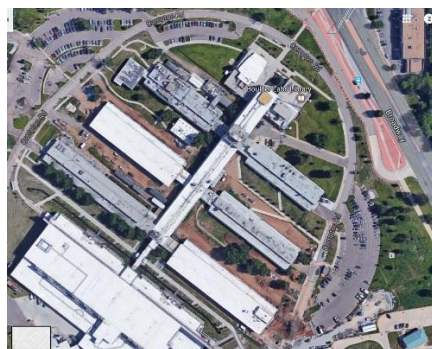


Rendering courtesy of ZGF Architects and Hensel Phelps

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 entire Gaithersburg campus is an NRHP eligible Historic District, so yes, the use of 64 historic structures (inclusive of the 24 contributory structures) is promoted and encouraged. Because NIST is a major employer surrounded by the City of Gaithersburg, its presence has a positive effect on the local economy.

Similarly, in Boulder the continued use of historic building 1 is anticipated with a phased renovation project that will affect all six wings of this NRHP eligible structure. A familiar landmark along Broadway, a major north-south artery of Boulder, building 1 presents to the local community the primary entrance to the campus. The campus in turn serves a gateway to hikers, bikers, and residents who make maximum use of outdoor recreation areas bordering and part of the campus located at the foot of the Flatirons mountain range.



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

NIST has not had to date opportunities for the use of its assets in economic development and heritage tourism. However, we involve stakeholders through

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compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the consultation process prescribed under 36 CFR §800 and Section 106 of the NHPA. In the future, we are looking to add to our public museum functions by adding exhibits at our new visitor processing centers that are being planned for both the Boulder and Gaithersburg campus locations

There are no special statutory or legal restrictions that prohibit us from exploring partnerships for local economic development; however, all historic buildings are being used to fulfill our primary mission. Specific proposals would require review by legal counsel.

We are however planning to later this year host an exhibition, in cooperation with Montgomery Modern (a program of the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission), on 20th Century Modern Architecture in Montgomery County (where the HQ campus is located.) The exhibition will prominently feature NIST structures that are acclaimed for their architectural significance.

12. If your agency is subject to the requirement 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?

NIST evaluates the condition of its all of its properties, including historic properties, through the Facilities Assessment Program/ Facility Condition surveys of all facilities that are conducted on a recurring, periodic schedule.

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

The ongoing 20-year Gaithersburg Comprehensive Master Plan shall stipulate what has become common practice at the NIST campuses nationwide, that historic assets be repurposed. To this end historic buildings on the campuses have typically been used for same purpose(s) since their dates of original construction. Underpinning this Goal, the text shall include a provision similar to: *"Preserve and enhance structures with established historic and cultural value, and protect and document important archeological finds."*

NIST has aggressively pursued various HVAC upgrades incorporating more efficient motors;

NIST reroofs its campus structures with white roofs;

NIST is currently exploring an Energy Savings Performance Contract for a 15-acre solar array that is estimated to provide the 579-acre Gaithersburg campus with 5% electrical savings:

NIST is nearing completion on a Co-Gen renewable energy facility that shall provide 70% steam and 40% electrical;

NIST is also installing geo-thermal wells for make-up water to the Plant Cooling Tower

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All building modernizations and new facility construction will be designed to meet EO 13693.

14. Does your agency use, or has it considered using, Section 111 (now 54 U.S.C. Explain how your agency has used Section 111 (16 U.S.C. § 306121) of the NHPA to lease or exchange its historic properties?

NIST does not have unilateral authority to transfer, out-lease, or sell their historic properties. If an opportunity arises where use of this authority would be considered advantageous, NIST would work with Office of the General Counsel for review, legal counsel, and direction.

Thus, our agency does not utilize this provision of the NHPA since all of its owned properties are within secured perimeters that provide for limited public access. Furthermore, new master plans for both Gaithersburg and Boulder project additions, rather than reductions in foot print.

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

NIST does not have partnerships for the preservation of historic properties because all historic buildings are preserved and utilized in fulfilling its mission. Due to the highly specialized nature of most of our mission-critical space, NIST has not actively sought out partnerships to locate other agency functions in historic properties.

However, in historic Building 1 in Boulder we do provide laboratory space for the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS), a division of the National Telecommunication and Information Administration. Similarly, at the Gaithersburg campus, we provide office space for the Office of Security of the U.S. Department of Commerce in Buildings 303 and 101, both contributory structures to the NIST Gaithersburg historic district.

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

During last three years, we have improved our management of historic properties. Significant changes, accomplishments, and program progress since the last report include:

- Evaluation and updating the Real Property inventory database to reflect the building's historic status as described above.
- Close and careful review of all Office of Facilities & Property Management design and construction projects to assure absolute compliance with the SOI Standards.

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- Special historic preservation principles and practices training to Office of Facilities and Management personnel to inform and instruct staff about their stewardship responsibilities
- NIST now requires that all design and construction projects affecting exteriors and certain interiors of its eligible resources have as part of its project team a historic preservation trained professional who meets the SOI qualification standards.
- Thorough documentation, analysis and coordination with the SHPO in order to determine effects for all Section 106 projects.
- Creation of an electronic log of all Section 106 cases showing project status at any given time.
- Coordination of work with the NIST Office of Safety, Health and Environment in the NEPA evaluation of projects and work sites.

*Submitted September 28, 2017
by NIST FPO, Phillip W. Neuberg, FAIA*

END OF REPORT