

**U.S. Army USACE of Engineers  
Executive Order 13287, “Preserve America”**

**Section 3: Reporting Progress on the Identification,  
Protection, and Use of Federal Historic Properties**

**September 2011**

**Summary of Previous Reports**

In accordance with provisions of Section 3 of Executive Order 13287, “Preserve America”, Army Civil Works submitted periodic reports assessing the status of historic properties, their general condition, management needs, and steps underway or planned to meet those needs. The reports also described our review of internal regulations, management policies, and operating procedures for compliance with Sections 110 and 111 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Highlights from the reports follow:

- The U. S. Army USACE of Engineers (USACE or USACE) has over 150 historic preservation specialists from various disciplines dedicated to historic preservation activities.
- Heritage assets under the jurisdiction of the USACE include a wide variety of historic properties and collections, including prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, historic structures (over 26 types of structures), shipwrecks, and extensive collections of artifacts and associated records.
- Of the 60,000+ historic properties managed by the USACE, over 75% are archaeological sites and the USACE management objective is to keep the location of these sites confidential to protect them [over 50% of 11 million acres have been surveyed].
- Section 110 inventories and Historic Property Management Plans are done on a project-by-project basis, and long-standing budgetary limitations and multiple uses of operations and maintenance dollars restrain somewhat inventory, evaluation, and protection activities, but nearly all Districts have HPMPs to guide their efforts.
- The USACE uses the Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link (OMBIL) to record Stewardship Investments and Heritage Assets; a second recording of cultural resources began with the audited financial statements of the USACE in September 1998.
- The USACE has three Centers of Technical Expertise to support internal and external needs: The Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for the Curation and Management of Archeological Collections, St. Louis District; The Center of

Expertise (CX) for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures (PHBS), Seattle District; and, The Land and Heritage Conservation Center at the Construction Engineer Research Laboratory, Engineer Research and Development Center.

- A review of USACE regulations, policies, and operating procedures found that they are comprehensive, consistent with statutory authority, legally uncontested and entirely adequate to address the agency's NHPA needs.

### **Historic Property Identification**

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 USACE funded National Historic Preservation Act Section 110 compliance projects through Indefinite Delivery Order Contracts to John Milner and Associates (Northeast Region), Brockington and Associates (Southeast Region) and Statistical Research Inc. (Western Region). ARRA work throughout USACE consisted of 40 individual work orders completed within less than 18 months. ARRA Section 110 expenditures totaled approximately \$ 20 million.

This work provided the government's three prime contractors with opportunities to gain new insights, experiences and to build relationships with over 30 USACE Commands (Districts / Divisions) in the continental United States. In addition to archeological survey and site evaluations, contractors and their small business team members completed geoarcheological and condition assessments, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyses and modeling, curation and other Section 110 related tasks. Accelerated timelines for project completion inspired development of innovative fieldwork and management strategies to meet USACEs requirements for high quality Section 110 work and contractual accountability.

A summary of results demonstrates through sheer numbers alone the high degree of success evidence by the USACE national Section 110 ARRA funded program: Total acres surveyed - - 76,000; Sites identified - - 929; Sites revisited - - 601; Sites tested for NRHP eligibility - - 42; Sites considered eligible for NRHP listing - - 453; Sites considered not to be eligible for NRHP listing - - 428; Sites requiring further evaluation to determine NRHP eligibility - - 48.

#### **Selected Examples of USACE Historic Property Identification Efforts.**

##### **Pittsburgh District**

In 2010, John Milner Associates conducted archaeological surveys at five Pittsburgh District reservoirs. A total of 415.8 acres were surveyed at Loyalhanna Lake, Conemaugh River Lake, and Tionesta Creek Lake in Pennsylvania and Berlin Lake and Mosquito Creek Lake in Ohio. The survey relocated or recorded three sites and two isolated finds at Loyalhanna; two sites and one isolated find at Conemaugh; eight sites at

Tionesta; 16 sites at Berlin; and four sites and one isolated find at Mosquito. In addition, the Sec 110 project evaluated 16 reservoir dams as to their NRHP eligibility. Tygart Lake is a Detroit Districtady listed on the NRHP and three other dams, Tionesta, Crooked Creek, and Mahoning were previously determined eligible. The Sec 110 project updated the information on these four properties. Eight other dams: Youghiogheny, Conemaugh, Loyalhanna, East Branch, and Kinzua in Pennsylvania; and Mosquito and Berlin in Ohio were recommended as eligible for listing on the NRHP. The four remaining dams: M.J. Kirwan in Ohio; Stonewall Jackson in West Virginia; and Woodcock and Union city in Pennsylvania were not recommended as eligible because they have not reached the 50 years of age criteria.

### Little Rock District

The historic property inventory for the Little Rock District has improved significantly over the past three years. In that period Little Rock has had 2,519 acres surveyed as part of the Section 110 Program funded by ARRA and identified 46 previously unrecorded archeological sites. Little Rock District has also evaluated, nominated, and listed a historic bridge (see discussion below) on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

### Tulsa District

While there have been numerous small surveys conducted in the last three years, most have been efforts by outside parties needing outgrants for one reason or another. The largest outside efforts consisted of several oil & gas seismic exploration projects conducted at Texoma, Eufaula, and Wister Reservoirs. For Texoma, approximately 20-30 sites were newly recorded. At Eufaula, nearly 50 sites were newly recorded, and all were avoided by the seismic work. At Wister, 120+ archaeological sites were newly recorded within the Lake Wister Archaeological District, which is listed on the National Register.

By far the largest projects during the past two years have been three large ARRA contracts totaling over \$4M. One contract was awarded with five different cultural investigations including data recovery at an NHRP-eligible prehistoric site at Broken Bow Reservoir; re-assessment of 25 sites in the NRHP-listed Elk River Archaeological District (Elk City Reservoir), Kansas; geomorphological investigations of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (OK portion); archaeological survey of approximately 1400 acres at R.S. Kerr Reservoir; and geophysical work and associated subsurface testing of a NRHP-eligible prehistoric site at Wister Reservoir.

Another Tulsa contract was awarded in order to revisit and reassess approximately 250 archaeological sites at Fort Gibson, Tenkiller, Webbers Falls, R.S. Kerr, and Eufaula Reservoirs. These 250 archaeological sites were largely recorded in excess of 30 years ago.

Lastly there is the survey of 2,448 acres at three reservoirs (Big Hill, Toronto, and Fall River) in Kansas. During this effort, 21 sites were newly recorded, three of which were recommended as NRHP-eligible and the other 18 recommended as not NRHP-eligible. In addition, 11 previously recorded sites were revisited and all were reassessed as not NRHP-eligible.

### Buffalo District

#### **Black Rock Lock and Canal**

Black Rock Lock and Canal are located along the Niagara River in Erie County, New York. In 1994, a historical/architectural survey of the Lock and Canal and the USACE-Buffalo District Reservation was completed (McVarish, John Milner Associates, October 1994). This study concluded that the Lock and Canal along with three reservation buildings and the West Ferry Street Bridge are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as contributing resources within a potential Black Rock Lock and Canal Historic District. In 1998, the New York State Historic Preservation Office [New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)] concurred with this recommendation.

In 2011, the Buffalo District is developing an Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Black Rock Lock and Canal and all associated lands. The HPMP will include a comprehensive ARPA and NHPA compliance program for at least a 10-year period. In particular, the HPMP will reflect the NRHP-eligibility of the Black Rock Lock and Canal Historic District. Buffalo District will prepare a site inventory and recommendations that reflect the previously completed NRHP evaluation of the project (i.e., McVarish 1994). The HPMP will identify and attempt to forecast planned development activities at the project (including Federal, State, local and institutional) and establish standard operating procedures for maintaining ARPA/NHPA compliance.

#### **Mount Morris Dam**

Mount Morris Dam is located on the Genesee River in Livingston and Wyoming Counties, New York. The Letchworth State Park Historic District (NRHP-listed in 2005) encompasses 14,345 acres including all USACE project lands (3821.63 acres) and 338 contributing elements (including three USACE properties - Dam, Head House, and Operator's Residence). In 2007, the Buffalo District and NYSOPRHP executed a Programmatic Agreement to address effects related to routine operations and maintenance activities which would typically have no adverse effect on the character or integrity of the historic district or any of its contributing elements.

In 2010-11, John Milner Associates, Inc. completed a Phase 1 Archaeological Survey and Phase 2 Site Evaluation for a 384-acre portion of the project lands which were funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In summary, the Phase 1 survey identified three previously unrecorded prehistoric sites. Subsequent Phase 2 evaluation of these sites concluded that they are not eligible for the NRHP.

Using a non-intrusive ground-penetrating radar survey method, the consultant also delineated the boundary of the Squawkie Hill Site, a contributing element to the Letchworth State Park Historic District.

In 2011, the Buffalo District is developing an Historic Properties Management Plan for Mount Morris Dam and its associated lands.

### **Lake Ontario Ordnance Works/Niagara Falls Storage Site**

The former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW)/Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) is located in Niagara County, New York. The former LOOW has been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP for its association with World War II and the Manhattan Project. To resolve the adverse effects of recent Federal undertakings at the property in 2011, USACE compiled historic documentation of the site, including archival photographs and a time-lapse video of the deconstruction of Building 401 at the NFSS. These records will be archived at the New York State Museum as well as local historic preservation organizations. Interpretive signage explaining the history of the former LOOW/NFSS will also be installed at the site.

#### Detroit District

As a result of ARRA funding 24 properties have been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Of these 24 properties 14 (1 in Wisconsin, 2 in Minnesota, and 11 in Michigan) have been determined eligible for listing on the NRHP and 10 (5 in Wisconsin, and 5 in Michigan) have been determined not eligible for listing. This is a significant increase in the number of properties that have been determined eligible for listing on the NRHP.

#### Louisville District

The Louisville District participated in the Section 110 Program under ARRA managed by the St. Louis District by surveying the shoreline of Barren River Lake.

In addition to the ARRA funded work noted above the Louisville District had Section 110 work completed at J. Edward Roush Lake. This resulted in the discovery of one new site and an isolated find as well as the evaluation of 60 previously recorded sites. This work is still in progress but in general about half the sites are considered ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and two sites are being recommended for Phase II testing to determine eligibility to the NRHP. Additional work is recommended for the remainder of the sites, specifically on the portions of the sites located outside the current survey boundaries, so that more informed management decisions can be made.

## Nashville District

The Nashville District contracted with URS Corporation to undertake an archaeological survey of portions of Lake Cumberland, Russell, Pulaski, Laurel, McCreary, Wayne and Clinton Counties, Kentucky in 2007 and 2009. Emergency repairs to Wolf Creek Dam required a drawdown of Lake Cumberland to an elevation of 680' above sea level, ten feet below the normal operating pool. The drawdown exposed archaeological sites that had been inundated since 1949 when Lake Cumberland reached the operational pool elevations. A total of 21.25 miles of shoreline was surveyed, leading to the identification of 39 new archaeological sites. Four sites were evaluated to determine their National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) status, leading to the determination of two sites eligible for the NRHP. In addition, a GIS model was created to assist with managing Lake Cumberland's cultural resources.

### **Historic Property Protection: Review of Regulations, Management Policies, and Operating Procedures**

Cultural resources management in the USACE is addressed in regulations that support our broad authorities in engineering; design, construction and real estate support for water resources development and management; recreation; research and development; and disaster assistance. They are comprehensive, consistent with statutory authority, legally uncontested and entirely adequate to address the agency's need for National Historic Preservation Act guidance. Engineer Regulation 1105 -2-100, dated 22 April 2000 and revised April 2003 is commonly referred to as the Planning Guidance Notebook (PGN). Appendix C, Part 4 of the PGN contains guidance for consideration of cultural resources in USACE planning studies, along with compliance requirements relevant to the identification, evaluation and treatment of these resources. As a general policy statement, the PGN directs USACE Commands to ensure:

*“As early in the planning process as is possible, historic properties should be identified, characterized and taken into account in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. Consistent with this process, and as appropriate to comply with other cultural resources laws and regulations, USACE undertakings shall be fully coordinated with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and all other appropriate interested parties and/or individuals.”*

Cultural resources guidance in the Planning Guidance Notebook is essential to complete considerations of environmental principles employed in USACE water resources development projects and programs. It is important to note that lands and resources associated with the authority provided by the Notebook are not owned or controlled by the USACE. They are offered by a non-Federal partner as part of their participation in the water resources project or program. The Notebook guidance, therefore, offers a comprehensive and flexible framework for the treatment of lands and

cultural resources for which the USACE usually only has a real property simple right of entry. Nevertheless, the commitment to section 106 compliance is clear and unconditional. The entire text of this guidance can be found at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/eng-regs/er1105-2-100/a-c.pdf>.

Chapter 6 of Engineering Regulation / Pamphlet 1130-2-540, Environmental Stewardship, “establishes guidance for the management of collecting, preserving and curating archeological and historical materials at Civil Works water resource projects, as well as establishing a Historic Preservation Program for construction, operations and maintenance activities at these locations.” This chapter, dated 30 August 1996, establishes historic preservation as:

*“. . . as an equal and integral component of resource management at operating Civil Works projects. As such, historic preservation should be given just and equal consideration along with other resource objectives . . . The Corps of Engineers will manage federally owned, administered, or controlled historic properties in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations.”*

This Regulation and its accompanying Pamphlet apply Section 110 and other historic preservation authorities to the approximately 11 million acres of land administered by the Civil Works Program. It has never been successfully challenged in court and has served as the fundamental guide for planning and compliance activities at USACE administered projects. The Regulation and Pamphlet contain, but are not limited to, a policy statement and handbook on the curation and management of archeological collections; policy principles on tribal consultation; guidelines on the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; policies and guidelines on the preparation of Cultural Resources Management Plans; and, guidance on the protection and law enforcement requirements available to USACE staff. ER 1130-2-540 has served as the blueprint and roadmap for many successful projects and programs associated with Section 110 including the development of numerous cultural resources management plans; management of approximately 50,000 cubic feet of archeological materials and associated records; and, Programmatic Agreements (PA).

#### Selected Examples of USACE Historic Property Partnerships, Challenges, Successes and Opportunities.

##### Albuquerque District

The Cochiti Lake and the Jemez Canyon Dam Projects are located on tribal (reservation) lands and Albuquerque District works closely with both the Pueblo de Cochiti and the Pueblo of Santa Ana (respectively). Both of these partnerships have worked very well for the district.

Albuquerque has been working closely with the Cochiti to compile a baseline data set of tribal assets and historic documentation regarding Corps interaction with the Pueblo. This includes data such as natural, water, and archaeological resources as well as historic photography and GIS data. For the past two years Cochiti Pueblo has sponsored/held the Corps' Native American Environmental and Cultural Resources Training at the Pueblo. In 2007 and again in 2009 Cochiti Pueblo middle school students attended day trips to two archaeological sites in the Cochiti Lake Campground where Corps archaeologists and biologists explained how the Corps and the Pueblo are working together to identify and document natural, biological, and archaeological resources. This helps the students to learn about the local landscape and how Corps projects relate to the modern Pueblo.

Albuquerque contracted with the Santa Ana Pueblo to obtain cultural monitors during archaeological survey of the Jemez Canyon Reservoir. During the survey, the tribal monitors advocated for Pueblo concerns, aided in the identification of cultural resources and directed the Corps' archaeological contractor field crew to avoid specific areas of tribal concern. The monitors assisted the Corps with the survey and provided the tribal members with the opportunity to learn more about their lands and the historic and archaeological records of the area.

Finally, Albuquerque works with both the Colorado and New Mexico State Parks who manage recreation at Santa Rosa Lake and Conchas Lake in New Mexico, and at John Martin Dam and Reservoir and Trinidad Lake in Colorado. New Mexico State Parks assists the Corps by conducting archaeological surveys for their proposed construction projects.

#### Memphis District

#### **The New Madrid Flood of 2011**

The Birds Point New Madrid Floodway was activated on May 2, 2011 during the historic flood of 2011 on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Following subsidence of the floodwaters and during mobilization for construction of a temporary levee, human remains were discovered by Corps employees at the inflow levee breach at Birds Point, Missouri. The Memphis District Archaeologist investigated and determined these were Native American skeletal remains in direct association with Mississippian pottery and chipped stone artifacts. There was a minimum of 15 different individuals based on the number of distinct human skull caps (*calvaria*). The source of the remains appeared to be the large scour hole at the levee breach and the associated prehistoric site was not previously during a 1994 archeological survey. The reason may be because it was buried under the levee. Consulting tribes were immediately notified about the discovery of human remains.

Since the Birds Point Site is located on lands not directly administered by USACE, Missouri State law assigns jurisdiction to the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (MO SHPO). The MO SHPO senior archaeologist, Osage



representatives, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) specialists visited the site with Memphis District employees. The MO SHPO, in consultation with the Osage, determined that the human remains should be removed as quickly as possible to avoid further impacts from additional flooding, explosives clean-up, and work to rebuild the levee. The MO SHPO and the Osage collected a large quantity of human remains (three large boxes).

The construction of the temporary levee at Birds Point is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Memphis District is now working closely with tribes on a site investigation to determine if additional human burials are present and whether the site still has research potential and sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

### Vicksburg District

Vicksburg District has partnered with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Caddo Nation to nominate a prehistoric mound site. Once the site has been stabilized (erosion, past excavations, and looting events), trees will be cleared, a fence constructed and signage displayed with information about the site. Vicksburg has also partnered with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw, and the Chickasaw Nation to promote the long-term protection and management of the Rolling Fork Mounds and Dairy.

### Louisville District

The Louisville District had the Engineer Research and Development Center-Construction Engineering Research Laboratory use noninvasive assessment techniques (ground penetrating radar [GPR], magnetic gradiometry and electrical resistance) to examine three mounds (at least two date to the Middle to Late Woodland period) at J. Edward Roush Lake. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, as the lessee, assisted with the investigation by clearing vegetation in the path of the remote sensing equipment. The purpose of the investigation was to examine the extent and nature of cultural bearing deposits related to the mounds. The information gathered from the study will be used to strengthen the nomination of these mounds to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Louisville District-U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed a brief training session on the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and archaeological crime. The target audience for the training includes Corps staff and our partnering agencies (including the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife).

The Louisville District has also partnered with the Anthropology Department at Western Kentucky University to allow students to monitor several selected Barren River Lake sites for evidence of any changes. This provided students with a hands-on

stewardship experience and the Louisville District with a snapshot of forces potentially affecting a site.

The Louisville District participated in the successful prosecution of two separate groups caught looting an archaeological site at Barren River Lake. District personnel worked with U.S. Army criminal investigators and the U.S. Attorney's office to bring the cases to court. In response to repeated Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) violations at lake projects the Louisville District sought ways to better inform lake personnel and our partnering agencies of our responsibilities to cultural resources. This has led to the development and presentation of information on ARPA. Heightening the cultural resource awareness of those involved in daily activities at the lake projects can only improve identification of cultural resource sites and responses to reported suspicious activities.

### Huntington District

#### **Albert Gallatin Jenkins House**

Huntington District long-term leases the NRHP Listed antebellum Albert Gallatin Jenkins House, which is located downstream of the R.C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Cabell County, West Virginia, to the WV Division of Natural History (WVDNR). For many years, the WVDNR utilized the house as a residence for a caretaker. The house is now sub-leased by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH), which until 2008 operated a historic house museum interpreting the history of this plantation. In 2008, the District temporarily suspended these leases in order to accomplish actions to preserve and stabilize the home in accordance with Section 301(a) of WRDA 1986, Section 30 of WRDA 1988, and Section 548 of WRDA 2001. This work was done in careful coordination and cooperation with the WVDCH and the Green Bottom Society, a group dedicated to the preservation of the Jenkins house.

To summarize, Huntington has: (1) removed exterior paint and re-pointed the brick and stone foundations to prevent moisture entrapment, stabilize the structure, and restore balanced air and moisture flow; (2) reconstructed chimney's from the shoulder's up and added corbelled caps to prevent their collapse and prevent moisture penetration; (3) removed the dormers as they were structurally unsound and a point of moisture infiltration; (4) replaced the roof with a long-life material which simulates period appropriate material, stems potential future water penetration and creates proper ventilation; (5) dismantled the garage addition to remove unsafe electrical wiring and to gain access to the exterior masonry in need of repair; (6) reattached the rafters to the joists where as much as 4.5 inches in horizontal displacement of the walls had occurred; (7) replaced all the exterior windows and doors with period appropriate types and materials to reduce moisture penetration; (8) replaced the heating and cooling elements; (9) upgraded the electrical system; (8) removed the bathroom and fixtures as they were not functioning properly and created a potential hazard to the home; (9) remediated deteriorating first floor joists with jacks; (10) installed an updated alarm system; (11)

removed progressing tree limbs from the house to reduce the potential for tree fall damage; and, (12) treated the house and surrounding yard for termites.

The Corps has also been authorized to restore the Jenkins House and reconstruct associated outbuildings and landscape features by Section 3169 of WRDA 2007. To date, the Corps has not received the funds required to begin these activities. In the interim, Huntington is hoping to turn the property back over the WVDNR and WVDCH, in accordance with their leases. These leases require that WVDNR maintain the property to the Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatments of Historic Properties.

Following the expenditure of considerable federal dollars and efforts to preserve and stabilize the Jenkins House, we are now finding that our tenants and/or other potential organizations with missions to operate historic sites have little interest or the necessary funding to re-establish a museum at the site. As a consequence, the Huntington is concerned about the continued viability of the property if it sits empty and unused. It is located in a relatively isolated portion of the state, several miles from any other Corps facility and was recently vandalized. As a result, if we cannot establish another viable partnership we are considering taking actions to mothball the home to protect from further damage, especially to many thousands of dollars spent on period appropriate reproduction windows and doors, as well as considerable upgrades to the HVAC system.

#### Nashville District

The Nashville District will issue Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) permits to credible archaeologists with a developed research design. The ARPA permit stipulates land restoration standards and reporting requirements. Two research focused ARPA permits were issued in 2010, one to the Dr. David Anderson, a professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and one to Mr. Shane Miller, a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona. Both projects focus on Paleoindian and Early Archaic occupation on the Cumberland River. While the research and analysis is ongoing, the results will provide the Nashville District with a better understanding of these significant early sites leading to better protection and management of these resources.

#### **Mill Springs Mill Historic Park, Monticello, KY**

Mill Springs Mill Historic Park features the National Register listed Mill Springs Mill and contributing elements to the National Historic Landmark Mill Springs National Battlefield. The Park displays the World's largest operating overshot waterwheel, and seasonally demonstrates corn grinding. The Corps developed a brochure that interprets the development of the mill from the period of initial European settlement along the upper Cumberland River by "Long Hunters" to the erection of the surviving Mill in 1908. The Monticello Women's Club (MWC) runs a gift shop from the granary, and sells corn ground at the Mill. MWC organizes the annual Cornbread Festival and works with the local Youth Development Center to assist with vegetation maintenance at the park.

## **May 2010 Flood**

The historic Nashville flood of May 2010 caused massive erosion along the Cumberland River damaging archaeological sites. While data was lost due to erosion, further damage to sites occurred from casual and professional looters who excavated into exposed shell middens and human burials. A National Science Foundation funded archaeological survey conducted by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology and Middle Tennessee State University (TDOA/MTSU) inventoried significant looting of archaeological sites and prehistoric burials along the banks of the Cumberland River in Davidson and Cheatham Counties, TN. A vast majority of the looting focused on private property and the TDOA/MTSU study credits patrols by Corps Park Rangers as a major deterrent to looting on Corps land. However, the Corps was not immune to the resource destruction by looters and post-flood monitoring did inventory looting on Corps fee title property.

The Nashville District was able to secure funding specifically for the protection of sites that were badly damaged in the May 2010 floods through the supplemental appropriations process. The supplemental appropriations will help protect a Mississippian Village and deeply stratified Paleoindian and Early Archaic archaeological site. Once implemented the bank stabilization measures will protect the sites from further erosion and looting.

### Pittsburgh District

Pittsburgh District has employed a type of partnership with a local university to conduct periodic archaeological field schools at a well known archaeological site located at our Conemaugh River Lake project. The university has been able to unofficially assist the project personnel in the protection of the resource and educating the public about Federal resources as well as the importance of the resource to the regional archaeological community. The university is also assisting the project with a visitor's center artifact display from the site. Pittsburgh considers it a win-win with volunteer hours logged and good public relations in the region.

### Chicago District

The District has had two major challenges in the past three years; (1) The Chicago Shoreline Project included the successful restoration of failing revetments within several reaches located within Lincoln Park (listed in 1994 on the National Register of Historic Places), located on the Chicago Lake Michigan lakefront;

(2) The Chicago Harbor Lock Gates (dating to 1932 and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places), analysis verified the need for the replacement of the Chicago Harbor lock gates to insure their flood control reliability. HABS/HAER Level II documentation was conducted as mitigation, allowing for lock gate replacement. In

recognition of the thoroughness and quality of this documentation Chicago District received a “Special Projects” award from the Illinois Historical Society in 2011.

### Detroit District

In the last 3 years, protecting historic properties in Detroit District has proceeded as it had in the past. O&M funding has been reduced to some extent but the district has been able to maintain its program. The most significant opportunity was provided by the ARRA funding which allowed Detroit to have National Register of Historic Places Registration Forms or Determinations of Eligibility prepared for 24 properties. Of these 24 properties 14 (1 in Wisconsin, 2 in Minnesota, and 11 in Michigan) have been determined eligible for listing on the NRHP and 10 (5 in Wisconsin, and 5 in Michigan) have been determined not eligible for listing. This is a significant increase in the number of properties that have been determined eligible for listing on the NRHP.

### Kansas City District

In 2011 Kansas City District partnered with the Kansas Archeological Association, Kansas State Historical Society, University of Kansas, and project odyssey to conduct archeological evaluations and mitigation work at the NRHP listed Coffey Site at Tuttle Creek Lake in Kansas. The site is eroding on the lake shoreline at a rate of several feet a year and will likely be completely destroyed by wave action. We also partnered with the University of Missouri-Kansas City to evaluate a late prehistoric site at Smithville Lake that is endangered by future development.

Both have been very effective in accomplishing their goals. The work at the Coffey Site involved over a hundred volunteers including professional archeologists, students, and avocational archeologists. It accomplished large scale, state of the art testing and mitigation of the site at no cost to the Corps. Given no funding is or likely will be available for such work, this is the only way this work would be accomplished. It was also an effective public outreach with nightly classes for the public instructed by top professionals in the state.

The 2010 testing at the Smithville site was also accomplished at no cost to the Corps and we were able to vertically and horizontally define the site and determine that it is eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Without this partnership this work could not have been accomplished as there is no funding for the testing or sufficient Corps staff to do the work.

The major challenge for Kansas City District is observing the many historic properties at the district’s 18 lakes. With only one district archeologist and one cultural resource coordinator (a ranger) at each of the lakes, it is difficult to protect many sites that are in remote locations. Vandalism and looting activity have been problems. We have been successful in training a number of rangers in cultural resource management which has lead to several looters being caught in the act at several lakes including Stockton and Harlan County lakes in the last three years.

### Little Rock District

A member of the public who was also a member of a local county historical society approached Little Rock about placing a bridge located on Corps project lands on the NRHP. The member of the public completed all the necessary NRHP forms which were then routed at the District, Division, and Headquarters level for review and approval. The bridge was listed on the NRHP in 2011. The member of the public had a genuine interest in this bridge and pointed out to the Corps that it was the last remaining example of this type of bridge construction in the state. This is a good example of initiative on the part of the public and a partnership where the associated project labor was split and there was a beneficial outcome for all parties involved.

With regard to archeological sites, Little Rock has partnered with local sheriffs and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Officers to help us patrol known sites where there is looting activity. Local sheriffs also help the Corps patrol specific areas including one of our problem areas that is listed on the NRHP.

Little Rock has had major issues with the looting of archeological sites and the destruction and defacement of one of our historic structures. There have been major looting episodes at three of our project offices and multiple other instances of moderate damage to sites. The district has initiated work on an ARPA plan which can be used by the for standard operating procedures when encountering a looter or looted site. It has also created an APRA documentation form that Rangers can use in the field to initially document a looted site. Little Rock has also had signs made that will be put up at our Project Offices reminding visitors that it is illegal to damage an archeological site. Little Rock Rangers have been provided training via ARPA overviews to help with their enforcement of the laws and the district is converting looted historic properties into an interpretative day-use park that will hopefully discourage further damage at the site.

### Selected Examples of USACE Historic Property Adaptive Re-Use.

#### Little Rock District

Little Rock District has leased one of its historic structures to the City of Ozark which nominated the structure to the NRHP and now uses it as a community information center. The historic site mentioned above will be used as part of a day-use area that will draw visitors from the surrounding area. This day-use area will highlight the history of the site and correct misinformation about the site that circulates in the area.

#### Detroit District

Detroit District continues to use its properties for their intended purposes, such as area offices and harbors. The Old Weather Station/Marine Library at the St. Mary's Falls

Canal in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan was leased to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society. The Society, utilizing a grant from the State of Michigan, rehabilitated the building for use as a Museum. It is still in use by the Society.

#### Louisville District

The Louisville District uses historic structures located at the office/visitor center complexes at Green and Taylorsville Lakes for interpretive displays and functions.

Coordination is currently underway to determine how a former dam keeper's house at West Fork Lake can be utilized for standup as a temporary Corps office in the case of an emergency while avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects the action would have on the structure.

#### Pittsburgh District

In 2010, the Pittsburgh District razed the ca. 1953 civil works residence structure at East Branch, Clarion River Lake, in Pennsylvania. Responding to the Corps policy of non-occupancy, the structure was abandoned as a residence before 1996. Corps re-use was disapproved due to high costs associated with upgrades and asbestos removal, and no non-federal parties expressed an interest. Reporting of the property to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the McKinney Act also resulted in no response of interest. Prior to demolition, District consultation under Section 106 led to execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Pennsylvania SHPO and filing of compliance documentation with the ACHP. The District has a number of former residences at reservoir facilities that have either been adaptively reused as additional project office space, or have been abandoned.