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# Executive Order 13287

## *Preserve America*

### Report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

October 2020

*Submitted by*

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

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

**OCTOBER 2020**

**Identifying Historic Properties**

***1. Building upon previous Section 3 reports, have your identification methods changed during this reporting period? Approximately what total percentage or portion of inventory has now been surveyed and evaluated for the National Register, and does this represent an increase from your agency's 2017 progress report?***

The USPS's identification methods remain unchanged from the last reporting period.

The USPS owns 8,730 real property assets. The USPS has surveyed and evaluated properties 50 years of age or greater for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility and has determined the following:

- 3,345 properties (38%) are 50 years of age or greater.
- 3,237 properties (37%) are characterized by the USPS as historic.
  - 1,411 properties are NRHP-listed, which may include underground resources.
  - 1,826 properties are considered possibly historic (generally by virtue of their construction date of 1970 or before).
  - This is an increase of 167 properties, or 5%, since the USPS's 2017 progress report.

The USPS tracks properties, including historic properties, in its electronic Facilities Management System (eFMS). The USPS Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) is responsible for indicating the appropriate historic status of USPS owned and leased properties in eFMS. The database is accessible to authorized USPS staff and includes, but is not limited to, the facility identification number; location; address; dates of occupancy, construction and/or land acquisition; ownership status (owned, leased); and historic status. eFMS also accepts and organizes compliance correspondence, NRHP evaluations and nominations, covenants/easements, Memoranda of Agreement, and images, among other documents.

***2. Has your agency implemented any policies that promote awareness and identification of historic properties over the last three years?***

The USPS's policies that promote awareness and identification of historic properties remain unchanged over the last three years.

The USPS identifies historic properties consistent with methods and procedures described in Question 1.

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***3. How has your agency employed partnerships (with federal or non-federal partners) to assist in the identification and evaluation of historic properties over the last three years?***

The USPS has continued to identify and evaluate properties as key components of its preservation and compliance programs, most commonly in response to proposed undertakings, over the last three years. During Section 106 consultation and/or Section 110 evaluation, the USPS engages with State Historic Preservation Officers, other consulting parties, and chief elected local officials, as appropriate, to determine which features of a property, if any, contribute to NRHP eligibility. Additionally, the USPS works with State Historic Preservation Offices, certified local governments, local organizations and private citizens regarding the identification and evaluation of historic properties in connection with possible nomination of properties to the NRHP.<sup>1</sup> The USPS has also partnered with these entities and individuals to support proposals to nominate facilities, as part of a historic district, to the NRHP.<sup>2</sup>

**Protecting Historic Properties**

***4. Have the programs and procedures your agency has in place to protect historic properties, including compliance with Sections 106 (54 U.S.C. 306108), 110 (54 U.S.C. 306101-306107 and 306109-306114), and 111 (54 U.S.C. 306121-306122) of NHPA, changed over the reporting period in ways that benefit historic properties?***

The USPS has continued to enhance its training program for Facilities personnel on the provisions of the NHPA that affect Facilities projects over the reporting period. This is an interactive process and is repeated as required.

***5. How has your agency employed partnerships to assist in the protection of historic properties over the reporting period?***

The USPS has worked with different entities to assist in the protection of historic properties over the reporting period. For example:

- The USPS participated in the Advisory Council on Historic Properties (ACHP)-led working group "Leveraging Federal Historic Buildings". The workgroup consisted of federal and non-federal stakeholders (including the Department of Agriculture, General Services Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, among others) and focused upon fostering and encouraging the reuse of federal historic buildings.
- The USPS worked with State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, certified local governments, local organizations and private citizens regarding the protection of historic properties in connection with undertakings. During the reporting period, the USPS successfully worked with State Historic Preservation Offices such as Florida, Arizona, Missouri, Georgia and New Jersey; Tribal Historic Preservation Offices such as the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Delaware Nation and Pamunkey Indian Tribe; and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, City of Wentzville, Missouri, and City of Prescott, Arizona.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the USPS supported the amendment of the individual nomination of the Lihue Main Post Office in Hawaii.

<sup>2</sup> For example, Cuyahoga Falls Historic District, Ohio; South Whitley Historic District, Indiana; Kingsville Historic District, Texas; Rochelle Downtown Historic District, Illinois; Oneida Downtown Commercial Historic District, New York; and Fallon Main Street Historic District, Nevada.

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***6. How has your agency used program alternatives such as Programmatic Agreements, Program Comments, and other tools to identify, manage, and protect your agency's historic properties over the last three years?***

The USPS is currently working on a Programmatic Agreement among the USPS, New York State Historic Preservation Office and a long-term lessee regarding tenant-proposed exterior and interior treatments in a historic property. Additionally, the USPS has initiated discussions with the ACHP on developing a program alternative (specifically a nationwide Programmatic Agreement) and will continue such discussions.

**Using Historic Properties**

***7. How do your agency's historic federal properties contribute to local communities and their economies, and how have their contributions changed over the reporting period?***

The USPS's historic properties' contributions to local communities and their economies remain unchanged from the last reporting period. The Postal Service uses its historic properties in the same manner it uses all of its properties - to support the mission of the Postal Service to provide the nation (and communities) with reliable, affordable, universal mail service.

***8. What other laws, regulations, or requirements (other than the NHPA) most directly affect your agency's strategies to protect and use historic properties? What factors have influenced agency decision making on the continued use or re-use of historic properties during the last three years?***

Title 39 of the Code of Federal Regulations informs all Postal Service actions and in turn directly affects Postal Service strategies to protect and use historic properties. Agency decision making on all issues, and thus the continued use or re-use of historic properties during the last three years, is guided by the Postal Service's mission to provide the nation with reliable, affordable, universal mail service while receiving little to no appropriated funds from the federal government.

***9. Does your agency use, or has it considered using, Section 111 (now 54 U.S.C. § 306121) of the NHPA or other authorities to lease or exchange historic properties?***

The Postal Service leases or otherwise disposes of real property or any interest therein pursuant to 39 U.S.C. §401(5).

**SUCSESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES**

***10. Provide specific examples of major successes, opportunities, and/or challenges your agency has experienced in identifying, protecting, or using historic properties during the past three years.***

In 2019 the Postal Service leased a portion of an owned, NRHP-listed building at 341 9th Avenue in New York, New York (i.e., Morgan North) to New York City-based real estate development company Tishman Speyer. The leased portion was excess space and the long-term lease includes the top six floors (over 500,000 sq. ft.) of the historic 10-story Art Deco building which was built in 1933. The Postal Service will continue to occupy the basement and first four (4) floors of the 1.3 million sq. ft. building. According to the New York Post, Tishman intends to

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redevelop the space into high-tech creative office spaces with a 2.5 acre roof deck, eighth-floor terrace and other roof amenity space.<sup>3</sup> The Post also reported that the project, which is scheduled to open in 2021 and is being touted to companies like Facebook, Amazon, Netflix, and Google, will include 5,100 sq. ft. of retail on 9th Avenue. And on November 20, 2019, Tishman leased 320,000 sq. ft. of the space to Japanese digital marketing firm Dentsu Aegis Network.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://nypost.com/2019/10/01/tishman-speyer-closes-on-lease-for-morgan-north-post-office/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/1461652571053/tishman-speyer-lands-anchor-tenant-for-massive-chelsea-post-office-redevelopment>

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