



National Historic Landmarks - Data Reconciliation and Comparative Analysis

**Project #
07-375**

Background:

The history of DoD extends back to the foundation of our nation. The evidence of that rich heritage is embodied in military history and traditions and is most notably represented by DoD's historic properties.

The Secretary of Interior officially recognizes a historic property's national significance by designating it a National Historic Landmark (NHL). NHLs possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Fewer than 2500 places in the United States bear the distinction of being named an NHL. The Department is the proud steward of 73 National Historic Landmarks, in 31 states and the District of Columbia.

As the most recognizable and identifiable historic properties in the DoD inventory, more information is needed to better manage these assets.

Objective:

Using the National Council on Preservation Education (NCPE) summer intern program, an individual worked with the NPS NHL program and staff from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Headquarters Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), US Army Environmental Center (USAEC) and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) to collect and analyze DoD NHL information. The individual compiled an analysis document that presented all collected information and outlines possible data gaps and inaccuracies.

The collected information and report assisted OSD and the Military Services with improving their Section 106 and 110 programs, as well as furthering the requirements of the Preserve America and Federal Real Property Asset Management Executive Orders. The information also improved reporting requirements established in the 2004 Defense Installations Strategic Plan (DISP) and 2007 DISP update and the forthcoming Cultural Resources DoD Instruction (DoDI).

Summary of Approach:

Using the NCPE summer intern program, an individual worked for three months on the following tasks:

1. Worked with the NPS NHL program to locate, copy, and evaluate all information available related to the 73 DoD NHLs.

2. Using collected outreach materials and materials from other sources, updated the existing DENIX website on DoD NHLs.

3. Compiled an analysis document that presented all collected information and outlines possible data gaps and inaccuracies.

4. Presented a summary of the process and the analysis document to the DoD Historic Preservation Work Group; edited findings based on the presentation and discussions.

5. Submitted final report of efforts prior to departure from OSD.

Benefit:

Improved accountability of and access to DoD NHL information served as a foundation upon which the Military Services will be able to build stronger NHL programs. The information collected, reviewed, and analyzed under this project was provided to the Services for their use in NHPA compliance, both under Sections 106 and 110. Additionally, outreach materials made available to the Services and the general public supports the goals of the Preserve America (Executive Order 13287), new performance metrics in the 2007 Defense Installations Strategic Plan update, and new metrics in the forthcoming cultural resources DoDI.

Accomplishments:

The intern successfully collected all DoD NHL information from the NPS headquarters in the Summer of 2007. Staff from DoD and the Military Services used this information to continue to improve their NHL programs, as well as the NHL portion of the DENIX website.

This project marked a renewal of a long-dormant partnership between DoD and the NCPE summer intern program. It also improved the working relationship between DoD and NPS.

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