Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! Helldiver 19866
Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA

Navy Pilot E. D. Frazar knew he was in trouble when his SB2C-4 Helldiver lost power in a dive bombing practice over Lower Otay Reservoir. On May 28, 1945, Frazar and his Army gunner, Joseph Metz, ditched the Helldiver in Lower Otay Reservoir in east San Diego County. Both safely swam to shore as the aircraft sank to the bottom of the lake and settled under 85 feet of water. Joseph Metz, 90 years young, is alive and well!

The Curtiss SB2C Helldiver was a carrier-based dive bomber produced for the Navy as a replacement for the Douglas SBD Dauntless. The earlier Helldivers had serious design problems: handling was poor, unsatisfactory low-speed stability, structural weaknesses, and a dangerous propensity to stall. It was also unstable in a high-speed dive, its raison d’etre. However, later models proved airworthy and pilots’ testimonies account that the Helldiver was fast enough to keep up with the fighters, was fully armed and got them back to the carrier, safe and sound.

Although 7,140 SB2Cs were built, only three are left, so finding another one intact at the bottom of the lake has elicited great interest from the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. They don’t have one and want this Helldiver for their collection in time to celebrate the museum’s centennial in 2011. A non-intrusive dive was made to inspect the Helldiver on July 4 of this year, which found the plane to be in excellent condition. Refer: http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/28/raisin-helldiver/?military&zIndex=139895

The recovery effort is headed by Bob Rasmussen, Director of the museum and former Blue Angel in the late 1950s as well as a Vietnam veteran.

However, since the Navy is responsible for the recovery of the SB2C and that the aircraft and/or site is considered a historical resource, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act needs to be followed.

See Video: http://video/signonsandiego.com/vmix/hosted_apps/p/media?id=5233281&itemindex=1&genreid=2713&sort=NULL

The California Office of Historic Preservation began discussion with other State SHPOs in August to see how they handle the process. Michigan, Illinois, and Texas have been consulted, along with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and experts in the field like archaeologist Tom King. Needless to say, all have different approaches to the 106 process and the various Memoranda of Agreements echo the diverse approaches to treating sunken aircraft. Some employ an approach akin to that used on sunken shipwrecks. There is also a nationwide trend that seeks to develop “national standards” for treating wreck recoveries, both ship and aircraft, procedurally.

Approximately 35 historic WWII aircraft have been recovered to date from Lake Michigan. Illinois concluded the recoveries were not an adverse effect, while the Michigan SHPO considers this type of undertaking an adverse effect. The Texas Programmatic Agreement recognizes that Navy aircraft

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Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!

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remain the property of the United States Navy and promotes recovery efforts following applicable standards and guidelines for historic resources.

It is interesting that when an aircraft is ditched in water, a "forced landing," and remains fairly intact, it settles in the water as would a falling leaf and lands upright. The story and context statement of how the aircraft ended up at its location is generally interesting. In the case of Helldiver YB-14, Ensign Frazar shut down all power to the engine at the beginning of the dive, around 1800 feet above ground, resulting in excess fuel in the engine and loss of power. The operating manual requires the pilot to maintain 20 inch manifold pressure at the beginning of a dive, approximately idle speed. Since 1990, I have watched the slow underwater deterioration of four Curtiss Sparrowhawk aircrafts, from the dirigible USS Macon since it crashed off Pt. Sur in 1935. The debris from the USS Macon covers a wide area but the four Sparrowhawks have remained in the same location. Eighteen years ago, the four Sparrowhawks, submerged in approximately 1,450 feet of water, had intact fabric on the wings and were fairly intact. In 2006, photographs showed further deterioration of the Sparrowhawks. Refer: http://www.mbari.org/expeditions/Macon/Sept20.htm The area is considered a marine sanctuary, and along with debris from the USS Macon, the site has been considered to have multiple historic resources. In addition, recovery at 1,450 feet with robotics would be challenging, given the fragile nature of the aircraft. There is a reconstructed Sparrowhawk in the Smithsonian.

The SB2C Helldiver is a very important part of Naval Aviation history. In the last couple of years of WWII, all of the large aircraft carriers went on the offensive to the Japanese. Helldivers were their primary dive bombing aircraft. The Navy is anxious to proceed with the Section 106 process and the feasibility to recover the SB2C. There is no way to preserve this rare aircraft indefinitely in its present environment.

Let me know what you think.
Why is it that of the four National Register Criteria, most archaeological sites are only nominated under Criterion D – That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history? I am afraid I do not have the answer to that question, but could speculate that Criterion D is the most obvious and fitting category as well as the easiest to justify. The other three categories certainly work better for the built environment. Or that those who go to the trouble to nominate archaeological sites to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) find it such an onerous task and think they have the best chance of getting the site listed or found eligible for listing using Criterion D. Besides, isn’t the main goal just getting the site on the Register for recognition and ultimately affording it some sort of protection?

It is true that it’s more difficult to pen a successful nomination using any of the other criteria. I must say that California is leading the nation in getting archaeological sites nominated and successfully listed, or found eligible for listing on the National Register not only under Criterion D, but also Criterion A – That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

The last few sites that have been successfully nominated using both Criteria A and D are: the Cogged Stone site near Huntington Beach, considered the “type site” for those unusual cog-like stones.

More than 400 cogged stones were recovered from the site, the most of any site in the United States though they are commonly found in Chilean archaeological sites; a Clovis point recovered from the Farpointe site near Malibu, makes it an extremely rare site as Clovis points are not a commonly recovered artifact in California, certainly not along the coast and made from local chert sources. The Farpointe site has the potential to contribute to our understanding of the earliest people of the west, helping to define this nationally significant event; and the trail system leading to Cuyamaca Village may have made this site an oasis and gathering spot for ancestral travelers making their way to and from the coast, mountains, desert, and Salton Sea.

I also want to point out that none of these sites were nominated as Traditional Cultural Properties (see Spring 2009 Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 2 for a discussion of Traditional Cultural Properties).

While helping out the registration unit by reviewing these archaeological site nominations, I myself grappled with the applicability of Criterion A. Criterion D was a “no brainer”- the standard applied to all archaeological sites. So I turned to the Keeper’s staff for some assistance. Following are some general guidelines from the Keeper’s staff at the NRHP for those ambitious nomination preparers willing to tackle more than just Criterion D.

- To qualify under Criterion A, a property must not only be shown to be associated with historic events, but must be considered an important example of the event or trend illustrated. As noted in National Register Bulletin Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering (continued on page 4)
Archaeological Properties, archaeological sites that are type sites for specific complexes or time periods or define the chronology of a region are often eligible under Criterion A because they define cultures or time periods and thus are directly associated with events and broad patterns of history.

- Generally, Criterion A arguments also include a comparative context to help show how the property is an important example of the significant event.

- As important as eligibility under Criterion A is a discussion of whether the property has enough integrity to convey its significance. Unlike properties eligible under Criterion D only, where only archaeological integrity is required to answer important research questions, Criterion A requires that the property conveys its significance through most, if not all, of the seven aspects of integrity. Particularly important for making the case under Criterion A is a discussion of location, design, materials and association.
  - If the site is in the same location, that aspect of integrity is met.
  - Integrity of design means that the site has intra-site artifact and feature patterning, e.g., the distribution of artifacts and ecofacts stratigraphically suggests a multi-component site.
  - Integrity of materials is usually described as the presence of intrusive artifacts, the completeness of the artifact and/or feature assemblage and the quality of artifact or feature preservation.
  - Association means that it is the place where the important event occurred, and is sufficiently intact to convey that relationship to an observer. This is often accompanied by a discussion of integrity of setting, an important aspect of integrity for any property nominated under Criteria A, B, or C.
  - A discussion of association and setting should include the important visible elements of the property (that help convey its importance) during the property’s period of significance and those visible today. It should also include impacts and disturbances to these elements and how these affect the overall integrity of the site. Relevant elements would include topographic features, open spaces, views, landscapes, vegetation, man-made features, and the relationship between buildings or other features.
  - It is important to note, again, that for a property nominated under Criterion D only, integrity of setting is not required, but it is important under the other Criteria.

- When making the case for Criterion A, it is key to stress the importance of the location of the site to the native groups who used the property and why this is a significant element of the setting.

- Likewise, it is especially important to discuss the environmental setting of the site during the period of significance, and today in a Criterion A nomination with special attention to the plants and animals available to Native Groups and why this is critical for understanding why they chose this particular site as a habitation area. This will underscore why these are important elements of setting and association, and how they convey significance today.

So why go beyond Criterion D? If an archaeological site is listed or found eligible for listing using multiple criteria, it makes “data recovery” more challenging as the answer for mitigation.

I hope you will find this discussion and guidance helpful when preparing archaeological site nominations for the National Register. Though it may seem a bit far in the future, the Keeper’s staff may be presenting a workshop on nominating archaeological sites at the Society for American Archaeology meetings scheduled for March 30 – April 3, 2011, right here in the River City.
In recent months, the Local Government Unit phones have been ringing off the hook, flooded with calls from communities that received funding from either the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) or the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Often these callers are armed only with the knowledge that they need a “letter” from the SHPO, but have no idea what regulations they are complying with, how to go about it, or why they have to go through the process in the first place.

Does this sound familiar to you any of you? Have you been one of those many callers? In an effort to help local governments with HUD funding navigate their responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we compiled a list of our most frequently asked questions and their answers, as well as some common misunderstandings and their clarifications. If you do not see your question listed below, or still feel unsure about how to proceed, never fear; we are always happy to answer those phone calls and talk you through the process.

Common Misunderstanding: I need a “historical clearance” letter from SHPO. 
Correction: The legendary “historical clearance” letter from SHPO is nothing more than a myth, an urban legend if you prefer the term. Local governments must seek the SHPO’s comments about their HUD-funded undertakings; our office does not provide any “historical clearance.”

Common Misunderstanding: Our local government was awarded a grant so we need to consult with SHPO under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) or the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). 
Correction: It is helpful to understand that though the funding may have been authorized by the NSP I & II or ARRA, all NSP funds and only some ARRA funds come through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). You are not consulting with SHPO under NSP or ARRA, but under Section 106. It is because HUD, as a federal agency, is involved, that Section 106 compliance is required. Please identify early in the cover letters for your project submittals that you are initiating consultation under Section 106 as a result of the use of funding from HUD.

Q: Where do I go to find the steps in the Section 106 process? 
A: The implementing regulations for Section 106 are found at 36 CFR Part 800.
Local Government: A Guiding Light in the Stimulus Storm:

(Continued from page 5)

Q: Our local government has been told we must have a programmatic agreement (PA) with SHPO because we have an NSP grant. How do we enter into this type of agreement?
A: There is a great deal of misinformation floating around about the process for adopting a programmatic agreement (PA) with SHPO for the NSP.

• First, there is no requirement that local governments have a PA with the SHPO. Local governments may choose to pursue a PA for their CDBG related activities, but it is not required— they may consult on a case-by-case basis.

• Second, many local governments believe that they can simply borrow language from an existing PA with another community, have it signed by the appropriate person from their jurisdiction, and send it to our office for signature and adoption. This is not the process for entering into a PA.

• A local government must request consultation with our office for the adoption of a PA and notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of their desire to enter into such an agreement. The process for notifying the ACHP can be found at 36 CFR Part 800.6 (a)(1)(C).

• Supporting documentation will also need to be submitted to the SHPO and the ACHP in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.11(e). The documentation requirements are as follows:

  ◊ A description of the CDBG programs to be covered by the PA, and the area(s) of potential effect for those programs, including photographs, maps, drawings, as necessary, to represent historic districts or other historic properties within the area of potential effect that are eligible for or listed on the National Register;

  ◊ A description of any steps already taken to identify historic properties within the area(s) to be covered by the PA (including the status of your survey); and

  ◊ Copies or summaries of any views provided by the public and consulting parties, and any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian Organization that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties likely to be affected by the undertaking. If there are no views from some of these parties, please explain how their views will be sought and considered pursuant to the terms of the PA.

Q: Where can I find additional information about Section 106 Consultation for HUD-funded projects?
A: Here are some useful links to websites that will help you through your consultation process.


• Advisory Council on Historic Preservation [www.achp.gov]

• State Historic Preservation Officer (California) [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov]

• California Historical Resources Information System [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=1068]

• Native American Heritage Commission [www.nahc.ca.gov]

• National Register Information [www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15]

If you have questions that went unanswered above, do not hesitate to contact the Local Government Unit staff person handling most of the HUD Section 106 reviews, Shannon Lauchner, State Historian II, at slauchner@parks.ca.gov.
New Listings on the National Register of Historic Places

**Killingsworth, Brady, & Smith**
Long Beach, Los Angeles County
Listed July 15, 2009

The **Killingsworth, Brady & Smith** complex is a prominent example of international style design and site integration of regionally prominent master architect, Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA. Contextually, the building is affiliated by its architect to the influential Case Study House Program, and was the office where four such influential projects were designed. The Killingsworth, Brady & Smith complex was listed under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Planning and Development. The building embodies the distinctive characteristics of the International style in the Post-War, 1950s period, and exhibits distinctive post-and-beam construction methods. It also represents the work of a master, Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA. Its period of significance is 1955 through 1964.

**First Baptist Church of Ventura**
Ventura, Ventura County
Listed July 3, 2009

The **First Baptist Church of Ventura** was listed in the National Register under Criterion C as an example of the Mayan Revival architectural style designed by architect Robert B. Stacy-Judd of Los Angeles, the style’s most avid advocate. The building features numerous characteristics of the style and is dominated by a 56-foot-high tower consisting of eleven, layered pylons which project outwards and upwards in steps from the edges to the center. Mayan Revival style detailing in the sanctuary includes a ceiling characterized by a seven-stepped, four-sided corbelled arch terminating in a flat ceiling decorated in a geometrical textile pattern painted on perforated ceiling tiles. The altar/lectern features Mayan motifs in deep relief. Corbelled arched doorways flanking the podium are topped with inverted corbelled arches with Mayan-inspired cast grillwork of a geometrical design. The period of significance is 1932.

**Shady Point, Lake Arrowhead**
San Bernardino County
Listed October 5, 2009

The **Shady Point** was listed under Criterion C at the local level as an example of French Revival residential architecture at Lake Arrowhead designed by Roland Coate. Constructed with high quality materials and exceptional craftsmanship, Shady Point is one of the outstanding examples of French Revival residential architecture at Lake Arrowhead. The demolition of the original Lake Arrowhead Village in the 1970s and the subsequent infill construction of many new residences of differing styles make Shady Point stand out as one of the oldest and best surviving examples of the original French Revival motif of the area, especially as applied to a lakefront estate.

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New National Register Listings

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Commercial Row/Brickelltown Historic District
Truckee, Nevada County,
Listed October 8, 2009

The Commercial Row/Brickelltown Historic District was listed at the local level under Criteria A and C. The period of significance is 1880 through 1930. Composed of buildings in a range of architectural styles and periods of construction, the Commercial Row/Brickelltown Historic District conveys a visual sense of a western mountain town defined and developed in response to the presence of the Transcontinental Railroad. In Truckee, the railroad was central in the development of the lumber, ice, agriculture, dairy, and tourism industries, which formed the economic bases of the community. The neighboring residential area developed to house local business owners. The relationship of the District to the railroad is clearly evident in the nature, location and layout of the buildings, whereby the rail alignment became an anchor from which commercial and residential development boomed during the period of significance. Although many of the contributing buildings lack individual distinction, they contribute to a significant and distinguishable body of historic architecture and illustrate the transitioning community between 1870 and 1930. The dominance of the railroad in Truckee ended in the 1930s with the construction of the Lincoln Highway and Highway 40.

Roos House
San Francisco City and County,
Listed October 8, 2009

The Roos House is a single-family residence designed in the Tudor style with half-timbering and Gothic ornamentation. Designed by master architect Bernard Maybeck and built in 1909, the house is located in the Presidio Heights neighborhood of San Francisco. The Roos House was listed under Criterion C as a distinctive example of the Tudor Revival style, as an exceptional example of the work of master architect Bernard Maybeck, and for possessing high artistic values. Built only three years after the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, the house was constructed with an extensive foundation of wooden piles driven into the hillside, an unusual type of foundation system for residential construction. The exterior gives no indication of the massive foundation, but the result is an extremely sturdy structure.

Sonora Youth Center
Sonora, Tuolumne County,
Listed October 8, 2009

The Sonora Youth Center was listed under Criterion A for associations with the social history of Tuolumne County. The building is a one-story log building constructed between 1940 and 1943 for the exclusive use as a meeting place for community youth organizations. The building’s construction was the shared effort of Tuolumne County youth and civic and government organizations, with labor and financial assistance by the National Youth Administration. Their combined effort overcame economic depression and shortages of labor and manpower to build a center for Tuolumne County’s youth organizations. The building continues to serve the same purpose today.

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New National Register Listings
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Tobin House was listed at the local level under Criterion C as the work of master architect, Willis Polk, one of the San Francisco Bay Area’s most influential architects of the period. It is representative of Polk’s penchant for medieval English architecture and restrained use of decoration as panaceas for what he deemed the architectural chaos of San Francisco’s late nineteenth-century streetscape. The house also influenced the architectural development of the block during the 1940s and is unique in San Francisco—let alone Polk’s oeuvre—for a Gothic style half arch that leads to a side yard to the west of the house.

New Listings on the California Register of Historical Resources

La Laguna de San Gabriel, a playground located in the Vincent Lugo Park in the City of San Gabriel, was completed in 1965. The playground contains 14 concrete play-sculptures sharing a nautical theme designed by Benjamin Dominguez, a master concrete artist originally from Mexico. La Laguna Park was listed under Criterion 3. Its significance is based on its highly unique and masterfully rendered hand-sculpted concrete play structures. It represents the type of playground equipment designed and constructed during the post-World War II period, but executed by a hand that elevates the playground to the status of interactive art. The property is currently less than 50 years old, but liability concerns have caused the removal of similar playgrounds, making parks like La Laguna a rare and threatened resource.

The Jackson Building was listed at the local level of significance under Criterion 1 for its association with the development of the Japanese American community in Riverside, and under Criterion 2 for associations with Jukichi Harada. Many Japanese immigrants came to Riverside County in the late 19th century to work in the local citrus industry, and downtown Riverside became the site of a small Japanese community, of which the Jackson Building was a part. In 1905, Tsurumatsu Ohashi opened a restaurant in the building, listed in the 1907 City Directory as the “Washington Restaurant.” From 1909-1910, the restaurant was operated by Y. Ekeo, who also lived in the building. Jukichi Harada took over the restaurant in 1911 and continued its operation at the building until 1925. In 1916, Mr. Harada became involved in an internationally-known court case when he challenged the California Alien Land Law of 1913 by purchasing a home in the names of his three American-born children. The Harada family’s experience with Japanese immigration intolerance has been locally and nationally recognized and reflects the general regional and national mindset that was legitimized through legislation. The members of the Harada family were among 235 Riverside Japanese interned during World War II, which prompted the sale of the Washington Restaurant in 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Harada both died while interned.
As part of continuing communication with and training for state reviewers of Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Applications (HPTI), the National Park Service (NPS) holds a biennial workshop to train new state reviewers and provide updates to continuing reviewers. This year’s workshop was held in Raleigh, North Carolina and was co-hosted by the North Carolina Office of Historic Preservation. Mark Huck, AIA, LEED AP, and Jeanette Schulz, MA, tax incentives reviewers with the California Office of Historic Preservation attended this workshop. Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, LEED AP, California State Historic Preservation Officer, gave a keynote speech “Sustainability, The National Scene” for Tuesday’s welcome luncheon.

There were 83 participants, including NPS staff, state reviewers, and speakers.

While paying particular attention to LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), other green programs and the tax incentives program as part of the main theme of this year’s workshop, the NPS also addressed general review, IRS concerns, and administrative matters.

Presentations on September 22 included:

- **Introduction to LEED and Its Major Components** by Christopher Davis, LEED AP, Quality Manager, Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). Christopher provided a brief history of the United States Green Building Code (USGBC) and GBCI, and outlined the LEED Rating System and how historic rehabilitation projects can accumulate points in the existing system. He finished with a summary of new directions being taken to reorganize the point system to be more equitable and on the idea of focusing on neighborhood development and “green status.” A complete “life cycle analysis” is important to evaluate the total energy required for new construction compared with keeping and improving existing construction.

- **By the Numbers: A Look at National Trends** by Liz Petrella, LEED AP, NPS. Liz introduced a new NPS data collection system that integrates tax incentives projects with LEED certifications. Liz also showed slides that pinpointed how historic rehabilitation projects can capture LEED points.

- **State and Local Green Policy** by Mark Huck, AIA, LEED AP, California Office of Historic Preservation. Mark emphasized that many state and local governments are instituting green codes and energy programs that may work against the Standards for HPTI credits. Using California as an example, Mark outlined solar panel programs, credits for window replacements and similar code programs and how it is important for preservation practitioners to be aware of these programs and their potential effects.

- **Analysis Tools for Green Home Renovation** by Mike Jackson, Illinois Preservation Office. Mike identified green program systems world-wide and pointed out how shows like “Extreme Makeover” can give the public the impression that salvaging materials from a “green teardown” is good preservation. Looking at historic buildings as material sources for “recycled materials for new construction” is counter to the understanding of embodied energy, green characteristics, and historical values inherent in an existing property. For example, Canada now has a program that focuses on continually improving existing and historic buildings.

- **Wayne Donaldson’s keynote luncheon speech “Sustainability, the National Scene”** discussed varied types of sustainable programs as they developed across a spectrum of history, architecture, sustainability and environmental program ideals. He aptly reminded everyone that green programs, energy needs and environmental sustainability will change rapidly over the next several decades; preservationists need to remain flexible to incorporate new ideas into their conservation goals.

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National Park Service staff presented case studies and panel discussions for topics including, Sustainable Sites (buildings in Pennsylvania, including the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard); Sustainable Sites and Brownfields; Water Efficiency in Historic Buildings and Sustainable Sites; Energy and Atmosphere; Materials and Resources and Indoor Environmental Quality. The focus was on projects that successfully incorporated green aspects into their rehabilitation program or green practices that can be incorporated in historic projects.

It was stimulating to be reminded that historic sites inherently lend themselves to retrofitting, especially with new advances in “miniaturizing alternate energy systems,” such as geothermal units for heating and cooling.

In Energy and Atmosphere, use of “Envelope Performance” analyses revealed that window replacement on average saved 3.8% in energy improvement with lots of disruption and loss of historic fabric; wall insulation saved 4.7% in energy improvement also with lots of disruption and loss of historic fabric. By contrast, roof insulation and caulking provided a 13.4% gain in energy improvements and most of the work could be concealed with minimal loss and disruption. Thus, focusing on the roof gave a third more in energy gains than the other two methods combined, produced cost savings, and minimized construction needs and use of new materials.

Landscaping trends to capture water in passive systems such as water gardens, swales and rain-collection storage systems can assist in sustaining formal and other historic gardens in times of drought and rising municipal water expenses. These techniques are also historic, traditional ways to capture and reuse water.

September 23rd was dedicated to a tour of local tax incentives rehabilitation projects, some with LEED components and several with multiple buildings within a single property. A highlight was the Golden Belt Manufacturing Plant, a textile mill associated with the tobacco industry. A grouping of historic brick mill buildings have been or will be converted into housing, offices, art programs, and small retail and restaurants using low-impact alterations and materials. The project is ongoing, with their LEED gold certificate expected shortly.

On September 24th NPS staff addressed administrative concerns: IRS issues were presented by Colleen Gallagher, IRS program coordinator; Anne Grimmer, program reviewer with the NPS, led a general program discussion.

Emphasis was placed on reminding applicants that, although digital media has transformed the way people process photos, photographic requirements for tax incentives applications have not changed.

There was general agreement among attendees that the quality of photographic material submittals has steadily declined as digital media and format become more widespread. The basic standard for digital photos is still individual (loose) color prints on photo quality paper, at least 4-by-6 inches in size (with quality of detail the equivalent of a 35mm print) with a label on the back identifying the building and what the photo illustrates. Photo keys are a necessity to help orient the reviewers to where the photos were taken in the building.

The NPS workshop is a valuable tool for state reviewers to connect with colleagues in other states and with the NPS Technical Preservation Services review staff. It also provides an update on facets of the tax incentives program and is a way to gain new ideas of advancements in conservation and environmental programs that may need to be balanced with historic conservation goals or which may assist in better rehabilitations.
Registration Unit: National Register—National Level of Significance
Jay Correia

There are three levels of historic significance in the National Register program: local, state and national. Often, individuals writing National Register nominations mistakenly believe that because the resource they are nominating is related to an aspect of our nation’s history, it is significant at the national level. Applicants asking to have their property evaluated for possible National Level of significance frequently describe their historic buildings as “fine,” “unaltered,” scarce,” and “only.” OHP received an application for listing a property at the National Level because it was “Designed by the architect who was the only person who dedicated his life and practice to a particular style.” Unfortunately, none of the above is reason enough to list a property at the national level.

This article will discuss National Level of significance and how to evaluate a resource for significance at the national level.

A resource may easily relate to some aspect of our nation’s history. One could argue that most historic resources are, in fact, linked in some way to the broad history of our nation. For example, a theatre in a small town that hosted nationally famous vaudeville actors has a history that is linked to events in our nation’s history, that is, the development of vaudeville, an event that impacted the history of our nation as a whole. However, the events that took place at our particular local theater did not affect history at the national level. The small-town theater in our example, then, is a locally significant theater, significant within a local context, perhaps “the development of culture in Our Town.” The theater may be described as REPRESENTING the national context, but only significant at the local level. To reiterate, the events that took place at our small-town theater did not affect national history. Sometimes looking at the question from another angle may help: is every vaudeville theater significant at the national level because vaudeville was a national phenomenon? Clearly, the answer is no.

Conversely, if, for some reason, our small town theater was the place where a new style of acting developed that significantly altered the acting profession, or a new type of architecture came to being that changed the way theater stages were constructed across the nation, we may have a good case for nominating our theater to the National Register at a national level of significance. Perhaps our theater can now be described as “significant at the national level within the context of the development of theater architecture in America.”

National Level of Significance is reserved for properties that are of exceptional value in representing or illustrating an important theme in the history of the nation. Examples of properties significant at the nation level in California include Condominium I in Sonoma County, listed in 2005. Revolutionary in design and widely imitated, Condominium I helped to redirect the course of contemporary design. The Swedenborgian Church in San Francisco was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2004 for its exceptional value in our understanding of the development of the First Bay Tradition style of architecture, the forerunner of the Arts and Crafts Movement in western United States. The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Berkeley, designed by Bernard Maybeck in 1910, was recognized with National Historic Landmark designation in 1977 as “a monument of immense beauty and strength, literally a piece of timeless carved sculpture constructed with imagination and loving care” by one of the most important architects of the 20th century.

For perspective on national significance, consider that although the National Historic Landmarks (NHL) program is independent of the National Register, National Register Bulletins 15 and 16A ask that applicants use the National Historic Landmarks program criteria as the basis for evaluating properties for national significance.

“National significance” and “National Historic Landmark” are almost used interchangeably in the Bulletins. Bulletin 16A, page 68, states “NHLs are properties found to possess national significance in illustrating the history of the United States... other than inclusion in the National Park System. Landmark designation is the Federal government’s only official designation of the national significance of a historic property.”

The Registration Unit always welcomes questions regarding the programs we administer. Visit our website for more information.
Through the years, the Office of Historic Preservation has assembled an impressive collection of Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documents. Many came to OHP through the Section 106 process, as mitigation for adverse effects to historic properties. This adverse effect might be total destruction of the resource, or it might be a relatively minor change to it. In either case, the HABS or HAER documentation is valuable because it records the resource prior to some type of modification.

In other cases, the HABS HAER documentation may have occurred through the auspices of the National Park Service, which records properties based upon rarity or national significance. In this case, the HABS-HAER documentation is correspondingly valuable because of the level of significance of the property being recorded.

It should be noted that the HABS-HAER material maintained by State Parks is not identical to the California collection at the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress collection is far more extensive but it appears that there are many records maintained at State Parks that are not recreated in the federal repository.

For the historical researcher, the presence of this State Parks collection is a good news-bad news situation. The good news is that the collection exists and is very extensive, probably comprising more than 300 recordations. The bad news is implied by the use of the term, “probably” to describe the size of the collection. At the present time, the collection is recorded on index cards and sorted only by the county in which the resource is located. There are plans to encode these records into a searchable electronic database. At present, however, only the typewritten cards provide access to this collection.

How can I use this collection? Physically, the collection is housed in a commercial building near Old Sacramento, called One Capitol Mall. The collection is maintained in the Central Records for State Parks located on the third floor of One Capitol Mall.

In the absence of a searchable electronic database, there is only one way to find whether a record is in the collection: go to Central Records and look through the cards. The records are stored according to a very old system by which a major number, 534.1 refers to the HASBS-HAER collection and a secondary number refers to the county in which it is located, sorted alphabetically. Thus, a record for 534.1-1 signifies a HABS or HAER recordation in Alameda County, the first county alphabetically. There can be dozens of entries within a county, all having the same number, followed by the name of the survey. The first record is 534.1-1, Berkeley Public Library. This building still exists but may have been recorded prior to rehabilitation work.

What kind of properties are in the collection? I will list a few, only to illustrate the breadth of the collection. Here are the HABS records for Alameda County: Berkeley Public Library; Champion House; Coakley Hotel; Christian Science Church, Berkeley; Grove Street Pier; John Breuner Building; Civic Center Building; Mission Hotel; Naval Air Station, Alameda; Oakland Naval Supply Center; Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company Building; Santos Farm; St. Francis de Sales Cathedral; USS Hornet; and U.S. Coast Guard Center, Alameda. The HAER records are predictably of more workaday structures: bridges, dams, roadways; factories; and the like. Many of these were demolished shortly after the HAER record was completed, leading to an old saying “HAER today, gone tomorrow.” Others were recorded before they were modified. The HAER records for Sacramento County include: Folsom Powerhouse (extant); Keefe-McDerby Mine Ditch (probably destroyed); Natomas Ditch (mostly destroyed); Reclamation District 1000 (modified); Sacramento Intake Pier (modified); Southern Pacific Depot (extant); and Tower Bridge (modified).

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At some point in the future, these records will be indexed electronically. Until then, the researcher is advised to call ahead to Central Records at (916) 445-9028 to make sure the office is open and adequately staffed for a visit from the general public. The center is not specifically designed to serve the public, but is able to accommodate such a visit, particularly if arrangements are made in advance.

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Archives at State Parks

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Its News to Me:
What’s Happening at the Office of Historic Preservation

As those who work with the Project Review Unit may already be aware, and for those of you who aren’t, OHP has two new employees helping shoulder the considerable load borne by that unit, Carlton Parker, their new support guy, and Jeff Brooke, an archaeologist hired to replace the recently-departed Cheryl Foster-Curley. Here’s a little information about the two of them, along with their photographs, so you’ll have faces to match with phone voices.

Carlton Parker joined the Project Review Unit in July. Carlton was born in Oklahoma City (as befits someone claiming Native American ancestors), but moved to California, Pasadena to be specific, around the time he started school. His education beyond high school included training as an electronics technician, some college, and a hitch in the Navy. He has held administrative positions for the City of Pasadena and Caltech, where he worked in the Astronomy Department, formerly the Caltech Optical Observatory Section, known as the Palomar Observatory, tended bar and was a caregiver. Like many of us in this office, Carlton is a reader who enjoys history, novels, especially those of Vonnegut and writers of the Harlem Renaissance, Charles Bukowski, Ellison, biographies, and poetry. Reading that has led him to try his hand and begin to focus his energies on the writing life. Word has drifted over cubicle walls that he also knows and appreciates a wide spectrum of music: rhythm and blues, soul, jazz, zydeco, reggae, rock and roll, and some classical and country music too. Above and beyond his day job, Carlton has set his sights on seeing his writing published. What kind of writing? “Short stories, novels, poetry – I’d like to do it all,” says Carlton with a confident smile. Welcome to OHP, Carlton. And invite us to your first reading!

Jeff Brooke joined the Project Review Unit in October of this year. Jeff grew up in Chico, where his father’s family settled in 1909, got his BA in Anthropology at CSU Chico, and attended graduate school at New Mexico State in Las Cruces. He was drawn to Sacramento, in part, to work for State Parks, where he started in 2003 at the Northern Service Center. Prior to that, he labored in the forests, Tahoe National and Santa Fe National, and did a bit of private contracting in Southern Nevada. His off-duty pleasures are aviation (a long-time interest), fly fishing, and camping. He’d like to visit and explore a lot more of this country, especially our state and national parks, before he hangs up his hiking boots. Welcome, Jeff. Your wry sense of humor and low-key manner are a happy combination in a sometimes overworked and over-stressed office.

New Certified Local Governments

The cities of Calabasas and Norco have recently been designated California’s 56th and 57th Certified Local Governments by the National Park Service. Calabasas has only recently embarked upon a historic preservation program; their ordinance was enacted January 2, 2009 and their General Plan Cultural Resources Element, December 10, 2008. They are currently completing their first citywide historic context statement and historic resources survey. Norco’s program was certified July 24, 2009.

Norco’s preservation program began in 1997 with the adoption of a historic preservation ordinance. This past April, a new ordinance was adopted that met the CLG program objectives. Much of the city’s past preservation efforts have been focused on the Lake Norconian resort complex, but beginning in 2010, the city is committed to developing a citywide historic preservation context. Norco’s program was certified September 30, 2009.
The mission of the **Office of Historic Preservation** (OHP) and the **State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC)**, in partnership with the people of California and governmental agencies, is to preserve and enhance California's irreplaceable historic heritage as a matter of public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic, economic, social, and environmental benefits will be maintained and enriched for present and future generations.

### Upcoming Events in Historic Preservation

The **California Historical Society** is presenting an exhibition highlighting the colorful history of California through its remarkable collection of artwork, artifacts, and ephemera called **Think California** September 24, 2009 through February 5, 2011 at society headquarters, 678 Mission Street, San Francisco.

**Mark Huck** of OHP will give a 40 minute presentation on Sustainability in Preservation to the Belvedere General Plan Committee on Wednesday, October 28th, 2009 at 6:30; interested parties are invited to attend; see [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24681](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24681) for more details.

**Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO)**, which operates the historic Whaley House Museum in Old Town, San Diego, invites you to visit the Whaley House October 23-31, 2009 for some hauntingly good fun! For a list of all events, go to [http://whaleyhouse.org/halloween_events2009.htm](http://whaleyhouse.org/halloween_events2009.htm)

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the **State Historical Resources Commission** is Friday, October 30, 2009 in Sacramento. For more information visit [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21372](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21372).

The **Association for Preservation Technology International (APT)** will hold its Annual Conference in Los Angeles November 2-6, 2009 at the Millenium Biltmore Hotel. For more information, visit [www.apti.org](http://www.apti.org)

The **California Historical Society** and **Heyday Books** will be celebrating the release of Kevin Nelson’s latest book, **Wheels of Change**, about the state’s automotive history, November 4, from 6-8 p.m. For more information, see [www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/cal/index.html](http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/cal/index.html).

**The Los Angeles Conservancy** is presenting a special one-time only Self-Driving Tour, “It’s a Mod, Mod, Mod, Mod City” Sunday, November 8, 2009 as part of The Sixties Turn 50 program. For details, see [www.laconservancy.org/events/events_main.php4](http://www.laconservancy.org/events/events_main.php4).

The California Preservation Foundation, City of Palm Springs, City of Rancho Mirage, Spectra Company, **Palm Springs Modernism Week**, and **Sol Terra** for an informative one-day symposium on Historic Preservation’s Economic Impact: Sustainability & Standards on Monday, November 9, 2009 at the Palm Springs Hilton Resort Hotel. For more information, visit the CPF website at: [www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org), or call (415) 495-0349.

The **Los Angeles Conservancy** presents **Road to Freedom: Photographs of the Civil Rights Movement, 1956-1968** at the Skirball Cultural Center from November 19-December 31, 2009. For details, see [www.laconservancy.org/events/events_main.php4](http://www.laconservancy.org/events/events_main.php4).

Recovery Act Section 106 Training will be offered by the **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation** in San Francisco on December 1, 2009. The training could be very useful to local governments, state, and federal agencies that will utilize Recovery Act Funding. For more details and to enroll, please see [http://www.achp.gov/106recovery.html](http://www.achp.gov/106recovery.html).