

NRHP E-Blasts

Electronic Blasts from the National Register of Historic Places (NPS – WASO), sharing news and information with the Historic Preservation Community

February, 2019

Welcome Back!—E-blast Resumes

The National Register program at NPS is pleased to resume distribution of these periodic notes of interest to our preservation partners in state and federal historic preservation offices.

The program staff extend our sincerest thanks to our partners for your support during the recent lapse in appropriations and welcome the resumption of submissions. We do not anticipate a lapse in appropriations upon expiration of the Continuing Resolution at day's end (2/15/19), if we were to re-enter furlough status, we would resume completion of work in hand upon resumption of operations.

Thank you for your continued support and everything you do for preservation in your communities, states, and across the nation!

In memoriam: William J. Murtagh, Jr. (1923-2018)

William J. Murtagh, Jr. (1923-2018), first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, passed away at age 95 on October 28, 2018. Carol Shull, former Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, whom started her career with the National Park Service in 1972 as an historian reviewing National Register nominations, wrote the following in memoriam about her colleague and friend.

William J. Murtagh, Jr., outstanding leader and eloquent spokesperson for historic preservation and the first Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, died peacefully at his home in Sarasota, Florida, on October 28, 2018. He began work at the National Park Service soon after passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Serving for over a decade in his capacity as Keeper, Murtagh provided a firm foundation for the program, leading the efforts to expand and maintain the National Register. His deep appreciation and support for the efforts that States, communities and individuals contributed to recognizing historic places throughout the nation, creating a legacy that continues to this day.

An avid proponent of heritage education, Dr. Murtagh left the National Park Service

in 1979 to direct the preservation program at Columbia University. Following a stint as vice president at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, he launched and taught in preservation programs at the University of Maryland and the University of Hawaii. In the 1980's Dr. Murtagh wrote *Keeping Time, The History and Theory of Preservation In America*, a seminal book in the nascent field of historic preservation that documented the theory and practice driving the movement. The royalties Murtagh earned from the book went to support the Keepers Preservation Education Fund (KPEF), which he established to give grants to students and professionals working in historic preservation. The fund is now administered by the Maine Community Foundation.

One of the recognized giants in historic preservation, Dr. Murtagh has received the highest awards of the Department of Interior, the Distinguished Service Award, and of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Louise DuPont Crowningshield Award, as well as the United States Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) Ann Webster Smith Award.

Tips, Resources, and Miscellaneous Factoids

AVOIDING MISDIRECTED MAIL

The National Register program is experiencing an increased rate of misdirected mail. When corresponding with the National Register program, please ensure that letters and/or packages are not submitted by standard USPS means—as they will be irradiated and irreparably damaged—and that they include our complete and correct address.

Any requests for NR actions should be addressed to:

Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register Program
1849 C St., NW (Mail Stop 7228)
Washington, DC 20240

NR Coordinators and others corresponding with the Keeper are asked to please verify that their label software and other records reflect our address as provided. This double-check and correction of any deviations will facilitate prompt delivery of service on the part of NR program reviewers.

PHOTOS and PROPERTY INTEGRITY

Photography is a critical component of National Register documentation. Bulletin 16A, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* states that, "Photographs should

give an honest visual representation of the historic integrity and significant features of the property” (p. 63). While program guidance does not specify the precise age of acceptable photo documentation, a reasonable person expects that the photographs capture the integrity of the property at the time it is considered for listing. With the increasing popularity of Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit projects, the importance of current photographs has never been more relevant. For instance, it is possible that a building may obtain a preliminary determination of individual listing (PDIL) through a Part I application and undergo significant renovation that changes its appearance from what was approved in the Part I. It is important that when a National Register nomination for this hypothetical property is subsequently submitted to NPS, that the documentation (including the associated photographs) reflects any changes made since issuance of the PDIL. Failure to do so may result in the nomination’s return to the nominating authority for updating. Such delays are readily avoided by confirming with preparers that the photographs associated with National Register documentation reflect the property’s appearance at the time it is considered for listing by the state’s review board.

ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS THEME STUDY AVAILABLE

In June, 2018 the National Historic Landmarks Program issued a theme study related to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). Titled *Finding a Path Forward: Asian American/Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study*, the publication is also useful for National Register programs. The AAPI theme encompasses numerous cultures, many not well represented among National Register listings. Some SHPOs are developing contexts to help address this gap. The NHL theme study provides useful background information, including the section on registration requirements. Each SHPO was sent a copy of the theme study soon after publication; please contact Barbara Wyatt if it did not land in your hands (barbara_wyatt@nps.gov). The NPS has a limited number remaining. Online the theme study can be found at:
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/asianpacificislanderthemestudy.htm>

WHEN TO USE AND NOT USE CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A: RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES IN NOMINATING HISTORIC DISTRICTS

When preparing a nomination for a Historic District that includes some places of worship, it is not necessary to use Criterion Consideration A for individual churches or synagogues within the district if the Historic District is being nominated for Criterion C (embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction). Generally, a few Churches within a large historic district being nominated for its commercial or architectural importance to the National Register will not need Criterion Consideration A for a justification. Smaller historic districts, encompassing many if not a majority of religious buildings, would fall under Criterion Consideration A, as would places where

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religion played a prominent part in the development or creation of a community (e.g. a college founded by a denominational church). Please see ***Bulletin 15 (How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation)***, page 26 for a more detailed explanation. For those without a physical copy, please go online to https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15_7.htm and go to Section 2, under the Heading **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

Inclusion of Federal Buildings in a Historic District

A Keeper's Decision issued on March 25 2001 addressing technical and regulatory requirements included information on the inclusion of Federal Buildings in a Historic District. When historic districts include a federally owned building, the National Register nomination file must include a copy of a letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) notifying the appropriate Federal Preservation Office (FPO) of the nomination and providing the FPO the opportunity to comment. The FPO must be the individual recognized by the Federal agency as authorized to sign nominations. Even if the resource is noncontributing or previously individually listed, the FPO must have the opportunity to comment on the new nomination.

MISCELLANEOUS TIPS:

- **Template for Removal Requests:** A short, concise example of a request for removing a property from the National Register can be found on *The National Register of Historic Places: Sample Nominations* web page at https://www.nps.gov/nr/sample_nominations.htm and click on the link to the **Hebeisen, Jacob, House**. The second and third pages give the reasons for removal. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office provides an excellent template for stating the case for the removal of the Jacob Hebeisen House in Carver County, Minnesota. Requesting a removal of a property from the National Register generally indicates the property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed, or such qualities were lost subsequent to nomination and prior to listing (*36 CFR §60.15*).
- **Form for State/Federal Agency Certification:** A continuation sheet formatted for submitting additional documentation to the National Register can be found online at <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/forms.htm> under **Modified Form 10-900a - Microsoft Word version**. This formatted sheet has a place for the State/Federal Agency Certification signature and the signature for the National Park Service Certification. The form can be further modified by the nominating authority to fit the needs of the submission (e.g., additional documentation, move, removal, name change, or other use).
- **Be kind to your State Reviewer:** When submitting nominations, if the Keeper's signature belongs on the second page of a nomination, please also include the page with the SHPO's signature.

