



## NRHP E-Blasts

*Electronic blasts from the National Register of Historic Places, sharing news and information with the Historic Preservation Community*

July 2023

### Passing of Retired NPS Historian Harry Butowsky



*Dr. Harry Butowsky. Photograph courtesy of masonspeakers.gmu.edu, used by permission.*

National Park Service Historian Harry A. Butowsky passed away on May 6, 2023. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mr. Butowsky earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He retired in 2012 from the NPS History Program where he worked for 35 years as an historian and manager for the NPS History e-Library web site. He lived in Reston, Virginia.

Butowsky is the author of six National Historic Landmark theme studies including *World War II in the Pacific*, *Man in Space*, *World War II Warships in the Pacific*, and *Astronomy and Astrophysics*. He also completed the primary research for the Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, Kansas and the Opana Radar Site National Historic Landmark on Oahu, Hawaii. Participating in several of the commemorations of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dr. Butowsky interviewed survivors, and chaired a panel on the attack. Mr. Butowsky wrote more than 60 articles on military, labor, science, and constitutional history. Since 1980, he has taught

the history of World War I and World War II at George Mason University.

Butowsky was the manager of two awarding winning websites, NPShistory.com and ParksCanadaHistory.com. These sites include electronic collections of thousands of public domain documents relating to the history of the NPS, other U.S. Department of Interior components, and Parks Canada. Dr. Butowsky as a frequent contributor of op-ed articles for *National Parks Traveler* magazine. (This article is an edited version of the article that first appeared in the May 2023 NPS Archaeology E-Gram, available at [Archeology E-Gram - Archeology Program \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)).

## Needed: Revised Maps for Historic Districts

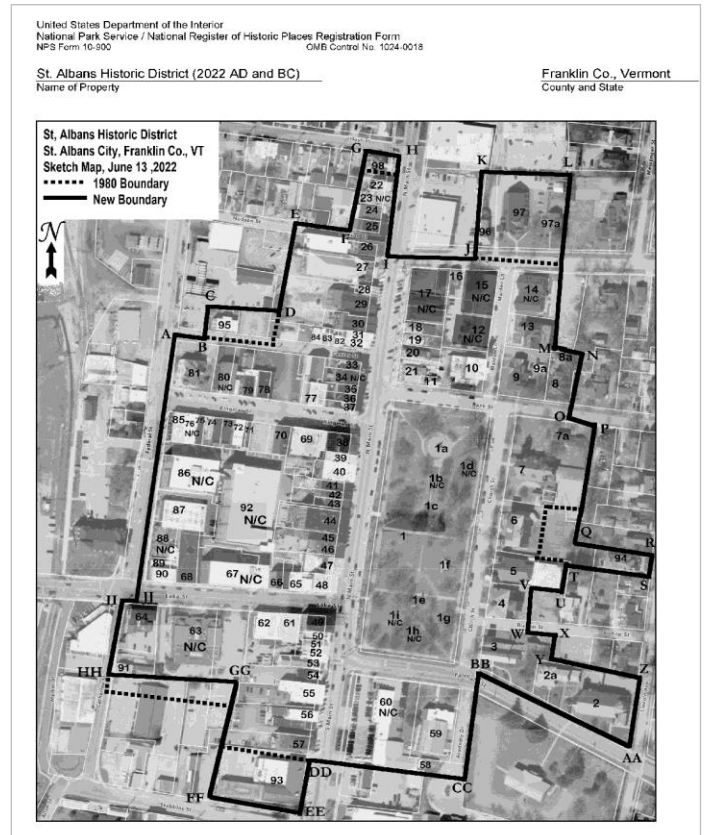
When the National Register receives Additional Documentation requests to amend listed historic districts, the information provided must include revised maps for these districts. In order for the National Register's records to be complete, any Additional Documentation submission that alters the contributing or non-contributing status of a resource must contain a revised district map as well. An outdated map will be inaccurate and confusing to readers.

The National Register is working on updating its guidance on Additional Documentation and Boundary Change submissions, with an eye toward consistent documentation standards. One of the components of that guidance will be a stronger focus on mapping requirements. As an interim measure, please check out the recent *Best Practices Review* publication titled *Amending National Register Documentation* that discusses preparing Additional Documentation submissions, [BPR additional-documentation- 2023-04-12-FINAL.pdf \(nps.gov\)](#)

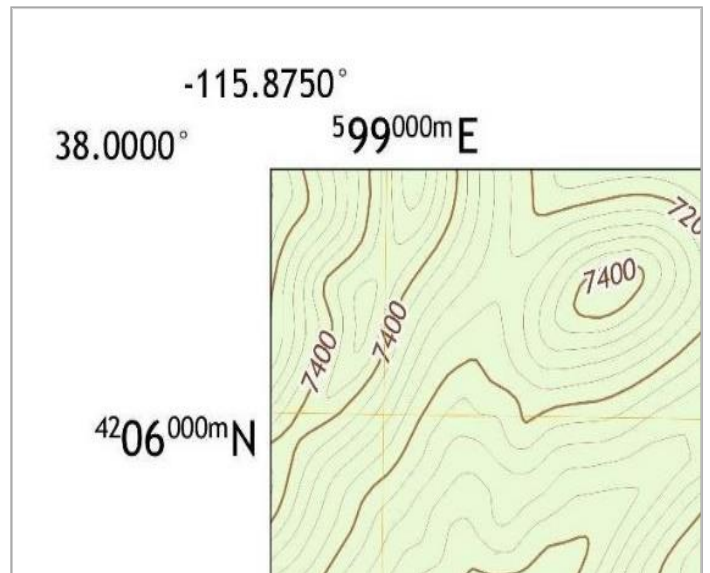
Including maps within a nomination's description or significance narratives, as figures to support the discussion, has been used to good effect by many states. Locational, sketch, and photo maps can likewise be included as figures. Nevertheless, all maps should always be attached as stand-alone maps to the nomination.

## Mapping Coordinate Conversion Tools

For those who work with mapping historic locations, a familiarity with spatial coordinates expressed as degrees, minutes, and seconds (00°00'00" N, 00°00'00" W) is standard. The National Register uses decimal degrees (dd) (00.000000, -00.000000) or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone Easting Northing (00 000000 0000000) to register coordinates.



Sketch map showing revised boundary for St. Albans Historic District, St. Albans, Franklin County Vermont, listed in the National Register Places on March 17, 2023.



U.S. topographical map showing latitude and longitude of the corner (38°N, -115.8750°W) and UTM gridlines (4,206,000 meters northing and 599,000 meters easting). See [How are UTM coordinates measured on USGS topographic maps?](#)

There are several conversion tools on the internet to help change one to the other. Two easy-to-use tools are:

- from the Federal Communications Commission, [Degrees Minutes Seconds to/from Decimal Degrees | Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](https://www.fcc.gov/departments/technical/degrees-minutes-seconds-to-from-decimal-degrees). For example, the GPS coordinates for the U.S. Capitol Building are 38°53'13.97" N, 77°0'19.2" W which converts to 38.887214, -77.005333 (use a minus sign for west longitude).
- from the University of Montana, [Lat/Lon and UTM Conversion - Yellowstone Research Coordination Network \(montana.edu\)](https://www.montana.edu/yrc/network/latlonutm/). Converting 38.887214, -77.005333 (above) to standard UTM renders 1832602 (Easting) and 4306172 (Northing).

## NPS Guidelines for Listing Properties when Owner Objection is Withdrawn

The 1980 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act added a new wrinkle into the nomination process by requiring that owners of private property be given notice that their property was being considered for nomination and providing them the right to object to listing. The regulations promulgated after the 1980 amendments address owner objections at 36 C.F.R. § 60.6(s):

If the owner of private property (or the majority of such owners for a district or single property with multiple owners) has objected to the nomination by notarized statement prior to listing, the Keeper shall review the nomination and make a determination of eligibility within 45 days of receipt, unless an appeal is filed. The Keeper shall list such properties determined eligible in the National Register upon receipt of notarized statements from the owner(s) of private property that the owner(s) no longer object to listing.



*Property disputes can often be heated affairs. Here, the ancient city of Troy is sacked after a dispute between the Trojans and Achaeans. El incendio de Troya by Francisco Collantes (1599-1656), Wikimedia Commons.*

In 2001, the Keeper of the National Register clarified the procedures for listing a district that had been determined eligible due to objections, stating

[f]or the National Register to list a district previously determined eligible because a majority of private owners objected, the SHPO must obtain a list of current owners to determine who has a right to concur or object and what number constitutes a majority of private property owners. The state must then send owners individual written notices informing them that the state is polling property owners to determine if the status of the DOE/owner objection designation should be changed to listed in the National Register. The letter must inform those owners who had previously objected by notarized letter that their original objection stands unless another notarized letter is received removing their objection. The letter should include the same statement outlining the effect of National Register listing as is required for all pending nominations. The state should send a draft of this letter to the National Register for review and approval before notification begins.



Note: In 2022, the Keeper issued a letter stating that an owner objection may not need to be notarized if that objection is prepared in accordance with the guidance provided in the letter. This letter is available at [Keeper Owner Objection Guidance November 2022 \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/keeper/objection-guidance)

While following the procedures outlined in the regulations and the Keeper policy statements results in a determined-eligible property being listed, the National Register record is most accurate if additional information accompanies the listing request. Assurance that the property retains sufficient integrity for listing in the form of current photographs should accompany the request. Acknowledgement of any additional resources not accounted for in the original DOE should be provided. If necessary, the boundary should be clarified to correspond to current standards. All of this information may be placed on signed continuation sheets as addenda to the original form.

If the SHPO does not believe that the property currently meets the National Register criteria, the SHPO may initiate removal of the property as outlined in 36 C.F.R. § 60.15.

## Reminder to Submit Photos from April 10, 2020-September 15, 2022

A gentle reminder to our preservation partners that photos for nominations submitted to the National Register from April 10, 2020, through September 15, 2022, are now being accepted without the count limitations imposed during that time period. The new Cultural Resources Submission Portal (CRSP, or “crisp”) has no file size or photograph restrictions. The National Register, as reported in previous E-Blasts, is referring to these materials as “FPAN” for “Final Pandemic files.” These electronic images may be submitted through CRSP—please remember to include FPAN in the subject line—or via express mail. For more information on CRSP, check the National Register website at [CRSP - National Register of Historic Places \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/crsp).

## Best Practices Review New Issue Now Available

A new issue of the National Register’s Best Practices Review is now available at [Publications of the National Register of Historic Places \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/publications/best-practices-review). This issue looks at on how to evaluate common resources without having to develop a Multiple Property Documentation Form.

