



## Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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#### **Federal Archeology Web Pages Expanded**

The NPS Archeology Program has updated and expanded the “Federal Archeology Program” and associated web pages (<http://www.nps.gov/archeology/SITES/FEDARCH.HTM>). Along with much information from the Secretary’s Report to Congress on the Federal Archeology Program (see Archeology E-Gram May 2007 issue), “Departmental Consulting Archeologist,” and “Federal Archeological Permits” pages have been added. The “Departmental Consulting Archeologist” web page describes the DCA function and the role of the first DCA, Jesse Nusbaum, in shaping the position. The “Federal Archeological Permits” web page contains general information for all Federal agencies that issue archeological permits and a link to the Department of the Interior application form is provided. The “Federal Archeological Permits” web page augments the more detailed guidelines for archeological permits that were developed specifically for the NPS (see Archeology E-Gram issue September 2006). While providing useful information for Federal land managers, the web page is a good introduction for potential applications.

#### **Archeological Resources in NPS HABS/HAER/HALS**

When you conduct background research for an archeological project, do you include the NPS HABS/HAER/HALS collection at the Library of Congress? You may be surprised at the breadth of information about archeological resources in this online collection. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) collections are among the largest and most heavily used in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress (LOC). The combined collections document achievements in architecture, engineering, and design in the United States and its territories.

HABS was established in 1933 to document America's architectural heritage. Creation of the program was motivated primarily by the perceived need to document rapidly vanishing architectural resources. The program received legislative mandate through the Historic Sites Act of 1935. The buildings in the collection range in type and style from the monumental and architect-designed to the utilitarian and vernacular, including regionally and ethnically derived building traditions.

HAER was established in 1969 by the NPS, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the LOC to document historic sites and structures related to engineering and industry. It developed out of a close working alliance between HABS and the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of History and Technology. From its inception, HAER focused less on the building fabric and more on the machinery and processes within the buildings. HAER has documented individual sites and objects, such as bridges, ships, and steel works; and larger systems like railroads, canals, parkways, and roads. As the most ubiquitous historic engineering structure on the landscape, bridges have been a mainstay of HAER recording. In recent years, maritime documentation has become an important program focus.

As documentation has expanded from strictly buildings to engineering sites and processes, the NPS further broadened recording efforts to include landscapes. The American Society of Landscape Architects Historic Preservation Professional Interest Group worked with NPS to establish a national program and, in October 2000 the NPS established the HALS program for the systematic documentation of historic

American landscapes. Historic landscapes vary in size from small gardens to several thousand-acre national parks. In character they range from designed to vernacular, rural to urban, and agricultural to industrial spaces. Vegetable patches, estate gardens, cemeteries, farms, quarries, nuclear test sites, suburbs, and abandoned settlements all may be considered historic landscapes.

Administered through cooperative agreements with the NPS, LOC, and the private sector, ongoing programs have recorded America's built environment in multi-format surveys comprising more than 350,000 measured drawings, large-format photographs, and written histories for more than 35,000 historic structures and sites dating from Pre-Columbian times to the twentieth century. The online HABS/HAER/HALS collections include digitized images of measured drawings, black-and-white photographs, color transparencies, photo captions, data pages that include written histories, and supplemental materials. Since the NPS creates new documentation each year, digital images will continue to be added to the online collections.

Archeological resources may be identified by using a geographical search, or through subject searches. For example, search terms such as "archeology (4 references)," "Indians (146 references)," and "ruins (197 references)" will produce lists of archeological projects. Southwestern Pueblo ruins are particularly well represented.

**To learn more about HABS/HAER/HALS and to use the HABS/HAER/HALS collections online, go to [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs\\_haer/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/)**

### **Lake Mead NRA Opens Overton B-29 Site for Trial Period**

The NPS has awarded two limited Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs) for guided technical scuba diving at the B-29 Site in the Overton Arm of Lake Mead NRA, where the remains of a downed World War II vintage Superfortress bomber are located. The B-29 Superfortress was one of the first high-altitude heavy bombers and was reported to have carried equipment specifically designed for what was once a top-secret mission of atmospheric research. Because there are few examples of the B-29 left in existence this aircraft is a very significant cultural resource.

The plane went down in July 21, 1948. Under the command of Pilot Robert Madison, the B-29 took off from Armitage Field, China Lake, CA, to test the John Hopkins Sun Tracker. The Sun Tracker was part of the Upper Atmospheric Air Research Program. On board were co-pilot Paul Hessler, Flight Engineer David Burns, Scanner Frank Rico, and Scientist (and Johns Hopkins graduate student) John Simeroth. The modified B-29 covered the 200 mile distance to the test area just east of Lake Mead in less than one hour.

The mission profile called for the plane to ascend to 35,000 feet then descend as low as possible while Simeroth took readings using the Sun Tracker. As the plane descended over Lake Mead, Madison apparently lost depth perception above the smooth water. With an indicated air speed of 230 miles per hour, the huge bomber hit the water and skipped for a quarter mile before it settled on the lake and sank. The contact with the lake was catastrophic for the B-29. Three of the four engines were torn off by the impact. The five-man crew scrambled into the plane's emergency life raft and was rescued five hours later by a group of people from Boulder City, including NPS park rangers.

Superintendent William K. Dickinson said, "The NPS has reached out to members of the local, regional, and national dive community to work collaboratively on a management plan that will allow the public to experience the amazing history of this site while protecting it for future generations as part of a comprehensive site stewardship plan. The site has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This limited commercial service will be authorized for a six-month trial period during which time the NPS will assess the effectiveness of the permit holders to preserve and properly manage the B-29 site." The site remains closed to the general public.

During the trial period beginning July 15, dives will be limited to four teams per week composed of one dive guide and two clients. During this trial, the NPS may make appropriate adjustments to the guided dive service. These adjustments include the right to halt, temporarily suspend, and/or increase or decrease the carrying capacity of this service, to address any impacts to the Overton B-29 Site. During this initial six-month trial period, up to 100 visitors (split evenly between the two CUA holders) will be allowed to dive on the site.

The two companies are Sin City Scuba, based in Las Vegas, Nevada; and Scuba Training and Technology Inc., based in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Working with one of these companies on an escorted dive is the only way qualified technical divers can dive the B-29 site.

### **NPS Announces Battlefield Preservation Grants for 2007**

The NPS has awarded 19 grants totaling \$492,184 to assist in the preservation and protection of America's significant battlefield lands. The grants provide funding for projects at endangered Colonial-Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefields. The battlefields are located in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, and Vermont.

The winning projects include a preservation and management plan for the Saltville, Virginia, battlefields; an assessment of the masonry of Fort Morgan in Alabama; documentation of the 1779 Revolutionary War battlefield of Savannah, Georgia; a cultural landscape inventory of sites associated with the War of 1812 in Burlington, Vermont; and televised public service announcements and brochures promoting Guilford Courthouse battlefield in Greensboro, North Carolina.

These grants are administered by the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply for these battlefield grants each year. The ABPP's goal is to safeguard and preserve significant American battlefield lands for present and future generations as symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage.

**More information about ABPP is available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/>.**

### **Conservation Groups Buy Prominent Hopewell Site**

Conservationists have taken steps to create a 238-acre state nature preserve in southern Ohio that contains archeological sites and earthworks dating to 2,000 years ago. A coalition of three organizations has contracted to purchase the Spruce Hill Works, a hilltop earthwork made of earth and stone by the ancient Hopewell people. Wilderness East of West Union, Ohio; the Archaeological Conservancy; and the Ross County Park District signed a contract in June to buy the site for \$600,000. The offer from the coalition is a combination of cash and loans that kept the land from going to auction and, potentially, away from commercial developers.

The groups wanted to preserve the Spruce Hill Works, nine miles west of Chillicothe, because it's believed to be rich in ancient American history, as well as more than 240 plant species. They will create a nature preserve. The site may eventually become part of Hopewell Culture NHP.

The hilltop is flat and bowl-like with earth and stone mounds all around it. The earth was formed into shapes of animals or circles. Though it is referred to locally as a "fortress" because of the 30-foot mounds of stone, it is believed that the area was used by the Hopewell people and perhaps later by the Shawnee Indians. Hundreds of years ago, or longer, people created furnaces at the site to smelt metal. The earthworks today are similar to the way that they looked in 1848 when the site was described by early historians.

For more information about archeology in Ross County, Ohio, go to the National Archeological Database (NADB; [www.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nadb/nadb.mul.html](http://www.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nadb/nadb.mul.html)) and query on Ross County, Ohio. There are 103 references! To learn more about the Hopewell culture, add “Hopewell.” There are at least eight references.

### **High School Students Intern at Pecos NHS**

Students from Pecos High School and Jemez Pueblo, NM; and Phillips Andover Academy, Andover, MA, are working together as part of Pecos Pathways, a three-week program that brings students from the three locations together to learn from one another and about the connection between the three locations. The Pecos Pathways program seeks to commemorate the history of the Pecos Pueblo and provide a learning experience for high-school students from Jemez Pueblo, Phillips Andover Academy, and the village of Pecos.

The program was started in 1998 as a collaboration between the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology at Phillips Andover Academy, the Pueblo of Jemez, and Pecos NHP. Every year, students first spend a week at Jemez Pueblo, then at Pecos NHP and finally at Andover, MA.

“The program highlights the historical connection of the three locations,” said Christine Beekman, chief of interpretation at Pecos NHP. Beekman said acceptance in the program is difficult because it’s highly competitive; in order to qualify, students must get permission from their parents and references from two teachers or counselors. And they have to write a two-page personal statement. Beekman said students are usually selected based on how much interest they show in archaeology.

### **Projects in Parks:**

Projects in the Parks is taking some time off this summer. It will reappear in our August Archeology E-Gram.

*Archeology E-Gram*, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the National Park Service and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program website.

*Projects in Parks* is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* webpage on InsideNPS. The full reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* webpage <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670> on InsideNPS or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* on the on the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program website.

**Contact:** [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for “Projects in Parks,” and to subscribe.