In Pursuit of the “Complete Resume of the Builder’s Art”

HABS/ HAER/ HALS Recording
“It is intended that the Survey shall cover structures of all types, from the smallest utilitarian structures to the largest and most monumental. Barns, bridges, mills, toll houses, jails, and in short buildings of every description are to be included so that a complete picture of the culture of the time as reflected in the buildings of the period may be put on record”
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

HABS as a database of architectural elements
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

A national database allows for analysis from a broader perspective
Heritage Documentation Programs
Historic American Buildings Survey

HABS was inspired by:

Colonial Revival Movement

Beaux Arts drawing traditions

Endangered architecture
HABS/HAER/HALS Mission:
Create a archive of America’s architectural, engineering, & landscape heritage, and provide a clearinghouse for documentation to the Library of Congress
Create standard-setting documentation, and guidelines for recording
Field test new recording methods & technologies
Educate the next generation of recorders & preservationists
Heritage Documentation Programs
Historic American Engineering Record

HABS Documentation of industrial structures prior to the creation of HABS in 1969

1930s HABS recording of a tide mill

Early HABS pilot project for HAER recording
Heritage Documentation Programs
Historic American Engineering Record

HAER, making complicated processes understandable

Chester Electrical Power Station, Chester, PA
Heritage Documentation Programs
Historic American Engineering Record

HAER, recording engineering structures and maritime resources
Heritage Documentation Programs
Historic American Landscapes Survey

1930s HABS recording of historic landscapes

HABS recording without special consideration of landscape features
Current HALS landscape recording includes new methodologies and approaches to recording, capturing often large-scale traditional and designed landscapes.

Sacred site on the island of Maui, Hawaii

Roosevelt Island, Washington, DC
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

Recording methodology:
hand measuring
And field noting
still forms the backbone of the recording process;
to ensure accuracy and engagement with the resource
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

Recording methodology:
high-definition laser scanning is often used when recording large scale sites and structures . . .

. . . but it cannot read everything
Recording methodology:

3-Dimensional modeling is used to record and dissect complex structures, creating multiple drawings from a single model, and to illustrate process.
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

New technologies are applied to the production of traditional, archivally stable measured drawings
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

Color Photography is used when color is a character defining element of the site

Grandma Prisbrey’s Bottle Village, Simi Valley, California
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

Secretary of the Interior’s Standards:

• Adequately convey significance or value

• Accurately prepared from reliable sources

• Durable long-term, easily reproducible, and standard in size & format

• Clear and concise
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

HABS/HAER/HALS Guidelines are available on line at: http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

New guidelines for students & non-professionals
“Sample Projects” also provide guidance for the production of HABS/HAER/HALS documentation, at various levels of recording.
HAER was one of the first collections at LOC to be digitized because of its exceptional K-12 educational value.

High resolution, publication quality TIFFs are available for download copyright free.

Approximately 50,000 visitors each month.

Approximately 800,000 page views each month.
Heritage Documentation Programs
Collections Management
Upgrading the On-line Collection

http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/

HABS/HAER/HALS database is now the single data source for the on-line collection

PDFs are available for download!

PDFs allow for better image quality and increased OCR reliability for new & recent submissions

Improved searching, indexing and image browsing
Digitization made it possible for HABS/HAER/HALS materials to be transferred to purpose built storage at Fort Meade while maintaining access to the collection on-line.
Storage dictates how things are labeled and what materials can be used – there’s a reason behind the specific transmittal guidelines.
Digital preservation means accepting lots of unknowns

Analog = 500 yrs       Digital = ???

Very few digital preservation success stories & many horror stories – current successes have only lasted for a few years

On-line storage reliability will need to increase by a factor of 1 billion for a 50% chance of files being usable after just 100 years

Internet Archive is keeping digitized books in their original paper format because they believe they are “an authoritative and safe copy that may be called upon in the future”
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

Photo by Bill Bunzel
Durability of Materials = digital objects need to be preserved through time and be sustainable

What makes a digital object sustainable?

• Resiliency – Error rate of file formats
• Bit Rot - Gradual accumulation of irrecoverable bit errors
• Media Degradation – Even gold CD/DVDs last only 3-10 years
• Open Standard – Non-Proprietary formats
• Migration – File formats change
• Widespread Adoption – Safety in numbers
• Availability of tools to help manage the archive
Barriers to Digital Preservation

Cost – IT - Digital storage is exponentially more expensive than analog. Cost of capture is small compared long-term storage costs

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
Cost to preserve one movie on film - $1,059
Preserve that same movie digitally - $12,514

Lack of Industry Standards
No standards currently exist for large-format equivalent born-digital photography – HABS/HAER/HALS would be setting the standard
Secretary of Interior Standards #2 – Accurate, reliable and verifiable

Perspective correction at the time of capture is an essential element of HABS/HAER/HALS photography

Establishing the authenticity of a digital image is very difficult.

Lack of standardized practices among photographers and lack of tools for quality control
Building distortion from digital camera angled up
Sec. Standards #2: Accuracy - Building distortion corrected in CAMERA
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

Building distortion corrected in PHOTOSHOP
Digital photography can be used for figure pages attached to a historical report or included in the field records.
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
as amended through 1992
Public Law 102-575

TITLE I  Section 101(a)(7): The Secretary shall promulgate, or revise, regulations-

• (B) establishing a uniform process and standards for documenting historic properties by public agencies and private parties for purposes of incorporation into, or complementing, the national historic architectural and engineering records within the Library of Congress; …

Section 110,

• (b) Each Federal agency shall initiate measures to assure that where, as a result of Federal action or assistance carried out by such agency, an historic property is to be substantially altered or demolished, timely steps are taken to make or have made appropriate records, and that such records then be deposited, in accordance with section 101(a), in the Library of Congress or with such other appropriate agency as may be designated by the Secretary, for future use and reference.
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

About two-thirds (or 64%) of respondents to a recent survey of FPOs indicated that they are aware that HABS accepts documentation at all levels of significance—national, state, and local.
Documentation that bears the names and/or appears on HABS, HAER, HALS title blocks must be sent to the Library of Congress, particularly if it is intended to meet the mitigation requirements of Section 106 recording.
Mitigation transmittals dropped 50% between 1998 and 2000

Dropping 50% again between 2000 and 2007

1998—1,108 transmittals
2006—61 transmittals

Conoid Studio, George Nakashima Woodworker, New Hope, PA
If you are archiving documentation locally, is it publicly accessible? Is it accessible on-line?
When it comes to Section 106 mitigation, by what process and/or criteria does your office stipulate the level of documentation for HABS, HAER, HALS recording and who takes part in that process?
Currently, most of the documentation for Section 106 stipulation is undertaken at “level III” to include short-format reports and large-format photos.
Level I recording is necessary for National Historic Landmark quality structures, or an intact example of a structure, the documentation of which would serve to capture an identifiable building type.

- **Drawings**: set of measured drawings
- **History**: full outline-format historical report
- **Photography**: large-format, black & white photographs
The Woodlands, Philadelphia, PA
The outline format provides a ready checklist of the information needed, including a narrative “historical context” section, and detailed descriptions.
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

COCONUT-CHIPPENDALE HOUSE
(Mansion de Marie Theresia)

Location:
The Coconut-Chippendale House is located at the end of a dirt
road at 4025 SE 40th Street, one mile north of Pahokee.

Historical and Architectural Significance:

The Coconut-Chippendale House is one of the very few early 19th-century Florida houses to
have been built of the traditional-style roof truss system used by the French in their
government's early 19th-century houses. The house has been traditionally associated with
the French community in the area and has been restored to its original condition.

Part 1: Historical Information

A. Physical History:

1. Date of construction: The building was constructed between 1814 and 1847.


3. Original and subsequent owners, use
a. The original house, built in 1814, was the property of Marie Therese Dejean and was used as her dwelling house.

b. Shortly after her death in 1844, Marie Therese sold the property of her house.

Part 2: Architectural Information

The Coconut-Chippendale House is a two-story building with a gable roof and a front porch. The
interior consists of two rooms on the first floor and two on the second floor. The house features
a central hearth, a fireplace, and a chimney.

Part 3: Survey Information

The survey was conducted in 1984 by the National Park Service and the Florida State Historic
Preservation Office. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.
The Holland Prize: capturing the defining characteristics of a site or structure in a single sheet drawing.
Level II recording is necessary for a landmark structure that may not be of architectural significance, or for a structure of statewide significance.

- **Drawings**: Copying of original drawings
- **History**: Full outline-format historical report
- **Photography**: Large-format, black & white
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

Level II: copies of original drawings
Original drawings reproduced must:

* Adequately represent the structure as it now stands
* Include basic measurements
* Be clear and concise
* Legible at the size in which it is reproduced
Level III recording is used to capture a structure of state or local significance, and is particularly useful in recording vernacular and endangered structures.

- **Drawings**: sketch plan (optional)
- **History**: short-format historical report
- **Photography**: large-format; black-and-white
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ROARING CREEK FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
HABS NO. PA-6691

Location: Meeting House Road, Narodale, Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: Roaring Creek Meeting House, built in 1795, is of interest for both its log construction and its two-cell design with unusually sound meeting rooms for men and women. The latter was indicative of an early English Quaker pattern of meeting, and was generally not incorporated into American Friends' meeting house designs of this period. And while log meeting houses were often built during the period of early settlement within the Delaware Valley, they were quickly replaced with more permanent construction. Roaring Creek and nearby Catawissa are the only intact log meetinghouses.

Description: Roaring Creek Meeting House is one of a row of three similar buildings with a single room. The building is located in a row of three similar buildings of similar design. The meeting house is a one-story, log building with a gabled roof. The meeting room is a rectangular space with a smooth, white-painted interior. The building is accessible from the outside via a wooden staircase.

History: Roaring Creek Meeting House was built in 1795. A meeting for worship was established at Roaring Creek by Catawissa Monthly Meeting in 1796. In 1796, a preparatory meeting was set up by Catawissa Monthly Meeting, and the current meeting house was erected. In 1814, a monthly meeting was established here, a revival of Catawissa Monthly Meeting. Elias Hicks is said to have spoken at this meeting house.

In 1838, it was reported that the meeting was held at a log house near the present site. The meeting house was built in 1838, and is currently owned by the Friends and maintained by the local Friends group. A meeting for worship is held here once a year, in June, local Friends meet at 1838.

At the time of the separation into Hicksite and Orthodox factions in 1827, the original Roaring Creek Meeting House was laid down and the meeting house retained by the Hicksite meeting.

Sources:
Pennsylvania Historical Survey, Division of Community Service Programs, Work Projects Administration.

Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, Minutes, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Historian: Catherine C. Locicero, 2001

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1 Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, Minutes, 1876. A historical marker on site; however, built 1796.
2 The meeting house was built in 1838, and is currently owned by the local Friends group.
Level IV recording is intended only for survey or inventory, or for reconnaissance work to determine which buildings of a type, or within a particular region, should be selected for higher level documentation.

- **Drawings**: No drawings component
- **History**: short-format historical report
- **Photography**: digital photographic images used as a figure page in historical report (optional)
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

Short-format report with digital photos as figure pages
Field recording undertaken by Alabama SHPO—level III!!
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS

South Carolina SHPO—State Survey
Heritage Documentation Programs
HABS/HAER/HALS
Massachusetts SHPO—community landmarks