National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Division of Cultural Resources
Midwest Region

Exceptional Places

Featured in this photo: Iowa State Archives and Records Program

Preserving the Paper Trail: "Mission Critical" Tips for Archives Management

Jessikah Haselhorst

As the steward of a National Historic Landmark, you can certainly relate to that growing pile of "stuff" over in the corner, a pile that you have every intention of organizing…someday. Are you putting it off because you wonder where you would even start? Maybe you just need a friendly push to get started on your archives, or perhaps you're looking for guidance on how to manage your existing collection.

While organizing an archive may be a daunting task, the scope of what can be learned from the effort will make it well worth your time. Nothing educates us more about the people of the past than the objects they left behind. You have been entrusted with one of the most monumental responsibilities in historic preservation: to ensure that historical records are maintained and can be accessed by those who seek to study them. As you read on, keep in mind that every detail mentioned is "mission critical" to the creation, management, and success of your archives.

> **"A little neglect may breed great mischief.., for want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; for want of a horse the rider was lost."**
>
> **—Benjamin Franklin**

Be prepared to dedicate an area to your work. Substantial space will be required to manage your paper archives based on the following factors: the size of the collection, the number of staff members, the number of tasks for which the archives is responsible, and the number of users who will be served. You should plan to store about 1.5 cubic feet of records for each square foot of storage space (if you plan to use standard shelving with aisles between each range). Another shelving option to consider is mobile, compact shelving which can nearly triple the storage capacity of records to about 4.5 cubic feet per square foot of storage (Wilsted and Nolte, 1991).

The environmental factors damaging your collection are temperature, moisture, air quality and light. Recent research shows that the two most important factors are *temperature and relative humidity (RH)*. Here's how it works: high RH provides the moisture necessary to promote harmful chemical reactions in materials. When high RH is combined with high temperature, the two work together to encourage mold growth and insect activity. Chemical decay is the most significant threat to paper archive collections because many paper products are composed primarily of organic, inherently acidic materials. Wood pulp, for example, will spontaneously decay if stored at room temperature, and will only survive for a few decades (Reilly, 2008). Experts say the solution to this problem is to maintain a stable temperature in your archive between 60°F and 70°F and a stable RH between 30% and 50%. Keeping RH at the lower end of this range will slow down the deterioration rate (Ogden, 2007).

Pay special attention to *fluctuations* in temperature and relative humidity. Most archival materials are hygroscopic, which means they readily absorb and release moisture. They respond to seasonal changes in temperature and relative humidity by expanding and contracting, which ultimately speeds up deterioration and leads to noticeable damage like wrinkling paper and cracked emulsion on photographs (Ogden, 2007). It is a good idea to let materials acclimate to changes in their environment gradually. For example, remove photographs from cold storage and place them in a plastic bag at room temperature for at least 24 hours. This will give the photographs a "thawing" period prior to being examined and will substantially reduce damage from cracking.

In order for temperature and relative humidity to be systematically measured and recorded in your archive storage space, it is imperative that the space has its own climate-control system. The climate control equipment you choose for your archive, again, depends on its size. It may be as simple as a room air conditioner, humidifier, or dehumidifier; or as complex as a central, building-wide system that filters, cools, heats, humidifies, and dehumidifies the air. The ideal environment you are seeking is one characterized by cold, dry air that is free from pollutants. The system should never be turned off, and settings should never be lowered at night or on weekends. The costs incurred for keeping the climate-control system in constant operation will be far less than the costs of later repairs to damaged records.

*(**Paper Trail** continued on page 8)*

Exceptional Places

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The History and National Register Programs at the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service offer this newsletter as a forum of information for NHL owners and the public we serve. We hope you find our articles helpful and informative, and we welcome your suggestions for future issues.

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SPLINTERS FROM THE DUSTY NEWEL POST

Prefabricated Homes

Mark Chavez

This "Splinters" column briefly explores prefabricated residential buildings and discusses Frank Lloyd Wright's experiments with several component systems.

Houses have been built in one place and reassembled in another throughout history. Possibly the first advertised prefabricated home was the "Manning Portable Cottage" conceived in 1830 by London carpenter H. John Manning. This house was built in components, then shipped and assembled by British emigrants. Prefabricated homes were produced during the Gold Rush in the United States during the 19th century to enable California prospectors to quickly construct homes. Also known as kit houses, pre-cut houses, ready-cut houses, mail order homes, or catalog homes, they remained popular into the first half of the 20th century. Kit house manufacturers sold houses in many different plans and styles, ranging from simple bungalows to imposing Colonials. For a fixed price, manufacturers supplied the materials needed for construction of a particular house with the exclusion of brick, concrete, and masonry (such as would be needed for laying a foundation, which the customer would have to arrange to have done locally).

One American company heavily invested in the kit house concept was Sears, Roebuck and Company. Sears Catalog Homes were ready-to-assemble kit houses sold through mail order by Sears. Sears closed their Modern Homes department in 1940. More than 370 designs of Sears Homes were offered during the program's 32-year history.

While Frank Lloyd Wright is best known for his unique, one-of-a-kind showplace homes, the architect also gave considerable thought to designing beautiful yet affordable homes. The degree of detail he brought to such designs as Fallingwater and Taliesen is also evident in the evolution of his "American System Built" (ASB) homes. Although not designated as NHLs, these simpler designs aid in understanding the breadth and reach of Wright's body of work. Wright began designing his own American System Ready-Cut structures with "prefabricated" construction integral to their concept in 1911. Here, however, prefabricated meant "ready-cut" parts, rather than whole wall units, cut to size and shipped to the site where they would be assembled. The buildings were often referred to as "prefab homes," but they really were not, since no part of the homes were constructed off-site. The lumber was cut at the factory, packaged along with all other components, and delivered to the work site for construction. The designs were standardized, and customers could choose from seven models. Wright's firm produced over 960 drawings for the American System-Built Homes project, the largest number of drawings for any project in the Wright archives. More than a dozen suburban dealers were licensed to sell ASB Homes. Wright designed more than three dozen different housing units from bungalows, to two-story houses, to duplex apartments.

Toward the end of his "Prairie" period, Wright began experimenting with modular poured concrete construction. This phase of residential design was focused in Los Angeles in the 1920s, and resulted in four "textile block" designs. The face relief patterns vary for each of the four textile-block projects. The method of construction consisted of casting three-inch thick concrete blocks on site in Wright-designed molds, next to and on top of one another without visible mortar joints. In all but one of the homes, steel reinforcing rods were run horizontally and vertically in edge reveals of the blocks, then filled with thin concrete grout, "knitting" the whole together.

Wright introduced his Usonian "Automatic" modular concrete homes in the early 1950s. "Automatic" was used to suggest that the owner might participate in the actual construction of the home, laying or even making the blocks. The Usonian Automatics advanced concepts he introduced in the 1920s with his textile block designs.

Wright's early block houses had wood roofs and later houses introduced ceilings

(***Splinters*** *continued on page 10)*

NHL Owners Rise to Missouri River Flood Challenges

Dena Sanford

The record-setting Missouri River floods this summer brought economic hardship and destruction to communities lining its path, closed roads and bridges, and suspended the normal daily activities of thousands of people. The flooding has also impacted or threatened a number of National Historic Landmarks along the river. Hardest hit appear to be the *USS Hazard* and the *Captain Meriwether Lewis* dredge, both of which found themselves once again floating in water.

The *Hazard*, located in Omaha, Nebraska's Freedom Park, is one of the most intact and preserved warships remaining from World War II. It is one of two surviving Admiral-class minesweepers that could double as anti-submarine warfare and anti-aircraft ship. After service in the Pacific theater, the *Hazard* was decommissioned in 1946 and ultimately brought to its current location in 1971 as part of a Naval museum, now owned by the city.

Although located in a park adjacent to the Missouri River, the *Hazard* normally "floats" in a cradle of soil. The city regularly backfilled around the hull to combat erosion of the sandy and poor quality soil. When the Missouri began to rise this past spring, the city took numerous steps to preserve the *Hazard* and other historic resources at the park. Both the *Hazard* and the *USS Marlin* were securely moored down, and volunteers removed the *Hazard's* mast and gangplank. While many artifacts and exhibits remained on board, the more valuable materials were taken off. A park volunteer contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which was already in the state to assist with flooding issues. According to a July 15 press release from FEMA, that agency quickly coordinated with a number of other federal agencies including the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, Civil Air Patrol and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Among other actions, the Coast Guard ferried volunteers across the floodwaters to check on the ships, until it was deemed too dangerous. The Civil Air Patrol took aerial photographs to assist the city in monitoring conditions.

By June 27 the Missouri River at Omaha measured over 35' deep, 6' above flood stage. The water completely flooded the park and floated the ship in several feet of water. Water was pumped out of the vessel and a small leak was found in a seal on one of the propeller shafts. The *Hazard* has shifted from its original location and of great concern was what the rapidly-flowing flood waters might have done to the vessel's permanent cradle area, and what debris might have collected beneath it. In preparation for addressing the unknown, Park Maintenance Manager Brook Bench reported that the city has been consulting with the Navy and park volunteers to develop a plan of action once floodwaters recede. The National Park Service Mid-

The *USS Hazard* photographed on June 28, 2011. Photo courtesy of Shane Hunter, Incident Commander, Missouri River Unified Command, Omaha.

west Regional Office and San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park contributed information to the city regarding possible solutions.

Eighty miles downriver at Brownville, Nebraska, the *Captain Meriwether Lewis* found itself in similar circumstances. One of only a handful of surviving U.S. Army Corps of Engineers vessels built to control the Nation's inland waters, the *Lewis* is one of the best preserved examples of an inland waters cutterhead dredge in the United States. After 37 years of operation, the vessel designed to assist in flood control work was removed from the river in 1977 and functions as the Museum of Missouri River History, owned by the Meriwether Lewis Foundation. It sits in a specially excavated and diked basin at the river's edge. Concrete capped pilings and steel I-beams support the *Lewis* in a manner that recreates the appearance of floating. All appearances were removed in June and July. Brownville resident Jane Smith reported that the Missouri River ultimately measured over 44' deep, and washed out one-third to one-half of the area levee. The

*(**Flood** continued on page 11)*

An Update from the Chief

Donald L. Stevens, Jr.

Many good things happened in 2011. We added a new historian, Alesha Hauser, to the staff of our Midwest Region National Historic Landmarks program. Alesha recently received her Master's degree in historic preservation from the Savanna College of Art and Design. Her duties include coordinating the NHL program in the state of Illinois.

The National Park System Advisory Board is again meeting twice annually to review new and revised NHL documentation. This newsletter highlights nine new Midwest NHLs and a boundary revision, the Harry S Truman Historic District, designated during the year. Another half-dozen recommended new NHLs are in the long pipeline to Secretarial designation. One of these, the Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki nomination (Indiana), a rare historic structure associated with treaties in the Old Northwest Territory, is described in these pages. Another, the Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Dayton Veterans Administration Home (Ohio) documents the transition from the NHDVS era of federal veterans care to the modern VA.

On a down-note, the *President* (river excursion boat) in Alton, Illinois, was de-designated and is no longer an NHL. Built as the steam packet boat *Cincinnati* in 1924, it was designated a NHL in 1989 when docked in St. Louis, Missouri, where it served as a cruise ship. The historic integrity of the *President* suffered after a conversion to a casino boat in Davenport, Iowa. The current owner dismantled it and plans to reassemble it as a hotel and conference center on a lake in St. Elmo, Illinois. The historic character of the steam boat mostly has disappeared.

We, though, are still here and look forward to helping you preserve the *Exceptional Places* where our shared history happened.◊

Midwest Region's Only World Heritage Site…and a Promise of More to Come

Vergil E. Noble

Cahokia's Monks Mound. Photo courtesy of Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site.

World Heritage Site (WHS) status is a unique honor granted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to cultural and natural sites around the globe that have outstanding significance to the common heritage of humanity. The international program was established under the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which now has over 180 signatory countries ("states parties"). With the recent addition of 25 sites in 2011, only 936 sites have been so inscribed (in about 140 countries) over nearly four decades: 725 cultural, 183 natural, and 28 mixed properties that possess important cultural and natural features.

The United States was the first country to sign the international Convention, and the first sites in America to be granted the prestigious WHS designation were Yellowstone National Park and Mesa Verde National Park, both in 1978. The ensuing years have seen only 19 other localities in the U.S. gain the distinction of being named a World Heritage Site. Only one WHS property lies within the 13-state NPS Midwest Region: Cahokia Mounds, a National Historic Landmark near Collinsville, Illinois.

Built and occupied by Native Americans ca. A.D. 700-1400, Cahokia Mounds is the largest archeological site of the Mississippian Culture and was one of the greatest pre-Columbian cities in all of North America. At its zenith (A.D. 1050–1200), the teeming community and sprawling ceremonial complex covered more than six square miles. Cahokia then had an estimated population somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000, roughly the number living in London toward the end of that same period. It is known to have once had 120 mounds of various shapes, sizes, and functions—including the largest earthen structure north of Mexico, Monks Mound. Cahokia began to fall into decline after A.D. 1200, however, and by A.D. 1400 the populace had abandoned the site altogether.

First set aside as a state park preserve in 1925, today some 2,200 acres of the site are managed by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency as Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. The property became a National Historic Landmark on July 19, 1964.

NHL designation was crucial to the subsequent elevation of Cahokia Mounds to World Heritage Site, as U.S. law stipulates that properties must be recognized for having national significance to qualify for nomination to UNESCO. Of course, prospective properties must also appear to be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one of the ten WHS selection criteria.

The WHS nomination process in America begins with property owners voluntarily applying for entry on a Tentative List, which must be established and updated periodically. The current list, established in 2008 to replace one prepared in 1982 and amended in 1990, will be used for the selection of U.S. nominees until that inventory is again updated. No more than two sites from a signatory country can be nominated each year.

The 14 sites initially placed on the 2008 U.S. Tentative List were selected from 35 owner applications received. They include nine cultural properties, four natural, and one mixed. Several sites on that list are located in the Midwest Region: Dayton Aviation Sites, Ohio (four properties associated with the Wright Brothers' experiments with flight, several of which are NPS units), the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Ohio (five archeological sites in Hopewell Cultural National Historical Park and two NHLs, Ft. Ancient State Memorial and Newark Earthworks State Historic Site), and Serpent Mound State Memorial, Ohio (also an NHL and the largest surviving effigy mound).

In addition, eleven properties out of more than 400 designed by master architect Frank Lloyd Wright are included in a single nomination package. Those magnificent buildings are scattered among seven states, but four are found in the Midwest: in Illinois, the Frederick C. Robie House (Chicago) and Unity Temple (Oak Park), and in Wisconsin, the S.C. Johnson and Son, Inc., Administration Building and Research Tower (Racine) and Taliesin (Spring Green).

The first nominee from the updated U.S. Tentative List was Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which covers nearly 140,000 sq. miles of the Pacific Ocean, including 10 islands and atolls of the northwestern Hawaiian archipelago. Its inscription in 2010 made it the first mixed cultural and natural property in the U.S. to achieve WHS status, as well as the first U.S. property to be inscribed in 15 years.

Plans to nominate two more U.S. properties from the list were announced on July 13, 2011. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar identified our next candidates as the prehistoric earthworks at Poverty Point National Monument and State Historic Site

*(**WHS** continued on page 9)*

Akima Pinšiwa and American Indian Influence in the Old Northwest Territory

Michele Curran

The Akima Pinšiwa Awikii (Chief Jean-Baptiste de Richardville House), Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a rare example of a treaty house remaining in the U.S. that was constructed as the direct result of treaty-making between American Indians and the U.S. government. Built in 1827 as part of the terms of the 1826 Treaty between the Miami (Myaamia) and the U.S., the Pinšiwa Awikii was the primary residence and the locus of Pinšiwa's activities as a sovereign leader in Miami negotiations with the United States government during the years 1818 to 1841.

The Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 as it is associated with events that made a significant contribution to, and is identified with or outstandingly represents the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained. Pinšiwa adroitly weathered the political changes wrought by the westward expansion of the United States, the waning of European influence in the Great Lakes and the changing United States policy towards American Indians. He profoundly affected the political landscape of his people, the state of Indiana, and the Old Northwest Territory of the United States.

The Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki is also eligible under National Historic Landmark (NHL) Criterion 2 because the house is the most important place associated with Pinšiwa, the akima (civil chief) of the Miami. The Akima Pinšiwa was a nationally significant American Indian statesman and leader. Under his strong leadership, the Miami were able to achieve tribal consensus and maintain their cultural identity. His efforts resulted in treaties that shaped the Old Northwest Territory and that allowed for more than half of the Miami to remain in their traditional homeland, even after much of the territory was ceded to the U.S.

The most enjoyable aspect of developing this nomination was working with inspired historians, Angie Quinn and Michael Galbraith, of ARCH, Inc., Fort Wayne, Indiana, and cultural heritage professionals from the Myaamia Project, Daryl Baldwin and George Ironstrack, at Miami University in Ohio—all of whom provided the enthusiasm, knowledge, and scholarship necessary to incorporate the Miami view-point into the nomination.

"Richardville, the Head Chief of the Miami tribe of Indians" by Lewis James Otto, painted at the Treaty of Fort Wayne, 1826. Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society.

Michael McCafferty, Algonquian Linguist, Second Language Studies, Indiana University, and member of the Historical Landscapes of the Miami Committee of the Myaamia Project, provided invaluable assistance with the nomination. The Myaamia Project, created in 2001, is a tribal initiative to advance the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's language and culture.

Dani Tippmann, the Educator at the Awiiki in Fort Wayne, and George Strack, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Tribal Preservation Officer, contributed significantly to the understanding of Miami cultural traditions. Tippmann, Strack, and Ironstrack are descendants of the Akima Pinšiwa.

The Akima Pinšiwa Awikii nomination contributes to a better understanding of the Akima Pinšiwa, the history of the Miami, and the history of the Old Northwest Territory because of the dedicated effort by the above identified partners to incorporate the language, and perspective of the Miami into the nomination. In addition, the nomination provides an impetus for further scholarship in the field of American Indian history in the Old Northwest Territory.◊

Quinn, Galbraith, and Baldwin presenting the nomination to the Landmarks Committee on May 26, 2011. Along with Baldwin, Tippmann, and Strack [inset] provided supporting statements for the NHL nomination.

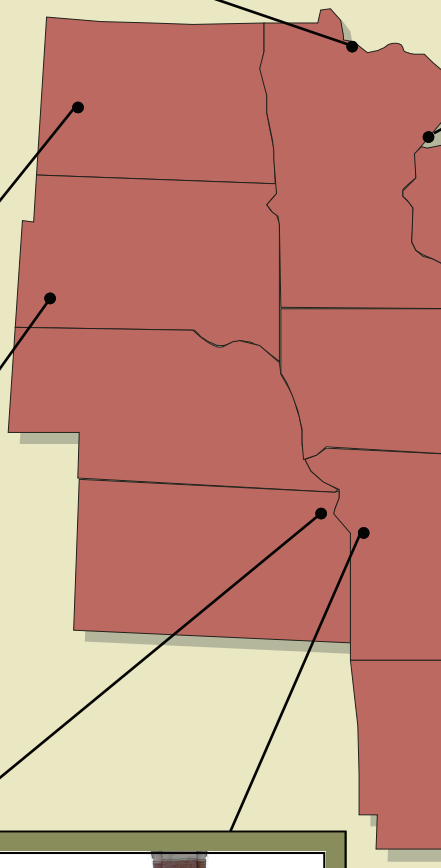
Midwest Region's New Na
Designa

Grand Mound is the largest of five earthworks at the Smith Site, located in the Rainy River border region (Koochiching County) between Minnesota and Canada. The mound is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 4, because it is the type specimen of a rare class of pre-contact earthen architecture. The 25-foot high, ovate mound with its 200-foot long, low, thin tail is unlike any other known earthwork in the United States. It is believed by some to represent a muskrat, the mythic "Earth Diver" of Algonquian cosmology who heroically brings up mud so that the flooded world can be created anew. The Smith Site, which is included in the designation, is also nationally significant under Criterion 6 due to its rich, intact, stratified archeological record. It is also the type site for Laurel ceramics, and more broadly, the Laurel Culture—a prominent northern tier Middle Woodland complex, 200 BC-AD 1400.

Grand Mound
Rainy River border region near International Falls, MN

Lynch Knife River Flint Quarry is a precontact flint quarry in Dunn County, North Dakota. The nearly 700-acre property is the geological type site for Knife River Flint, which was quarried by hand from pits at the site and traded widely across the continent. The property is nationally significant for its potential to yield new information about the interrelationships of people, technology, and the environment, including the role of this lithic material in tool production, native subsistence strategies, seasonal rounds of individual Native American groups, and trade relations between groups throughout North America during these periods. 11,000 BC-AD 1600.

Lynch Knife River Flint Quarry
Dunn County, ND



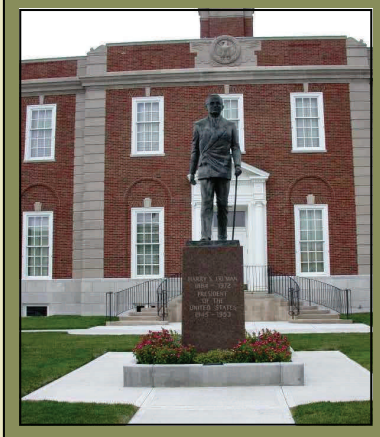
Battle Mountain Sanitarium National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Hot Springs, South Dakota, represents the period of 1902-1930 when the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) from a primarily residential system to one offering extensive medical services to veterans. It is the only branch established as an independent medical facility, treating musculoskeletal conditions and respiratory ills.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium
Hot Springs, SD

Western Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Leavenworth, Kansas, was the first home to be established following a change in policy drastically broadening the standards for admission to allow veterans with non-service related disabilities. The Western Branch was the first home constructed west of the Mississippi River, acknowledging and serving the great number of veterans in that region during the period 1885-1930.

The Harry S Truman Historic District NHL, Independence, Missouri, was initially designated on Veterans Day, November 11, 1971. A residential area beginning from the Truman Home on the south and extending northward along North Delaware Street, encompassing some of the neighborhood to the east and west, largely defined the original district. The revised nomination improves the documentation for the Truman District and expands its boundaries to include properties omitted from the initial designation. The contributing resources possess a high degree of historic integrity and strong association with the man, his life, and the community that shaped our 33 rd President, representing the period 1919 to 1971.

Western Branch NHDVS
Leavenworth, KS



Harry S Truman Historic District
Independence, MO

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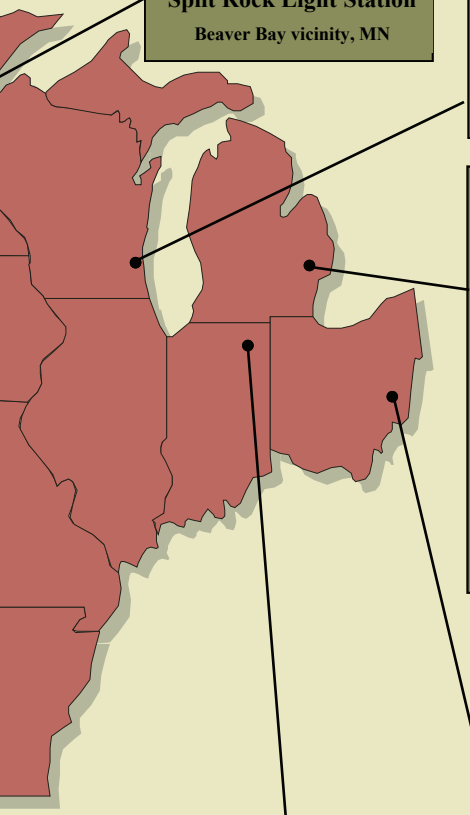
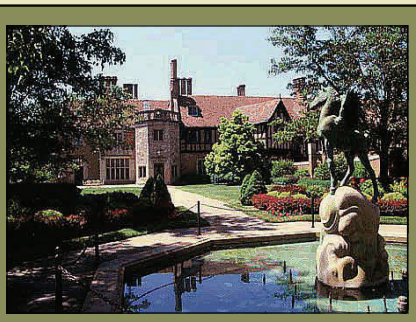
Split Rock Light Station
Beaver Bay vicinity, MN



Split Rock Light Station, Beaver Bay vicinity, Minnesota, is a rare example of a Great Lakes light station designed as a single, cohesive and self-sufficient complex with all major elements built during the initial period of construction. It served as a vital aid to navigation for commercial freighters traveling the busy and narrow shipping lanes that served the Lake Superior ports of Two Harbors and Duluth-Superior from 1909-1969. At the turn of the 20th century, when the U.S. emerged as the world's industrial giant, ship traffic at these harbors carried tons of iron ore mined from the Minnesota Iron Range—the source of the nation's largest and richest iron ore deposits.

Northwestern Branch NHDVS
Milwaukee, WI

Northwestern Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was one of three original NHDVS facilities and represents all phases of NHDVS history, from the beginning and growth of veterans' benefits after the Civil War through increased focus on medical and geriatric care after 1900. Established in 1866 and opened in 1867, the northwestern branch was one of three original NHDVS facilities. It retains the oldest buildings in the system and a largely intact designed landscape.



Meadow Brook Hall
Rochester Hills, MI

Meadow Brook Hall, Rochester Hills, Michigan, is an outstanding example of an American country estate of the twentieth century. The monumental Tudor Revival residence was built for Matilda Wilson, an heir to the Dodge automobile fortune. The design represents an effort to replicate English architectural traditions executed by American craftsmen and designers. In operation from 1915-1947, the illusion of a self-sufficient English manor with a working farm was created with numerous support buildings, including agricultural buildings and housing for the workers.

Pennsylvania Railroad Depot
Dennison, OH

The **Pennsylvania Railroad Depot and Baggage Room** in Dennison, Ohio, is nationally significant as a representation of the movement of millions of servicemen and women across the U.S. during World War II and for the mobilization of civilians on the home front. Located on one of the nation's main rail lines, the Dennison train depot was a stopping point for trains transporting servicemen and women to the West Coast for service in the Pacific, to debarkation points on the East Coast for service in Europe, and, ultimately, back home from overseas. It is the only surviving station in the United States that reflects its role as a World War II canteen, 1942-1946. The Pennsylvania Railroad Depot/Baggage Room was the home of the Dennison Depot Salvation Army Servicemen's Canteen, the third largest in the country.

Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki
Fort Wayne, IN

The **Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki (Chief Jean-Baptiste de Richardville House)**, Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a rare example of a treaty house remaining in the U.S. that was constructed as the direct result of treaty-making between American Indians and the U.S. government. Built in 1827 as part of the terms of the 1826 Treaty between the Myaamia (Miami) and the U.S., the Awiiki was the primary residence and the locus of Akima Pinšiwa's activities as a sovereign leader in Miami negotiations with the United States government during the years 1818-1841.

(**Paper Trail** *continued from page 1)*

Controlling *air quality* is difficult and complex. First, gaseous contaminants — especially sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, peroxides, and ozone — catalyze harmful chemical reactions that lead to the formation of acid in materials. This is a serious problem for paper that is especially prone to damage caused by acid. Gaseous contaminants can be removed from your storage space by chemical filters, wet scrubbers, or a combination of both. Secondly, particulate matter needs to be dealt with as well. It can be mechanically filtered via high-efficiency filters attached to vents, furnaces, or air conditioners (keep in mind that electrostatic precipitators should not be used because they produce harmful ozone). Most building-wide systems will mechanically filter particulates in larger archive repositories. A regular schedule of housekeeping maintenance should include the replacement of pumps, motors, and fans; changing of air filters; integrated pest management; routine dry cleaning of floors and all surfaces; and skilled vacuuming of collections (Merrill-Oldham, 2008). It is always a good idea to consult an experienced environmental engineer for high-efficiency filtration recommendations.

Exposing your archival materials to *light*, even for a brief time, can lead to weakening and embrittlement of the cellulose fibers in paper that cause discoloration. All wave lengths of light are damaging, but ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the worst for archival materials because it contains a high level of energy. If you cannot avoid it, the standard UV limit for preservation is 75 µW/l, measured in microwatts per lumen (Ogden, 2007). In all reality, some exposure to light is necessary while accessing the archives. Ideally, materials should be exposed to light only while in use, and it should come from an incandescent bulb. The materials being studied should be kept at a distance from the heat of the bulb at all times. Windows should be covered to completely block out the sun, which will also aid in temperature control. Paper archive materials should never be placed on display in the path of direct sunlight.

Many *insects*, even the well-known "bookworm," damage paper documents by eating right through them. Insects consider your archive collection the ultimate buffet. Bugs especially love nibbling on book binding glue and old photographs. *Rodents* will chew through anything that stands in their way. They also love to use your paper archives as nesting material. Make sure your facility is air tight by sealing all openings in walls, under eaves, doors and windows. Routine inspections of your materials will allow you to keep pest activity under control.

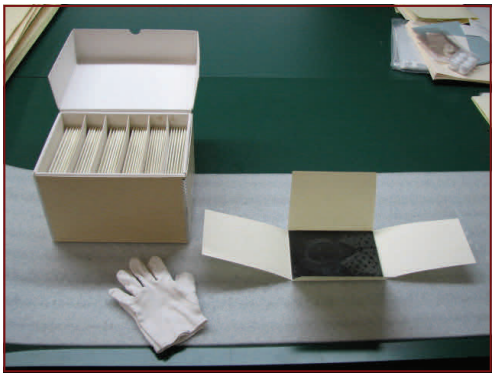


Photo by Jeremiah Mason, NPS Archives.

The deterioration of paper records is inevitably caused by *people* through maintenance and use—the archives are damaged each time they are handled and this is not always fully reversible through conservation treatment. The way that an archivist handles historic documents while they are being organized or brought to a reader for use can substantially affect their preservation. Be gentle when handling materials and wear cotton gloves whenever possible.

It is the responsibility of every archive administrator to develop an *organizational structure* that illustrates the scope of the collection, where the material is stored, and how it will be used. For a repository to operate effectively, it must communicate its organizational mission and user policies to all of those associated with the facility. The user access policy is especially important, as it provides specific guidelines regarding the handling and use of materials. Cataloging and finding aids help support preservation by minimizing handling. Be sure to create a record for each item that includes: 1) the format or media type of the object; 2) a physical description of the object; 3) an evaluation of the object's condition, and 4) a unique identifying code that will accompany the object wherever it goes. "Like a book incorrectly shelved in a library, a photograph not represented in an inventory is effectively lost to a collection." (Reilly, 1986).

The importance of *security* for your collection cannot be stressed enough. Decades of work can take only seconds to destroy. The value of an entire collection is diminished when even a small part of it is damaged or stolen. To prevent this from happening, security measures should be taken to protect your collection from theft, vandalism, human negligence, and natural disaster. You should have a plan in place for emergency preparedness and response support.

One of your most important roles is to make your archive collection accessible to the people seeking to study its contents. If you choose one directory in which to be listed, the *Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the United States* is the preferred option for three reasons: 1) it is compiled and updated annually by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC); 2) it is the only national listing for all kinds of archives and manuscript repositories; and 3) it provides information on 5,480 repositories and 132,300 collections of primary source material across the United States (see website for NHPRC). To inquire about being listed, the NHPRC staff can be contacted at nhprc@nara.gov or (202) 357-5010.

As you archive the materials at your site, the challenges that lie ahead will certainly not be small. Nevertheless, make it your duty to proudly preserve your historic paper materials and you will be appreciated by generations to come. ◊

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Wilsted, Thomas, and William Nolte. *Managing Archival and Manuscript Repositories* (Society of American Archivists, Chicago, 1991), 57-58.

National Archives and Records Administration. http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-databases.html#m8 (July 12, 2011).

(*WHS continued from page 4)*

in northeastern Louisiana and the eleven Wright buildings mentioned above. It is possible, then, that the four Wright-designed buildings here in the Midwest could be granted WHS status as early as 2014 if the nomination is favorably evaluated by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) advisory body and the World Heritage Committee ultimately approves their inscription.

Announcement of the updated U.S. Tentative List also included the identification of ten additional cultural properties and one natural site that may have the potential to meet World Heritage criteria. Those sites may be considered for possible future inclusion on the list, pending receipt of additional supporting documentation. Three are located in the Midwest Region: French Creole Properties of the Mid-Mississippi Valley (18th-century vernacular homes and related NHLs in Illinois and Missouri), Pipestone National Monument (an aboriginal quarry area in Minnesota), and two important Underground Railroad Sites (the John Rankin and John Parker houses), both of which are NHLs in Ohio.

Cahokia Mounds currently stands alone in the Midwest as our only World Heritage Site, but it is reasonable to hope that several other properties in our region might be granted that same high honor before the end of this decade. More information about U.S. World Heritage Sites and the National Park Service's role in the WHS nomination process can be found at http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/worldheritage.htm. UNESCO World Heritage Site information is available at http://whc.unesco.org/. ◊

Photo courtesy of:
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site.

An Update on Renewable Energy Projects, National Historic Landmarks, and The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines

Geoff Burt

In the Fall 2010 issue of "Exceptional Places," I reported on the number of energy conservation and renewable energy projects that have increased dramatically in the last several years. Although well-intended, this type of work could have the potential to compromise the integrity and character-defining features of a historic property. The article stressed the importance of thorough planning, communication, and acknowledgment that as an owner/steward of a National Historic Landmark, the utmost concern is to identify/embrace treatment options that preserve the qualities for which the property was originally designated.

At the time the article was written, the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* had not been updated to reflect rapidly changing technologies related to renewable energy and sustainability measures. The standards did provide advice regarding retrofitting and weatherization measures to increase energy efficiency, but had not acknowledged the more current "green" projects that have arisen recently. As stated previously, the *Standards* are responsible, common sense principles presented in non-technical language. They were developed to help protect our nation's irreplaceable cultural resources by promoting consistent preservation practices.

Of the four treatments identified in the *Standards*, "rehabilitation" is the most commonly employed. It is defined as: the act or process of making possible a new or compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. This treatment assumes that at least some repair or alteration of the historic building or landscape is required in order to provide for an efficient contemporary use. It is the most appropriate treatment with regard to sustainability projects.

Recently, the Technical Preservation Services program of the National Park Service released *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.* As stated in this publication, these are the first official set of guidelines on how to incorporate proposed work to improve energy efficiency while preserving the critical historic character. The guidelines begin with the concept that historic buildings are by their nature inherently sustainable (i.e., "the greenest building is the one already built"), and this should be used to advantage in any proposal to upgrade them. They offer specific guidance on "recommended" rehabilitation treatments and "not recommended" treatments (those that could negatively impact a building's historic character).

The new *Guidelines on Sustainability* cover a range of energy efficiency measures: weatherization and insulation; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); window treatment; solar technology; wind power; green roofs and cool roofs; site features and water efficiency. (Geothermal and hydroelectric energy measures are not discussed.) Although guidelines for landscape sustainability are limited, they offer a sensible starting point for consideration. These useful guidelines add to the previously established preservation principles developed for consistency and are presented in a manner that allows a fair degree of flexibility. They can be accessed at: http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/index.htm. More specific information regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency for historic buildings and landscapes can be accessed through the internet links provided in last year's article. As always, please consult individual State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) web sites for additional information on this issue. ◊

(*Splinters* Continued from page 2)

suspended from concrete beams. He designed coffered blocks in a "waffle iron patterned" ceiling.

In 1954, Wright discovered that Marshall Erdman, who built Wright's First Unitarian Society Meeting House in Madison, Wisconsin (designed 1946, completed 1951), was selling modest prefabricated homes.

Erdman introduced U-Form-It prefabricated house kits to the residential construction market in 1953. Wright offered to design better prefabs, ones that he believed could be marketed for $15,000, which was half as much as Erdman was charging for his own version. Wright didn't do much on the project until late 1955, but by spring of 1956 he had final plans for three Usonian-type homes to be built exclusively by Erdman. The prefab package Erdman offered included all the major structural components, interior and exterior walls, floors, windows and doors, as well as cabinets and woodwork. In addition to a lot, the buyer had to provide the foundation, the plumbing fixtures, heating units, electric wiring, drywall, and paint.

Wright's association with Arthur L. Richards began in 1911 and lasted until 1917. Richards, a residential contractor who started his career in home building in 1904, joined forces with businessman John Williams to form the Lake Geneva Hotel Company, located in Wisconsin. Their architect of choice for construction of the new hotel was Frank Lloyd Wright. While working with Wright, Richards learned of Wright's new American System-Built Homes and in 1914, agreed to collaborate with him on the new venture. Once the legal papers were drawn up, Richards began construction on six ASB homes as demonstration models. Richards gained the exclusive rights to manufacture and distribute the homes. The Richards Company milled the lumber, cut it to specification, and packaged all the materials needed for construction, including plaster, paint, windows, hardware, and fixtures. The customer purchased a complete home, so in addition to the materials, skilled craftsmen also were provided.

The original six ASB homes built in Milwaukee by the Arthur Richards Company were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. Located along West Burnham Street, it is the only known grouping of System-Built homes, and the only grouping of Frank Lloyd Wright homes that includes both duplexes and single-family dwellings. A local preservation organization, The Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin Heritage Tourism Program, Inc. (WHTP), whose primary mission is the preservation of the Burnham Street homes, has purchased the Richards Small House and one of the duplexes. Although the Burnham Street homes have the name "Richards" associated with them, Mr. Richards never occupied any of the homes. The designation is from Wright's designs and subsequent construction; the names have continuously been associated with these designs.

The Arthur L. Richards Small House was the first to be built on Burnham Street. Construction started in 1915 and was completed July 1916. The design may be as early as 1913.

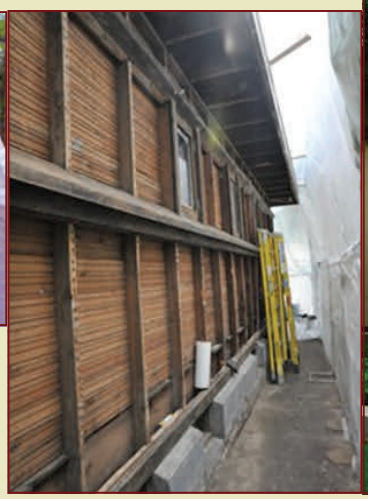
The house faces south onto Burnham Street, with a terrace and planter at the facade. There are no gutters on the house, which has a gently sloped flat roof. Water is directed to a downspout at the chimney, which also has vents receiving air from soffit openings and a kitchen vent. This circulation system aided in cooling the house during the summer. The terrace, enclosed by a previous owner, was reopened and restored in 2009.

Funded partially through a 2006 Save America's Treasures grant, the Arthur L. Richards Small House was recently restored by the Frank Lloyd Wright WHTP. Restoration began in the fall of 2008 and was completed in 2009. Prior to construction, extensive research was done to come up with necessary details to ensure an accurate restoration. Included in this research was an examination of the exterior stucco. An earlier repair added about three inches of stucco on metal lath which obscured the original. Historical research supplemented by the removal of the later stucco repair, determined that Wright used a tinted finish stucco "seeded" with quartzite and granite giving it an iridescent finish in grey tones.

During the process of restoration, sections of the exterior walls were completely stripped down to wall studs to allow for insulation. The roof was similarly dismantled and rebuilt. The dark brown trim color was revealed during careful removal of later paint layers. Decorative pressed metal fascia with a triangular pattern was fabricated to replace deteriorated portions and given a painted finish in blue-green to match the original color.

The interior of the house had been remodeled only slightly, so restoration focused on the kitchen and built-in cabinetry.

It is believed that twenty-five System-Built Homes were constructed, but only about fifteen survive. These homes can be found in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa. The only extant grouping is in the Burnham Street District in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, although there is another large collection in the Chicago area. ◊



Left: Non-original stucco coat removed, revealing historic stucco and poured concrete base. Middle: Exterior wall of the house revealing wood lath. Right: Arthur L. Richards Small House after restoration completed. Photos courtesy of WHTP. Information on Frank Lloyd Wright courtesy of William Allin Storrer. Photos courtesy WHTP.

(**Flood** *continued from page 3)*

river washed away sidewalks to the *Lewis*, along with the gangplank. The basin filled with sand and water inundated the surrounding park area. After the floodwaters lowered about four feet, the vessel appears to have settled back on its cradle. Foundation members identified and patched a hole in the hull. Repair work on the *Lewis* has utilized Americorps teams in the past, and Smith hopes that another team, for which they have already applied, will be able to address problems created by the flooding.

In Sioux City, Iowa, the *Sergeant Floyd*, fared better. Also a rare surviving Corps of Engineers vessel, this survey and towboat was built as part of a comprehensive plan by the Federal government for flood control and improved navigation on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The *Sergeant Floyd* carried government supplies and assisted in dredging and flood control work. After a 1976 stint for service during the Bicentennial, the *Floyd* operated as a Corps museum in St. Louis before being transferred to Sioux City in 1982. Located within a park fronting the Missouri River, it now serves as the Sergeant Floyd River Museum and Welcome Center. Like the *Lewis*, it is a dry-berthed vessel that sits in an excavated basin.

Museum Manager Kathy Meisner reported that since June 1, the museum was "on defensive mode" to combat flooding. Although the community is protected by levees, the city had a 6.5' high, 50' wide berm constructed around the complex in which the *Floyd* is located, and plugged city storm drains. Other proactive measures included a two-day effort to relocate 90% of the vessel's exhibits to the city's Public Museum. To protect wall murals that could not be removed, the museum continued to run the air conditioning in order to keep humidity levels low. Meisner concluded that the *Floyd* and Welcome Center were "doing ok" but the complex could not be reopened until flood waters recede.

Archeological NHL sites along the river appear to be generally unaffected, but the status of some of the lower-lying sites could not be confirmed until water levels drop. Upriver from Omaha, elevated sites on river terraces, such as Fort Pierre Chouteau, Huff, Menoken Indian Village, Big Hidatsa Village and Fort Union were above flood damage, although bank erosion may be an issue. At Big Hidatsa Village, included within the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in North Dakota, the Knife River flowed upstream. The Knife River is a tributary of the Missouri and had backed up due to flooding. Although some portions of the park were impacted, the NHL site should be okay. As Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources Maureen McGee Ballinger pointed out, "these folks were river people," and placed their communities in locations above the flood plain. Corps of Engineers Archeologist Rick Harnois stated that until the water recedes, the status of archeological NHLs for which the Corps have responsibility are unknown. All are now in the process of inspection, and Harnois noted that the Corps had previously stabilized several sites, including Vanderbilt and Crow Creek. Downriver, at Fort Osage in Missouri, flooding has had little impact on that county-owned site. As the fort is located 84' above the floodplain, Site Manager Steve Wilson reported that "the only impact on us are mosquitoes."

Volunteers pull Board of Public Works equipment back onto levee near *Captain Meriwether Lewis* Dredge NHL. Note water levels in background have overtopped the levee. Photo courtesy Randel Smith.

The cause of all this activity was unusually heavy melt from the massive Rocky Mountain snowpack, combined with unexpected heavy rains that brought eight or more inches of additional precipitation to eastern Montana and Wyoming and the western Dakotas. As a result, the basin received nearly a year's worth of rainfall by the end of May. It threatened to overwhelm the Missouri River basin reservoirs. By June, the Corps began releasing excess water from a series of six reservoirs at record-setting flow rates. From Fort Peck Reservoir in Montana, releases increased from 35,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 50,000. Downriver, the numbers more than doubled. At the southernmost dam in South Dakota, Gavin's Point, releases rose from 70,000 cfs (a record release in 2010) to 160,000, and were expected to continue well into August.

On June 18, President Obama declared the flood conditions in Nebraska a "National Emergency," following this up on June 27 with a "Major Disaster" declaration for the southwestern Iowa border region. With these announcements, FEMA provided federal aid to areas struck by flooding. As of July 18, Federal emergency declarations on fourteen Nebraska and five Iowa counties bordering the river qualified for emergency assistance.

Other sources of funding may be available from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. February 1 is the first of three deadlines for the National Preservation Fund. This fund provides two types of assistance to nonprofit organizations and public agencies: 1) matching grants from $500 to $5,000 for preservation planning and educational efforts; and 2) intervention funds for preservation emergencies. Details on these and other forms of funding assistance are found at http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/nonprofit-public-funding.html. National Park Service funding is limited, but the Midwest Regional Office staff are available to provide technical assistance, and we maintain a list of grant sources available to all NHL owners and stewards. ◊

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MIDWEST REGION
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

READ ALL ABOUT IT: KUDOS TO YOU!

In October 2010 the **Henry Ford Estate/ Fair Lane NHL**, in collaboration with several partners, and partially funded through a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, planned and hosted a highly successful **"Cultural Landscapes Symposium."** The symposium focused on the historical significance, legacy and relevance of "Prairie Style" landscape design as illustrated in the works of landscape architect Jens Jensen and O.C. Simonds. Jensen, a master of the style and a leader in the Midwestern conservation movement, designed the Fair Lane landscape. Of Jensen's surviving designs, it is the earliest and best example of his maturing style, and one of the most complex designs of his entire career. In order to facilitate sharing of the symposium information, the project included creation of a podcast, which was completed this summer. The podcast was created by West 12 Productions, and includes portions of the presentations, tours, interviews, and a number of historic video clips and images.

The **2011 Mississippian Conference** was held on July 23 at **Angel Mounds State Historic Site**, a National Historic Landmark near Evansville, Indiana. Co-hosted by Indiana University's Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, the conference featured nearly 20 scholarly presentations on current research into the Mississippian period and included a tour of on-going excavations at Angel Mounds.

Congratulations to the **City of Independence**, **Missouri,** its residents, and supporters of the **Harry S Truman Historic District** for their assistance in revising the documentation and extending the boundaries to include additional resources associated with President Truman. This effort spanned several years—actually a few decades—and was accomplished through the contributions of many individuals. Kudos to everyone involved. The district now provides a more comprehensive representation of Truman's life and work in the community that he loved.

The **University of Cincinnati** recently enlisted the aid of a structural engineering firm to perform an overall condition assessment and provide a list of recommendations for the historically significant 1904 **O.M. Mitchell Building** at the **Cincinnati Observatory NHL.**. Although the historic observatory remains fully operable, over time in the course of its operations certain components of the dome structure have fallen into disrepair and are no longer functioning in an efficient manner. The engineers report recommended that with appropriate research and design, the observatory's dome drive system would operate more effectively, require less maintenance, and greatly reduce the potential for additional structural damage. The implementation of the recommendations would increase the functionality of the observatory mechanisms without compromising the historic integrity of the building.

Share your NHL news; we will be glad to include it in our next newsletter.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and stewardship. You make the difference.