SRS: COLD WAR PRESERVATION PROGRAM 2022 UPDATE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
SAVANNAH RIVER OPERATIONS OFFICE

Savannah River NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS
FLUOR • NEWPORT NEWS NUCLEAR • HONEYWELL

PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the SRS Cold War Preservation Program.

Driven by the National Historic Preservation Act

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs NHPA, 1966

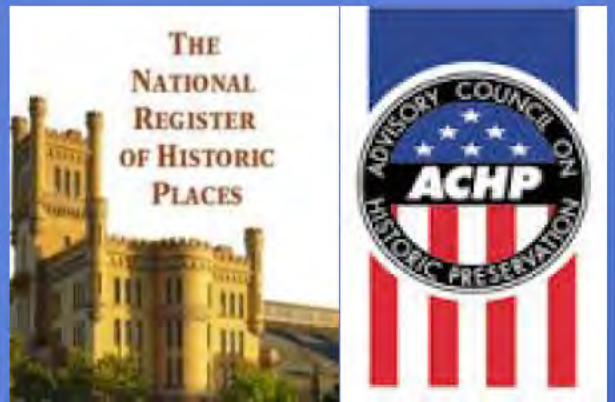
Fostered the system by which federal agencies…

survey and identify

districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture, and

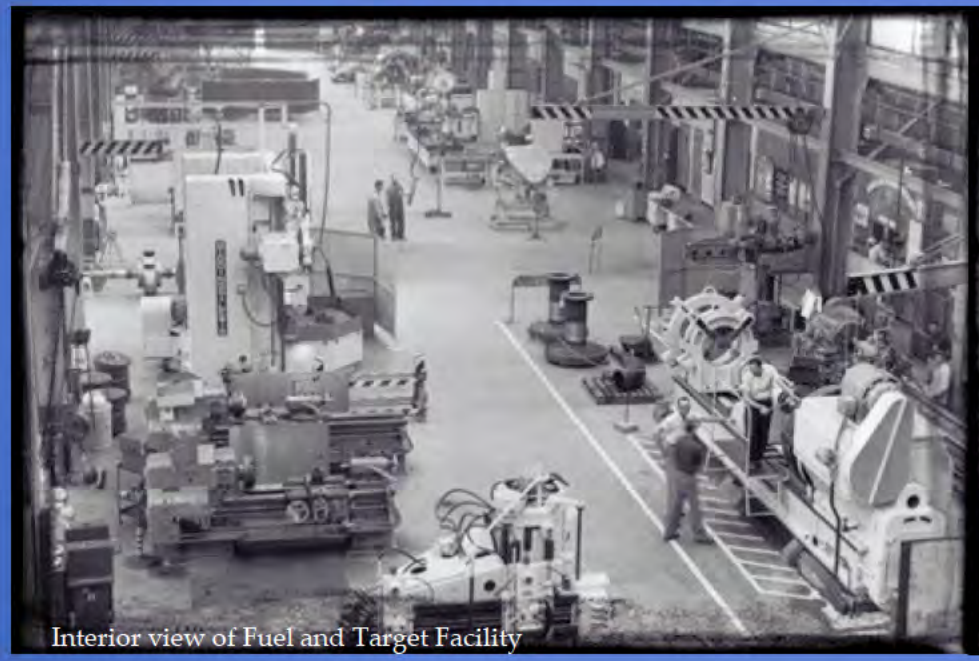
use this information to plan projects

so that, where possible, historic places are preserved.



Preservation of Modern History 1950 to 1989

Program developed as part of the Site's Fiftieth Anniversary



Interior view of Fuel and Target Facility

Heavy Water Production

SRS recognized the Site's Cold War facilities and equipment as potentially significant and began its Cold War inventory as required under the NHPA.

Programmatic Agreement-2004

Developed with State Historic Preservation Office, Advisory Council, and local stakeholders

For the identification and treatment of resources and artifacts that date from the Site's selection to the end of the Cold War.

- We identify facilities for preservation
- We write histories
- We collect and manage artifacts
- We provide public outreach

Program Objectives – Resource Identification

A Area Conceptual Plan Created by Voorhees, Walker, Foley & Smith, 1952

Administration Building after Completion

220 Cold War resources identified as significant as well as the Site Layout

Considered a National Register-eligible Cold War historic district

No new Cold War resources such as buildings or structures were identified in 2021

Program Objectives – Documentation

Research and development study completed and in review.

Thematic studies are available at University of SC Aiken Government document Library or online at:

http://shpo.sc.gov/research/Pages/conreps.aspx

Program Objectives – Curation

315-M = Curation!

- 82 New Artifacts in 2021
- 97 artifacts to date 2022
- Over 95,000 images scanned
- 1950 Oversized Site Selection Map
- Early 1950's Balsa Wood 777-M model

Program Objectives: Public Outreach

- Continued to partner with SRNS Communications Team
- 20 Twenty artifacts on display at the Savannah River Site Museum
- Melissa Hanson participated in 2 SRARP-Savannah River Archaeology Research Program (SRARP), "Life of An Artifact" videos
- Organize quarterly Heritage Tourism meetings

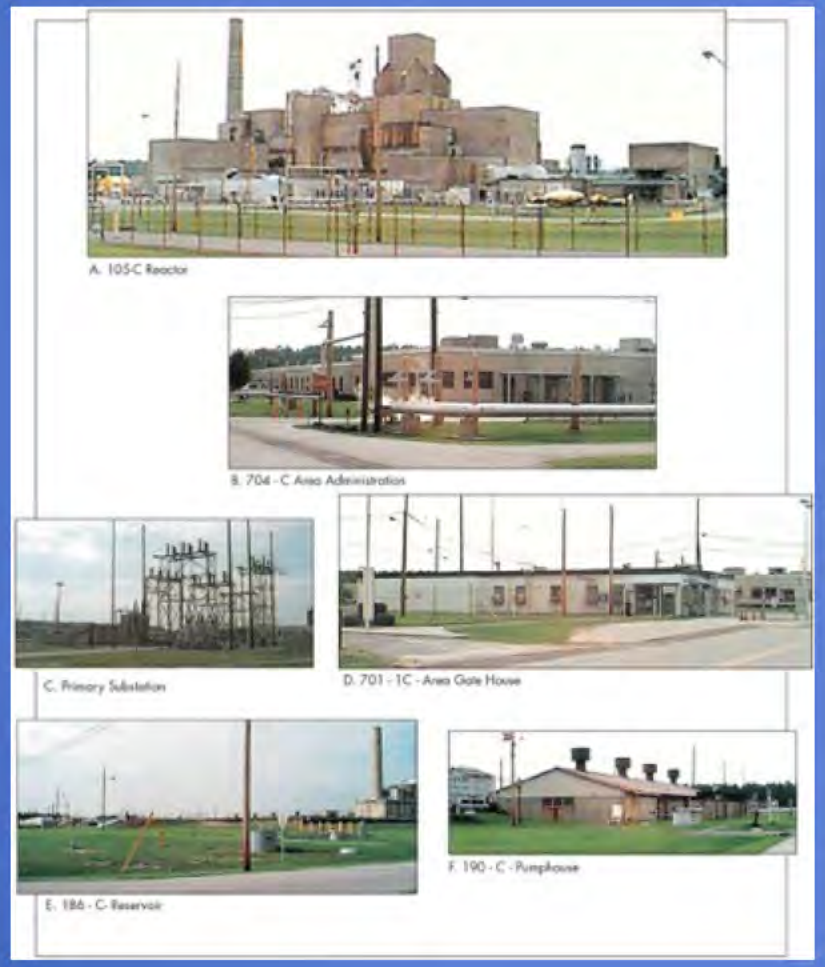
Program Objective: Compliance 2020-2022

- Ensure DOE is in compliance with NHPA in terms of current undertakings
- Maintain up to date training in safety and security
- Maintain Historic Preservation Advisory Team Meetings on a Quarterly basis
- Maintaining Cultural Resources Management Plan

Compliance: C Area Consultation

2015 – In preparation for Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) update, DOE advised Programmatic Agreement stakeholders that they wish to return C Area to the SRS Decommissioning Schedule.

Compliance: C Area Consultation



- Preservation of C Area was key to two critical areas within the 2004 Programmatic Agreement (PA) - Preservation and Public Outreach.
- This change triggered the drafting of a new PA that reframes SRS preservation and public outreach commitments.
- As a result, an invitation to consult was sent to 2004 PA signatories and concurring parties to enter into a discussion of how best to reframe DOE's agreement in respect to these areas of concern.

Signatories and Concurring Parties:

- Signatories:
  - DOE-SR
  - NNSA-SRSO
  - DOE's Federal Preservation Officer
  - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
  - SC State Historic Preservation Officer
- Invited Parties that Agreed to Participate:
  - SRS Heritage Foundation
  - Aiken County Historical Museum
  - Muscogee Tribe
- Invited Parties that Declined to Participate:
  - The City of Aiken
  - The City of New Ellenton
  - Citizens for Technology Awareness
  - Citizen's Advisory Board

Consultation Process

- Better understanding of what this change meant and its scale
- To look at the potential for preserving buildings or structures that best represent the Site's Cold War legacy
- Develop feasible public outreach
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with SRS Museum, the Aiken County Historical Museum, and other regional institutions.

Programmatic Agreement Updated 2020

- **Building Preservation** – Develop preservation plans for highly significant historic properties that speak directly to the Site's Cold War legacy. (i.e., 703-A and 717-F)
- **Artifact Preservation**
  - C reactor control room panels to be removed and placed in Curation Facility
  - Creation of Visible Storage Area Plan
  - Continue digitization program
  - Seek funding for conservation of building models and maps
- **Public Outreach**
  - Fund and develop permanent exhibit at SRS Museum
  - Public tours
  - Traveling exhibit development and partnerships with heritage partners

Public Outreach Ellenton Tour

History Based Public Tours
(when feasible) of
Ellenton, Dunbarton, historic process areas

Working collaboratively with SRARP and SRNS Public Affairs

6,000 Stories

Completed a permanent exhibit that tells the SRS story at the SRS Museum

Program Objectives: 2022

Finalize R & D Study after SHPO review.

Update Cultural Resource Management Plan.

Develop new context on Site's environmental history.

Develop preservation plans.

Host and improve history-based tours

Broaden Heritage Tourism participation

Assist SRS Heritage Foundation with Museum development

Provide assistance to DOE in meeting compliance requirements in accord with updated PA

Complete update on Cultural Resources Management Plan

Working Through the Pandemic

Melissa Hanson part-time Curator

Linda Smith full-time Curator

Evelyn Berry SRS Museum Education Specialist

Kelly Brown SRS Museum Director

Artifact Inventory

Complete Artifact Inventory
and
Re:discovery Database Update
began January 2022

Archival Storage

CWHPP received an upgrade with the addition of a SpaceSaver shelving unit.

7(H Exhibit

A Compelling Place to Work Initiative

2022 Exhibit on AEC

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

SAVANNAH RIVER PLANT
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

2021 Exhibit on Site Medical

SRS Stories to Share

Cold War Historic Preservation Program continues to support Savannah River Site with content for social media campaigns such as Throwback Thursdays.

Savannah River Site
March 24 at 9:00 AM ·

A baseline ecological survey was conducted in the early 1950s. Dr. Ruth Patrick was a groundbreaking ecologist involved in this study and continued research. The ecology work done early on at Savannah River laid the foundation for the Savannah River Ecology Lab that is on site today. **#WomensHistoryMonth #TBT**

#TBT
#SavannahRiverSite
#SRS

Savannah River Site
January 27 ·

Whether its January 1953 or January 2022, everyone understands the feeling of pay day! Savannah River Plant employees line up to receive their paychecks. L Reactor area construction can be seen in the background, along with many metal hard hats worn by construction workers.

Savannah River Site
March 31 at 9:00 AM ·

Savannah River Plant's first female reactor room control supervisors were certified after a nine-month training in 1982. The four women are pictured left to right, Jessie Hill, Cheryl Cott, Jeri Trickett, and Barbara Jennings.
#WomensHistoryMonth #TBT

Preservation Initiatives Ahead

- Buildings That Tell the Story
  - Administration Building 703-A
  - Separations – 717-F Mockup Cell
  - Safety and Security
- Artifacts
  - Artifact conservation particularly building model preservation
  - C Reactor Control Room Preservation
  - Digitization of SRS Photographic and Film Collections

Progress

- 95,824+ digitized images
- High density shelving installation
- Sea Land containers
- Archive reorganization
- Artifact inventory
- Full-time Curator returns
- On-Site Website Access

Next Steps

- Complete artifact inventory
- Model conservation
- Support SRS, SRNS with historic content
- Develop publicly accessible website
- Continue digitization and film preservation projects
- Re-establish an on-site facility tour schedule
- Provide support to the SRS Museum and SRS Heritage Foundation

Visit the Savannah River Site Museum

Discover the SAVANNAH RIVER SITE MUSEUM

HOW DID SMALL-TOWN AMERICA RESPOND TO THE COLD WAR AND THE NATION'S NUCLEAR ARMS RACE?

"Defense, Deterrence, and Discovery" a new permanent exhibit, at the Savannah River Site Museum coming this Fall. Made possible through funding by the NNSA-National Nuclear Security Administration.

Questions?

Video links

"Life of An Artifact" videos:

022 Episode 22 Vault Doors on Vimeo

018 Episode 18 - Lunchroom Slogan Napkins on Vimeo