



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program

Program Update

Susie Ferrara

SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program Manager, SRNS

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

May 21, 2024



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, where possible, historic places are preserved.
- Use this information to plan projects so, where possible, historic places are preserved.

Programmatic Agreement



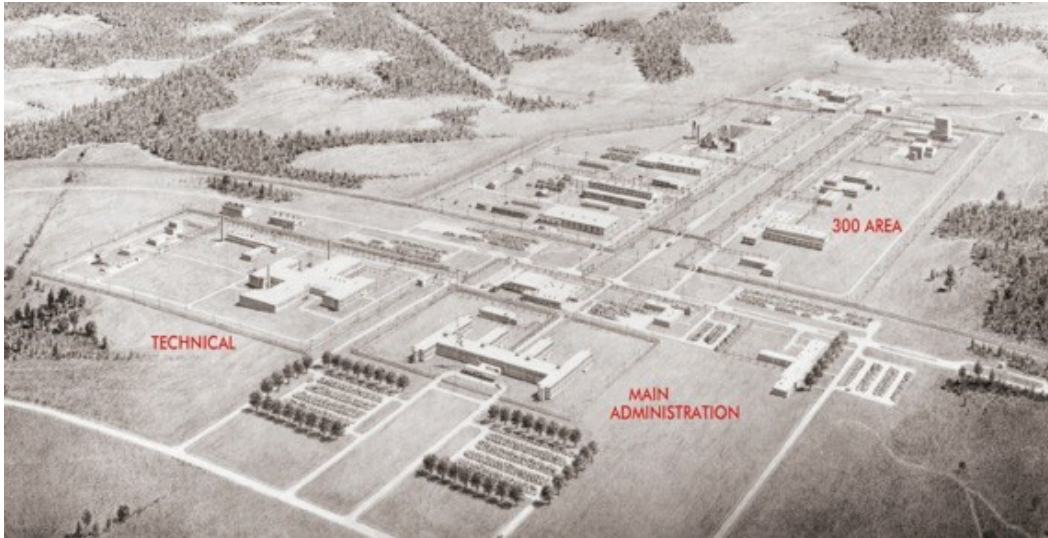
Temporary Construction (TC Area); Heavy Water Components Test Reactor (HWCTR)

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

Resource Identification



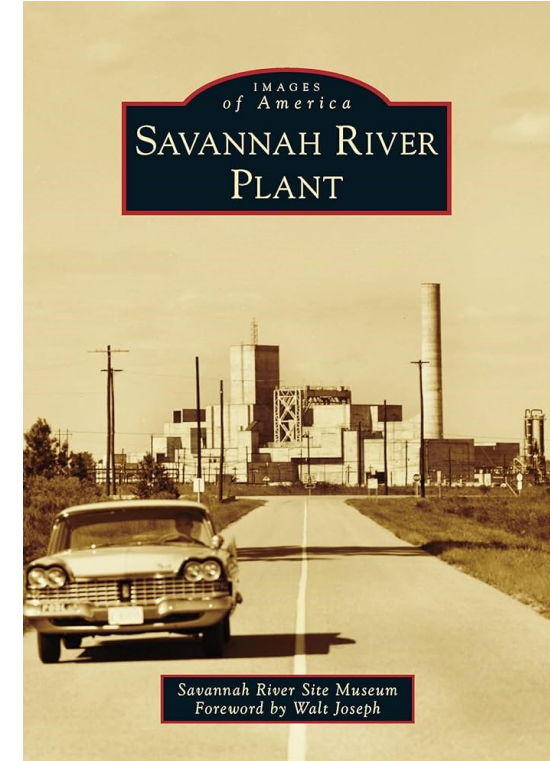
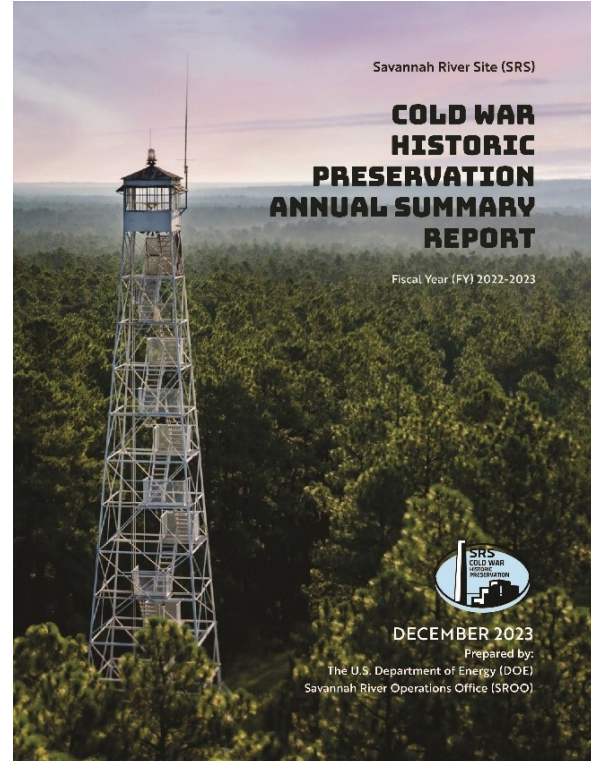
A-Area Conceptual Plan created by Voorhees, Walker, Foley & Smith, 1952

220 Cold War resources identified as significant and the Site Layout
Considered a National Register-eligible Cold War Historic District



Publications

- *Images of America Savannah River Plant:*
The forward of the book was written by Walt Joseph, the SRS Heritage Foundation and SRS Museum Founder. Proceeds of book sales benefit the SRS Museum.
- Nine Thematic Studies, includes oral histories, online:
<http://shpo.sc.gov/research/Pages/conrep s.aspx>
- Program annual summary reports



The SRS Team

Andy Horcher, DOE-SR

Susie Ferrara, SRNS Cold War Preservation Program Manager

Mary Beth Reed, New South Associates, Vice President and Director of History

Josh Blackmon, Historian, New South Associates

Melissa Hanson, Curator, New South Associates

Erin Anderson, Curator, New South Associates

Nate Price, Historic Photo Digitization, New South Associates



Heritage Tourism and Outreach



Fall Fission Festival



Heritage Tourism Meetings



Public Bus Tours



Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker

- Over 1100 artifacts collected in 2023
- 4,840 historic photographs digitized
- 2023 SRS Cold War History Program Annual Report
- Cultural Resource Management Plan updated
- SRS Section 106 Notifications to South Carolina Historic Preservation Office for title, Fire Towers and F-Area Laydown Yard
- Collaboration with SRS Retirees Association
- Hosted 8 historic public bus tours 315-M Curation Facility, Ellenton and Dunbarton with Savannah River Archeology Program (SRAP)
- Hosted quarterly CSRA Heritage Tourism meetings
- Atomic Energy Commission exhibit to the SRS Museum and artifact displayed in DOE Forrestal Building
- SRS Museum Inaugural Fall Fission Festival (National Science Week)
- New Historic Photography blog (internal on InSite)

Views of The Past – Telling Our Story

- SRS Cold War Historian Mary Beth Reed and curation team presented History Presentations to USC Aiken Lifelong Learning Academy. Invited back for Fall 2024.
- SRS Cold War Curator Melissa Hanson presented to the Beech Island Agricultural Club.
- SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program Manager Susie Ferrara introduced the Program to the following: Aiken Kiwanis Club, Aiken Senior Men's Club, Aiken Town and Country Club, SRNS new hires, SRNS Apprentice Program, SRNS Engineering Leadership Development Program, and SRMC new hires.
- Historical Displays in SRS Training Facility, 766-H



USC Aiken Lifelong Learning Academy



SRS Training Facility

Savannah River Site Museum: Our Legacy

- Heritage Foundation chartered in 2005
- Nonprofit 501(c)(3)
- SRS Heritage Foundation Board
- SRS Museum operates in collaboration with Aiken County Historical Museum and guidance of the SRS Heritage Foundation.
- Occupies the former Dibble Memorial Library building. Aiken's first dedicated library building, named for prominent Aiken banker Henry M. Dibble.



Walt Joseph, Museum Founder



Image courtesy of the South Carolina State Library.



SRS Museum New Promo Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elBonzYtgmU>



Gallery Opening With Community and Stakeholders



The SRS Heritage Foundation and Museum ribbon-cutting ceremony and opening of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) sponsored gallery in October 2022. Over 3,200 visitors in 2023. First quarter CY24, over 1,000 visitors.

New Exhibits



“Where is Radiation?” exhibit sponsored by Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) features an interactive Geiger counter (built by SRNL volunteers) and a touchscreen with information on radiation and videos that highlight SRNL and its employees.



The Cold War Fallout Shelter exhibit is a retro 1950s replica sure to send you back in time. What would you bring to a fallout shelter? Did you know there are homes Aiken County that have bomb shelters still today?

Education Programs: Fun Learning For Kids

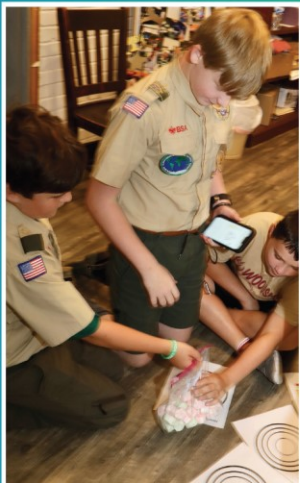
- K-12 student groups
- Homeschool groups
- 3 Scouts Nuclear Merit Badge Program
- North Augusta Junior Leadership
- Partner with SRNS Education Outreach
- Career Panels
- Science-based Lesson Plans
- 854 students reached in 2023
- Opportunity for growth
 - STEAM Career Camps (Summer 2024)



Nuclear Merit Badge Day
at the

SRS Museum

“Where History and Science Collide!”



Public Outreach: Inaugural Event for SRS Employees and the Community

Aiken Standard

AIKEN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA'S TRUSTED LOCAL SOURCE FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION SINCE 1847

MONDAY, October 23, 2023 AIKENSTANDARD.COM Vol. 157, No. 296 | AIKEN, S.C.



Blinken, Austin say U.S. is ready to respond to aggression against U.S. personnel

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday said the United States expects the Israel-Hamas war to escalate through involvement by pro-Israeli forces and asserted that the Biden administration is prepared to respond if American personnel or armed forces become the target of any such hostilities.

"This is not what we want, not what we're looking for. We don't want escalation," Blinken said. "We don't want to see our forces or our personnel come under fire. But if that happens, we're ready for it."

Austin, echoing Blinken, said "what we're seeing is a prospect of a significant escalation of attacks on our troops and our people throughout the region."

He said the U.S. has the right to self-defense "and we won't hesitate to take the appropriate action."

The warning from the high-ranking U.S. officials came as Israel's military response to a deadly Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on civilians in communities in southern Israel entered its third week.

Israeli warplanes struck targets across Gaza overnight and into Sunday, as well as two airports in Syria and a mosque in the occupied West Bank allegedly used by militants as the war threatened to engulf more of the Middle East.

Israel has traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group on a near-daily basis since the war began, and tensions are soaring in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces have battled militants in refugee camps and carried out two airstrikes in recent days.

The U.S. announced Sunday that non-essential staff at its embassy in Iraq should leave the country.

Blinken, who recently spent several days in the region, spoke of a "shadiness of escalation" while saying no one wants to see a second or third front to the hostilities between Israel and Hamas, which broke Gaza.

He said he expects "escalation by Iranian proxies directed against our forces, directed against our personnel, and added, "We are taking steps to make sure that we can effectively defend our people and respond decisively if we need to." Iran is an enemy of Israel.

Please see **RESPOND**, page 4A

Fun for the family



A "mad science" presentation taught viewers how to do interesting chemical experiments, like making "elephant toothpaste."

BY ERIN WEEKS
erweek@aikenstandard.com

The Savannah River Site Museum hosted its first ever Fall Fission Festival on Saturday. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of costume contests, games and scientific fun in celebration of International Nuclear Science Week.

"It's perfect timing for it to be a fall festival," said Susan Ferrara of the Savannah River Site Heritage Foundation.

The museum's inaugural event featured a Ruth Patrick Science Education Center animal exhibit with tortoises and reptiles, a crystal ball fortune teller, a chemistry experiment lesson by a pair of "mad scientists," and live bluegrass music. Children and parents were able to explore the different booths as well as the inside of the Savannah River Site Museum.

According to Ferrara, this kind of event is a way to share with the community — the ones who make Savannah River Site operation possible.

"We wouldn't be the Savannah River Site, really wouldn't be here, without community," she said. "And you really can't be a museum or business unless you have your community. We have over 75 years of history in that museum, and it's quite a treasure. So this is an opportunity for us to share that with our community. And just to be downtown, being part of that downtown business community is just tremendous for us."

Anyone interested in supporting the museum can become a member of the SRS Heritage Foundation, make a monetary donation or apply to be a volunteer online at www.srsheritagemuseum.org.

Erin Weeks is the Education Reporter for the Aiken Standard.

Fall Fission Festival

October 19th 1-4pm

Free to the Public

Kids of All Ages are welcome!

Games. Contests. Food Trucks. Candy. and more!

SRS Museum

224 Laurens St. SW - Aiken, SC
803-648-1437
srsheritagemuseum.org



Museum Hours

- Help us preserve SRS's History, expand educational outreach, and increase awareness of our extraordinary history!
- Sign up for our free quarterly newsletter at www.srsheritagemuseum.org



Museum Hours

Wednesday - Saturday: 10 am - 4pm

224 Laurens Street, SW, Aiken, SC

www.srsheritagemuseum.org

Free Admission!



What's On the Horizon

- Continue to preserve SRS artifacts
- Share the Site's rich history
- Pilot 2 walking tours of Ellenton (with SRAP), next scheduled on 10/31/24
- Support 2024 SC Historic Preservation Office Conference
- SRS Safety Expo in 2024
- 183 historic oral interviews sharing with SRNS Video Services
- Continue digitization of historic photos
- Continue to grow museum's education outreach
- SRS Museum - 75 Artifacts Exhibit 2025
- Support 75th Anniversary Committee
 - SRS Family Days in 2025
 - 315-M Curation Facility Tour




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



23

