6.1.2 SOP No. 2: Identifying and Evaluating Resources.

Effective management of historic properties requires that they first be identified and evaluated. The level of identification needed can vary depending on the nature of the property or property type, and the possible effects on the property. In compliance with Section 110 of NHPA and its implementing regulations, this SOP specifies procedures to identify and evaluate cultural resources. Every federal agency is responsible for establishing historic preservation programs for the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic properties.

NPR 8510.1 requires an SOP for identifying and evaluating resources 45 years of age or older (in anticipation of their turning 50) and resources less than 50 years old that may have exceptional significance in accordance with Section 110 of NHPA. This SOP is applicable to all resources located at ARC and in areas where ARC mission-related undertakings may affect historic properties.

Applicable Laws/Regulations/Procedural Requirements

- National Historic Preservation Act

- NASA Procedural Requirement 8510.1

Policy

- NASA will proactively protect and maintain NRHP-eligible historic buildings, structures, and districts.

- NASA will ensure that the HPO has the authority and resources to carry out his or her role and responsibilities to comply with applicable CRM regulations and NPR 8510.1 and has funding to conduct periodic inventory and evaluation of historic facilities. (See NHPA and EO 11593.)

- The HPO will implement NASA CRM Program activities in compliance with NPR 8510.1 and Sections 106 and 110 of NHPA.

- Periodic inventory and evaluation of historic facilities will be conducted as directed by the HPO following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, as set forth in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 44720-44726), which should be used to ensure that the CRM Program's identification and evaluation procedures will be appropriate.

- Persons who meet the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for professional qualifications (36 CFR Part 61, Appendix A) (see Chapter 5.2.3 for professional qualification standards) will conduct all identification and evaluation activities of historic properties.

- The HPO will ensure that identification and evaluation of historic properties, including properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to Native Americans, are completed in compliance with Section 106 of NHPA prior to an undertaking.

- Avoidance of adverse effects to NRHP-eligible historic buildings will be proactively incorporated into the planning process.

- Until such time as SHPO has concurred with NASA's determination that a historic building is not eligible for inclusion to the NRHP, it will be treated as potentially eligible.

Procedures

I. Identification activities are undertaken to gather information about historic properties in an area. The scope of these activities will depend on existing knowledge about properties; goals for survey activities developed in the planning process; and current management needs. The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Identification should be followed.

   a. Standard I. Identification of Historic Properties Is Undertaken to the Degree Required to Make Decisions – Archival research and survey activities should be designed to gather the information necessary to achieve defined preservation goals. The objectives, chosen methods and techniques, and expected results of the identification activities are specified in a research design. These activities may include archival research and other techniques to develop historic contexts, sampling an area to gain a broad understanding of the kinds of properties it contains, or examining every property in an area as a basis for property-specific decisions. Where possible, use of quantitative methods is important because it can produce an estimate, whose reliability may be assessed, of the kinds of historic properties that may be present in the studied area. Identification activities should use a search procedure consistent with the management needs for information and the character of the area to be investigated. Careful selection of methods, techniques and level of detail is necessary so that the gathered information will provide a sound basis for making decisions.

   b. Standard II. Results of Identification Activities Are Integrated Into the Preservation Planning Process – Results of identification activities are reviewed for their effects on previous planning data. Archival research or field survey may refine the understanding of one or more historic contexts and may alter the need for additional survey or study of particular property types. Incorporation of the results of these activities into the planning process is necessary to ensure that the planning process is always based on the best available information.

   c. Standard III. Identification Activities Include Explicit Procedures for Record-Keeping and Information Distribution – Information gathered in identification activities is useful in other preservation planning activities only when it is systematically gathered and recorded, and made available to those responsible for preservation planning. The results of identification activities should be reported in a format that summarizes the design and methods of the survey, provides a basis for others to review the results, and states where information on identified properties is maintained. However, sensitive information, like the location of fragile resources, must be safeguarded from general public distribution.

II. Evaluation is the process of determining whether identified properties meet defined criteria of significance and therefore should be included in an inventory of historic properties determined to meet the criteria. The criteria employed may vary depending on

the inventory's use in resource management, but generally are those criteria for eligibility to the NRHP.

    a. Standard I. Evaluation of the Significance of Historic Properties Uses Established Criteria – The evaluation of historic properties employs criteria to determine which properties are significant. Criteria should therefore focus on historical, architectural, archaeological, engineering, and cultural values, rather than on treatments. A statement of the minimum information necessary to evaluate properties against the criteria should be provided to direct information gathering activities. Because the NRHP is a major focus of preservation activities on the federal, state and local levels, the NRHP criteria have been widely adopted not only as required for federal purposes, but for state and local inventories as well. The NHL criteria and other criteria used for inclusion of properties in state historic site files are other examples of criteria with different management purposes.

    b. Standard II. Evaluation of Significance Applies the Criteria within Historic Contexts – Properties are evaluated using a historic context that identifies the significant patterns that properties represent and defines expected property types against which individual properties may be compared. Within this comparative framework, the criteria for evaluation take on particular meaning with regard to individual properties.

    c. Standard III. Evaluation Results in a List or Inventory of Significant Properties That Is Consulted in Assigning Registration and Treatment Priorities – The evaluation process and the subsequent development of an inventory of significant properties is an ongoing activity. Evaluation of the significance of a property should be completed before registration is considered and before preservation treatments are selected. The inventory entries should contain sufficient information for subsequent activities such as registration or treatment of properties, including an evaluation statement that makes clear the significance of the property within one or more historic contexts.

    d. Standard IV. Evaluation Results Are Made Available to the Public – Evaluation is the basis of registration and treatment decisions. Information about evaluation decisions should be organized and available for use by the general public and by those who take part in decisions about registration and treatment. Use of appropriate computer-assisted data bases should be a part of the information dissemination effort. Sensitive information, however, must be safeguarded from general public distribution.