



Task Force Members Respond to Hurricane Season 2005

Reformatted but unedited reports are compiled alphabetically from the following members:

- ❖ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- ❖ American Association of Museums
- ❖ The American Association for State and Local History
- ❖ American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works
- ❖ The American Institute of Architects
- ❖ American Library Association
- ❖ Association for Preservation Technology International
- ❖ Council of State Archivists
- ❖ General Services Administration
- ❖ Heritage Preservation
- ❖ Library of Congress
- ❖ National Archives and Records Administration
- ❖ National Endowment for the Arts
- ❖ National Endowment for the Humanities
- ❖ National Park Service
- ❖ Regional Alliance for Preservation
- ❖ Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
- ❖ Society of American Archivists

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

GULF COAST RECOVERY EFFORTS

Office of Federal Agency Programs

Background: On November 14, 2005, ACHP Staff Member Jeffrey Durbin reported to FEMA's Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, following the agency's request for ACHP onsite assistance in addressing FEMA's Section 106 requirements and related historic preservation issues as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Jeff's initial responsibilities have been to:

- help implement FEMA's existing Louisiana Statewide Programmatic Agreement (PA) (which the ACHP signed eight months before Katrina) with a special focus on developing streamlining techniques to meet immediate recovery demands;
- help develop a secondary PA for the demolition of damaged privately owned buildings within Orleans Parish;
- assess appropriate actions for the ACHP to address in the short term; and
- make recommendations for long-term ACHP involvement in Gulf Coast reconstruction efforts.

Since early December, much of Jeff's focus has been on working with a wide range of stakeholders for development of the secondary PA. Because of the complexity of relief efforts in New Orleans,

FEMA has proposed to the Louisiana SHPO and the city that a Secondary PA be developed to address adverse effects resulting from the demolition of historic privately owned buildings. While estimates for the total number of red-tagged buildings proposed for demolition has steadily decreased from 6,000 to 2,000, FEMA's need for onsite ACHP assistance to address Section 106 for the proposed demolition activities remains critical.

The current draft for the PA provides for the following:

- a definition of “collapsed buildings,” which both the SHPO and FEMA will regard as being exempt from further Section 106 review;
- a streamlined SHPO review process for determinations of National Register eligibility and assessments of effects;
- a thorough process for public participation in the review of the proposed demolition work;
- a process for FEMA's consultation with historic preservation organizations, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the New Orleans Preservation Resource Center, the City of New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC), and Louisiana Landmarks Society in consultation;
- a process for FEMA's consultation with Indian tribes about the proposed demolition work;
- an archeological protocol for minimizing ground-disturbing activities during demolition work; and
- a range of treatment measures to mitigate adverse effects, including recordation, architectural salvage, expanding boundaries of existing districts and identifying new historic districts, re-surveys of existing historic districts, geo-referencing of historic maps in a GIS database, digitization of HDLC's survey records, and the development of educational materials.

FEMA's first consultation meeting about the draft Secondary PA was held February 7th, at the City of New Orleans Historic District Landmark Commission's conference room. Consultation on a similar secondary programmatic agreement for FEMA debris removal and demolition activities on the Gulf Coast in Mississippi took place February 6-8 in Biloxi with Martha Catlin representing the ACHP. On February 24, FEMA held a government-to-government consultation meeting with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians regarding both Louisiana and Mississippi secondary programmatic agreements.

ACHP Staff Deployment: While Jeff was scheduled to return to Washington from Baton Rouge on January 17, which would have completed his 60-day tasking by FEMA, his time in Louisiana has been extended another 60 days due to several outstanding or emerging issues that demonstrate the continuing value of an onsite ACHP staff presence, which FEMA believes is critical to the success of its mission to assist in the Gulf Region's recovery. These issues include the following:

- assist in completion of the Secondary PA;
- assist with FEMA Environmental/Section 106 training for its Public Assistance staff (FEMA would like to have me teach a mini-course on Section 106 compliance so their Public Assistance Officers better understand what FEMA Environmental staff need to ensure that their projects satisfy Section 106 review);
- prepare Section 106 guidance materials for FEMA Public Assistance staff and FEMA applicants;
- assist in mediation of potentially controversial undertakings in New Orleans such as proposed FEMA temporary housing sites in historic neighborhoods and demolition of buildings in Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood; and
- assist in mediation of issues arising from SHPO review of FEMA-assisted projects in Louisiana.

ACHP Council Meeting: On February 16, the ACHP held its quarterly business meeting, where topics relating to Katrina recovery were discussed. Based on those discussions, the ACHP will be seeking ways to strengthen its relationship with FEMA and to invite greater participation by the Department of Homeland Security in future ACHP policy level deliberations concerning historic preservation and disaster recovery.

The American Association for State and Local History

Highlights of Assistance Provided for Collections Recovery, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

AASLH HEART assistance to organizations in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama

- Sent eight teams of conservators and collections specialists to Louisiana and Mississippi over a four-week period from September 19 to October 19, 2005 to conduct assessments of historical collections in the field. The teams visited 117 sites and prepared assessments of the status of collections at each. Additional sites for which our teams could not make contact were reviewed via phone or “drive-by” assessment.
- Sixty historical organizations and sites in southern Alabama were contacted via phone by HEART team members and by AASLH volunteers to assess the status of their sites after the storms. For the most part, few Alabama sites sustained more than minimal damage.
- Sent each site that our teams visited a copy of their assessment with a request form that lists the ongoing resources that AASLH can provide.
- At each site visited in Louisiana and Mississippi, team members provided immediate advice and assistance on removing collections safely from damaged facilities and getting the items to safe areas within the structure or to alternative storage facilities.
- AASLH rented a truck and found a volunteer driver to move donated conservation supplies from the Clinton Library and MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History in Little Rock, AR to Jackson Barracks in New Orleans.
- Beauvoir, the Biloxi Public Library, and the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum received confirmations that they would receive grants of up to \$30,000 from NEH. AASLH HEART Team helped write requests for all three institutions.
- The Old Capitol Museum in Jackson, MS was successful in their bid for an NEH emergency assistance grant. AASLH HEART Team helped write the request.
- FEMA materials and AASLH HEART Team assessment sent to founder of Black Arts National Diaspora Museum (BAND) in New Orleans. Advice provided over phone for stabilization of collections. Later matched a conservator, Lenora Costa, who served on AASLH HEART Team with BAND to salvage and conserve items.
- Offered referrals and AASLH package including small project financial assistance for collections recovery at the Longue Vue House & Gardens in New Orleans. Later matched the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, CT with Longue Vue in a sister museum relationship for financial and programming support.
- Provided Oberlin College with a damage assessment of the Dillard University Library, enabling Oberlin to better and more quickly provide support and assistance for the recovery of collections at the library. Oberlin has had a century-old relationship with Dillard University.
- AASLH HEART Team found wet, archival material in a vault at the devastated site of the Pass Christian (MS) Historical Society. Worked with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) to retrieve the material and conserve it. Sent Pass Christian Historical Society assessment to MDAH to support a funding request from FEMA. Reportedly, the Pass Christian Historical Society will receive funding from FEMA to rebuild.

- Connected the Hancock County (MS) Public Library System with a conservator from the American Institute for Conservation for outdoor sculpture repairs.
- Provided resource information to Our Lady of the Gulf for assistance with its stained glass windows, including potential sources of funds.
- Connected South Orange County (CA) Genealogical Society to the Mississippi Department of Archives for advice on making a direct financial contribution to a Mississippi small archives facility.
- Assisted Mississippi's state museum association with plans to rent a storage facility for the joint use of historical organizations that had sustained facility damages.
- Sent New Orleans Children's Museum a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form and submittal information.
- Provided The Grammy Foundation (TGF) with information on historic music collections that were in danger. The Foundation agreed to pay for restoration of Fats Domino's 5 gold records plus personal and professional photographs. TGF may conduct an oral history and recognize Domino at the 2006 Grammy Awards ceremony.
- Assisted organizations with making contact with American Institute for Conservation (AIC) for referrals of conservators to assist with the recovery of collections.
- Sent 47 Mississippi damage assessments to FEMA and MDAH to support assistance requests.
- Sent 70 Louisiana damage assessments to FEMA to support assistance requests.
- Provided the state museum associations of Louisiana and Mississippi with information about sites in each state. Worked with and advised each association about steps they could take to assist the affected organizations in their states.
- Collected more than 3,000 digital photographs documenting the extent of damages to heritage sites in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Provided the Getty Foundation with damage assessments of places that have visual arts collections and significant photograph collections to help it craft a plan for providing assistance.
- Provided complimentary one-year AASLH memberships to each Louisiana and Mississippi historical organization that HEART teams visited and completed assessments.

Distribution of information about the AASLH HEART Project

- Briefed leaders of the American Association of Museums, Institute for Museum and Library Services, and Heritage Preservation on the work of the HEART teams and their findings in an effort to secure more federal funding, more FEMA help, and a jobs program for displaced and unemployed museum personnel.
- Provided summary of assessments completed by the HEART Teams to Heritage Preservation.
- Collaborated with AAM, IMLS, and Heritage Preservation to put out a public service announcement to find cultural and heritage private non-profits in Louisiana and Mississippi and urge them to submit *Requests for Public Assistance* to FEMA. AASLH coordinated sites for pickup of FEMA applications in each state.
- Provided a broad selection of photographs from the field to Heritage Preservation for its use in the Heritage Health Index Report.
- Held separate conversations with Jack Nokes at Texas Association of Museums and Laura Casey at Texas Historical Commission relating "lessons learned" by HEART teams in anticipation of Hurricane Rita making landfall in Southeast Texas.
- Briefed members of the International Federation of National Library Associations & Institutions Preservation & Conservation, North American Network on emergency preparation and the work of the AASLH assessment teams.
- Provided information and photographs to the History Channel about the status of historical organizations in Louisiana and Mississippi.

- Obtained a brief, easy-to-understand summary of the process by which federal, state, and local governments assist affected organizations and their collections from the Art Law Clinic at the Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Prepared for AASLH, it explains the role of property insurance in calculating the amount of funding that an organization can expect to receive from government agencies once the scope of assistance is negotiated and determined.

Currently AASLH is in the process of matching up one-on-one assistance for museums in the area that request it. The Association matches up museum needs with “sister museums.” AASLH has no funding for future efforts.

American Association of Museums

AAM’s approach to the disaster was to collaborate with a number of organizations at the state, regional, and national level to identify needs and share responsibilities for providing assistance.

Website

Beginning on August 29, AAM posted hurricane recovery information on its website. Subsequently a plan was approved for the first phase of AAM’s response efforts, which focused on gathering and sharing information. The plan centered on a 3-part section on the home page of AAM’s website, as outlined below. These pages were available by August 31 and were updated daily through mid-October.

Recovery Information

- Contact information for federal assistance
- Links to information about recovery of water-damaged collections and historic structures, lists of suppliers and conservators
- Application forms and guidelines for SEMC’s Hurricane Relief Fund grants, once available from SEMC

First Reports

- Brief updates on museum affected by the hurricane. Requests for information were made via email to the other professional organizations at the national, regional, and state level as well as to AAM’s board, Standing Professional Committees, and the Professional Interest Committees. AAM also posted the requests on various museum-related listserves. In addition, AAM staff noted stories published in newspapers. The First Reports were updated daily as new information became available, stating the date and source of information.

How to Contribute

- Contact information for the funds established by SEMC, the American Association for State & Local History (AASLH), the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Southern Arts Federation
- Contact information for SEMC, which began compiling a list of offers of goods and services for the recovery efforts. AASLH subsequently assumed responsibility for this task.

Museums Helping Museums

AAM organized “Museums Helping Museums: A National Relief Effort for the Gulf Region.” Sixteen national museum service organizations in turn asked museums across the country to participate. All monies collected were donated to the SEMC Hurricane Relief Fund. Museums were asked to consider: donating a portion of the admissions; offering visitors the option to add a

contribution at admission; erecting a donation box for contributions from the public; donating a percentage of the museum shop sales; participating in another way.

Associations jointly sponsoring the initiative included:

- American Association of Museums
- Association of African American Museums
- Association of Art Museum Directors
- Association of Midwest Museums
- Association of Science Museum Directors
- California Association of Museums
- Council of American Jewish Museums
- Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums
- Mountain-Plains Museums Association
- Museums Association of New York
- Museum Store Association
- New England Museum Association
- Oklahoma Museums Association
- Texas Association of Museums
- Virginia Association of Museums
- Western Museums Association

As of December 31, 2005, SEMC had received over \$200,000 in donations of cash and stock from nearly 150 museum service organizations, institutions, and individuals – including a \$100,000 donation from the American Association of Museums. SEMC had awarded \$133,000 as of December 31, which included General Assistance Grants to 23 museums in the amount of \$5,000 each and Employee Assistance Grants to 55 museum employees, in the amount of \$1,000 each.

AAM Annual Meeting

A double session scheduled for April 28 at the AAM Annual Meeting is titled “In the Aftermath of Katrina: A Field Wide Response.” It will feature speakers from museums that were affected by Katrina and from cultural service organizations that responded.

In part one, presenters from museums in the U.S. Gulf Region discuss the impact of Hurricane Katrina on their museums, challenges faced and lessons learned during the recovery process.

- ❖ Carma Fauntleroy: interim director, Louisiana State Museum
- ❖ John Bullard: director, New Orleans Museum of Art
- ❖ Marjie Gowdy, executive director, Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art
- ❖ Patrick Hotard, director, Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis's home

In part two, representatives from cultural service organizations describe their response to the disaster and what was learned to help shape a shared cultural community action plan in the future.

- ❖ Larry Reger, director of Heritage Preservation
- ❖ Steve Shulman, project director for AASLH’s hurricane recovery effort
- ❖ Eryl Wentworth, director of AIC
- ❖ Richard Waterhouse, director of SEMC

American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC)

Initial Response

Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, the AIC developed a volunteer questionnaire for the AIC website. Our members were encouraged to complete the questionnaire to provide information including areas of expertise, level of emergency training, whether the member owns a respirator and if their respirator fit test is up-to-date, dates of pertinent vaccinations, and level of volunteer commitment possible. The AIC Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery Committee (EPRRC), lead by David Goist, began coordination efforts with other responding organizations, initially with the Southeastern Museum Association. Committee member, Beverly Perkins, agreed to be the volunteer coordinator for AIC to link members having appropriate expertise (over 225 volunteer responders) with collecting organizations in need of assistance.

As soon as possible, the AIC worked to place our members on responder teams organized by such organizations as AASLH, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, FEMA, National Park Service, and NARA. A survey assessment form was developed by a member and adapted for use in the field through the AASLH/AIC partnership (HEART program). AIC also helped in the development of forms used by other survey teams. AIC produced a flier that was distributed as widely as possible to cultural organizations in the Gulf Coast to alert those in need to contact the AIC to find a conservator who could assist in person or by phone. Members assisted cultural organizations in securing FEMA and NEH funds, in addition to performing surveys and organizing follow-up treatments.

Workshops and Training

With a \$10,000 emergency response grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the AIC is organizing three wet recovery workshops in Louisiana for staff from collecting institutions and private collectors. Organized by Mary Striegel at NCPTT, partners in this initiative include FEMA, the Louisiana Association of Museums, the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, NARA, and NCPTT. Host institutions for the March workshops include the National D-Day Museum, LSU Rural Life Museum, and NCPTT.

AIC is also preparing a proposal to the IMLS Education & Training Program for a series of week-long Advanced Workshops in Emergency Response and Salvage to be conducted in museums across the country. The content will build on, and go beyond, training already accomplished through other AIC workshops: the 2000 NEH-supported "Train the Trainers" program, the five 2001 NEH-supported "Train the Trainers" regional workshops, and the 2005 NEH-supported wet salvage workshops. The participants will be drawn from the AIC membership and other museum professionals.

AIC Board Initiatives

President Nancy Odegaard and the AIC Board of Directors have developed two broad initiatives:

- 1) Continue to provide training and information to our members, in addition to training for staffs of cultural organizations and private collectors.

It is particularly important to the AIC to continue to help our members be prepared at a variety of levels. Not only will we continue to provide emergency response and wet salvage training workshops, we will continue to offer respirator fit tests at annual meetings, provide information about levels of response (not everyone needs to have advanced

training), and distribute information about other responding organizations and agencies and our role in relation to others.

2) Develop a nationwide information network of contacts and resource organizations to facilitate communication with and response by conservators for emergencies involving cultural materials within regions or states.

The March 3 Heritage Emergency National Task Force meeting will provide additional insights and information that the AIC will incorporate into our initiatives. Our goal is to continue to coordinate our efforts with other organizations nationally and more effectively match the skills and experience of conservators with those in need. Following the Task Force meeting, later in the spring, the AIC will hold a planning meeting at NCPTT with State Historic Preservation Officers and other federal, state, and regional groups to develop and prioritize our next steps based on lessons learned by us all. What are the most effective ways to build conservation networks state-by-state?

Priority Issues

- How can assessment reports and other documentation be managed, maintained, and made accessible for future use?
- How can a network of contacts be developed and maintained effectively both internally and externally?
- The AIC is committed to fully developing our role and expertise in relation to other responding organizations and agencies through communication and coordination efforts. How is this best accomplished?

For Addition Information

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American Institute of Architects

The American Institute of Architects in response to Hurricane Katrina developed an action plan to support those affected, utilizing the skills and resources we have as a national organization, community of components, network of individuals and organizational partnerships.

Katrina's Effect on the AIA

Seventeen AIA components and hundreds of members and firms were directly impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Neighbor-region components are already offering support, and therefore they, too, will be strained by the storm. Specifically, the components directly affected include:

- **Louisiana** – AIA Louisiana, AIA Baton Rouge, AIA Central Louisiana, AIA Louisiana Coastal, AIA Monroe, AIA New Orleans, AIA Shreveport, AIA South Louisiana, AIA Southwest Louisiana
- **Mississippi** – AIA Mississippi

- **Alabama** – Alabama Council/AIA, AIA Birmingham, AIA East Alabama, AIA Mobile, AIA Montgomery, AIA North Alabama, and AIA Northeast Alabama.

ACTION PLAN

The AIA Hurricane Katrina Response Action Plan is comprised of three stages: emergency, relief and recovery.

Emergency Stage

The emergency stage lasts two to three weeks, during which staff, membership, and member-to-member actions are helping those affected and strategizing how to offer continued support.

- Staff initiatives include action-plan strategy meetings, necessity collection, and fundraising for the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the AIA Displaced Architects Fund.
- Emergency responses at the membership level include enhancing the Web page to guide and inform members, holding telephone conferences among parties key to relief, and raising and directing funds to the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the AIA Displaced Architects Fund.
- Members are also supporting other members during the emergency stage. The AIA Hurricane Response Exchange, a virtual online resource-matching center, is launched shortly to provide much needed resources– employment, housing, office space, equipment and furniture, transportation, and local resources.

Relief Stage

The relief stage normally lasts up to six months. During this time the AIA offers direct support to those in need and assist components in their efforts to provide relief. Additionally, the AIA will offer its expertise assessing damage to buildings and historic structures and landscapes.

Louisiana:

- AIA members perform assessments for government agencies under contract as part of their assistance and reemployment recovery.
- Displaced architects were reconnected to perform relief work in their affected communities.

Mississippi:

- Over 1,700 building damage assessments have been conducted by volunteers in the affected Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- Government Advocacy efforts included raising awareness of Good Samaritan laws and in lieu of its passing in legislation assisting to develop an Executive Order from the office of the governor to assist with out of state volunteer efforts.

Recovery Stage

Finally, the recovery stage is when the AIA and its members help rebuild the structures that support affected communities. It is also a time when AIA expertise can help devise long-term plans to enhance community fabric and mitigate future disasters. The stage can last up to three years.

Louisiana:

- On going recovery efforts included the **Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference** held in New Orleans November 10-12, 2005 in collaboration with the American Planning Association and co-sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. More than 650 citizens, community leaders, architects, planners, engineers, business people, and public officials gathered as a starting point for the planning and the rebuilding of damaged parts of the state.

Mississippi:

- AIA continues to participate in recovery efforts such as the Mississippi Renewal Forum and its follow up workshops where AIA members advised on building codes, preservation practices and community development.

AN ONGOING EFFORT

The American Institute of Architects remains active with partner organizations in several advisory groups to federal, state and local planning authorities single point access to the extensive expertise and national communities of professional practice represented by these organizations.

As a result the American Institute of Architects recommends to the extent practicable, that multiple planning efforts now underway converge into a coordinated effort that can “speak with one voice” based on common planning principles and policy goals.

We hope that, from this starting point, all future planning efforts will be dedicated to building consensus through inclusive, participatory dialogue and action.

Out of adversity and tragedy – as we have witnessed again and again in our nation’s history – can come improvement and uplift. The wide road to a greater, more prosperous Gulf Coast lies ahead if, collectively, we have the wisdom and the courage to take it.

American Library Association

The American Library Association worked with the State Library Associations in the Gulf region (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama & Texas) and the Chief State Library Officers. We raised \$300,000 from our members and supporters which was given to those state associations for distribution to the libraries which were destroyed, damaged and those serving evacuees.

ALA's Chapter Relations Office also linked 300 libraries across the country with these needy Gulf libraries in partnerships for aid and assistance.

The ALA Washington Office brought affected librarians from Mississippi and Louisiana to Capitol Hill to talk about the situation, first-hand, and we had a very graphic photo display with some handouts about the library situation in the region. Many of these photos are available on our web site, www.alawash.org.

ALA held an information session at our Midwinter meeting, giving librarians tools and materials to prepare their facilities and their communities for a disaster.

ALA's Annual Conference will be held in June in New Orleans and there will be two community service days for attendees to help in rebuilding efforts at libraries, schools, museums, etc. If other organizations know of locations in the New Orleans area (museums, archives, other cultural institutions) that could use some help please contact Michael Dowling at mdowling@ala.org.

The issues facing the library community include:

1. FEMA regulations do not consider libraries "essential community organizations" and therefore they are not eligible for immediate aid and temporary facilities.

2. FEMA sent victims to the library for immediate assistance (filing FEMA claims, replacing documentation like driver's licenses and professional certification, finding work and schools for their children).
3. FEMA assistance forms hard to download with dial-up computer service, website jammed and assistance times out too quickly.

Association for Preservation Technology International

Hurricane Katrina Related Activity

Over the course of the past five months APT has coordinated volunteer structural assessment teams with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Specific activities and locations are as follows:

October, 2005

APT Assessment Team #1

Bay St. Louis, MS

This group of six architects, structural engineers, and preservation professionals assisted the MDAH with survey and structural assessment of numerous damaged historic properties in Bay St. Louis. Length of stay was one week.

November/December, 2005

APT Assessment Team #2

Bay St. Louis, MS, Pass Christian, MS, Gulfport, MS, Biloxi, MS, Ocean Springs, MS

This group of six architects, structural engineers, and preservation professionals assisted the MDAH with survey and structural assessment of damaged historic properties in Gulfport, MS. In addition, the APT team worked with a Savannah College of Art and Design volunteer group (25 students, staff, and faculty) on survey and assessment in Bay St. Louis, cleaning up of private homes in Pass Christian, assisting with clean up of private homes and the development of a master plan for recovery for the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center Childrens Museum and surrounding Mississippi City neighborhood in Gulfport, assisting with clean up in downtown Biloxi, and assisting with damage recovery and performed assessment for the heavily damaged Sullivan/Wright cottages in Ocean Springs, MS. The length of the activity was 10 days.

January, 2006

APT Assessment Team #3

Gulfport, MS

This group of six architects, structural engineers, and preservation professionals assisted the MDAH with survey and structural assessment of numerous damaged historic properties in Gulfport, MS.

This group primarily met with individual homeowners offering suggestions as to how to recover from storm damage. Length of stay was one week.

February, 2006

APT Assessment Team #4

Gulfport, MS

This group of five architects, structural engineers, and preservation professionals assisted the MDAH with survey and structural assessment of numerous damaged historic properties in Gulfport, MS. This group primarily met with individual homeowners offering suggestions as to how to recover from storm damage. Length of stay was one week.

Future Activities

APT will place at least four additional 2-3 person teams in the field between March 1 and June 15. These teams will assist the MDAH in addressing issues relating to building codes in impacted areas, structural survey and assessment, and issues surrounding the establishment of new boundaries for heavily impacted National Register Districts.

Constituent Issues

Problems for local and state officials caused by FEMA deadlines constantly changing.

Lack of any funding for immediate stabilization of heavily impacted private historic homes. Many properties could have been saved if they had been immediately stabilized.

APT has had problems identifying local organizations with which to partner in offering our volunteer labor. MDAH has been an excellent partner and continues to be our main local contact.

Council of State Archivists (CoSA)

Development of Statewide Emergency Response Plans

The Council of State Archivists began discussions in the fall of 2005 with the Archivist of the United States and staff at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) about the need for statewide disaster planning nationwide. CoSA had already received approval from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to use funds in an existing grant to bring state archivists from the nine states most often affected by hurricanes to a conference in the spring of 2006. Now NARA will provide additional funds through a cooperative agreement with CoSA to develop a “toolkit” for statewide emergency planning that will be one of the focal points of the April conference.

This toolkit will facilitate the development of statewide emergency response plans covering public and private archival collections as well as state and local government records of long-term value. It will identify the questions that each state should ask and answer prior to an emergency and establish priorities for responding to an emergency or disaster. It will also provide a framework for

establishing vital communication channels with each state's own emergency management agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other first responders. Finally, it will incorporate mechanisms for cooperative regional responses, so that resources in neighboring states can be accessed, as necessary, to help salvage and house damaged records and protect them from further harm.

Initially, the toolkit is intended to assist the nine states most often affected by hurricanes in developing statewide emergency response plans by the beginning of the 2006 hurricane season. Later, CoSA intends to use the template to develop similar statewide emergency response plans in the remaining 41 states and the District of Columbia. NARA may use the template to assist regional archives and records centers gather necessary information for NARA's own emergency response plans.

Maria Holden and Christine Wiseman, preservation officers at the New York State Archives and Georgia Archives respectively, have already begun to draft the toolkit and expect to draw other preservation professionals, disaster experts, and archivists into the process over the next several weeks. It will be refined during discussions with representatives from the states and other organizations attending the CoSA Hurricane Conference.

The CoSA Hurricane Conference will be held in Morrow, Georgia, April 18-20, 2006. Participants will include three representatives from each of the Gulf and South Atlantic states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia). We also will be inviting representatives from the National Archives, FEMA, Heritage Preservation, NHPRC, NEH, IMLS, SAA, AASLH, NAGARA, ARMA, NEDCC, SOLINET, and Amigos.

Conley L. Edwards, State Archivist of Virginia, on behalf of CoSA, February 14, 2006.

General Services Administration

Update on Historic Buildings Affected by Recent Hurricanes Southeast Sunbelt Region

13 February 2006

Over the past few years, the Southeast Sunbelt Region has experienced multiple devastating hurricane strikes. This last year hurricanes severely battered the coastal areas of Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. Since July 2005, five hurricanes made landfall consecutively in the Southeast Sunbelt Region: Dennis (July 10), Katrina, (August 29), Rita (September 23), Ophelia (October 7) and Wilma (October 23). While recovery efforts from one devastating storm continued, another hurricane made landfall. The damage to government owned and leased property from water and wind has been extensive. Within the FEMA declared Disaster Area, PBS has 203 locations (189 leased-locations and 14 GSA-owned locations) comprised of 3.4 million square feet of leased space and 1.8 million square feet of owned space. Of the total 203 locations, 14 buildings were damaged enough to remain closed. Of the 14 building closures, 10 tenant agencies have been relocated to new locations and have been able to continue operating.

The U.S. General Services Administration has four historic courthouses that experienced damage from these hurricanes last year.

Dan M. Russell Jr., U.S. Courthouse

The majority of the Dan M. Russell Jr. US Courthouse and first floor of the Annex in Gulfport, MS, remain closed and the tenants have been relocated to temporary space. With the renovation period expected to continue through March 2006 and emergency legislation passed to allow Federal judges to hear cases outside of their jurisdiction, PBS sprang into action, transferring mission critical files for Probation, Bankruptcy and U.S. District Courts from the waterlogged Courthouse three hours away to the James Eastland Courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi. The Dan M. Russell Jr. Federal building and U.S. Courthouse in Gulfport, Mississippi remains a beacon of hope to a devastated community.

David W. Dyer Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse

The David W. Dyer Federal building and U.S. Courthouse in Miami, Florida, is a delegated building maintained by the courts. This building is in danger of water infiltration due to loose and broken roof tiles caused from Hurricane Wilma. Courts staff are evaluating qualified roofing companies to make the necessary repair. Repair is complicated by the nature of the original hand-formed roofing tiles.

Winston E. "Bo" Arnow U.S. Courthouse

The Winston E. "Bo" Arnow U.S. Courthouse in Pensacola, Florida, has suffered repeated damage from hurricanes and stands in need of immediate action to repair or replace its damaged roof. The damage the courthouse received in the 2004 hurricane season was exacerbated by the 2005 hurricane season. GSA is currently formulating a short-term plan to address the life-safety issues related to loose roof tiles and other building envelope issues and a long-term plan to address the delayed necessary repair and alterations needed to bring this currently vacant gem back into government service.

John A. Campbell U.S. Courthouse

The John A. Campbell U.S. Courthouse in Mobile, Alabama, was the least damaged by the hurricanes and remains in relative good condition. A prospectus level repair and alteration project is planned following the completion of the new courthouse in Mobile.

U.S. Post Office-Courthouse and Custom House

The U.S. Post Office-Courthouse and Custom House in Key West, Florida, also sustained damage. Replacement of broken window panes and repair to the cracked lobby door frame is scheduled to be completed by March 1. A contract to replace missing lights (non-historic) in the surface parking lot is anticipated to be awarded March 2.

Southeast Sunbelt Update / Image Link

<http://pbs.r4.gsa.gov/ImageShare/>

Update on Historic Buildings Affected by Recent Hurricanes

Greater Southwest Region

13 February 2006

Condition assessments and emergency repairs have been done on our buildings damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. GSA has consulted with both the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office and Texas State Historic Preservation Office on the damage and proposed repairs. We will continue to consult with them and follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards on all repair work. All of our historic buildings will be repaired.

Historic buildings in New Orleans that sustained damage from Hurricane Katrina include the U.S. Custom House, Wisdom Court of Appeals, Hebert Federal Building, and Border Patrol Buildings. Much of the damage has been to the roofs of the buildings. Our most heavily damaged historic building was the U.S. Custom House in New Orleans. Mold remediation has been completed. Roof repairs have begun. GSA is working out a plan for the restoration of the parts of the interior that

have been damaged and getting federal agencies back into the building after the repairs are completed. Water damage and mold has resulted in the removal of inappropriate dropped ceilings and non-historic additions. Where possible, GSA hopes to restore these spaces as they would have existed historically without the dropped ceilings. We will be repairing damaged historic materials.

In Texas, the historic buildings damaged are the U.S. Custom House in Galveston and the Federal building and Courthouse in Beaumont, both of which sustained damage from Hurricane Rita. We are working with the Galveston Historical Foundation to whom we have outleased the Custom House. They are in the building and operating normally. Much of the damage has been to the roofs of the buildings.

Heritage Preservation

2005 Hurricane Response

Since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in August, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force has led national efforts to assist cultural institutions in the Southeast. Grants from the Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities have sustained many of these activities:

- Regular conference calls convened by Heritage Preservation have provided a forum for national organizations; government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels; and cultural institutions in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida.
- As the primary link between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the cultural community, Heritage Preservation has helped ensure a regular flow of information, clarify funding issues, and identify where resources are needed.
- Heritage Preservation's Hurricanes 2005 Web pages are a comprehensive site for news about relief efforts and damage to cultural heritage, as well as information on health and safety, technical assistance, funding, response, recovery, and more.
- Heritage Preservation staff has continued to gather information about and publicize relief efforts to help ensure that this support is timely and effective.
- Heritage Preservation is disseminating through FEMA Joint Field Offices and the media information for the public on how to salvage family treasures. Information from "Save Your Treasures the Right Way" was reprinted in several statewide and local newspapers.
- More than 2,000 copies of a special edition of the *Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel* have been distributed without charge, and the content of a National Park Service/SOLINET workshop on salvage in Natchez, MS, was based on the Wheel.
- *Before and After Disasters*, a new publication on federal aid for cultural institutions, is being widely disseminated. The PDF version, posted shortly after Hurricane Katrina struck, was downloaded more than 3,700 times in September alone. *Before and After Disasters* was produced in partnership with FEMA and the National Endowment for the Arts.
- Nineteen of the 205 applications made to the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) were from institutions in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These applications will receive priority for funding in the FY 2006 program.
- Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) staff prepared lists of outdoor sculpture in affected areas and gave the lists, with a specially developed assessment form, to key local officials and cultural organizations.
- We have developed a simple "Rapid Collections Assessment Form" that can be used in future catastrophic events and included in the new *Field Guide to Emergency Response*.

- Through the release of its seminal Heritage Health Index, Heritage Preservation has widely publicized the widespread lack of disaster planning in the cultural community.

Future Plans

Our daily communication with agencies and professionals on-site – as well as our careful tracking of damage reports – has given Heritage Preservation a broad understanding of how cultural and historic resources have been affected. We are currently seeking funding to develop and produce on behalf of the Task Force a report that summarizes damage and loss, analyzes response and recovery efforts, and recommends strategies to better protect historic and cultural resources in the future. Information will be gathered through research and meetings involving cultural institutions that suffered damage from the storms as well as organizations and agencies coordinating or providing aid. The Task Force meeting on March 3, 2006, marks the first step in the process.

Other Disaster Initiatives

Heritage Preservation has made emergencies a priority for the last ten years. Several new programs -- under development before Katrina -- will provide information resources and model strategies for cultural institutions and historic sites. These include:

Field Guide to Emergency Response

With a two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Heritage Preservation began work last year on a new resource tool for the 2006 hurricane season. The Field Guide will enable staff at archives, libraries, and museums to respond to emergencies and stabilize collections, even without a plan or training. Its compact, spiral-bound format will feature checklists and resources as well as a DVD to demonstrate procedures. A distinguished advisory committee with experience in emergency salvage and disaster training is guiding the development of the Field Guide. The notebook is in the design phase; the script is in third draft, and filming for the DVD will take place in April at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. The Field Guide will be released in June.

Alliance for Response

In 2003, the Task Force launched the national Alliance for Response initiative with a series of forums in Dallas, Boston, Cincinnati, and New York. The goals of the program were to raise awareness of the need to protect cultural and historic resources from disasters and to develop partnerships with emergency responders. Cultural heritage networks have formed everywhere Alliance for Response forums were convened, and museums and libraries are finding themselves in new relationships with local emergency managers. Seed grants to each of these new networks are supporting and expanding their activities. New forums will be held in Springfield, Illinois and Seattle, Washington this spring; a forum in Atlanta will be scheduled later in the year. Heritage Preservation will develop a Team-Building Kit so other communities can launch their own Alliance for Response partnerships. The national Alliance for Response project is made possible by the Fidelity Foundation.

Cultural Heritage Course for Emergency Responders

Heritage Preservation and representatives of other Task Force organizations are helping FEMA develop a “cultural heritage” component for its national training programs. A focus group – including first responders, emergency managers, and experts from the museum, library, and historic preservation communities – met in June to discuss learning goals. The primary audience for the training will be the thousands of fire service, law enforcement, emergency management, and local government personnel who take FEMA courses.

Dianne van der Reyden

- Director of the Preservation Directorate, Library of Congress
- Regional Director of the International Federation for Libraries Association, Preservation and Conservation, North American Network

Since the summer of 2005, the Preservation Directorate of the Library of Congress, in its role as the Regional Center for Preservation and Conservation for IFLA in North America, has formed a coalition of representatives from a dozen major libraries and archives in the United States and Canada. These institutions and their representatives are as follows (in alphabetical order):

1. Cornell University: John Francis Dean (607) 255-9687 or Barbara Berger Eden (607) 255-5291
2. Harvard University: Jan Merrill-Oldham (617) 495-7657
3. Johns Hopkins University: Sonja Jordan-Mowery (410) 516-4383
4. Library of Congress: Dianne van der Reyden (202) 707-5213
5. Library and Archives of Canada: Pierre Gamache (819) 953-7701
6. National Archives and Records Administration: Doris Hamburg (301) 713-6719
7. National Park Service: Nancy Purinton (304) 535-6143
8. New York Public Library: Evelyn Frangakis (212) 930-0644
9. Smithsonian Institution: Eliza Gilligan (202) 633-4713
10. University of Texas - Austin: Ellen Cunningham-Kruppa (512) 471-8287
11. University of Utah: Randy Silverman (801) 585-6782
12. Yale University: Roberta Pilette (203) 432-1714

Since the advent of Hurricane Katrina, the Library has hosted weekly conference calls with these representatives. A website with the information above, as well as links for emergency mitigation, has been posted on the LOC IFLA webpage (<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/iflacore.html>). Several members, most notably representing the University of Utah and the National Archives and Records Agency, have volunteered at sites affected by Katrina.

The members met at LOC in November to discuss mission and action steps. Member Randy Silverman has drafted a proposal that provides a comprehensive “road map” for a National Disaster Center. Based on this draft, other members have proposed a National Disaster Program focused on document collections that the IFLA PAC NAN can work to have in place before the advent of the next hurricane season.

Since December 2005, the Library of Congress has held monthly salvage workshops in the Washington Metro area. These workshops will continue through 2006. They are designed to train LOC librarians in the basics of salvage recovery. However, librarians outside LOC have been invited and allowed to attend on a case-by-case basis. So far several dozen LOC staff have been trained and about a dozen non-LOC librarians have registered for training, or have been trained, free of charge.

The Preservation Directorate is in discussions about collaborating, through FLICC and other initiatives, to provide outreach and on-site workshops, information and supplies for entities in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama and elsewhere between now and this year’s hurricane season.

National Archives and Records Administration

Hurricanes Response Activities

- ◆ NARA provided the following response services on-site in the affected Gulf State areas:
 - Training in Mississippi at the invitation of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History
 - Briefing to FEMA in Baton Rouge at the Joint Field Office
 - NARA Southeast Region and NARA Southwest Region staff made site visits to affected federal agencies in Mississippi and New Orleans to assist with records response and disposition needs.
 - The Archivist of the United States visited Katrina affected areas in Mississippi and New Orleans and held meetings with Louisiana and Mississippi state leaders, bringing national attention to the issues. NARA's Director of Preservation Programs and Assistant Regional Administrator for Southwest Region and the State of Archivist of New Jersey, representing the Council of State Archivists, participated in the visit as well.
 - NARA was mission assigned by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to manage the recovery and salvage of the paper records of the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office, District Attorney's Office and Clerk of the Criminal Court. Approximately 6,000 cubic feet of records were frozen, vacuum freeze dried and irradiated. Remediation efforts are ongoing.

- ◆ NARA served as a clearinghouse for information exchange on records issues between federal agency headquarters and field offices, and between the Federal Government and state records agencies in the affected states
- ◆ NARA created a new section on its website www.archives.gov website to provide assistance on records recovery and preservation for federal agencies and courts, state and local governments, cultural institutions and the general public; NARA expanded significantly the information on its web regarding disaster response information
- ◆ NARA provided records management guidance and records recovery guidance to numerous agencies, state, local, and private entities
- ◆ NARA provided emergency records disposal options and approvals to federal agencies.
- ◆ The National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis provides expedited service to hurricane-related requests from veterans and retired civil servants who need documents from their personnel files so they can establish or re-establish their identities
- ◆ Before Rita and Wilma made landfall, NARA provided guidance to Federal agencies on records protection strategies
- ◆ NARA developed new contacts in Federal emergency response community (FEMA, GSA, White House) and maintained communication with existing contacts in the cultural heritage community
- ◆ NARA provided training to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) staff regarding salvage of Katrina-damaged records.
- ◆ NARA publicized the importance of addressing records as a vital asset in ensuring continuity of government services and protecting citizen rights, including the vital concept of identity loss
- ◆ NARA developed new, useful records management and preservation tools/guidance for records response

- ◆ National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) made emergency grants of up to \$25,000 to state archives in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama for disaster assessment and response activities.
- ◆ NARA is working with the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) to provide support for the development of statewide disaster planning for public and private archives as well as state and local government records.
- ◆ NARA staff volunteered in response to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's call for federal employees to volunteer to work for a month in the hurricane-damaged region.
- ◆ NARA appointed an *ad hoc* team to address Katrina [and later Rita] response and facilitate coordination and NARA response actions
- ◆ NARA staff in the Great Lakes Region helped staff a FEMA satellite tele-registration center to receive applications for federal disaster assistance from victims of Hurricane Katrina.
- ◆ NARA will partner with American Institute for Conservation and other organizations in offering a workshop- *After the Storm: Recovery of Wet Collections*- in three locations in Louisiana in March 2006 on the care of cultural collections affected by storms and flooding.
- ◆ NARA participates in the coalition of institutions for the Regional Center for Preservation and Conservation for the International Federation for Libraries Association, North American Network and the disaster related activities of the IFLA PAC.

Contact for further information: Doris A. Hamburg, Director, Preservation Programs, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20815
doris.hamburg@nara.gov or telephone: 301-837-1785.

Response to 2005 Hurricane Disasters

National Endowment for the Arts

In response to the 2005 hurricane season, the National Endowment for the Arts:

- ◆ Extended application and reporting deadlines for organizations in the region.
- ◆ Awarded **\$500,000 in emergency grants:**
 - \$157,200 to the state arts agencies of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas to award in grants to arts organizations
 - \$342,800 in direct grants to cultural organizations and local arts agencies in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Florida.
- ◆ Supported **\$200,000 in design projects** including:
 - **Mayors' Institutes on City Design:** The Endowment convened a workshop in Biloxi, MS on November 14, 2005 for Mississippi Mayors to discuss rebuilding efforts with design professionals and a similar workshop in New Orleans on November 15th with Mayor Ray Nagin and other city leaders.
 - **Your Town workshop:** The Endowment is sponsoring a Your Town design and planning workshop for hurricane-affected small communities in April 2006 in Hammond, LA.

- ◆ With FEMA and Heritage Preservation produced a new edition of *Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions* and distributed the booklets to arts organizations through state and regional arts agencies.
- ◆ Continues to promote the inclusion of the arts in recovery efforts, by communicating how essential the arts are to full human, community and economic recovery in the Gulf Coast region.

The NEA will continue to respond to emergencies through the Chairman’s authority to award Extraordinary Action and Small Grants.

Key Issue

The National Endowment for the Arts has identified one **key issue** that needs to be addressed:

The need to include performing arts organizations in eligibility requirements for FEMA grants and Small Business Administration loans.

We welcome a report on any actual FEMA assistance to art museums.

National Endowment for the Humanities

When calamity struck the Gulf Coast last summer, the human and financial toll was staggering. So, too, was the cultural toll. As cities, small towns and parishes cared for their families and took stock of the personal losses, they also began looking at the cultural capital either destroyed or at risk of being lost forever: the millions of documents, artifacts, books, and works of art that for centuries have been central to these communities’ and this region’s unique identity.

Much of the NEH response to this catastrophe mirrors that of 14 years ago, as we faced the devastation caused by Hurricane Andrew along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Within days of Hurricane Katrina, the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Bruce Cole, authorized awards of \$30,000 to humanities councils in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and opened up \$1 million in emergency grants to help museums, libraries, and cultural agencies salvage damaged humanities collections. Texas joined those states, as the region just weeks later, was rocked again by Rita. Grant deadlines across the Endowment were also extended to accommodate institutions affected by the disaster.

To date, more than thirty emergency grants have been made to places like the Biloxi Public Library in Mississippi, where funds are helping pay to clean and restore local artifacts, books, and historic documents. At Tulane and Xavier Universities in New Orleans, funds are helping preserve rare, historic works chronicling the lives of women and African Americans in the Gulf South region. And at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, they are going toward the conservation of damaged American art from the Sarah Gillespie Gallery.

Some awards have helped well-known institutions such as Jefferson Davis’s Beauvoir in Biloxi, Miss., and the New Orleans Museum of Art stabilize their collections. Others are assisting small communities salvage the last remaining vestiges of cultural identity. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History, for example, is using its emergency grant to help three small communities ravaged by wind and water – Bay St. Louis, Waveland, and Pass Christian – save the only existing papers documenting civic and public history. In Plaquemines Parish, La., meanwhile, a grant is helping salvage the collections of the Historic Fort Jackson Museum.

Recovery efforts in the Gulf will continue for many months. In January, the Chairman decided to make available an additional \$250,000 in emergency grants to museums, libraries, and historical societies. Furthermore, NEH is adapting one of its existing programs to meet the ongoing needs of cultural repositories. At the May 15, 2006 deadline, institutions affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma may apply for Preservation Assistance Grants. These awards of up to \$5000 can be used to help cover costs such as damage assessment, mold abatement, conservation treatment, and the temporary relocation and storage of collections.

Finally, the *Heritage Health Index* offered an alarming statistic: Four out of five collecting institutions do not have an emergency or disaster plan, with staff trained to carry it out. Let us hope that the calamitous hurricane season of 2005 will underscore the importance of preparing for disasters before they happen. NEH grant money is helping the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) train librarians, archivists, and curators in small communities in the Gulf, not only to salvage their damaged collections but also to prepare for future disasters. We hope to encourage broader support for emergency and disaster planning in the future through our various grant programs.

National Park Service

Hurricane Response

Summary: Following Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, the cultural resources programs of the National Park Service (NPS) responded with guidance on recovery and stabilization of sites, structures, and objects in the impacted areas. NPS has provided coordination for cultural resources under the protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties (NCH) part of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 and, under Mission Assignments to that ESF, has volunteered staff assistance for FEMA headquarters, the National Response Coordination Center, and the Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi Joint Field Offices (JFO). NPS has collaborated with other federal and non-federal partners, such as FEMA and the Heritage Emergency National Task Force. In response to needs identified by State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), other state representatives, and FEMA, NPS has provided site documentation, technical information, training, and limited on-site assistance, and developed new tools specifically to meet the needs of the states. NPS has also served as a clearinghouse for information, preparing reports on the status of sites impacted by the hurricanes, public service announcements, and media advisories.

Note: The NPS response to park sites impacted by the hurricanes is not covered in this briefing.

Background: The National Park Service participates on the interagency team that coordinates provision of services under the NCH part of ESF #11 under the National Response Plan. The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the lead agency for the NCH part of ESF #11. Other agencies with roles under ESF #11 are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Ann Hitchcock represents NPS cultural resources on the interagency team and serves as the DOI coordinator for the cultural resources component of the NCH response to the 2005 hurricane season. When FEMA requests assistance from the NCH part of ESF #11, the participating ESF #11 agencies collaborate to respond. The ESF #11 NCH agencies may, as necessary, call upon other Federal agencies to assist in a response. Agencies and bureaus that have volunteered staff in response to requests for cultural resources expertise under ESF #11 include, at DOI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and NPS; at USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Services Administration; and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

NPS Response:

1. National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) added hurricane technical assistance to its home page, www.ncptt.nps.gov, and provided links to NPS and non-NPS information. The NCPTT web site is a primary national information resource. NPS provides direct links to this page at <http://www.nps.gov/katrina/>, where NPS posts all information on hurricane response and recovery.
2. NCPTT worked with FEMA, the affected states, and other preservation partners to design a Rapid Building and Site Condition Assessment (RBSCA) form and a Detailed Building and Site Condition Assessment form, instruction guide, glossary, and related tools and guidance. NCPTT developed companion databases for related data collection accessible at www.ncptt.nps.gov.
3. NCPTT is preparing a guidance document stating the best practices and concerns inherent in the survey of impacted cultural resources.
4. Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems Facility (CRGIS) provided maps of National Register Historic districts in the impacted areas to the Mississippi and Louisiana SHPOs for use by FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers to inform decisions on preservation and demolition in the districts. CRGIS arranged to have Geographic Information Systems (GIS) licenses installed for the Mississippi and Louisiana SHPOs to assist in this work.
5. CRGIS staff is serving as chief strategist for FEMA's historic preservation data management. CRGIS is working closely with FEMA to develop an integrated "geodatabase" system and directing the "Red Tag" survey to gather data for the system. FEMA and the Louisiana SHPO will use the data to make determinations regarding preservation and demolition.
6. The National Register of Historic Places compiled information on National Register listings in the gulf coast areas impacted by Katrina and Rita for posting on the NCPTT web site.
7. The Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey (HABS/HAER/HALS) provided data on existing documentation for sites in the impacted areas for posting on the NCPTT web site.
8. Harpers Ferry Center (HFC) and the Cultural Resources Washington Office have compiled information on recovery of flooded buildings and wet objects, including related *Conserve O Grams*. This information is available on the HFC and NCPTT web sites. See <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/products/cons/wet-recovery.htm>.
9. In cooperation with Historic Natchez Foundation and Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), HFC and Natchez NHP provided a workshop on recovering water-damaged collections. Over 60 attended the workshop, which was held on September 15. It was repeated, in cooperation with SOLINET and the University of Southern Mississippi, a week later in Hattiesburg, where an additional 50 attended. NCPTT is working with the American Institute for Conservation, FEMA, the Louisiana SHPO, and Louisiana Association of Museums to provide a series of three wet recovery workshops March 15-20 in Louisiana.
10. NPS incident management teams with cultural resources components answered questions and provided technical assistance to non-NPS sites and private citizens in the impacted areas near NPS sites. For example, the NPS team helped the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, University of Southern Mississippi, salvage an important herbarium collection.
11. In response to a FEMA request, NPS established a list of over 100 NPS volunteers with a wide range of cultural resources expertise, including 67 experienced with National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 compliance. The cultural resources skills identified by FEMA are: historical architects, historic preservation specialists (NHPA-106), architectural historians, archeologists, historic preservation trainers, collections management specialists, historic building technology experts, tribal historic preservation specialists, historic preservation generalists, and GIS/data management specialists.

12. In response to Mission Assignments under the NCH part of ESF #11, Federal agencies have provided the following numbers of cultural resources employees to fill the need. Assignments are generally 30 or 60 days.
 - a. FEMA headquarters: NHPA specialist (NPS-1; NRCS-1).
 - b. JFO-FL: Historic preservation specialist (NPS-1).
 - c. JFO-LA: Historic building technology expert/historical architects (NPS-3); NHPA specialist (ACHP-1); collections management specialists (NPS-4, FWS-1); data management coordinator (NPS-1); data management specialist (NPS-1); tribal historic preservation specialists (NPS-2).
 - d. JFO-MS: Archeologists (NPS-12); historic preservation generalists (NPS-4); architectural historians (NPS-2); ESF #11 NCH Coordinator (NPS-1)
13. NPS Director Fran Mainella spoke about the NPS response to the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation on September 28 in Portland, OR, and NPS Public Affairs issued a related media advisory.
14. NPS prepared a public service announcement for television on preservation and recovery tips for cultural resources. Specialists from Harpers Ferry Center and National Capital Region provided background information. Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) produced and began airing the announcement November 5, 2005.
15. NPS maintains a list of historic sites and museums impacted by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma on the NCPTT web site.
16. NPS cultural resources staff members independently respond to requests for technical information by telephone and e-mail.
17. Associate Director for Cultural Resources Jan Matthews testified November 1, 2005, at the hearing entitled "Historic Preservation vs. Katrina: What Role Should Federal, State and Local Governments Play in Preserving Historic Properties Affected by this Catastrophic Storm?" The hearing was held by the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census.
18. NPS and all other DOI bureaus are writing environmental safeguards plans for all hazards emergencies, covering preparedness, response, and recovery under ESF #10 and the NCH part of ESF #11, and on DOI lands. DOI issued its environmental safeguards plan in May 2005.
19. NPS continues to give priority to integrating cultural resources expertise in the incident command system structure and response.

Ann Hitchcock, Chief Curator, NPS
ann_hitchcock@nps.gov, (202-354-2271)

Regional Alliance for Preservation

Members of the Regional Alliance for Preservation were significantly involved in the recovery efforts following the hurricane in the Gulf Coast and Florida. In addition to directly assisting and supporting institutions in recovery, SOLINET provided a useful information coordination function with help from RAP partners that will serve as a model for future disasters.

Initially, information about recovery and funding was placed on the RAP website, as well as RAP member websites and members read draft survey instruments developed to assess damages and needs on-site.

RAP members answered hurricane-related inquiries from institutions such as the New Orleans Notarial Archives, Xavier University, the Louisiana State Archives, the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and the Gulf Coast Research Lab in Ocean Springs, Louisiana. Members also fielded calls from private

individuals and for-profit companies in New Orleans; Houston, Texas; Pass Christian, Mississippi; Vero Beach, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama, among other locations.

Following the disaster, staff at SOLINET attempted to contact all their members in the impacted areas to offer assistance and provide information and referrals via phone and email. Post-hurricane communication was often delayed due to damaged telecommunication infrastructures, but preservation contacts in or near the impacted areas helped provide additional channels of information. These preservation contacts form a valuable infrastructure within the region for information collection and distribution, on-site assessment, and assistance in stabilization and recovery.

Prior to the hurricane season, SOLINET distributed updated resources and recovery information to their members in the coastal area.

Workshops and Training and Site Visits

SOLINET is currently providing free disaster recovery training sessions in areas impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, supported by grant funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Coordinated with state-wide organizations (e.g., State Library of Louisiana, Louisiana Department of Archives, University of Southern Mississippi Hattiesburg, Historic Foundation, and Mississippi Department of Archives and History) and National Partners (National Park Services and Northeast Document Conservation Center), these free workshops focus on recovery techniques and sources of support for recovery (services, businesses, grants, etc.). Sessions held to date have been well-attended (average of 50 participants in each) and we are working to hold several more in the coming months.

Site visits were made to the Mobile Museum of Art to assist in developing triage strategies for recovery and New Orleans.

Volunteers and Supplies

Balboa Art Conservation Center's (BACC) field service officer, Beverly Perkins, who serves on the American Institute of Conservation (AIC) Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery Committee, acted as contact person and was appointed AIC Volunteer Responder Coordinator. Beverly coordinated teams of volunteers into the response efforts of affiliates, such as the AASLH, National Trust for Historic Preservation and Heritage Preservation.

NEDCC Field Service Representative Aimée Primeaux helped coordinate donations of disaster recovery supplies for distribution through the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Working with the "Adopt A Site" effort to link institutions with appropriate conservators, Beverly is helping to establish networks preparatory to any future emergency or disaster.

New initiatives related to emergencies

Some of the new initiatives are directed to the areas affected by the recent hurricane and others are for preparing other regions in the country for disaster response.

New Orleans and Gulf Coast Region

Beverly will be teaching three AIC recovery workshops with Hilary Kaplan of NARA in New Orleans in March.

As an outgrowth of hurricane Katrina response and recovery efforts, Beverly will be teaching "Conservation: Do It Yourself vs. Call the Pros" in Natchez, MS. This workshop is designed to

help staff of hurricane affected institutions make difficult recovery decisions such as whether or not damaged materials can and should be recovered.

The experiences of hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma accelerated the demand for NEDCC's *dPlan: The Online Disaster-Planning Tool*, which is in the final stages of development and is due to be released soon. Many groups such as the Mississippi State Archives and the Society of American Archivists have approached NEDCC about providing training initiatives based on *dPlan*. Emily Sheketoff at the American Library Association's Washington office expressed support for *dPlan* and featured it during a special session at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio in January 2006.

BACC will continue ranking emergency planning and response workshops as a high priority offering in their region. In addition, staff will continue to assist with emergency plan writing and training of first responders with emphasize on networking within the Western region to strengthen regional emergency/disaster support.

Following Hurricane Katrina, SOLINET expanded its disaster response support to include other aspects of our operation. In addition to the preservation resources provided on the website, the web site serves as a clearinghouse for damaged libraries and includes a job bank to link library employees temporarily displaced by the disaster to those with temporary library job openings, information about grants and other financial resources available to assist libraries in recovery, and links to various fund-raising efforts underway on behalf of libraries and cultural institutions

The hurricanes dramatized the need for coordination among the cultural community, federal and state emergency agencies, and first responders. As a result, NEDCC has submitted a proposal for a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop, test, and disseminate a model for statewide disaster planning for cultural resources. The proposed project includes a model statewide plan, a template for writing a customized plan, and Web resources.

Initiatives in other regions

The hurricanes of 2005 triggered an *Alliance for Response* Forum Update, titled, "Have We Learned Anything from Katrina?" The forum, held at the Boston Public Library on December 16, 2005, was presented by the Cultural Emergency Management Team (CEMT) of greater Boston and attended by 70 staff members of cultural institutions in the Boston area. NEDCC Director of Field Service and core CEMT member, Lori Foley, spoke about CEMT initiatives and presented an overview of *dPlan*. Amigos is currently exploring the possibility of adapting the CERT training to the cultural heritage field. They are working with the former emergency planner for the city of Dallas on this project.

START (State of Texas Alliance for Response) is also having a meeting to discuss opportunities for expanding the initiative to the Texas Gulf Coast. The Beaumont/Port Arthur area was interested in holding a START meeting before the hurricanes, and the damage has made that meeting an important priority.

Starting in January 2006, conservators and collections management staff at Peeples Island (PI) meet monthly (over lunch) to develop a PI-specific emergency response plan as well as a plan to provide emergency response services for our far-flung sites (35 sites and 5 historic parks located from Buffalo to the North Shore of Long Island). Conservators role play disaster scenarios, have developed a list of supplies for a "disaster cart" at PI which we can transport and which we will purchase and cache in the next several months, insure that we have a functional emergency phone tree, and develop curriculum for disaster response workshops for our field staff.

Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP), a national network of nonprofit organizations with expertise in the field of conservation and preservation, provides information and resources on

preservation and conservation for cultural institutions and the public throughout the United States. The new website (www.PreserveCollections.org) includes a calendar of Training and Educational Opportunities; a list of Conservation and Preservation Services provided by RAP members; and a Publications & Resources section that includes: a searchable bibliography of full text reports and documents; specialized bibliographies prepared to answer common collection care concerns for libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and house museums; and links to related organizations.

The RAP website is made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

Emergency Response Activities

In May 2004, the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) collaborated with the American Museum of Natural History on a conference in New York City entitled, *Museum SOS: Strategies for Emergency Response and Salvage*. The conference was attended by 200 people from institutions around the world. Following the conference, a 1-day, hands-on workshop, *Don't Panic: Emergency Response & Salvage* provided instruction on salvage techniques, focused on the first 24 hours after an event. The expertise for the workshop derived from the American Institute for Conservation's training program in salvage for staff at cultural institutions.

The conference and development of a Museum SOS website were funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation Biological Research Collections Program. The website was designed to provide links to extensive resources for care of collections in the aftermath of disasters. SPNHC provided a link to the site as part of the resources offered to its members and publicized the link in response to the devastation during the 2005 hurricanes season.

In the aftermath of the hurricanes, the SPNHC electronic list serve, *NH-COLL*, provided a conduit for members and other subscribers to exchange information on the fate of colleagues and state of collections in the areas decimated by the hurricanes. Information from the list was forwarded to the Heritage Emergency National Task Force for inclusion in their compilation of data on the status of cultural property in the affected regions.

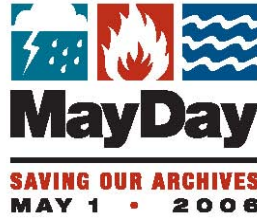
Priorities

Discussion with SPNHC colleagues during the aftermath of the 2005 disasters suggests that there are two areas of special concern:

- Assistance in development of emergency management processes on an institutional basis
- Availability of additional hands-on training in salvage methods for various collection materials

Catharine Hawks
SPNHC Representative
Heritage Emergency National Task Force
February 2006

Society of American Archivists



A Collaborative Project on Behalf of America's Archives

Dear Colleague:

Protecting collections is one of our fundamental responsibilities as archivists. Last year's visits from Katrina, Rita, and Wilma certainly provided a wake-up call, reminding us of the very real importance of disaster preparedness. Yet ironically, the Heritage Health Index, released soon after the hurricanes, reported that few institutions have disaster plans and for those that do, often the plan is out of date. Given human nature, it's easy to put off disaster planning as we devote our attentions to tasks with more immediate "payback."

The Society of American Archivists hopes that your organization will join us in the "MayDay Project" – a collaborative campaign to improve professionals' readiness to respond to disaster. "MayDay" encourages all records and archives professionals to do *something* on May 1st of each year – even if it's something simple – to help ensure that they are prepared to respond to a disaster.

Because disasters are, for many archivists, unexpected and rare, there's little if any motivation to prepare. By designating a specific date on which to focus the profession's attention on preparedness, we hope to trigger individuals to take action. As more individuals and repositories participate over time, the exercise may become ingrained in our professional consciousness.

MayDay focuses on doing something simple – something that can be accomplished in a day but that can have a profound impact on an individual's or a repository's ability to respond. Taking time to read key policy documents keeps information fresh. Conducting a drill to evacuate the building ensures that everyone knows the plan and can identify problems with it. Updating contact information, and even creating wallet-size versions of an emergency contact roster, makes it possible to locate people when time is critical. Over time, a repository may choose different activities.

SAA will promote MayDay to its 4,500 members over the next few months via its periodicals, the SAA website (www.archivists.org), and postings to appropriate listservs. We will be providing a list of suggested activities from which archives and records professionals might choose, as well as other supporting materials. We would be grateful if you could distribute this information to your members and help to promote the idea of MayDay as widely as possible.

If you are willing to participate in the MayDay project, could you please drop me a note to indicate that you will assist in promoting it? I look forward to hearing from you! If you have questions, concerns, or ideas for how to make MayDay a success, please let me know.



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