

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE (SRS) COLD WAR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020

OCTOBER
2020

Prepared by:
The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Savannah River Operations Office (SR)



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BASIS:

This Annual Summary Report was prepared per the Programmatic Agreement (PA) and the *Savannah River Site's Cold War Built Environment Cultural Resources Management Plan* (CRMP).

PERIOD COVERED:

This Summary Report addresses SRS Cold War historic preservation activities from December 31, 2019 through October 31, 2020.

INTRODUCTION

DOE recognizes its stewardship responsibilities for managing the cultural resources on DOE-owned land and lands impacted by DOE programs.

As part of the accelerated cleanup at SRS, the Savannah River Operations Office (SR) developed a SRS Cold War History Programmatic Agreement (PA) in 2004 to meet the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended through 2000, as defined in the Protection of Historic Properties regulations, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, (36 CFR Part 800).

Regulation Title 36 CFR Part 800 (Protection of Historic Properties) specifies who has legal standing to be involved with Federal agencies as they address activities that will affect their historic properties and identify mitigation. SR involved the following as consulting parties: the Savannah River Site Operations Office (SR), the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the DOE Headquarters Federal Preservation Office (FPO) (ME- 75), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP), the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), SRS Heritage Foundation, the City of Aiken, the City of Augusta, and the City of New Ellenton.

The PA was updated in 2020 reiterating the need for a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for the management of SRS historic properties and to deal with mitigation alternatives. A current update of the CRMP is in draft to be submitted in 2020/2021.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) is the current contractor responsible for the Cold War Historic Preservation Program, under the direction of DOE-SR, and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.6 of the ACHP regulations and Executive Order 13287: “Preserve America,” signed by President Bush in 2003. New South Associates (NSA) is the current subcontractor responsible to SRNS for Cold War compliance and curation services.

The SRS Cold War Built Environment Historic Preservation Annual Summary Report for Fiscal Years 2019-2020 is provided here in one report. This is the fifteenth report.

PROGRAM STAFF

Parodio Maith, DOE-SR, served as the DOE Program Manager in FY 2019-2020 assisted by Manager Andrew Albenesius, SRNS. Melissa Hanson served as Cold War Curator. Derek Berry assisted Ms. Hanson as Curatorial Assistant. Mary Beth Reed and Josh Blackmon serve as Project Historians. Ms. Lauren Miller serves as SRS Museum Director.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The pandemic upended numerous activities from March through the present and its effects are noted throughout the report. It hit hardest on activities involving face to face meetings, presentations, tours, conferences, museum visitation, etc. Despite it, the SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program still achieved most of its goals as this Report will bear out. Only a short work from home period occurred on Site and by following the CDC and Site guidelines, all staff have remained safe. Please note the face mask on the front cover. It and others were fabricated using cloth printed with SRS safety and security slogans from a collection preserved in the Cold War collection.

PART ONE - CRMP GOALS

A. COMPLETED GOALS

The following short and long-term goals were completed from 2005 up to the present including short term goals 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, and 16 and long-term goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, and 12. All have been featured in prior annual reports. This represents a significant advancement towards the original goals of the Programmatic Agreement. Many, such as annual reporting, heritage tourism meetings, establishing partnerships, identification of core historic materials, establishing a permanent record, are considered core planks of the program. The move toward an onsite interpretation center has ended, as the SRS Heritage Foundation has focused its interpretation efforts at the Aiken County-owned Dibble Memorial Library Building on Laurens Street in Aiken.

B. ONGOING AND FUTURE SHORT-TERM (STG) AND LONG-TERM GOALS (LTG)

STG-3. DOCUMENTATION

Goal: Complete the documentation needed to successfully satisfy the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOE and the SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR Part 6 (a) for the mitigation of certain adverse effects to Cold War National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible historic properties, SRS, Aiken and Barnwell counties, effective September 2004.

Status: Ongoing. The table below indicates the programmatic and mitigation documentation, completed and upcoming. Oral history for the final thematic study on Research and Development is complete and transcriptions are being edited. Research is completed. Architectural survey scheduled to occur in spring of 2020 was delayed by the coronavirus. This is being scheduled for January/February 2021. Report writing will be completed in 2021.

Document	Accomplishments	Overall Status as of October 30, 2020
Tritium Extraction Thematic Study	Completed in FY05	Complete Sept 2005 (classified archived at SRS)
Fuel and target fabrication study (M Area)	Completed in FY07	Complete
Pilot plants/ research and development (T Area)	Completed in FY07	Complete
777-10A reactor test facility HAER Study	Completed in FY07	Complete (delivered to the National Archives)
Administration/support/safety/security (A Area)	Completed in FY07	Complete
Heavy water production study (D Area)	Completed in FY08	Complete
Reactor operations thematic study (R, P, L, K and C areas)	Completed in FY10	Complete
Infrastructure thematic study	Complete in FY10	Complete
Chemical Separations thematic study (F and H area)	In Review	Complete
Cultural Resources Management Plan Rev 1 (CRMP Rev 1)	Ongoing	To be Submitted to DOE March 30, 2021
Research and development thematic study (SRNL)	Ongoing	To be submitted to DOE May 30, 2021

STG-5. IDENTIFICATION OF DOE SIGNATURE FACILITIES

Goal: Identify and document those Cold War NRHP-eligible properties that are potential candidates for designation as “Cold War Signature Facilities” in consultation with the Department of Energy Federal Preservation Officer (DOE-FPO), (SR).

Status: Future. SR will participate in the DOE Headquarters’ complex-wide program for the designation of Cold War “Signature Facilities.” Any selection of facilities for this program will be a joint effort between SR, SRSO, and DOE-Headquarters (HQ), ME-75. DOE-HQ has the final decision on any selections made under this program.

STG-13. PREPARE RECOMMENDATION FOR NRHP NOMINATION

Goal: Prepare a recommendation to the DOE-FPO for a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the Cold War District using a multiple property submission approach.

Status: This goal remains tabled. Due to the sitewide loss of historic buildings and facilities to decommissioning, a multiple property submission approach to a NRHP nomination is not feasible. This goal will be amended in revised CRMP to recommend a NRHP nomination of single properties or a historic district.

LTG-8. HERITAGE TOURISM MEETINGS

Goal: Maintain a team comprised of PA’s consulting parties to focus on Cold War Heritage Tourism and to develop a comprehensive program for public involvement, outreach, and education, (SR).

Status: These meetings have been held on a quarterly basis and are now considered a core component of the program. The attendees form a wide cross section of the CSRA museum community and professionals from major libraries, arts centers, and heritage tourism programs. We were able to have one meeting this year due to the pandemic.

LTG-9. DEVELOPMENT OF LONG-TERM TREATMENT PLAN FOR C AREA

Goal: Develop and implement a long-term treatment plan for C Area Cold War NRHP-eligible historic properties: Reactor Building (105-C), 106-C, 107-C, 108-1C, 108-2C, 109-C, 151-1C, 151-2C, 701-1C, 704-C, 706-C, 186-C, and 190-C.

Status: DOE has elected to return C Area to its decommissioning schedule thus a long-term treatment plan for C Area facilities is no longer needed. The facilities reference above will follow the approved decommissioning process at SRS and are not on a path toward preservation.

LTG-13. UPDATE CRMP EVERY FIVE YEARS

Goal: Update SRS Cold War Built Environment CRMP, as needed, every five years, (SR).

Status: Draft revision of the CRMP was completed in FY13. The draft was under review internally until decision-making concerning the return of C Area to the decommissioning schedule. With completion of the new PA that incorporates that change, the CRMP is currently being revised and the draft will be submitted by end of March 2021.

LTG-14. IDENTIFY FUTURE SRS CONTEXTS

Goal: Research SRS significant programs in place that are not directly Cold War related and or those that postdate the Cold War and identify associated SRS facilities. A study of the Site's environmental management history is an example and the 2018 environmental exhibit underscored the need for this context.

Status: DOE-SR will begin the development a context for environmental mission and clean up and provide a NRHP evaluation for the Defense Waste Processing Facility as part of that mission as well as any other significant facility or building in 2021.

C. REVISION OF PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT

DOE has elected to modify its Cold War preservation and public outreach objectives by returning C Reactor and its associated historic properties (106-C, 107-C, 108-1C, 108-2C, 109-C, 151-1C, 151-2C, 701-1C, 704-C, 706-C, 186-C, and 190-C) to the SRS Decommissioning schedule (D&D). This change in status for C Reactor and its associated facilities warrants revision and replacement of the 2004 PA signed by DOE, SHPO, and the ACHP. Accordingly, an invitation to consult on this matter was sent to the PA signatories and concurring parties in August/September 2015.

All previous signatories including NNSA-SRSO, DOE-FPO, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, and the South Carolina Historic Preservation Office agreed to participate. The SRS Heritage Foundation and the Aiken County Historical Museum indicated interest in participation while the Citizens Advisory Board, Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, the City of Aiken and the City of New Ellenton declined. The City of Augusta expressed initial interest but did not participate in discussions.

A sub committee was formed in 2018 to identify new initiatives that best reflect the program's preservation and public outreach goals in demonstrating SRS' contribution to the Cold War. Parodio Maith, DOE, lead the committee which includes Elizabeth Johnson, the State Historic Preservation Officer; Christopher Wilson, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP); Eric Boyle DOE-FPO; Roxanne Jump, NNSA; Andrew Albenesius, SRNS; Mary Beth Reed and Melissa Hanson, New South Associates; Lauren Virgo, Executive Director, Aiken County Historical Museum; and Walt Joseph, Executive Director, SRS Heritage Foundation. Lauren Miller, the new SRS Museum director, joined the committee in 2019.

In 2018, Christopher Wilson of the ACHP advised the team to pursue tribal consultation for the PA revision. DOE's Ms. Avery Hammett supervised the consultation process which is Savannah River's first with the tribes. The Cold War Program worked as the lead in handling tribal consultation for this PA given its content. The Alabama-Quassarte Tribe, Alabama-Coushatta of Texas, Catawba Indian Nation, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, Kialegee Tribal Town, Miccosukee Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Shawnee Tribe, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma were invited to consult in 2018; and the Alabama-Quassarte, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Kialegee Tribal Town, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, expressed interest in consulting party status.

The draft PA was sent to the above referenced tribes with the invitation to consult in January/February 2018. By the close of 2018 follow up calls and emails identified the tribes that were interested in participating. In 2019 our efforts have been focused on getting the document out to those tribes that have expressed interest and getting their comments. Only the Muscogee (Creek Nation) offered comment but they elected not to sign the agreement.

The signature process began in March and was completed on July 24, 2020. We received high marks from the Advisory Council for our thorough follow through with the tribal consultation process and all signatories and stakeholders helped bring this endeavor to a successful conclusion despite the pandemic.

D. COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

The most significant compliance activity in the past year was the completion of the 2020 PA. The updated PA substantially changed DOE-SR's preservation and public outreach initiatives. It has a more robust preservation plank and a more fully developed public outreach component.

Important changes in the preservation plank included a move toward more defined preservation plans within the revised CRMP for significant properties that speak to the Site's Cold War legacy. DOE-SR will also explore the potential for the removal and preservation of C Reactor's control room panels and consoles in the Curation Facility, retaining their original configuration to the fullest extent possible for interpretation.

The 2020 PA also called for a more robust public outreach approach. DOE-SR prefers to meet its public outreach objectives off site rather than on site due to safety and security concerns. This led to their decision to return C Area to the decommissioning schedule and a pivot to the newly established SRS Museum established by the SRS Heritage Foundation in downtown Aiken as a potential venue for Site public outreach. It was essentially a win/win for both the agency and the young museum. DOE has continued to support the SRS Museum Executive Director position in 2020. It should be noted that the Program accomplished some of these public outreach objectives (see in blue) while the PA consultation process was in process:

- DOE and DOE-SR funded the development and installation of a professionally prepared permanent exhibit on SRS and its Cold War contribution to the state and nation's history at the SRS Museum. It opened successfully in December 2019. An exhibit concept plan was drafted for the Museum's north gallery in 2020 and funding was provided by the NNSA for its fabrication and installation in 2021
- The above has led to the establishment of protocols for artifact loans and inter museum collaboration, particularly with the Savannah River Archaeological Program and the Aiken County Historical Museum.
- A collaborative team involving Public Affairs, SRARP, and the Historic Preservation Program, developed a history-based, onsite tour that is offered to the public on an annual basis. A Heritage Trail was established with interpretive signs as well as street signs placed along a six-block area within the historic townsite of Ellenton.
- DOE-SR will continue to tell the story of SRS through exhibits at interested state and regional venues.
- DOE-SR will seek to partner with others to host and post images, artifacts, and documents on the Internet that will educate the public about SRS's history.



SOUTH GALLERY, 6000 STORIES, SRS MUSEUM

Preservation staff worked with SRNS to update FIMS, the DOE database for its facilities. The Program also completed a summary of preservation activities to be included in DOE's *Preserve America* Report prepared by DOE's FPO Eric Boyle.

E. STAFF TRAINING, CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Curator attended two webinar trainings on the ReDiscovery museum software used for the artifact database for the Curation Facility. Trainings provided by Rediscovery are offered periodically on different topics such as data entry and creating reports and inventory lists, giving general tips to work more efficiently.

In FY2020 the Curator attended the Georgia Archives Conference in Augusta, GA. The Curator and the SRS Museum Executive Director attended the Southeastern Museum Conference in Charleston, SC.

The curator's maternity leave and Covid-19 interfered with several usually attended conferences this FY including the PALMCOP Annual Meeting and the SC Federation of Museums conference. The Curator and Curatorial Assistant planned to attend the SC Preservation Conference. It was canceled due to Covid-19. The 2020 Southeastern Museum Conference was canceled but replaced with virtual sessions over the course of several days in September and October that the Curator attended as applicable.

The Curator and SRS Museum Executive Director were in attendance at the AMP Recharge Expo in October 2019. The Curator presented at the Dataw Island Community Center in November 2019 and virtually through a Zoom meeting to the

District 7770 Rotary Club in September 2020. Plans were originally made for the Curator to present at the University of South Carolina-Aiken's Lifelong Learning classes, but this has been postponed due to Covid-19.

The Curator currently serves as District 7 Representative on the PALMCOP (Palmetto Archives Libraries, Museum Council on Preservation) board.

The SRS Museum Director was able to attend multiple professional development opportunities including the Southeastern Museum Conference (SEMC) in October of 2019, and the South Carolina Federation of Museums conference in March of 2020. Ms. Miller was invited to be a part of the SEMC Programming Committee team for the 2020 conference and attended a planning meeting in March. While participating in the planning committee, Ms. Miller seized the opportunity to visit nearby DOE interpretive sites, Mound Cold War Discovery Center and Fernald Nature Preserve, and gained invaluable knowledge of additional DOE interpretive centers. Most recently, Ms. Miller has participated in the SEMC 2020 Conference, which has had virtual sessions due to Covid-19.



The SRS Museum Director conducted private museum tours for both DOE and NNSA; participated in the American Nuclear Society retirees event; took part in the USCA Lifelong Learning - History of SRS four-part series; and the SEMC Virtual Session: How Are Museums Dealing with Firearms and Open Carry Laws? She was also responsible for - Powering America: Honoring the Men and Women of the Nuclear Age (<https://www.poweringamericabook.com/>)

Josh Blackmon, one of the program's historians was planning to present at the Technology of Fusion Energy's (TOFE) conference in April 2020. His presentation was titled: *Preserving Power: The Savannah River Site's Plutonium-238 and the Space Race*. At NPS NCPTT Preserving the Race for Space. His abstract was accepted but the conference was postponed indefinitely due to Covid-19.

F. DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

DOE-SR works in partnership onsite with NNSA and with the SRS National Laboratory. Both organizations have been working in cooperation with the SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program and are partners in the development and expansion of public outreach at the SRS Museum. In particular, NNSA awarded 300K to the SRS Heritage Foundation in Summer of 2020 for a permanent exhibit to be installed in the north gallery in 2021-22 that explains tritium's role in the genesis of the site and its role today at the SRS.



CONCEPTUAL PLAN, NORTH GALLERY, SRS MUSEUM

Finally, this year we continued to work closely with the SRARP and the Aiken County Historical Museum.

PART TWO - CURATION UPDATE

A. CURATION

ARTIFACT COLLECTION

Approximately 15 artifacts have been collected this FY, including a large collection of documents from Donald Orth and a long-time coveted pipe crawler.

LOANS AND RESOURCE REQUESTS

An exhibit by the SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program has been on display in the training building on site, 766-H, since January 2020. The current topic is on the SRS railroads. This is to be a changing exhibit which has been delayed due to the Curator's maternity leave and Covid-19. A medical exhibit is planned for the fall.

The SRP license plate topper loan to the SRS museum was renewed for another year in July 2020.



The photography collection continues to be of great use. Throwback Thursdays, historic images shared on social media, have continued to be a success. These are shared on Facebook and Twitter through the Savannah River Site Communications group and the NNSA.

Photography and Video Services also continue to be a close partner with the Cold War Historic Preservation Program, and photography requests are fulfilled when possible. This FY requests have included safety photos for a sitewide safety campaign and photos for an LSIT group on site. The Cold War Program has also compiled a general collection of “stock” photos that the photography department can use as needed to fill some of the most commonly requested photos. The Cold War Historic Preservation Program is participating in a photographic exhibit at the Aiken Center for the Arts. Photographs of SRS’s displaced towns, part of an original exhibit displayed at the Augusta Library in FY18, are being used in this showing. After the display in Aiken, the photos are planned to be shown at the North Augusta Culture and Arts Center next FY.



DIGITIZATION

The historic photographic digitization project continues to be reviewed and improved based on the changes made in early 2019. A rescanning effort of images previously scanned was completed in February with approximately 10,500

images scanned from September 2019 until February 2020. This was important to ensure quality and archival value for the longevity of the project.

Between March 2020 and August 2020, 8064 images were scanned. Scanning did not take place between April 2, 2020, and June 2, 2020, during which the Curation Facility was closed due to COVID-19.

CONSERVATION

Carolina Conservation completed the stabilization, cleaning and digitization of a 1950 site selection map. The map was returned in a new storage folder in July 2020. Plans to use the digital images to create a large wall decal of the map for display at the Curation Facility is planned for the coming year.

Several building models were evaluated for conservation. These models are significant to the collection and have also been in consideration for display at the SRS Museum.

STORAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Two substantial phases of the continued effort to organize and improve Curation Facility storage space were completed in FY2020. All documents and binders in the collection have been inventoried, reboxed as needed, and new labels created. A reorganization of boxing documents in order of accession number has been completed to allow for easier access and future inventories. Second, all models from the artifact room have been moved to the document room. This has improved the visibility of the models and has created more storage options in the artifact room. Spacing in the document room will need to be addressed and the possible deaccessioning of models will be considered.

Work is in progress to establish more stable HVAC heating, cooling, and dehumidifying in the artifact storage space.

B. HERITAGE TOURISM AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

HERITAGE TOURISM MEETINGS

In FY 2020 meetings the Heritage Tourism group toured Ellenton in November 2019. A meeting planned for January was canceled due to family emergency of the scheduled host. All other quarterly meetings were canceled due to Covid-19.

TOURS

FY 2020 began with several tours for the Engineering Leadership Development Program (ELDP) and Start Your New Career (SYNC) SRNS new hires program. Additionally, two bus tours and eight groups of site employees toured the Curation Facility. Approximately 75 members of the public and over 300 site employees toured the facility between October 2019 and March 2020.

Beginning in March 2020, scheduled tours of the Curation Facility were canceled. At this time, tours are tentatively canceled throughout the remainder of 2020. Six bus tours were scheduled for the year 2020 in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the site. These have currently been canceled through September 2020. Tours had been planned for DOE Family Days but were canceled due to Covid-19.



CURATION FACILITY'S COLLABORATIONS WITH THE SRS MUSEUM

The Cold War Historic Preservation Program enlisted the help of several SRS employees to provide voice-overs reflecting the history of Ellenton and other pre-site towns, which have been used in the permanent SRS Museum 6,000 Stories exhibit. SRS Video Services filmed a short promotional video highlighting the 6000 Stories exhibit with dialogue from the Executive Director and the Curation Facility Curator. The video has been well received on social media and on site at Savannah River Site.

During the stay-at-home orders in South Carolina, the Curatorial Assistant offered support on a variety of ongoing projects at the Savannah River Site Museum: updated the rack card design and text; redesigned radiation exhibit panels & created instructor guides for kid-friendly educational radiation activities; helped revise text and design for North Wing exhibit panels; created a series of tailored tours of the SRS Museum for school field trips (5th & 8th grade Cold War history, 7th grade Ecology).

The Curatorial Assistant also devised a multi-modal Travel Trunk initiative that would act as a free resource for area schools. The trunk provides multiple avenues to incorporate SRS scientific missions and its history into SC classroom lessons with activities designed to align with the South Carolina standards of education for different grade levels. This project remains unfinished but might provide a good baseline for a future possible Traveling Trunk initiative.



LEARNING ABOUT THE SRS, SRS MUSEUM

PART THREE - SRS MUSEUM UPDATE/PUBLIC OUTREACH

Support of the SRS Museum has continued in FY2020 with the funding of the Museum Director's position.

A banner year kicked off for the Savannah River Site Museum after the October 2019 grand re-opening post installation of the Department of Energy-Legacy Management grant funded permanent exhibition, "6,000 Stories." Over the last year the Museum has strengthened community partnerships, developed a more prominent presence amongst the tourism industry in the CSRA, and added to its human resources in ways that led to incredible growth for the Museum.

Beginning in December of 2019, Museum Director, Lauren Miller, met with partners at New South Associates and Savannah River Site to present an outline for a two-year action plan that gave direction for the Museum's short-term goals. This plan served as guidance over the past year for the Museum and from it several accomplishments have been achieved. Some of these include continued increase in private tours, additional events, and steady, increased visitation.

During the past year, the Museum transcribed four years of visitation data to understand where the Museum started when it first opened its doors, how it evolved over time, and the immediate impact of the DOE-LM exhibit. Ms. Miller can confidently confirm that the DOE-LM exhibit had a significant impact on visitation and reputation. The SRS Museum saw a rapid and steady increase in visitation, approximately 35% per month before Covid-19, and witnessed firsthand a community who, for many visitors' first time, were discovering the global importance of SRS. Visitors recognize family members on the portrait wall, find gravesite data from the SRARP database, and often leave the Museum with fears about the Site dispelled. In this regard, the SRS Museum has provided a safe space to communicate truth, dispel myths, and reveal the reasons why it was necessary to create a place to safeguard the security of our country.

Since opening on a regular basis to the public in 2017, the Museum's visitation has consistently seen 65% visitors from Aiken County, 30% from tourists, and the remaining 5% visitation from people outside the Aiken County boundary but not quite 50-miles or more from the Museum. The CSRA has a natural interest in the SRS Museum as it offers a rare look behind the security fence at SRS. In this sense, the SRS Museum has been breaking down barriers of the public's perception of the Site while offering visitors an inside look at the importance of SRS to the community, to the Nation, and to the global perspective. Those visiting the Museum often remark that though they may have lived in the region their entire life, a trip to the Museum was the first time they understood both the work being done in the area, and the importance of it on a national scale. Local visitors have even expressed entering the Museum with a sense of fear about the work done at SRS and leaving with fears dispelled replaced, rather, with knowledge.

Among other local visitors, the SRS Museum hosts those who have personal ties to SRS, whether former employees, displaced residents, or family of the aforementioned. These visits often look like trips down memory lane for retirees, presenting future opportunities to utilize the Museum as therapy for aging adults. These visits also result in special moments where, for the first time, a former or current employee can share a glimpse of their work with their loved ones, and displaced residents have an opportunity to (virtually) return to the first home they knew.



Since September of 2019, the Museum has hosted 120 visitors through private tours, including groups from SRS AMP, QA, SRNL, and both the local NNSA and NNSA HQ. The Museum continues to be a valuable, relevant resource for visitors from SRS to quickly gain an understanding of the historical context of SRS' presence both physically in the CSRA and in the context of national nuclear security. Whether as a part of a private tour or visiting the SRS Museum as an individual on their own time, SRS employees mention an increased sense of pride in the work that they do after visiting the Museum. In addition to private tours, the Museum also increased its use of the facility for private events, thus further solidifying its presence in the community as a valuable resource. Before Covid-19 regulations limited the size and scope of private gatherings, the Museum hosted three private events in four months, including Citizens for Nuclear Technology and American Nuclear Society Retirees. These events offered an opportunity after hours for groups of 30-50 people to gather at the Museum, interact with the exhibits, and learn about the importance of SRS in our community.

Fortunately, as the Savannah River Site Museum strengthens local partnerships and continues to make a name for itself within the community, it has had the opportunity to add to its human resources. This past year the Museum began working with a graduate student intern from Georgia Southern, and, as of September 2020, added a part-time front desk associate. This addition of valuable human resources to the Museum's staff have enabled the Museum to enhance its Social Media marketing output and curate several additional temporary exhibits for the Museum. In the past year, the Museum has installed updated, temporary interpretive panels in the North Wing to better tell the early history of SRP in a self-guided way. Updated interpretive panels have also been written for the Radiation Exhibit and a temporary exhibit on the cultural history of Savannah River Plant. In remembrance of the 70th anniversary of the announcement of the Site's arrival and

subsequent displacement of communities, the SRS Museum will also host its first digital exhibit on both its social media platforms and website, presently developed, but to be launched on November 28th, 2020.

Other notable Museum achievements include partnering with the University of South Carolina Aiken Campus Lifelong Learning program to teach a lecture series, receiving the Historic Aiken Foundation's Adaptive Use Award for the repurposing of the old Dibble Memorial Library into a Museum, and undergoing an initial analysis of the Museum's historic clamshell with plans of restoration. This initial analysis revealed the level of the clamshell's deterioration and presented security concerns. In response, the Museum partnered with a historic preservation team out of Charleston to provide a temporary support structure for the clamshell. This structure will provide safety for guests to the Museum and the clamshell itself while additional funding is raised to move forward with the preservation project.

One of the greatest challenges this past year has been learning to navigate the continued advancement of the Museum amidst a global pandemic. On March 13th, the Museum closed its doors to the public and would not reopen until Mid-June. Although this has been a time of great uncertainty and fear for the world, Ms. Miller took the opportunity to quickly develop a list of work that could be achieved remotely, outlined safety concerns, created re-opening procedures, and successfully navigated re-opening the Museum with advanced safety procedures in place. With the Museum's mission and two-year action plan in mind, Ms. Miller viewed this time of uncertainty as an opportunity to make incredible headway on its progress. Through a partnership with Derek Berry from the Curation Facility, the Museum was able to significantly advance its public programming standing. Together, Derek and Lauren researched local state standards and wrote drafted curriculum for multiple grade levels. Beginning in October, the Museum will be near completely returned to per-pandemic operating hours.



NNSA, SC CONGRESSMAN JOE WILSON AND GA REPRESENTATIVE RICK ALLEN WITH WALT JOSEPH ON TOUR AT SRS MUSEUM

PART FOUR - FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

COMPLIANCE

The Program Historian will complete the final Thematic Study and submit it to DOE along with the revised CRMP.

A reconnaissance survey of historic properties will be completed to keep inventory up to date.

We will start researching an Environmental Cleanup context.

We will continue to look more fully at adaptive reuse of SRS' historic properties, creating awareness of Section 111. DOE-SR sees a potential opportunity in adaptive reuse specifically for historic properties used administratively and can explore that possibility.

Finally, we will pursue training opportunities on an annual basis to keep staff up to date for safety, security, and professional certifications.

CURATION

In the next FY, the Curation Facility staff will continue seeking training and conference opportunities. While conferences in the immediate future may be postponed, many museums and other groups have been providing virtual outreach.

There are plans to create a new changing exhibit for the 766-H building, and this may potentially be used offsite in the future as well. Work will continue in collaboration with the SRS Museum to provide exhibit content and artifacts and create a public outreach and school group opportunities.

Next steps with the photographic digitization project include continuing to scan the collection, working on uniformity of search terms to make the collection as user friendly as possible, and finding ways to share the collection with the public.

Artifact collection and improving storage will continue to be a priority. The Curation Facility will also pursue conservation of several building models in the collection.

As the pandemic lifts, the Cold War Historic Preservation Program looks forward to returning to the regular quarterly HPAT and Heritage Tourism meetings, and also at rescheduling tours of the Curation Facility.

SRS MUSEUM

As the Museum moves into its next year, the Director will focus efforts on achieving three goals to realize its two-year action plan: implementing exhibit updates for a fully self-guided experience, delivering developed education content to the local school system, and increasing tourist attendance through targeted marketing.

The Museum will install professional updates to exhibits in the North Wing through a partnership with Tritium, and updates to the Radiation exhibit through the talent of New South Associates. Through the completion of both exhibit updates, the Museum can provide a fully self-guided experience for visitors.

The Museum should also capitalize on its developed curriculum by providing outreach education to the local school systems.

The Museum can increase tourist attendance through distribution of a developed rack card throughout the state of South Carolina, continuing to strengthen its partnerships with local tourist advocates, and developing a relationship with Bella Magazine, which now has statewide distribution.

With sustained support from established partners, a growing team of talented professionals, clearly established goals, and continued interest from the community in the SRSB, this upcoming year stands to be another successful one.

SOURCES USED

U.S. Department of Energy Policy 141.1, Management of Cultural Resources, 5-2-01

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended through 2000.

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America (2003)

Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR Part 800), as amended through 2004

Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections (36 CFR Part 79)