

Savannah River Site (SRS)

# **COLD WAR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT**

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023



**DECEMBER 2023**

Prepared by:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
Savannah River Operations Office (SROO)

Cover Image: Hawthorne Fire Lookout Tower, Located in the Northeast Section of SRS and Constructed in 1963

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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 November 30, 2022, through November 30, 2023.

## Natural Sources of Radiation

### Cosmic Radiation

Radiation from space! Our sun and other stars constantly send out high energy particles to the Earth's atmosphere. The earth's magnetic field protects us mostly from this constant stream while the earth's atmosphere shields us from remaining radiation.

### Earth

Rocks and soil possess radioactivity depending on what minerals they contain. Rocks with high concentrations of uranium, thorium, and potassium have relatively high natural radioactivity. Their amount of radioactivity reflects the "genetics" of their parent rocks.

### Food We Eat

Bananas and Brazil nuts possess a small amount of naturally occurring radioactive elements. No worries – even if you ate 100 bananas at a banana eating contest you would only get the exposure you receive daily from natural radiation in the environment.

### Plants and Trees

Radioactive substances get into plants through the soil and then into the food chain. Brazil nut trees, for example, have an extensive root system that gives the tree more access to radioactive soils.

Brazil Nut Tree

Brazil Nut

### Water

Small traces of radioactivity are found in all drinking water. How much varies from the composition of the soil and rock strata through which the raw water has passed.

### Our Bodies

Our bodies are naturally radioactive, because we eat, drink, and breathe radioactive substances that are present in the environment. These substances are absorbed by our bodies into our tissues, organs and bones and are constantly replenished by eating and breathing.

**Where is Radiation?**  
Everywhere.

### Air

On average a person in the United States inhales enough radioactive materials to cause a radiation dose of 2.28 mrem per year. About 73% of a persons' yearly exposure to natural sources of radioactive material comes from breathing.



Introducing Roddy, a Uranium Slug, as Museum Mascot



George Wingard (Savannah River Archaeological Research Program) and Melissa Hanson (SRS Curator) lead a public history tour.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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. An update of the CRMP has been completed and submitted to DOE in November 2023.

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 2023 is the eighteenth report.

## PROGRAM STAFF

The program's leadership and staff changed in 2022-2023. Andy Horcher now serves as the current DOE Program Manager and Susan Ferrara is the SRNS Manager for the Cold War Historic Preservation Program. Mary Beth Reed and Josh Blackmon continue to serve as Historians and Melissa Hanson continues to serve as part-time Curator at the Curation Facility.

Staff changes at the Museum, however, compelled job searches for a new Director and Education Specialist. SRS Museum Director Kelly Brown's departure allowed Cold War Curator Linda Smith Lindler to



assume the role of Museum Director. This created an opening for a full-time Curator at the Curation Facility and Erin Anderson was hired in October 2023 to fill the position. Nate Price was hired in January 2023 as a Curatorial Assistant to focus on digitizing the historic negatives at the Curation Facility.

Education Specialist Evelyn Berry resigned from her position at the Museum as Educa-

tion Specialist and Educator Kelly Galvarino came on board part-time in a job-share position with Ruth Patrick Science Center. Chesler Mathis, a History major at USC Aiken, was hired part-time to help maintain Museum operations. Responding to these staff changes was a major endeavor for program management this year. At this writing, we are fully and cohesively staffed.



(L to R) Melissa Hanson, Mary Beth Reed, Susan Ferrara, Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker, and Linda Lindler.



# PART I - 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, 14, 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, including annual reporting, heritage tourism meetings, establishing partnerships, identification of core historic materials, and establishing a permanent record, which are core to the program. The move toward an onsite interpretation center has ended, as the SRS Heritage Foundation has focused its

interpretation efforts at the SRS Museum, the Aiken County-owned Dibble Memorial Library Building on Laurens Street in Aiken, SC.

## 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. This stipulation required

Status: Completed

Document	Overall Status as of October 31, 2023
Tritium Extraction Thematic Study	<b>Complete</b> Sept 2005 (classified and archived at SRS)
Fuel and target fabrication study (M Area)	<b>Complete</b>
Pilot plants/ research and development (T Area)	<b>Complete</b>
777-10A reactor test facility HAER Study	<b>Complete</b> (delivered to the National Archives)
Administration/support/safety/security (A Area)	<b>Complete</b>
Heavy water production study (D Area)	<b>Complete</b>
Reactor operations thematic study (R, P, L, K and C Areas)	<b>Complete</b>
Infrastructure thematic study	<b>Complete</b>
Chemical Separations thematic study (F and H Area)	<b>Complete</b>
Research and development thematic study (SRNL)	<b>Complete</b>

nine thematic studies and one Historic American Engineering Study.

### 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:** DOE Headquarters’ complex-wide program for the designation of Cold War “Signature Facilities” is no longer in place. We will remove this goal from our annual reporting this year.

### 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 site-wide 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:** Ongoing. These meetings have been held on a quarterly basis and are now considered a core component of the program. The Cold War Curator organizes the meetings, selects the locations, issues invitations, and creates minutes. The attendees are from a wide cross-section of the CSRA museum community and professionals from major libraries, arts centers, and heritage tourism programs. Participation increased with representatives from Aiken, SC, Augusta, GA, Barnwell, SC, et. See Curation Public Outreach Section II.B.

### 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 referenced above will follow the approved decommissioning process at SRS and are not on a path toward preservation.

Consequently, this goal will be removed from our annual reporting this year.

### 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 Programmatic Agreement (PA, see Section C) to incorporate that change and the end of the pandemic, the CRMP was revised, and the draft submitted to DOE at the close of 2023.

### LTG-14. IDENTIFY FUTURE SRS CONTEXTS

**Goal:** Research SRS significant programs 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 has started the development of a context for the SRS environmental mission and clean up and will provide a NRHP evaluation for the Defense Waste Processing Facility. Historian Josh Blackmon will lead this effort

beginning with oral history interviews this winter and spring. We will be working with knowledgeable retirees to identify knowledgeable individuals.

## C. REVISED PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT

DOE 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 warranted 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. The PA revision was completed in July of 2020.

## D. COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

### INVENTORY, DOCUMENTATION, VIDEO, F-AREA LAYDOWN YARD, ONGOING

The F-Area Laydown Yard, an outdoor area for storage of spare equipment, is located within F-Area. The potential significance of the objects within the laydown yard was brought to the attention of the Cold War Program staff for preservation and their educational value as none are contaminated.

The F-Area Laydown yard is a long rectangular area approximately 2 acres in size. It stores large-scale spare equipment for F-Area Operations akin to an outdoor warehouse. This includes a variety of large mixer and settler tanks, continuous evaporators, resin columns, various pipes, and connectors. Equipment currently stored in the Laydown Yard will be removed and the yard will be repurposed for the new Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) at building 226-F to the northeast. The transfer of primary authority and management of the SRS from the Department of Energy Environmental Management (DOE-EM) to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is underway and scheduled to be complete in 2025. The reuse of the F-Area Laydown Yard for the SRPPF is a result of this transfer as F-Area is prepared for the mission of providing plutonium for the NNSA.

The Laydown Yard was not part of the initial cultural resources survey and not assigned a State Survey Number. However, due to its association with F-Area, it can be considered a contributing resource to the SRS Cold War National Register Historic District under the chemical separations and waste management themes. It possesses significance but is not considered individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Staff conducted two field visits led by on-site subject matter experts (SME) who provided comment and recommendations on historically significant equipment in the yard. Documentation photography and a

video of the SME's discussing the various equipment types were completed as part of the planning process. Curation staff and SME's are currently working on a list of objects that could be removed from the Laydown Yard and installed at 315-M in an outdoor exhibit for the interpretation of the separations processes.

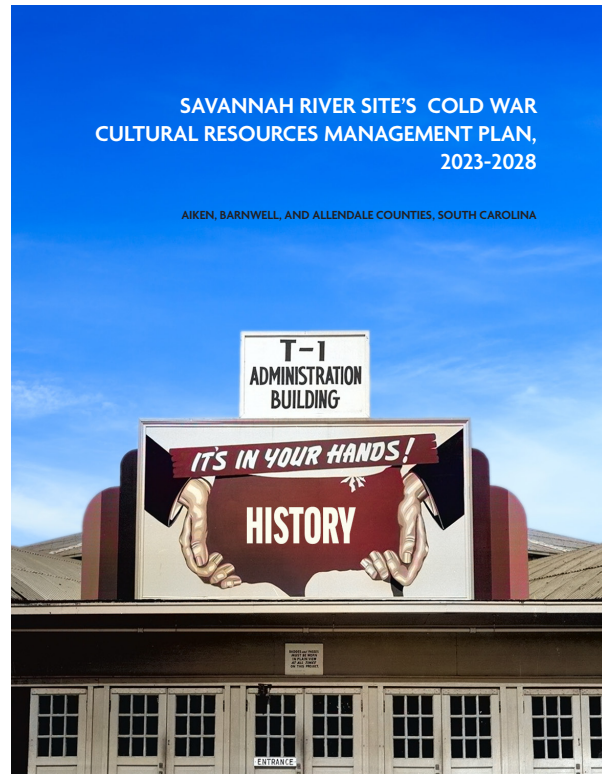
### **SURVEY AND EVALUATION, FIRE TOWERS, 627-G, 627-2G, AND 627-G**

During the Cold War, the primary mission of Fire Towers 627-G, 627-2G, and 627-G was to aid the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR) in fire detection on the large reserves of forested land at SRS. Because fire towers were used in conjunction to triangulate the location of fires, the towers at SRS were also part of a larger fire tower network that served as lookouts across the state of South Carolina. The SRS examples were active through much of the Cold War period and were in regular use until the early 1990s when fire detection prevention strategies changed throughout the US Forest Service.

Fire Towers 627-G, 627-2G, and 627-G3 are newly identified resources not previously surveyed for the Cold War inventory completed in 1998. They share isolated locations and are approximately 10 miles from each other in a rough triangle formation (see Location Map). Tower 627-G, the Dunbarton Tower, predates the Site by about 13 years, the other towers acquired and were put in place in 1963 by the AEC/USFS-SR.



The fire towers were field surveyed, researched, and evaluated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A Notification to be submitted to SHPO was compiled. As a result, Fire Towers 627-G, 627-2G, and 627-G3 are recommended eligible, under Criterion A for conservation at the state level. One (627-G) was part of the South Carolina State Forestry Commission's early fire tower network that was absorbed into the SRS infrastructure in the early 1950s. They all played an important role in the management of forestry resources at the SRS during the Cold War as a preventative tool protecting the Site's heavy investment in new pine plantations that would provide physical and visual security for the new site and later as protection for its mature timber resources. The towers are located within the NRHP-eligible SRS Cold War Historic District but are considered non-contributing as they do not possess significance as Cold War resources due to their minor support role to the Site's Cold War production mission. Their significance is better captured under conservation highlighting the important part they played in twentieth-century forest management technology. They are also recommended eligible under Criterion C for engineering at the state level. They represent intact examples of historic fire lookout towers, a specialized structure type, that embody distinctive characteristics of their type, period, and method of construction.



CRMP Cover

## CRMP UPDATE

A full update of the CRMP was completed this year and submitted for review. As DOE has relaxed its structured approach to such plans, preferring that sites tailor their plans to their individual resource inventories, our submittal is specific to SRS.

## PRESERVATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Building 703-A was selected as a candidate for an individual preservation plan as suggested in the revised CRMP for significant properties that speak to the Site's Cold War legacy. The 703-A Preservation Plan will be developed in 2024.

## **C REACTOR CONTROL ROOM PANELS**

Preliminary planning for the removal and preservation of C Reactor's control room panels and consoles in the Curation Facility continues.

## **ANNUAL COMPLIANCE DUTY- FIMS**

Preservation staff work annually with SRNS to update FIMS, the DOE database for its facilities.

## **OTHER COMPLIANCE ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Outreach at Museum**

The 2020 PA called for a more robust public outreach approach. DOE-SR prefers to meet its public outreach objectives offsite rather than onsite 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 venue for Site public outreach. It was essentially a win/win for both the agency and the young Museum. DOE-SR continues to support the SRS Museum Executive Director, Education Specialist and intern positions in 2023.

The two permanent exhibits in the front galleries continued to attract visitors. Exhibit development in 2023 focused on radiation. A radiation exhibit funded by the Savannah River National Laboratory was developed along with a Geiger counter

interactive device created by Laboratory volunteers. In addition, a companion exhibit on fallout shelters was developed. The exhibits located in the annex opened successfully in November.

### **Historic Townsite Tours**

A collaborative team involving Public Affairs, SRARP, and the Historic Preservation Program, restarted a history-based onsite tour that was offered to the public prior to the pandemic. 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 as well as an interpretive panel, at the historic town site of Dunbarton.

Eight bus tours were given in 2023. All tours included a visit to the 315-M Curation Facility and drive around C reactor. The spring tours included a visit to Dunbarton. The fall tours incorporated the signs installed in Ellenton with a walk down Ellenton's Main Street.

These tours were well received with a total of approximately 320 visitors through the year. Eight tours, in addition to two Ellenton Trail walking tours, are scheduled for 2024.

# SRS PUBLIC HISTORY TOURS

*Here's what guests are saying...*

## Spring 2023

"Every aspect of the tour was great. The information that was given was very interesting."

"The tour guides – very professional. Excellent communicators. Also, excellent organization. Very well done."

"The entire tour was very interesting. Especially enjoyed the curation facility."

## Fall 2023

Tour was very informative. All tour personnel very knowledgeable. Enjoyed!

Very well done and interesting since I was employed at the site 1981- 1988. Enjoyed the history!

You three are wonderful! Great info loved the stories. You made it interesting and relevant. Thank you so much for running these tours. So valuable to the community.

Tour guides were fabulous – funny and very informative. Great tour!





## E. PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

### PRESENTATIONS

Cold War Historian Mary Beth Reed presented *Capturing History: The Legacy of Savannah River Plant's Early Photographers* at the CNTA Up and Atom Breakfast, Aiken, December 2022 and at the Aiken County Historical Society, February 5, 2023.

Cold War Historian Josh Blackmon presented *Preserving Power: The Savannah River Site's Plutonium-238 and the Space*

*Race at the Preserving the Race for Space: Small Steps and Giant Leaps 2023* hosted by NCPTT in June at Cape Canaveral.

Mary Beth Reed provided an update on the program to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board on March 14.

SRS Cold War Curator Melissa Hanson presented to the Beech Island Agricultural Club in June 2023.

SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program Manager Susie Ferrara introduced the Program to the following:

Aiken Kiwanis Club, January 26;  
Aiken Senior Men's Club, March 21;  
Aiken Town and Country Club, April 6;



## CAPTURING HISTORY:

THE LEGACY OF  
SAVANNAH RIVER'S  
EARLY  
PHOTOGRAPHERS  
(1950-1955)

CAB Presentation  
New South Associates  
March 15, 2023



SRS Speakers Series (Facilitator), May 6;  
SRPPF Mentoring Circle, May 11;  
SRNS SYNC (new hires), May 17;  
SRNS LIFT (Leaders Inspiring for Tomorrow)  
employees, May 31;  
Augusta Kiwanis Club, September 18;  
Cedar Creek Women's Club, October  
18; and SRNS Engineering Leadership  
Development Pipeline employees:  
6/15,7/20, 8/17, 9/21,10/26.

Lifelong Learning Academy: The University  
of South Carolina – Aiken invited the  
Cold War Historic Preservation Program  
to teach a four-session Lifelong Learning  
Academy class in September 2023.  
Mary Beth Reed presented on SRS's  
photographic collection. Josh Blackmon

discussed building models in the Cold  
War Collection. Melissa Hanson and Linda  
Lindler presented two sessions. One  
focused on the history as seen through  
documents in the Cold War Collection.  
The other session, "Curator for the Day",  
allowed the class to try cataloging and  
identify artifacts. The class was successful  
and we have been asked back for the fall  
session 2024.

The SRS Cold War Curation Facility  
participated in the inaugural SRS Museum  
Fall Fission Festival. Newly hired Curator  
Erin Anderson helped with the costume  
contest, and Melissa Hanson and Nate Price  
had a table with an Oobleck activity and  
candy.



SRS Curation Table at the SRS Museum during the inaugural Fall Fission Festival in downtown Aiken, SC

## CONFERENCES

Historian Josh Blackmon attended the ***Preserving the Race for Space: Small Steps and Giant Leaps 2023*** hosted by NCPTT in June at Cape Canaveral.

SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program Manager Susie Ferrara and SRS Curators, Linda Lindler and Melissa Hanson, attended the ***SC Historic Preservation Conference*** in April 2023.

SRS Museum Director Linda Lindler, Education Specialist Kelly Galvarino and SRS Curator Melissa Hanson attended the ***South Carolina Federation of Museums (SCFM) Conference*** in Lexington, SC, in September 2023. Linda Lindler is also currently serving as the SCFM Secretary.

Linda Lindler and Kelly Galvarino also attended the ***Southeaster Museums Conference*** in Louisville, Kentucky in November 2023.

## SAFETY PLAN

A comprehensive Health and Safety Plan was updated for the SRS Museum, including what to do in the event of an emergency, who should be notified, and emergency contacts for staff and volunteers.

The draft of a museum disaster plan addressing flooding and fire emergencies was started in 2023 after the attendance of a Disaster Preparedness training.

## TRAINING

In June 2023, Melissa Hanson attended a Museum Disaster Training Workshop presented by the Augusta Museum of History. This has helped in drafting a Disaster Plan for both the Curation Facility and SRS Museum.

Additionally, Melissa Hanson attended an online special topics training provided by the Curation Facility's museum software, ReDiscovery. Curator Erin Anderson has also taken the ReDiscovery Basics Training to learn more about the software's capabilities.

All completed SRS CAT training and Safeguards and Security training.

Linda Lindler, Kelly Galvarino, Nate Price, Melissa Hanson, Erin Anderson, Mary Beth Reed, and Josh Blackmon attended a training session on Section 106 and the National Historic Preservation Act on December 7th presented by Dr. Bryan Tucker, former GA SHPO.

## F. DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

DOE-SR continues to work 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. The 2023 Savannah River National Laboratory Radiation Exhibit is a prime example of our





SRS Curation Staff attended a Disaster Training Workshop sponsored by the Augusta Museum of History

partnership with SRL and NNSA. Also, the SRS Heritage Foundation has established a strong partnership with USC-Aiken History Department that has led to successful intern candidates and may lead to a more formalized internship program. Finally, the SRS Museum and the Curation Facility work cooperatively with the Aiken County Historical Museum on event planning and the County provides funding for a 10-hour-a-week position for the Museum.

## PART II - CURATION UPDATE

### A. CURATION

#### ARTIFACT COLLECTION

Among 1100 items collected in 2023 were many DuPont Plant Histories, commemorative awards from the President's Office, and tritium specific artifacts originally identified in 2017 during a 238-H walkdown. These items have been cataloged into the ReDiscovery database and total 330 entries.

Steps continue to be made to streamline the catalog process, making object entries

more consistent and the ReDiscovery database easier to maneuver.

## **LOANS AND RESOURCE REQUESTS**

In 2022, artifacts were loaned to the National Atomic Testing Museum located in Paradise, Nevada for an exhibit on environmental management. This loan is set to be extended through 2024 and beyond.

The items loaned to the SRS Museum's Defense, Deterrence, & Discovery exhibit have been renewed. The license plate topper loan for the 6000 Stories exhibit has been renewed with two display items added: a postmarked Last Day of Ellenton envelope with letter and a plat map of the Crosland Park neighborhood.

The Atomic Energy Commission exhibit, originally created for the changing exhibit at 766-H, was placed on display temporarily at the SRS Museum in September 2023

## **DIGITIZATION**

An exciting step in continuing the historic photographic digitization project came with the hiring of a new full-time staff member, Nate Price. Nate came on board in January 2023. He has been focused on scanning, learning the photograph collection, and has processed 3,300 photographs since his start.

## **ONSITE VISIBILITY**

A changing exhibit by the SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program has been on display in the SRS training facility at 766-H. An exhibit featuring the golf tradition at Savannah River Plant was installed in May 2023. An internal sitewide news article was featured in April to correspond with the local Masters golf tournament and to request related artifacts. The Curation Facility hopes to partner with the USDA Forest Service next year to display a grouping of artifacts.

The Cold War Historic Preservation website continues to be active, undergoing minor updates for longevity. A monthly blog, written by Nate Price, will feature photographic highlights as he continues to digitize the collection.

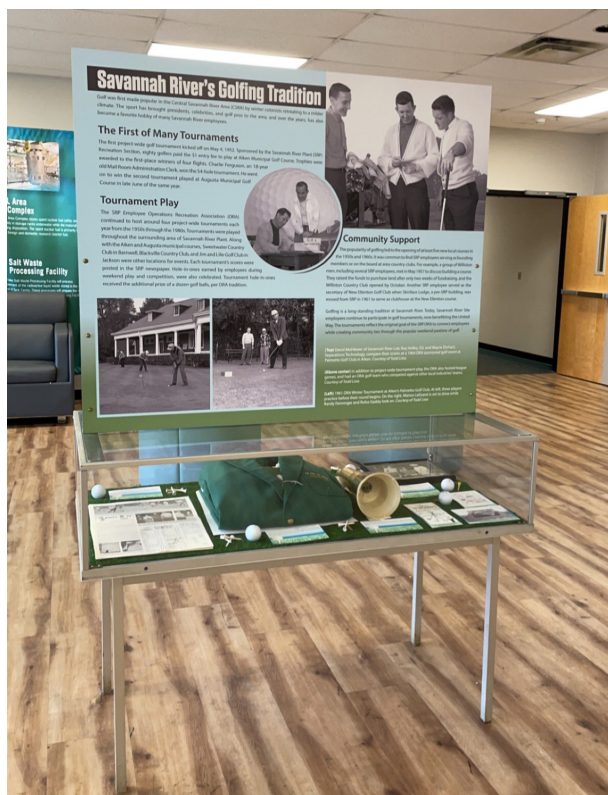
In October 2023, an SRNS Now feature was filmed and created by SRNS Video Services. The video highlighted work being done at the Curation Facility with a teaser for a second video to focus on the SRS Museum. This will help show work being done at both facilities and how they work together.

Throwback Thursdays continue to be popular. Images and captions are shared with SRNS Communications and are featured on the SRS Facebook page. Nate Price has also begun creating cutlines for interesting photos, and these have been shared on the SRS Site Services *News You Can Use* weekly newsletter.





Postmarked "Last Day of Ellenton" Envelope and Plat Map of the Crosland Park Neighborhood now on display at the SRS Museum



Golf Exhibit at 766-H Facility at SRS

## FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The installation of Wi-Fi at the 315-M Curation Facility in March 2023 has greatly increased productivity.

Several leaks have been identified, including one over the PA system, which was repaired. Roof skylights were sealed and upgrades to the roof are being evaluated.

Since the upgrades of the HVAC system last year, the Curation Facility staff has begun to use electronic data loggers to monitor the humidity and temperature in the artifact room, document room, and hall.

Plans are underway to update the fabric timeline in the hallway at 315-M. The timeline currently stops at 2012. This update will bring the timeline to present in preparation for the 75th Anniversary.

## B. HERITAGE TOURISM AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

### HERITAGE TOURISM MEETINGS

The first quarter HPAT and Heritage Tourism meetings were held at the North Augusta Arts and Heritage Center. The Center for African American History, Art & Culture hosted the second quarter meeting in May 2023. Juanita Campbell, Director of The Center, provided a great tour for the group. The third quarter meeting was well attended and hosted by the Aiken County Historical Museum in August 2023. The final meeting of 2023 was held at the Augusta Veterans Curation Program at Enterprise Mill. All meetings continue to have great discussion and are a highlight of the program.

### CURATION FACILITY TOURS

Public bus tours continue to be the primary visitation to the Curation Facility. In 2023 there were limited tour groups who visited 315-M. These groups included IMPACT and Leadership team in February, the U.S. Corps of Engineers Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections in April, Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker in May, and Atomic Weapons Alliance from Great Britain in November 2023.



HPAT meeting at the Center for African American History, Art and Culture in Aiken, pictured from left to right are Melissa Hanson (Curator, SRS Curation Facility), Ransom Schwerzler (Director, Historic Meadow Garden), Andrew Albenesius (SRS Heritage Foundation-Chair, BOD), Juanita Campbell (Executive Director, Center for African American History, Art & Culture), and Linda Lindler (Director, SRS Museum).



HPAT Meeting at the Aiken County Historical Museum.





Boarding the Bus for a Public History Site Tour



New SRS Museum Director, Linda Lindler, and Cold War Curator, Melissa Hanson, present Savannah River at Fifty to Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker

## PART III - SRS MUSEUM UPDATE/PUBLIC OUTREACH

2023 has been an exciting year for the SRS Museum featuring new faces, new exhibits, and new events. SRSM annual visitation numbers for FY2023 totaled 3,269, surpassing FY2022 totals of 1,672. FY2024 numbers promise to reach new heights with visitation numbers continuing to trend upward.

In June 2023, Linda Lindler came on board to serve as the SRS Museum's Director. Previously a curator at SRS's Curation Facility, Linda hit the ground running with new ideas for events to facilitate an increase in community engagement. Kelly Galvarino joined the SRSM staff as the Education Specialist. In addition to revamping ongoing educational programming at the SRSM, Kelly also

teaches classes at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. Chesler Mathis, a University of South Carolina Aiken History major, returned to the SRSM as a Curatorial Assistant working 25 hours a week. Simon Berry, also a USCA History major completes the staff as an Aiken County employee/intern, working 10 hours a week. Volunteer hours totaled over 600 hours for the year, assisting staff with front desk coverage and tours.

Throughout the year, the Museum continued to develop its marketing strategies. The Museum website was refreshed and updated to include new events and photographs, with site sessions up nearly 30% over last year. The quarterly e-newsletter continued, nearly doubling its reach. Social media campaigns continue successfully on both Instagram and Facebook. SRSM rack cards continue to be featured in local tourism partners and state welcome centers. SRSM staff participated in various networking events including Aiken Chamber Women in Business Luncheon, Aiken Chamber Business After Hours, Aiken Tourism Partners, and the SRS Heritage Partners Tourism meetings.

An exhibit entitled, "Where is Radiation?," sponsored by Savannah River National Laboratory opened in late November to rave reviews in onsite publications and in the Aiken community. The exhibit features an interactive Geiger counter (built by SRNL volunteers) and a touchscreen with information on radiation and videos that highlight SRNL and its employees. The SRSM staff also refurbished the Cold War

Fallout Shelter exhibit for a simultaneous launch with the new radiation exhibit. An AEC to DOE exhibit was added to the Site Culture Gallery along with a small SRS Cafeteria display, both featuring SRSM and Curation Facility artifacts on loan. New artifacts, also on loan from Curation, were added to the 6000 stories exhibit including a letter postmarked on the final day of operation of Ellenton Post Office. A small exhibit highlighting the contributions of the SRS Medical program completes the exhibit updates for 2023.

The new staff immediately implemented updates to successful programming. The first update was to the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center's STEM Forward Careers Exploration Camp. Kelly Galvarino brought in Site professionals from IT, SRNL, US Forest Service, SRARP, and SRSM to present students with a variety of professional careers available at SRS. Kelly also quickly pursued and completed Boy Scout training for the Nuclear Merit Badge program. Additional hands-on experiments and industry experts were added by Galvarino to enhance the scouts' experiences. The scout program is offered quarterly and regularly has a waitlist of participants. Linda Lindler and Ches Mathis presented two interactive science-based activities created by Galvarino at the 37th annual SEED festival hosted at USC Aiken reaching 3000 attendees. Through combined team efforts, 2023 outreach numbers topped 4800 this calendar year.

A new event added to the Museum calendar by Lindler, saw tremendous community engagement. The Fall

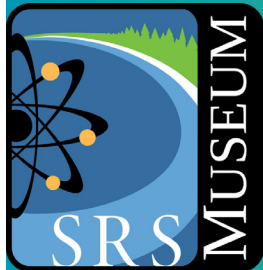




Images from the new "Where is Radiation?" (above) and Fallout Shelter (below) exhibits at the SRS Museum







Nuclear Merit Badge Day  
at the

***SRS Museum***

**“Where History and Science Collide!”**







Student Career Workshop with representatives from SRNS, USDA Forest Service, SRARP, and SRSM

Fission Festival, a Nuclear Science Week celebration, included “mad-scientist” experiments by Galvarino and a volunteer along with costume and coloring contests. SRS staff along with a host of volunteers and six sponsors offered candy, spooky music and 13 exhibitor tables from various Site and community partners with science-based activities. The inaugural event saw over 650 attendees.

With sustained support from established partners, a growing team of talented professionals, clearly established goals, and continued interest in the SRS from the community, 2024 stands to be another successful year.

The SRS Heritage Foundation has agreed to take ownership of the growing artifact collection in support of the Museum. Through a previous agreement, the Aiken County Historical Museum has maintained ownership of the SRS Museum artifact collection, however in May 2022, a mutual agreement was reached between the Aiken County Historical Museum and the SRS Heritage Foundation to transfer ownership of the collection to the SRS Heritage Foundation. The SRS Museum Director can now directly accept relevant artifacts on behalf of the Heritage Foundation rather than having the acquisition go through the Aiken County Historical Museum. Artifact loans can also be tendered directly between the Museum and involved parties. With the help of the Aiken County Historical Museum Collections Manager, as well as the SRS Curation Facility staff, the SRS Museum Director was able to establish an inventory of all artifacts currently stored

or on display within the building, which has allowed for a better understanding of responsibility and collection needs.

## PART IV - FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

### COMPLIANCE

Research for the Environmental Mission context will continue, and oral history interviews will be completed by May 2024.

SRS Historians will develop a preservation plan for individually eligible Building 703-A, the Main Administration Building using the General Services Administration’s methodology for building preservation plans.

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.

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

Staff will work cooperatively with incoming landlord, NNSA, as the Site transitions from EM to NNSA’s responsibility.

## CURATION

In the next FY, the Curation Facility staff will continue seeking training and conference opportunities.

Planning will begin for the next exhibit in the 766-H building.

Work will continue in collaboration with the SRS Museum to provide exhibit content and artifacts and create a public outreach and school group opportunities.

The photographic digitization project will continue the use of consistent standards and metadata to make the collection user friendly with the consideration of adding interns to assist.

The Curation staff will work more closely with Site Archives and Records management. The Curation staff will also work to improve the Curation Facility's archive database and storage. Artifact collection and improving storage will continue to be a priority. Curators will begin a complete, multi-year, artifact inventory and database update. The Curation Facility will also pursue conservation of several building models in the collection.

Curation staff will continue film preservation discussions to include meetings with the Moving Image Research Collection Curator at USC.

The Cold War Historic Preservation Program looks forward to hosting a few

upcoming events in FY23 include the quarterly HPAT and Heritage Tourism meetings and historic bus tours. A bi-annual SRS Retiree Association tour planned for 2023 was postponed with staffing changes. The Curation staff hopes to bring this group back in 2024.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

### SRS 75TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

We anticipate providing strong support in 2024 to the upcoming anniversary celebration in late November 2025. We are currently planning a two-venue exhibit (SRS Museum and Curation Facility) based on 75 iconic artifacts that tell the story of the SRS. A companion exhibit catalog will be created. There is interest in SRS family tours on Site and we are predicting 315-M will be on the tour agenda. In addition, we are developing content for a booklet that celebrates the wide array of people of SRS and their contributions both to the Site and their new community.

Finally, the SRARP and the Cold War Program are collaborating in a session on the 75th Anniversary history of the SRS at the SC State Conference in April.

### SRS MUSEUM

As the Museum moves into 2024, the Director will focus efforts on achieving four goals to realize its two-year action plan: providing safe storage for the growing artifact collection, 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 SRSM to maintain and grow its artifact inventory will create a safe and secure artifact storage enclosure on the Museum's second floor.

The Museum will continue to capitalize on its developed curriculum by providing outreach education to the local school systems and hosting Museum tours. We are contemplating establishing seasonal science camps next year.

## 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)

