

April 2005

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(Board members who also are officers are listed on Page 2)



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ACRA's Mission

Our mission is to promote the professional, ethical, and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association by:

- promoting and supporting the business needs of cultural resources practitioners;
- promoting professionalism in the cultural resources industry;
- promoting and providing educational and training opportunities for the cultural resources industry; and
- promoting public awareness of cultural resources and its diverse fields.

A basic tenet of ACRA's philosophy is the cost efficiency of private-sector firms in meeting the need for expertise in cultural resource management. ACRA is strongly opposed to unfair competition from tax-supported contracting programs. We believe that a greater benefit to society, and to the resources, derives from the existence of a healthy community of tax-paying, job-generating, private-sector CRM businesses.

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10TH ANNUAL ACRA CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 8-11, 2005

The 10th Annual ACRA Conference will be held at the Hotel Monaco, Washington D.C. Next year's conference, which will focus on government issues, is scheduled to start one day early, on Wednesday, to afford attendees an opportunity to meet with their legislators.

The Hotel Monaco is the former Tariff Building, built in the mid-nineteenth century. This Registered National Landmark is Washington, DC's first all-marble building. For a preview of the hotel visit www.monaco-dc.com

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

What has ACRA Done for Me Lately?

Submitted By Ian Burrow

During the Spring Board meeting in Albany in 2004, some of us took part in an interesting discussion with three consultants, specialists in non-profits and trade associations, whom Karen Hartgen had invited to meet with us. After hearing about ACRA for a while, they offered the opinion that ACRA was a “club”. What was meant by this, I think, was that we were too small and too introverted to become the national voice of CRM that we aspire to be.

There may be some merit in this criticism, and it certainly got us thinking. There are many CRM firms in the country who do not currently see a need to join or support ACRA. Every year a few companies drop out, every year a few join. In some of our areas of interest we have been less effective than in others. We can always do better.

However, since becoming President last fall, I have gained great respect for this organization, am impressed by what our Executive Director and board have achieved and are achieving, and feel that as members we really do get our money’s worth from our dues. Check out the membership fees of other national trade associations and see what other professions have to pay, and you’ll see how reasonable ACRA is!

But what has ACRA done for you lately? Let me count the ways:

1. Lobbied on behalf of the Federal Laws and Regulations that are the backbone of our industry. There is a steady stream of issues at the Federal level to which we respond. In last few months we have:

- ✧ Urged the Corps of Engineers to scrap their idiosyncratic “Appendix C” Section 106 regulations and adopt 36CFR 800 procedures like most other agencies. The publication of Corps proposals are now awaited.
- ✧ Concluded our heavy involvement with the Federal Communications Commission on the Programmatic Agreements for telecommunications facilities (OK, cell towers). Our main achievement here has been to ensure that Section 106 provisions must be carried out by professionally qualified individuals. Our voice was important in all aspects of the hard-fought discussion that led to the PA’s.
- ✧ Endorsed Transportation proposals that improve the coordination between Section 4f of the Federal Highway Act and Section 106, giving primacy to 106 in most cases where cultural resources are concerned. These measures are moving into law.
- ✧ Expressed concern at language changes in the Native American Grave Repatriation Act which appear to broaden the definition of “Native American”. Our comments were not addressed, but we will continue to monitor this situation.
- ✧ Continued our assistance to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s Archaeology Initiative by providing observations of their Human Remains policy guidance document. We are expecting to provide testimony at the ACHP’s May meeting on this and other matters.
- ✧ Met with Robert G. Howarth, Staff Director of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, to present ACRA’s viewpoint on CRM and the National Historic Preservation Act. More on this later.

2. Assisted in State-Level Issues. We have been involved in an unfair competition issue in South Carolina and a professional qualification issue in Alabama. Both of these appear to be moving in the direction we feel is in ACRA members' best interests.

3. Protected Members' Interests at the SBA. Since this time last year, we have been in communication with the Small Business Administration over their overhaul of small business definition standards, writing letters and attending two meetings in Washington with senior SBA staff. We have argued against their proposals to count all employees, however short-term, in calculations of small business size. We believe that a Full-Time Equivalent calculation will much more accurately reflect the size of our businesses. This process has generated an important debate among some of us about the desirability or otherwise of the CRM industry having its own NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) code. This is something our members should investigate and think about.

4. Established ACRA as a Source for Rapid and Expert Peer Reviews. Earlier this year, several ACRA members produced peer reviews on behalf of ACRA for Gnomon, Inc. The latter is completing studies for the Department of Energy concerning cultural resource management modeling and management in oil and gas fields in New Mexico and Wyoming. The first report, Archaeological Burial Model: Powder River and Tongue River Hydrological Basins, Wyoming, was reviewed in double-quick time by Mike Roberts, James Karbula, Joe Schuldenrein, and Michael McFaul.

5. Prepared for the retirement of the Executive Director. Your board spent much of the spring meeting in Tucson hashing out details of transition arrangements and the future structure of the Association.

On Tom Wheaton's retirement from ACRA at the end of 2005, we will implement a new management structure for ACRA. The presidency will now be a two-year term, and administrative support services will be provided by the president's company on contract to ACRA. We also plan to engage the part-time services of a management company to develop membership and income diversification. These arrangements are scheduled to run for two years and will be reviewed during 2007.

That brief paragraph does not begin to do justice to the amount of thought and effort which has gone into this change.

The Current Big Challenge

By the time this newsletter is published, I expect everyone will have heard of the radical changes being proposed to Section 106 and other sections of the National Historic Preservation Act. Our recent meeting with Rob Howarth left us in no doubt of the seriousness and determination of some in Congress to dramatically weaken the reach of the National Historic Preservation Act as it is currently implemented.

Bluntly put from an ACRA standpoint, these changes will, at a stroke, remove a substantial part of the requirement for CRM work by Federal agencies, their agents, and applicants for Federal permits. Our industry would be hit hard. Your officers and board are fighting this as strongly as they can, but it is incumbent on all of us individually to make our opinions known to our legislators and to those promoting this latest assault on the system of Federal historic preservation that was established after 1966. This is a serious situation, but our voice is one that will be heard.

A "club"? No, I don't really think so.....

CONNECTIONS

By Chad Moffitt, Liaison Committee Chair

This column highlights items of interest to the CRM industry, and updates on related and client organizations as reported by ACRA member liaisons.

American Institute of Architects

Historic Resources Committee of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has released its Liaison Reports from allied preservation organizations, in the March newsletter of the AIA's Historic Resources Committee (HRC). ACRA and several other historic preservation and cultural resources organizations are listed.

The AIA HRC liaison reports are presented annually to offer a forum and networking opportunity for HRC members and representatives of organizations engaged in historic preservation. The 2004 liaison reports focused on the relationship of architecture practice to HRC's allied preservation organizations and on lessons for architecture education. For a complete list of AIA liaison reports, see http://www.aia.org/nwsltr_hrc.cfm?pagename=hrc_a_20050214_liaison.

The HRC allied preservation organizations presented liaison reports on November 19, 2004, during the HRC symposium, "[Historic Preservation and Architecture Education: A Dialogue](#)."

Charissa Wang of **Hardlines Design Company Inc.** is the ACRA liaison to the AIA.

American Society of Landscape Architects

The Historic Preservation Professional Interested Committee (HP PIC) of American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) announced that ACRA member representative Chad Moffett of **Mead & Hunt Inc.** is serving as vice-chair of the committee. Moffett, an ACRA representative who serves as the ACRA liaison to ASLA, will work to highlight cultural resource issues within ASLA and assist in hosting the members of the group in the 2006 annual conference that will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

For more information on ASLA contact Chad at chad.moffett@meadhunt.com.

ACRA members who represent CRM client or related organizations are encouraged to become a liaison and share information about upcoming events and items of interest. Please send information to preservation@meadhunt.com.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Background

As most of the CRM community is aware, a “discussion draft” bill is now circulating within the House of Representatives that proposes to amend elements of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). These changes are connected with the pending reauthorization of offshore oil lease revenues to support the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF).

The following is a summary of sections of the “discussion draft” that are of concern to the cultural resources community. This summary is provided by the National Council of Historic Preservation Officers’ web site (<http://www.ncshpo.org/HPFPreservation/>).

Summary of Sections from the “Discussion Draft” Bill

Section 2 An amendment within the “discussion draft” bill alters Section 101(a)(6) of the NHPA, which regards property owner participation in the National Register of Historic Places nomination process. Language changes to this provision would mean that if a property owner objected to listing in the National Register, the National Register nomination process would conclude. Existing law allows for nominations to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for a formal determination of eligibility.

Section 3 The “discussion draft” bill also alters Section 101(c)(1) of the NHPA by requiring certified local governments to ensure that any local designation process fully provide for due process; local governments that propose to use National Register eligibility determinations to trigger local regulatory requirements would be required to hold a separate hearing to provide for due process. The concern for considering the rights of private property owners in the National Register of Historic Places nomination process emerged with a case in Los Angeles, California, when a property owner found his redevelopment proposal possibly subject to local regulatory restrictions because the property was being nominated to the National Register.

Section 4 While the majority of the “discussion draft” bill is positive, Section 4 drastically alters the preservation protections found in Section 106 of the NHPA. Section 4 shifts the responsibility of documentation and analysis away from those seeking federal funding for projects to the stewards of historic resources - State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and other interested parties. The proposed change significantly limits what is currently given consideration under Section 106. In the draft bill, only resources that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places or those

IN REMEMBRANCE

that have been formally determined eligible for listing by the Secretary of the Interior would be considered under Section 106. These limitations would significantly impact tribal historic resources, most of which are not listed or formally designated.

Sections 5 and 6 Finally, the “discussion draft” bill extends the authorization of deposits into the HPF until 2012 and makes several administrative changes to the NHPA which deals with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Reauthorization of the HPF was just one of the issues preservationists advocated for during their 2005 Annual Meeting/Lobby Day.



ACRA lost one of its charter members this month. Edward “Ned” Heite died April 17 at the age of 66, in Camden, Delaware. His career spanned more than forty years. Ned was a historian, an RPA certified archaeologist, and formerly served as chief of the Delaware Bureau of Archives and Records.

Affectionately called a curmudgeon by his colleagues, Ned was a man of eclectic and broad interests. His web site, www.heite.org, is dedicated to research of the Kent County, Delaware Native American community. He had a passion for his 1969 Land Rover. And, according to one friend, “No one knew more sailors’ drinking songs from hundreds of years ago and could sing them on pitch,”

In accordance with Ned’s last wishes, this remembrance is brief.

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Baby the 1969 Land Rover

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ACRA HITS CAPITOL HILL TO BRING REALITY TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAW (NHPA)

By Nellie L. Longworth, Consultant to Government Affairs Committee

The House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks held an oversight hearing to discuss a “discussion draft” of amendments to the NHPA on April 21st, 2005. The amendments included a change in procedure for handling owner objection to National Register listing (NR), a requirement that local ordinances have no consequences for properties on or eligible for the NR, the reauthorization of both the NHPA and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), technical changes for the Council, and – the zinger – that government agencies undertaking Section 106 will take into account only those properties on or listed eligible for the NR.

ACRA saw this as a call to action and 6 members – Ian Burrow, Karen Hartgen, Lucy Wayne, Tom Wheaton, Julian Adams, and Scott Shull - came to Washington to lobby the members of the subcommittee prior to the hearing. Targeting GOP members of the subcommittee, two days were spent talking to staffs about the negative impact the draft would have on historic preservation and CRM procedures.

The group “walked” a number of bright young staffers through the Section 106 process, insuring that it never terminates an undertaking but, with mitigation, moves forward on a plan agreed to by all parties. Last year, there were 104,000 such undertakings in the federal government and almost all met the 30 days requirement.

One major issue raised in the discussion draft is the inventory and handling of consensus determinations of eligibility that we view as a necessity to keep an undertaking on schedule. The proponents of change would not take into account properties already determined eligible by consensus, thus giving the federal government the legal sanction to bulldoze all not

already on the NR. The attack on the historic preservation review is a component of proposed changes that expand beyond our field to include environmental review (NEPA) and endangered species laws.

The lobbying group broke up into two teams and met with a number of the subcommittee staffers over two days. Most offices had had a number of faxes and emails about the hearing and were anxious to discuss the draft. The teams reviewed the Section 106 process, the 30-day requirement, the time-saving consensus determination of eligibility, and how mitigation was handled. ACRA was on the Hill when needed and was greatly appreciated by the staffers. The whole process had come up so fast and happened during the dramatic Energy Bill debate on the floor, giving staffers little time to get the information they needed and wanted on our issue.

The hearing included 5 witnesses: Peter Blackman, property owner; James Martin, United South and Eastern Tribes; Michael Altschul, CTIA The Wireless Association; Emily Wadhams, National Trust; Jan Matthews, Cultural Resources National Park Service; and John Nau, Advisory Council. The hearing room was “standing room only,” though few subcommittee members showed up. Ranking member Donna Christiansen, delegate from the Virgin Islands, is a proponent of preservation and averred that there had to be evidence of widespread problems before there should be a legislative change to law.

John Nau gave excellent testimony in support of consensus eligibility and using administrative, not legislative, means to address Section 106. John Martin made a good presentation for the tribes. The Wireless industry “wants certainty” although their real problem is

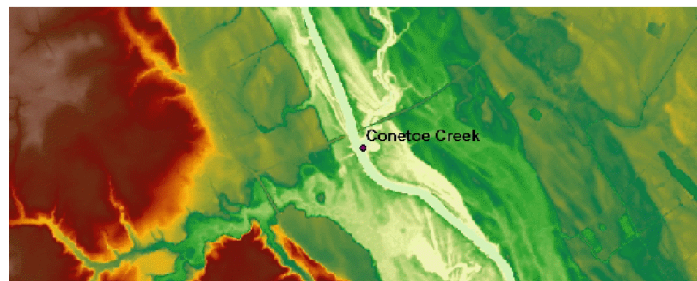
that they do not believe that the building of towers should be considered a federal undertaking. The National Park Service and National Trust further expressed concern about the draft document.

Where are we now? It is clear that the subcommittee will definitely continue the dialogue and most likely introduce a bill. Concerns about property owner objection and local government due process are areas targeted for change. The Section 106 issue is thrown off course by members stating that “All the important properties are already listed on the National Register” and “If properties are determined eligible by consensus, the SHPO should nominate them for listing on the NR” We know the facts about both of these are not what they expect!

One plan of action is that the member firms in the districts of the House Resources Committee members will be encouraged to contact and visit them when they are in the district. Information will hopefully be made available by the SHPO office about recent historic site discoveries in the District – battlefields, burial sites, and archaeological findings – and when it was the Section 106 inventory that was responsible for the discovery. ACRA members should further become familiar with the historic preservation Statewide and local preservation organizations to ascertain what they are doing to help the cause.

Lucy Wayne, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee will be organizing the data about “who resides where” and will contact ACRA companies in the congressional districts of House Resource Committee members about the meetings. ACRA has played an important role at the beginning of this odyssey and will be an important player in the weeks and months ahead.

Keith C. Seramur, PG Geomorphology & Geoarchaeology



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MEMBERS PROFILES

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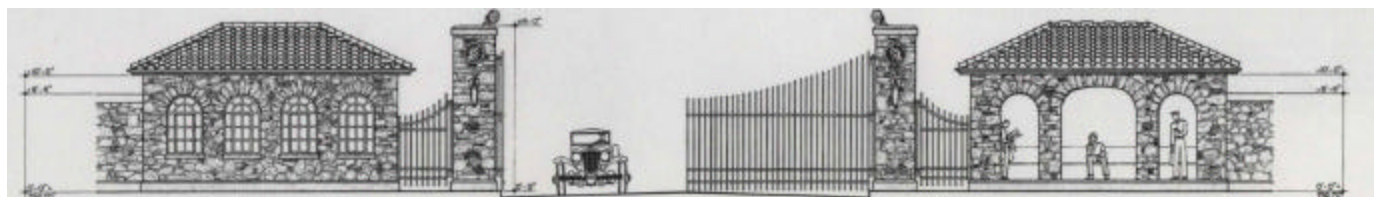
Since 1990, Hardlines Design Company (HDC) has provided extensive cultural resource management (CRM) services to federal agencies such as the Air Force, Navy, Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Department of Agriculture, and NASA, as well as to state agencies such as the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). HDC has provided services under 5-year indefinite quantities contracts as well as a General Services Administration (GSA) Schedule for archaeological and architectural history services.

HDC maintains a full-service archaeological laboratory with flotation and faunal analysis capability. Our field equipment includes remote sensing and GIS mapping equipment for use in archaeological as well as architectural sites. Our History/Architecture projects range from Phase I surveys of historic resources along road corridors, to Historic American Engineering Record documentation of large suspension bridges. In terms of archaeology, HDC has completed many projects ranging from Phase I surveys to Phase III data recovery projects. The full range of cultural resources management services offered includes:

- Archaeological Surveys
- HABS/HAER Documentation
- Cultural Resources Assessments
- National Register Nominations
- Section 106 Mitigation
- Historic Preservation Planning
- Programmatic Agreement Documents



HDC is celebrating its 15th anniversary on April 28, 2005, with an open house for clients and former coworkers. Please see our updated website at www.hardlinesdesign.com for additional firm information and additional services.



ACRA encourages new members to submit their profile.



Stoney Knoll

Archaeological Supplies, Inc.

Stoney Knoll Archaeological Supplies, Inc., is a woman-owned small business and manufacturer of artifact recovery screen systems for the CRM industry. Formally Stoney Knoll Woodworks and Archaeological Supplies, the once New Hampshire-based company relocated to North Carolina in August 2004. Stoney Knoll is headed by two former CRM field technicians, and thus their sifting screens are built with the needs of contract archaeology – such as durability with lightweight portability – in mind. “You want both your screens and your field crew to last,” remarks the company’s Vice President, Paul Bock, who notes that Stoney Knoll’s screens are made with select, white pine, a durable, yet lightweight, wood. “I could build the screens with hardwoods, and they would never wear out, but your field crew would, trying to lug them around. White pine is plenty durable, just ask our customers who are going into their sixth field season with them,” Bock states.

In addition to sifting screens, Stoney Knoll provides the CRM industry with field recording supplies and photographic reference scales, lab equipment, survey equipment and field excavation equipment. The company is a certified distributor for name brand products such as Marshalltown trowels, Rite-in-the-Rain all-weather field recording supplies and Ingall’s Archaeological Patiche-hand picks.

To see Stoney Knoll’s latest product line, check out their website at www.stoneyknoll.com.

Want to be on the website? “We are always looking for ways to showcase our varied customer database and their wide variety of interests and projects – we welcome any field or laboratory photo that demonstrates usage of one of our products,” states Sharon Catus, President of Stoney Knoll Archaeological Supplies, Inc. “We are very proud of our small company and very grateful for the CRM industry’s patronage of a woman owned business.”

HIGHWAY PROJECTS AND SECTION 4(f). DO THEY PASS THE TEST?

By Christina Slattery and Amy Squitieri, Mead & Hunt, Inc.

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act mandates avoidance of historic properties in planning for federal transportation projects unless there is no prudent and feasible alternative. Transportation planners often debate whether a project can pass the “4(f) test.” To pass the test, it must be conclusively demonstrated that there is no prudent and feasible alternative to the use of Section 4(f) land. This article deals with transportation projects that proposed to use land from historic properties and the application of the Section 4(f) test to these projects. These cases demonstrate the challenges of meeting the Section 4(f) test and the merits of identifying alternatives in early stages of project planning. It is based on Mead & Hunt’s recent experiences in Wisconsin. In other states, transportation agency staff may have different perspectives on what constitutes a prudent and feasible alternative.

Section 4(f) issues proved insurmountable for a proposed roadway project near Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, because the need for the project was not compelling. In 2004 the Sheboygan County Highway Commission sought to reconstruct County Trunk Highway (CTH) A to current design standards. The project would have added 6-foot shoulders to the existing two-lane road and re-graded its steep ditches and side slopes. CTH A forms the southern leg of the historic Elkhart Lake Road Race Circuits—a county road system that was used for road racing in the early 1950s. Due to the dangers of racing on public roads, the races were moved to a purpose-built track at nearby Road America after a few years. For their historic role as a racing venue, the county roads that make up the circuit were determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Section 4(f) applies to a historic transportation facility when it will be demolished, or if the historic quality for which the facility was determined to be eligible for the National Register is adversely affected by the proposed improvement. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) determined that the construction of elements that were not historically present—specifically the shoulders, ditches and slopes—would be an adverse effect to the historic property. The public, including racing fans nationwide, rallied to preserve the historic Elkhart Lake Road Race Circuits in their current condition. The road has a low traffic volume and crash rate. FHWA, in consultation with the county and Wisconsin Department of Transportation, determined that the project could not meet the Section 4(f) test because no build was a prudent and feasible alternative. As a result, the county decided not to proceed with the proposed improvements to CTH A. Jaclyn Lawton, FHWA Environmental Engineer, concluded that “Considerations of historic preservation and the U.S. Department of Transportation law regarding adversely affecting a historic site outweighed the other concerns of this route.”

In a second case in Allenton, Wisconsin, a highway project met the Section 4(f) test based on FHWA’s determination that project alternatives were not prudent because they would destroy the cohesion of the community and cause negative economic impacts. The project involved reconstructing State Trunk Highway (STH) 33 (Main Street in Allenton) to a four-lane urban roadway and eliminating on-street parking. The overall width of the proposed cross section was 52 feet. The existing facility consisted of two 12-foot driving lanes with paved shoulders varying in width from 3 to 12 feet. The purpose of the proposed project was to improve the

deteriorating condition of the pavement and provide a safe and efficient transportation facility that would accommodate existing and future traffic.

One historic property, the Van Beek Filling Station, located on the north side of STH 33 posed a constraint to the widening the roadway. During early project planning, consideration of Section 4(f) led to the investigation of several alternatives to the use of land from, or the removal of, this historic property. One alternative would have shifted the alignment south to avoid removing the Van Beek Filling Station. This alternative would have required the removal of 10 buildings on the south side of STH 33. Residents opposed removing these buildings, stating they were in better condition and were more viable economically than the buildings on the north side of STH 33 including the filling station. Village residents and community leaders also expressed concerns that selection of this alternative would adversely impact community cohesion by leaving houses along the north side of the road as a “residential island” separated from the rest of the community by a 52-foot-wide STH 33.

Under the selected alternative, the road was shifted to the north. This alternative removed 11 buildings—two businesses, including the Van Beek Filling Station, and nine residences. The town board and local residents fully supported the project as a way to maintain the economic integrity of the community by maintaining the more vibrant businesses on the south side of the road. The Section 4(f) Evaluation demonstrated that there was no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the Van Beek Filling Station. The final project included provisions for attempting to relocate the filling station, documenting the building if it was to be demolished, and preparing a public interpretation program.

Application of the Section 4(f) test ultimately led to the replacement of the Highway X Bridge in a third case. The project proposed replacement of a deteriorated structure that did not meet federal safety

standards. Located in the unincorporated community of Saylesville, Wisconsin, the 1930s steel girder bridge was a contributing element in an historic district of local significance. To avoid the entire district would have required a lengthy and costly alternative route with significant wetland impacts. Under the chosen alternative, impacts to the Section 4(f) property include acquisition of a small amount of land within the Saylesville Historic District and removal of the contributing bridge. FHWA determined that there was no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of Section 4(f) property and that the proposed action included all possible planning to minimize harm to the Saylesville Historic District resulting from such use.

The final project included provisions for minimizing effects to the historic district by limiting approach work, minimizing right-of-way purchase, and designing an aesthetic bridge. The district was also nominated to the National Register with the support of local residents.

Section 4(f) has come under scrutiny as being inflexible and time consuming, and some have argued that inappropriate transportation decisions are made in order to preserve historic resources. Congress is currently exploring ways to amend Section 4(f), as well as other environmental review procedures, as a way to speed up project delivery. In these three Wisconsin cases, the application of Section 4(f) resulted in sound transportation decisions that fully considered effects to historic properties. When no prudent and feasible alternative to the use of the Section 4(f) property could be found during project planning, some historic properties were adversely affected or demolished. In the case of the historic road, the Section 4(f) test led to selection of the no build alternative. Full evaluation of options during early project planning provided the necessary information to apply the Section 4(f) test.

WYOMING CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSOCIATION FORMED

On April 8, 2005, representatives of ten cultural resource management firms met in Rock Springs, Wyoming, to form an association to address a set of very specific concerns about inefficiencies and inconsistencies in how cultural resources management (CRM) is practiced in the state of Wyoming. There have been a number of issues left unresolved between federal agencies, mainly the Bureau of Land Management and the Wyoming SHPO office creating a bizarre matrix of inconsistent policies and procedures for CRM contractors to sort through when working in different areas of the state. These inconsistencies have been noticed by very powerful interests from the energy industries and there is tremendous political pressure for reform. The members of the newly formed organization, the Wyoming Cultural Resources Association, are in support of efforts at reform and we believe an active effort to clarify and simplify procedures, and to more clearly distinguish between significant and non-significant resources, would alleviate much of this industry pressure. We also believe that maintaining the current state of affairs will simply fuel nationwide efforts to dilute the National Historic Preservation Act.

WCRA, as the name might imply, borrowed heavily from the work that went into the founding of ACRA. Member firms Sagebrush, TRC-Mariah, and Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. were represented at the meeting, and Mike Polk was especially helpful with his knowledge about how ACRA was formed and structured. Those of us who are ACRA members promoted the organization and urged other firms to join. At the same time, there was a strong sense that many of the issues WCRA will be addressing are grassroots in nature and could best be addressed by a local organization. The organizers of WCRA are committed to the idea that the state level group will work to complement the goals of ACRA. A steering committee was appointed, and Jana Pastor of Western Archaeological Services and Mike Metcalf were named

as co-chairs of the organization.

Over the next few weeks, WCRA will be working to expand its membership and will announce its presence by writing letters to the heads of the federal land managing offices and to those branches of state government that deal with cultural resources. We will also be represented at the upcoming statewide meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society and Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists. Finally, we resolved to support ACRA in its current efforts regarding threats to Section 106 and will be submitting letters to congressional representatives.

The working statement for WCRA is:

The Wyoming Cultural Resource Association is a newly formed group of cultural resource management (CRM) firms conducting cultural resource studies on projects permitted as undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Office in Wyoming. Representatives of 10 CRM firms held an organizational meeting in Rock Springs on April 8, 2005, formally organizing and adopting a set of goals and a mission statement. WCRA membership is open to any cultural resource consulting entity permitted within the state of Wyoming, and willing to adhere to a code of conduct requiring a strong commitment to quality work. Membership is by business entity, be that an individual consultant or a firm.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to promote a cooperative and balanced approach to cultural resource management in Wyoming by:

• fostering dialogue between regulatory agencies, industry, and consultants

☞ *representing the consultant's perspective in the formulation of policies and procedures*

☞ *promoting professionalism in the cultural resource management industry*

☞ *promoting public awareness of cultural resource management research*

The organization was formed because the *status quo* of CRM in Wyoming is clearly dysfunctional and current policies are not working to the satisfaction of project proponents or to the majority of CRM consultants. While the Association is generally concerned with the health and welfare of CRM consulting as a profession, a major purpose of the Association is to help ensure that CRM consultants are represented, as interested parties, whenever federal and SHPO regulations and policies are reviewed or changed. Within our membership, the Association has individuals with wide experience working with the various agencies and field offices within the state, and members of the Association have conducted field studies in every area of Wyoming. As a group, we are committed to timely and high quality work, but we are also committed to keeping implementation of regulations as efficient and cost effective as possible. Our perspective on the policies and procedures for implementing Section 106 responsibilities is vital to successful and efficient compliance.

Our goal is to promote a cooperative working relationship between the SHPO, federal agencies, and consultants and foster positive communication. It is our belief that agencies should interact with the consultants on a professional level with mutual respect and no fear of reprisal. Our goals can be better obtained by working together as a group rather than individually.

It is WCRA's firm belief that urgent action is needed on several issues prior to the passing of another field season. These issues include:

1. Resolution of site definition and site recording issues.
2. Clear and written guidance regarding viewshed analysis for linear and historic resources.
3. Clear and written guidelines for general CRM procedures that are consistent between Field Offices.
4. A refocus of CRM energy on the most important kinds of sites.



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ACRA

EDITION

6150 East Ponce de Leon Ave., Stone Mountain, GA 30083

ACRA's Members-Only Listserver

ACRA now has an online discussion group just for members. "MembersOnly" is a listserver that operates much the same way as ACRA-L, with the exception that it is only available to ACRA members. Its purpose is to offer the board, members, and the executive director a venue to share the latest news from ACRA; promote dialogue between members on current issues; and enable members to post announcements or inquiries.

To subscribe to the list, a member must contact ACRA's Executive Director, Tom Wheaton. Once you have supplied Tom with your e-mail address, he will subscribe you to this list. Contact Tom at 770-498-5159 or e-mail: tomwheaton@newsouthassoc.com.

2005 ACRA EDITION SCHEDULE

| DEADLINE | PRODUCTION |
|------------|-------------|
| February 7 | February 21 |
| April 4 | April 18 |
| June 6 | June 20 |
| August 1 | August 15 |
| October 3 | October 17 |

ACRA Edition

is a bi-monthly publication of The American Cultural Resources Association. Our mission is to promote the professional, ethical and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association.

This publication's purpose is to provide members with the latest information on the association's activities and to provide up-to-date information on federal and state legislative activities. All comments are welcome.

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