



2008 Department of Defense Historic Building Conference

Project #
08-387

Background:

Conference organizers identified the need for a training/educational opportunity for architectural historians, historic architects, planners, and other DoD staff, personnel and contractors who work with historic buildings and structures. None of the current training or education options truly translate to the unique challenges of working with the historic military built environment. Several organizations exist for archaeologists and natural resource managers to obtain annual training and interaction with their peers, but no such opportunities exist for those who work with historic buildings and structures.

Objective:

The goal of the DoD Historic Buildings Conference (HBC) was to provide a venue for DoD CRMs and military personnel working with historic properties to gain specialized knowledge and training, to assist them in effectively meeting the military mission while applying and utilizing the most up to date research tools, techniques and information for effective cultural resource compliance and stewardship.

Summary of Approach:

It was the intent of the conference organizers to draw presenters from the professional military CRM community, the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and State Historic Preservation Offices, to allow for the greatest variety of topics, information and research. Academia and the private sector were also represented.

Most sessions were in traditional presentation format while others were conducted in the less formal but more interactive "round table" question and answer style. It was the goal of the conference organizers to involve conference attendees in discussions as much as possible, to foster the exchange of ideas and help attendees gain solutions to their individual challenges and issues. Every effort was made to include presenters from all four branches of the military, thereby making the sessions as well rounded and applicable to as many attendees as possible.

The half day field trip to Fort Leavenworth, KS was also considered an important component of the conference, as it provided attendees the opportunity to visit a historic installation and view how one installation is balancing mission needs and effective stewardship. Providing additional training opportunities through the Advisory Council's one-day advanced Section 106 training and the one-day ATRP training by the Corps of Engineers was

also considered a priority in conference planning, as was including the Army breakout day.

Benefit:

This conference provided much needed and currently unavailable training and networking opportunities for a large group of DoD wide staff, personnel and contractors. Every effort was also made to integrate topics and issues raised during the 2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference. The HBC provided a venue to obtain information from varied sources and enabled participants to address specific issues and challenges at a level with their peers that could not be achieved at any other conference currently available.

Accomplishments:

The 2008 HBC was held June 16-20, 2008 in Kansas City, MO, with 178 participants. An After-action Report was submitted to Legacy on September 28, 2008. The After-action Report outlined the development and execution of the conference, as well as the results of attendee evaluations and organizer recommendations for future DoD Historic Building Conferences.

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