

0.0 PREFACE

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR HABS/HAER and the USE OF OTHER GUIDELINES.

The legislative authority for is the 1935 Historic Sites Act (Public Law 74-292) and the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1980 (Public Law 96-5 15).

These guidelines should be used in conjunction with:

- 1) Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Engineering Documentation as published in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 48, No. 190 (Thursday, September 29, 1983), Notices, pp. 44730-44734, generally known as the HABS/HAER Standards.
- 2) *Recording Historic Structures*. John A. Bums, editor. Washington, D.C.: The AIA Press, 1989.
- 3) *HABSIHAER Guidelines*:
 - HABS Historical Reports
 - Historic American Engineering Record Field Instructions (198 1)
 - Recording Historic Ships
 - Transmitting HABS/HAER Documentation

THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD.

This manual is a revision of the *HAER Field Instructions* manual issued in 1981. It replaces the 1981 edition and integrates the Historic American Engineering Record's documentation process with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Architectural and Engineering Documentation*, published in 1985 (see Section 5.1 for complete text). Since documentation is by nature selective and interpretive, the following guidelines should help you complete

HAER projects to the *Secretary's Standards* with an understanding of the *Standards'* applications.

Background. The year 1994 marks the 25th anniversary of the Historic American Engineering Record. The program was founded in 1969 by the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Library of Congress, and the National Park Service after it became apparent to many in the preservation community that industrial and engineering resources demanded a different sort of interdisciplinary documentary approach from that applied to historic architecture. Modeled on the Historic American Buildings Survey (founded in 1933), HAER set out with historians, architects, engineers, and photographers to capture vanishing industrial and engineering treasures in rural and urban areas nationwide. In 1986, the American Society of Civil Engineers was joined by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Society of Chemical Engineers (ASCE), The American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (AIMME), and the Institute of Electric and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) as signatories to HAER's mission. In the quarter century since its founding, HAER has accumulated documentation on over 4,450 historic industrial sites and structures representing a varied cross-section of America's industrial and technological heritage. Each site is preserved on paper in written historical reports and large format photographs; sets of measured drawings were generated to visually capture the significant characteristics of many sites. These media are often the only integrated record of once common or ground-breaking examples of American engineering, industrial and entrepreneurial genius. They are a significant resource for the American public. The Historic American Engineering Record and the Historic American Buildings Survey together preserve over 30,000 sites. The HAER and HABS collections generate over 40% of the

reference requests at the Prints and Photographs Division at the Library of Congress while constituting a mere 1% of the records available there. Microfilm copies of the HAER collection produced by Chadwick-Healy are available at over 110 libraries throughout the United States.

HAER documentation has numerous uses aside from preservation of information for posterity. Recording projects have often focussed attention on underappreciated resources and established their significance. Documentation can provide solid rationales for planning and funding preservation projects. HAER records can aid considerably in preparing National Register nominations, or in the conservation, maintenance, or restoration of a site. Interpretive brochures and exhibits, graphics, and educational programs have utilized HAER data as well.

HAER Project Parameters. HAER usually records a site as it exists at the time of documentation, not as an ongoing process spread over the future life of a site. The average recording project administered by HAER runs for twelve weeks during a summer and employs anywhere from three to a dozen students per recording team, depending on a site's complexity and available funding. Some sites require two or more successive summers to document, usually due to funding limitations and optimum team management. Documentation projects conducted for HAER under other auspices are not subject to these limitations. Part of HAER's mission is to employ, under professional guidance, student architects, engineers, graduate level student historians and others and give them exposure to and training in an unique area of historic preservation. Their work also contributes substantially to the public good and can lead to other professional opportunities.

Final Review. HAER reviews all documentation submitted for conformity to the *Secretary's Standards* and HAER guidelines. The HAER staff in Washington, DC or National Park Service systems support offices will gladly review "in progress" projects for direction, content and quality so that any problems can be addressed early.

WARNING: Failure to conform to specifications for archival materials and sizes will mean return of documentation regardless of its merits.

Significant departures from the guidelines may be justified from time to time while still meeting the *Secretary's Standards--contact* HAER for advice. Inappropriate or poorly produced records will be returned for correction.

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Section 1.O was adapted from the 1981 edition of the HAER ***Field Instructions*** and was written by Larry D. Lankton. Portions of this new edition are also adapted from the 1988 edition of HAER ***Guidelines for Recording Historic Ships*** by Richard K. Anderson, Jr.

Thanks also go to the numerous individuals who commented on the 1981 edition of the manual in 1982 when a revision was contemplated. Their comments were retained and have been addressed where still applicable.

Richard K. Anderson, Jr.
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