City of Alexandria, Virginia

Historic Resource Mobile Survey Project

Phase 1: Buildings

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THE OLD AND HISTORIC DISTRICT
• Storage issues/archives
• Survey is obsolete as soon as ink is dry = Static
• Time consuming edits
• Documents are lost or separated from data sheets
• Illegible Writing

VS

• Digital
• Track Updates = Dynamic
• Consistent Nomenclature
• Can update data concurrently with ARB approvals
SURVEYING: CHALLENGES

Design Review

Weather Events
HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESPONSE METHODOLOGY

Based on the Hurricane Katrina Model
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MODEL

Table Of Contents

Layers
- Historic_Buildings
  - Cultural Resource Building Point
  - Cultural Resource Building Polygon
  - NR_Bldg_Poly
  - NR_Building_Poly
- Ethnography
  - Cultural Resource Ethnographic Resource Point
  - Cultural Resource Ethnographic Resource Line
  - Cultural Resource Ethnographic Resource Polygon
- Cultural_Resource_Other
  - Other Cultural Resource Point
  - Other Cultural Resource Line
  - Other Cultural Resource Polygon
- Archaeology
  - Cultural Resource Site Point
  - Cultural Resource Site Line
  - Cultural Resource Site Polygon
- Surveyed_Areas
  - Cultural Resource Survey Point
  - Cultural Resource Survey Line
  - Cultural Resource Survey Polygon
- Historic_Structures
  - Cultural Resource Structure Point
  - Cultural Resource Structure Line
  - Cultural Resource Structure Polygon
- Historic_Objects
  - Cultural Resource Object Point
  - Cultural Resource Object Line
  - Cultural Resource Object Polygon
  - Cultural Resource Landscape Polygon
  - Cultural Resource District Polygon
- NRIS
- NHL_Main
- CR_Link
ALEXANDRIA’S GEODATABASE

NPS Data Model
Resource Types

Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object
Ethnography
Cultural Landscape
Archaeology

Other Cultural Resource
Cultural Resource District

Surveyed Areas

Alexandria’s Phase 1 GeoDatabase: Buildings
PROTOTYPE SUCCESS

- Works on any device and operating system
- One device for recordation and photography
- Can be used without purchasing GIS software
- Import existing data
- Ability to transfer data electronically to SHPO and NPS
• Standardized nomenclature/pull-down menus

• Data backed up to prevent loss

• Public Engagement
  – Volunteer Surveyors
  – Available Data
  – Transparency
Application Demonstration
by the numbers...

Volunteers: 40
Months: 3
Buildings: 400
Wood

- Lapped
- Beveled
- Drop (Novelty)
- Shiplap-Horizontal

Fishescale Shingle Siding
Knob & Spool Fratwork Porch

Cornice & Eave Types
WHAT’S NEXT:

- More intuitive & User-friendly application
- No Wi-Fi connection necessary
- Photos taken with tablets & Cataloged with data
- Incorporate Post-Disaster Building Assessment feature
- All National Register resource types
- Incorporate Style Guidebook/Illustrated Pull Downs
- Partnerships with other SHPO’s & HP organizations to ensure compatibility in other geographic regions
- Show changes to resources over time/Track edits to data
- “Free” download
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