

# NOTES FROM SHPO

## HPD & NMCRIS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

November 18, 2013

The mission of the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) is to protect, preserve and interpret the unique character of New Mexico. This mission is based on a philosophy of preservation, conservation, and beneficial use of archaeological sites, historic structures and districts, and other cultural resources. One of HPD's principle duties in serving this mission is to maintain records of identified resources and make those records available for research, education, and planning for future development.

HPD is beginning the process of transitioning to an integrated, stream-lined, and paperless way of doing business with the long-term goal of online access to near, real-time information about the state's cultural resources. This will offer significant advantages to all users of the New Mexico Cultural Resource Information System (NMCRIS) including:

- The ability to do a comprehensive prefield search over the internet, without the time and expense of visiting HPD archives;
- Online access to digital copies of site forms, sketch maps, photos, HCPI forms, architectural drawings, reports, National and State Register nominations, and other documents;
- Online access to near-real-time information about cultural resources (both archeological and architectural); and
- A more interactive and streamlined consultation process.

To realize these goals, ***all researchers, consultants, and other NMCRIS Users MUST:***

- Register cultural resource investigations in NMCRIS (first-time Users should call 505-476-1275 for assistance);
- Complete the investigation (NIAF), LA Site Records and HCPI forms in NMCRIS;
- Export the LA Site Record and HCPI form using the NMCRIS reporting function and complete the remaining blocks/sections prior to printing the forms with required attachments for submittal to agencies and HPD\*;
- Digitize surveys and resource locations in the NMCRIS map service;
- Upload .pdf versions of completed forms and attachments; and
- Upload .pdf versions of cultural resource investigation reports.

***And SUCCESS depends on all researchers, consultants, land managers and reviewers, as well as HPD staff, actively contributing to the maintenance and expansion of NMCRIS by using the system, by reviewing and commenting on User documents and guidance, and by helping HPD prioritize NMCRIS enhancements. Send your comments to NMCRIS Support group email address at [nmcris.support@state.nm.us](mailto:nmcris.support@state.nm.us).***

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The NMCRIS User Guide has recently been updated and includes a manual for completing new Historic Cultural Property Inventory (HCPI) forms. HPD will release regular updates to the User's Guide to keep pace with ongoing major enhancements to NMCRIS that will make the system more user-friendly and improve its overall utility. New releases of the User's Guide will be announced on the Historic Preservation Division's website at <http://nmhistoricpreservation.org/>. Announcements may also be made through the New Mexico Archaeological Council's list serve and by mass email to existing NMCRIS Users.

\* Eliminating this step with the hybrid digital-paper forms is one of the future major NMCRIS enhancements.