

**The Georgia State University World Heritage Initiative
To Develop a Potential Serial Nomination of
U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Work Under A Pandemic

- With the Georgia State University campus—and the rest of the world—closed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, work continued remotely on the Serial Nomination of U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites for potential inscription on the World Heritage List. Project Manager Anne Farrisee and Project Director Glenn T. Eskew maintained regular contact with each other and with Tourism Consultant Ed Hall, National Park Service Office of International Affairs Director Stephen Morris and consultant Phyllis Ellin, and representatives of the various sites under considered for the Serial Nomination.
- The second U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites Symposium scheduled for April 16-18, 2020, on the GSU Campus in Atlanta had to be cancelled because of coronavirus, despite significant planning effort. An additional \$14,350 had been raised in external funding to support the event; most of it can be carried over for a future symposium at first rescheduled for April 15-16, 2021, in conjunction with the Atlanta meeting of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail Marketing Alliance. While the stellar speakers planned for the program initially agreed to the 2021 postponement, that event also had to be canceled because of ongoing restrictions from the pandemic. Given continued uncertainties, it is unclear when such an event will be rescheduled but the hope is to have a Symposium in 2022.

ICOMOS Review Request

- The Team still awaits an “Upstream Review” of a preliminary dossier for a potential Serial Nomination of U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites, which was submitted to the National Park Service Office of International Affairs in February 2019 and sent on to the World Heritage Center, and then to ICOMOS for review, where it has sat since June 2019. The change in presidential administrations is expected to revitalize federal interest in the World Heritage program, once new Directors for the Department of the Interior and of the National Park Service are selected and installed.

Site Consultation

- Project Manager Anne Farrisee continued regular consultation with representatives of the thirteen properties being considered for the Serial Nomination, collecting the information needed for a full nomination. Collaboration is ongoing with the GSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning as well as the GSU Department of History Masters in Heritage Preservation Program. Graduate Research Assistant Veronica Healey continued preparing site maps for the Serial Nomination dossier. Graduate Research Assistant Deniseya Hall provided administrative support and prepared main-level floor

plans for each site. Graduate Research Assistant Ashley Barrett assisted with the preparation of the full sites list and the nomination's bibliography.

Nomination Preparation

- With site visits delayed by the pandemic, work focused on preparing the draft of the dossier using previously successful nominations as models. This included such required sections as: 2A Description; 2B History and Development; 4A Present State of Conservation; 4B Factors Affecting the Property; 5B Protective Designations; 5D Existing Plans Municipality and Region; 5H Visitor Facilities and Infrastructure.
- Ongoing revisions to the draft Section 3 elements including the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and argument under World Heritage Criteria (ii) and (vi) continued, with versions of these materials sent out to civil rights scholars for comment. External evaluations of this new draft OUV and Criteria justification were received in 2020 from Morris and Ellin of NPS-OIA. Outside evaluations were solicited from several World Heritage experts including Duncan Marshall, ICOMOS Advisor, in the hopes of anticipating the responses of the still-awaited ICOMOS "Upstream Review."
- The Team worked closely with the two proposed sites that are seeking designation as National Historic Landmarks, namely the F.W. Woolworths/International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the Lorraine Motel/National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. NHL designation is required by World Heritage and the process can be slow, but the NHL Committee of the National Park Service reformed after a four-year hiatus and began meeting again in late 2020.

Grants/Finances

- Alabama Tourism and the State of Alabama renewed its two-year contract for a third time with Georgia State University at \$480,000 beginning October 1, 2020, and running through September 30, 2022, to enable completion of the final Serial Nomination dossier.
- The Team continued overseeing and reporting on the various contracts and grants received by the GSU World Heritage Initiative. The \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service, primarily for site visits, has been extended. The \$5,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation was also extended. This grant is primarily for consultation.

Awareness/Networking/Advocacy

- To build support for the Serial Nomination and to encourage interaction among the various civil rights movement sites, a series of eblasts were sent to a listserv now numbering over 630 to keep people informed about the GSU World Heritage Initiative. Some of these eblasts contained information about where sites could seek CARES Act financial support to offset the disruptions caused by the pandemic along with information about grants and other opportunities.
- The Team continued to monitor and advocate on behalf of the civil rights movement sites under consideration. Prior to the pandemic shutdown of travel, meetings occurred in Birmingham with Superintendent Kris Butcher of the Anniston Freedom Riders National

Monument and the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, Mr. Ted Debro, Mr. Ivan Holloway and others at 16th Street Baptist Church, with Dr. Martha Bouyer and Reverend Thomas Wilder of Bethel Baptist Church, and with Ed Hall. A follow-up visit occurred with Mayor Randall Woodfin and Denise Gilmore of the City of Birmingham. Later continued discussions via zoom occurred in July 2020 with Mr. Holloway and Urban Impact concerning development plans in the Civil Rights District.

- The Team maintained connections with the U.S. Civil Rights Trail Marketing Alliance and Travel South by attending its August 5, 2020 Board Meeting in West Virginia and reporting on the activities of the GSU World Heritage Initiative.
- The Team participated in the inaugural “webinar” hosted by the United States National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) on July 30, 2020 which featured the potential Serial Nomination of U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites.