

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

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CONTEXT STUDIES IN CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



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Overview

- **Session Context: Tools for Cultural Resources Managers**
- **GOAL: Open Discussion**
 - **Use and importance of Context Studies for DOD Conservation Planning and Management**
 - **Suggestions for change, reemphasis, improvement**
 - **Incorporating (or more deeply incorporating) context studies in directive documents (eg AFI, AR etc) and Plans (eg ICRMPs)**
- **PLEASE don't be shy!!**



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Context Studies and Planning

Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines for Preservation Planning:

- **Standard 1: Planning Establishes Historic Contexts**
- **Standard 2: Planning Uses Historic Contexts to Develop Goals and Priorities for Identification, Evaluation, Registration, and Treatment of Historic Properties**
- **Standard 3: Results of Planning are Made Available for Integration into Broader Planning Processes**



Uses of Context Studies

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- **State and Regional Studies**
 - **Most SHPOs have or are developing Historic Context Studies for their state**
 - **Useful for research design**
 - **Useful for evaluating National Register Status**
 - **How many DOD installations use their state studies when planning and contracting inventories and evaluations?**
- **Period Studies**
 - **EG design research to inventory and evaluate resources associated with specific periods (WWII, Civil War, etc)**



Uses of Context Studies

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- **Historic Landscape Studies**
 - **Still relatively new in the USAF**
 - **Other Services perhaps farther along in developing Historic Landscape Studies**
 - **Context studies useful for designing methods to collect and evaluate data to use for evaluating Historic Landscapes**



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Definition of Historic Context

- **A mechanism, a process:**
 - **For assessing and organizing information about patterns of history and prehistory reflected in cultural resources**
 - **For identifying a full range of associated property types**
 - **For defining goals and priorities for the identification, evaluation, and treatment of historic properties**
- **Developed at a variety of scales, depending on purpose, and the amount and quality of available data**



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Contexts and Themes

- **Historic contexts subdivide the prehistoric and historic development of an area in time and space**
- **Each context is defined by**
 - **One or more Themes**
 - **Geographical Limits on the Theme**
 - **Chronological Limits on the Theme**
- **General Nationwide Themes (eg Themes developed by the NPS primarily for evaluating National Landmarks)**
- **Do DOD installations use these general Themes in any formal way?**
- **Do DOD installations use State-developed Themes?**
- **Do DOD installations develop their own themes?**



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Example Contexts (Themes)

- **American Aviation Heritage Theme Studies**
- **American Civil Rights Theme Studies**
- **Architecture Themes Studies**
- **Earliest American Theme Studies**
- **Transportation**
- **Gold and Silver Mining**
- **Early Commerce**
- **Military Exploration**
- **Historic Trails**
- **Native/European Contact**
- **Agriculture**



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How Important is Context Development?

- **Inventory?**
- **Evaluation?**
- **Treatment decisions?**
- **Planning decisions?**
- **Proactive agreements?**



Much Ado About Nothing?

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- **DOD installations incorporate and use context studies**
 - **Incorrectly?**
 - **Insufficiently?**
 - **Sufficiently?**
 - **Too much?**
 - **All of the above?**
 - **Don't know?**



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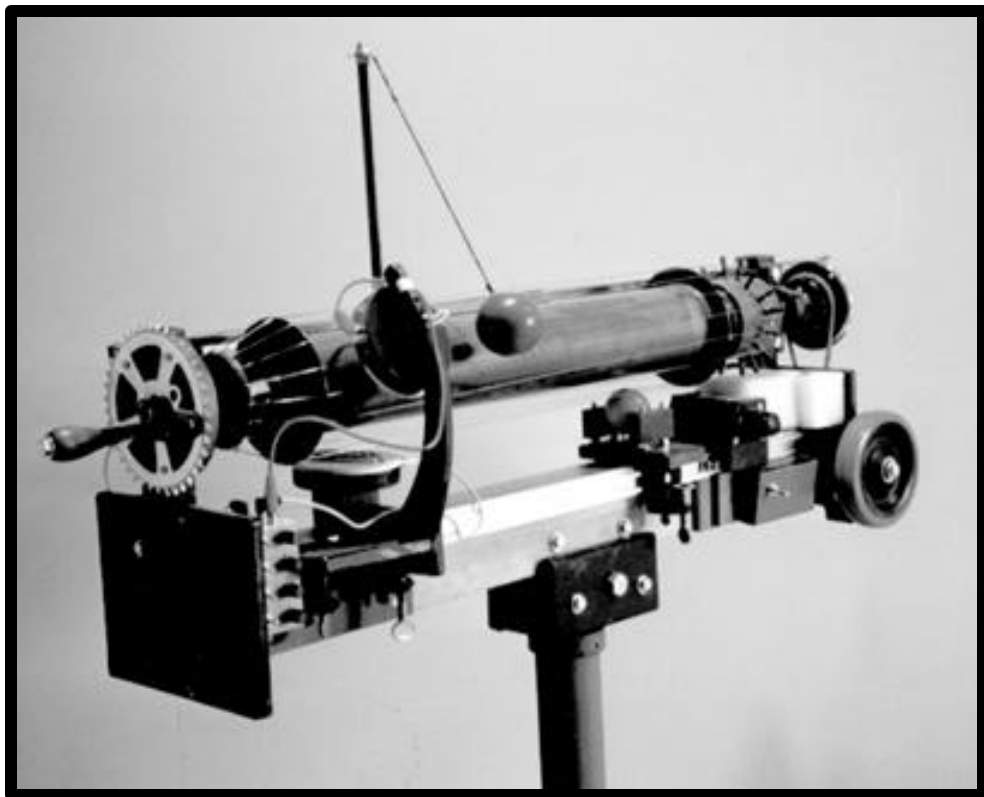
Into the Future

- **What should we do?**
- **Work more closely with SHPOs (eg use state-developed Contextual Studies?)**
- **Work more closely with the NPS in developing Contexts?**
- **Your Suggestions?**



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No Gonkulators



**Gonculator-
An expensive
and
complex piece of
equipment that
does nothing**