

Utah Division of State History Annual Report, FY 2010

Mission: Preserving and sharing the past for the present and future.



Director Philip F. Notarianni

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The Utah Division of State History collaborates with individuals, communities, and organizations in preserving and sharing the past for the present and future through outstanding, timely professional assistance, research resources, publications, and information. State History supports people, organizations, agencies and communities to:

- **Strengthen communities and individuals through engagement with history.**
- **Boost economies through use of historic resources.**
- **Do their work more efficiently with tools and assistance.**

The work of State History's main programs in FY 2010 is detailed below.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Through the SHPO, State History administers several state and federally funded preservation programs. ([UCA 9-9-402](#))

Grants to Local Governments

Utah leads the nation in federally certified local governments, with 94 CLGs statewide. State History managed \$252,892 in grants in process for historic preservation (with \$214,129 funded in FY 2010--Scorecard measure). Of this total, \$25,000 came from state funds, which leveraged \$227,892 in federal funds and more than \$260,000 in matching funds from local communities. These grants helped rehabilitate key community buildings.

***Outcomes** Without grants and staff technical assistance, some locally important preservation projects wouldn't have happened; others would take much longer. Some examples:*

- 1) The Spring City School, a centerpiece of the town, has received national recognition. CLG grants and technical advice have enabled the structural stabilization of the building.*
- 2) The Casino Star Theater in Gunnison is being lovingly restored by two women who had the vision to revive this community treasure. A CLG grant is helping restore the iconic front façade.*

Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits

With State History's help, 63 state historic preservation tax credit projects and five federal tax projects were completed. Total expenditures for these projects reached \$41,706,734.

***Outcomes** Tax credits helped developments succeed and thus increase jobs and expenditures in the local economy. Four projects rehabilitated historic buildings for use as low-income housing, increasing much-needed housing and enhancing neighborhoods with restored buildings. Tax credits also made possible a unique distillery, located in a historic garage and house in Park City. The national media has spotlighted this innovative project.*

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register recognizes significant historic buildings and archaeological sites. Listing is honorific only and does not restrict the owner's options. State History assisted with the nominations of 2,839 buildings (mostly within the Wells Historic District) and 63 sites.

***Outcomes** In the new Wells National Historic District (south and west of SLC's Liberty Park) homeowners now need no approval from the city's Landmarks Commission on proposed exterior work, and they may apply for historic tax credits for rehabilitation. The listing of Nine Mile Canyon brought media attention to the canyon and is expected to increase tourism spending.*

Section 106/404 (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and UCA 9-8-404)

Compliance Reviews

Federal and state laws require developers using federal or state resources to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) when their projects may impact historic or archaeological resources. The SHPO has streamlined this process while still protecting cultural resources. SHPO reviewed and processed 1,895 new archaeological cases during FY2010.

***Outcomes** Delayed projects can cost developers and taxpayers between \$100 and \$100,000 per day as equipment and workers sit idle. Although statute allows the SHPO 30 days to comment, we return more than 50 percent of comments in less than two weeks. This can expedite projects and boost economic growth and development, while preserving irreplaceable cultural resources.*

Programmatic Agreements

Programmatic Agreements (PAs) expedite the consultation process. SHPO is collaborating on more than ten PAs and executed at least five during FY2010.

***Outcomes** Generally, these agreements save time and money. Examples:*

- 1) The PA executed for oil and gas development on the West Tavaputs Plateau resolved issues among 20 disparate groups and allowed development to move forward. The Bill Barrett Corp. estimates royalties from this development region could bring the state up to \$100,000/day.*
- 2) The PA regarding federal weatherization funds streamlines the review process for the distribution of tens of millions of dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These funds will reduce energy use and create jobs.*

Utah State Historical Society

The Division stimulates activity in the field of Utah history and publishes a historical magazine. ([UCA 9-8-206](#) and [9-8-203 \(1\) \(a\)](#))

Publications

Staff published four issues of the *Utah Historical Quarterly*, collaborated with the University of Utah Press to republish *The Autobiography of Hosea Stout*, and helped develop plans for a college-level history of Utah textbook.

Oral History

In cooperation with the Utah Humanities Council, staff awarded six oral history grants and received 210 oral histories for deposition in the Research Center.

Education, Outreach, and Partnerships

Staff and volunteers presented 25 programs to public schools, senior citizen centers, and history groups and taught four oral history/local history workshops. Staff also worked with trails organizations on trails-related activities and signage. The Historical Society finished the year with 2,361 members (Scorecard measure).

Antiquities

The Division has the mandate to cooperate on various endeavors to preserve and promote Utah's archaeology and assist with the care of ancient human remains. ([UCA 9-8-304](#))

Presentations, tours, and papers

- Staff produced eight presentations, four archaeological tours, a Prehistory Week open house, and 16 papers or posters on archaeology or osteology.

Protection of Resources

Staff coordinated site stewards who visited Danger and Juke Box caves 12 times, investing over 100 hours. Staff also assisted with recording 26 new archaeological sites in Desolation Canyon.

Human remains

Staff conducted three trainings for law enforcement officers on human remains issues; made five trips to various locations in Utah for the recovery of human remains on non-federal lands; received or recovered 22 sets of human remains; analyzed 23 sets of remains; completed reports of 17 sets of remains; and facilitated the interment of 27 sets of unaffiliated remains.

Archaeological Records Management

State History has the responsibility to collect and administer site survey and excavation records, and edit and publish antiquities records. ([UCA 9-8-304 \(2\) \(f\) \(g\)](#)) The Division collects and maintains both paper and digital records.

- Archaeological consultants made 402 visits and spent 604 hours researching.
- Staff received 1,910 site forms and digitized 6,468 site forms and 1,280 project forms.

Overall, State History:

- provided 53,683 archaeological project GIS records online (Scorecard measure)
- provided 94,743 archaeological site GIS records online (Scorecard measure)
- provided one archaeology IMACS form online (Scorecard measure)

Research and Collections

The Utah State Legislature has mandated that the Division maintain a specialized history library; and collect, preserve, and administer historical records. ([UCA 9-8-203 \(1\) \(d\) \(e\)](#))

Research Center

The Research Center is operated jointly with State Archives. The Research Center:

- Served 11,145 total patrons (1,452 new patrons registered) (Scorecard measure), including 396 photo orders and 8,207 patron requests by e-mail, mail, and phone.
- Provided assistance and resources to the State Legislature, Governor's Office, State Capitol Preservation Board, state and local agencies, news organizations, and publishers.

***Outcomes** Partnering with State Archives in the Research Center efficiently provides for one central location and professional staff for the public accessing historical records.*

Collections

Collections digitization

Staff processed and oversaw scanning of 36,100 photographs, 2,000 nitrate negatives, 2,431 artifact slides, and 437 maps. Staff digitized 400 hours of oral history interviews.

***Outcomes** Digitization of collections helps to preserve original items and makes them available to an audience beyond the Salt Lake Valley and the borders of Utah. 47,248 online images (Scorecard measure) are used extensively; the photo search page received 54,000 hits.*

Collections preservation and access

Staff intensified their focus on collection care seeking to protect the State's collections:

- Created a cool-down system for negatives needing freezer storage.
- Identified the first and third Utah State Flags. Preservation work on flags has begun.
- Made documentary materials available to the public by accessioning 46 new items and processing 179 linear feet of collections.
- Completed 25 percent of an artifact inventory (Scorecard measure)

Systems improvements

Staff worked on the following:

- Converting collection registers to EAD (Encoded Archival Description).
- Work on a new Collections Development Policy and implemented new procedures for acquiring new holdings, loaning items, collections disaster response, and more.
- Successfully transferring 63,419 catalog records (Scorecard measure) to a new online catalog in cooperation with State Library and the Utah State Collections Consortium.
- Transferring artifacts data into Past Perfect museum software.
- Setting up water detection bugs in basement collection spaces, creating 3 disaster kits for emergency based collection care, and initiating environmental monitoring.

***Outcomes** The new online catalog is more efficient and easier to use, allowing for greater access to collections. It also provides for more accurate use statistics and in-depth reports to help staff better meet the public's needs.*

Media and exhibits

Written information, artifacts, and photographs from State History's collections have appeared in two documentary films, six exhibits, and one book.

***Outcome** Exhibits and publications using historical photos and information generate interest in Utah history and foster greater awareness of available resources.*

Information and Communication

Information/Communication staff support the Division's programs, provide online information and resources, and inform the public about Utah history and the Division.

Digitization

IMACS archaeology site forms

3,600 archaeological site records, from Cache, Daggett, Davis, and Box Elder counties, have been digitized so far. State History manages 92,000 total paper records to be digitized.

Digital Publications

State History digitized 52,372 pages of publications in fiscal years 2009 and 2010. All have been indexed and formatted for inclusion in the Digital Library hosted by Utah State Library. State History has also contributed 304,000 pages of historical newspapers to the Utah Digital Newspapers Project, a statewide collaborative initiative.

Digital Collections

561,444 burial records are available online (Scorecard measure). 47,248 images and 350 oral history recordings are available online (Scorecard measures).

Systems improvements

Preservation Pro GIS web application

A custom application provides streamlined business processes for cultural resource management and compliance for both the historic preservation and archaeological communities. In addition, a public viewer has been developed to provide information about private historic homes. The database is 97% complete (Scorecard measure).

Constituent Relationship Management (CRM)

State History has begun implementation of CRM, particularly using it to improve communication with Preservation Pro customers.

Website

State History's main website received 766,195 separate visits (Scorecard measure). State History's educational websites received 327,020 visits. The sites have extensive history information and extensive resources and databases for a variety of publics with different needs. A new toolkit, Prospering Places, helps communities leverage their heritage assets.

***Outcomes** State History's websites save citizens and taxpayers time and money by making information readily available. For instance, the time staff must take in responding to queries about heritage tourism has diminished by 75% as they can refer the public to the resources in the Prospering Places toolkit.*

Annual Conference

The 57th Annual Utah State History Conference, "Celebrating Utah's American Indian Culture: We Shall Remain," was successful, with more than 800 people attending the three-day event.