

Facts for Feds:

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WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT THEME STUDY

More than a Dozen Federally Owned Facilities Recommended for National Historic Landmark Consideration

In 2000, Congress directed the National Park Service to conduct a nationwide theme study of the World War II home front. Prepared in association with the Organization of American Historians, this study identifies historic places that best represent the wartime mobilization (1939-1945) in the United States. Authorized in association with establishment of the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California, the results of this undertaking are now available at: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/themes/Homefront/Homefront-FINAL.htm>

The task of identifying places that can tell the home front story is a challenging one. Thousands of factories, government office buildings, research laboratories, housing projects, military bases, United Service Organization (USO) canteens, day care centers, and schools were built or expanded during the war. Theaters in hundreds of communities across the nation sponsored War Bond drives and showed both terrifying news reels and uplifting and entertaining movies. Railroad and bus stations in large cities and small towns could barely contain the millions of men and women passing through them on their way to military service or new defense jobs. Other places represented less positive wartime stories: segregated housing and military bases, war relocation centers for persons of Japanese descent, prisons where conscientious objectors were held, and sites of racial conflict or labor/management confrontation.

Some home front properties have already been federally recognized, either as units of the National Park System, as designated National Historic Landmarks, or as listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Most home front properties, however, have not yet been comprehensively surveyed or evaluated. In addition, many sites have been lost to demolition or destructive change, in part because no one recognized their significance. The study presents registration requirements for both National Historic Landmark designation and for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Federal agencies should review the World War II Home Front study to better understand the context for identifying, evaluating and documenting historic properties in their inventories that may have home front associations. As part of their Section 110 responsibilities, Federal Preservation Officers should also consider conducting the studies necessary to nominate the properties recommended by the National Park Service for consideration as National Historic Landmarks. In addition, FPOs should ensure that these properties are given additional consideration as part of their agency's Section 106 compliance systems.

World War II Home Front National Historic Landmark Study List

Property	Significance/Theme	Federal Agency
B Reactor, Richland, WA	Production: Manhattan Project	Department of Energy
K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Process Building, Oak Ridge, TN	Production: Manhattan Project	Department of Energy
T-Plant, Chemical Separation Building, Richland, WA	Production: Manhattan Project	Department of Energy
V-Site Assembly Building and Gun Site, Los Alamos, NM	Production: Manhattan Project	Department of Energy
Y-12 Beta-3 Racetracks, Oak Ridge, TN	Production: Manhattan Project	Department of Energy
Holston Ordnance Works, Kingsport, TN	Production: Science & Technology	Department of Defense
Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA	Production: Science & Technology	Department of Defense
Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, CA	Production: Science & Technology	Department of Defense
Camp Evans Historic District, Monmouth County, NJ	Production: Science & Technology	Department of Defense
Wright Field/Patterson Field, Fairfield, OH	Production: Science & Technology	Department of Defense
Douglas Assembly Building, Tinker Air Force Base, OK	Production: Industry	Department of Defense
Fontana Dam, Swain and Graham Counties, NC	Production: Industry	Tennessee Valley Authority
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME	Production: Industry	Department of Defense
Camp McCoy, Monroe County, WI	Manpower	Department of Defense
Social Security Building, Washington, DC	Politics and Government	General Services Administration
Port Chicago Naval Magazine, Contra Costa County, CA	Civil Rights	Department of Defense

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