

SRS Heritage News

SRS Heritage Foundation Newsletter

Issue 1, Volume 1

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Welcome to the first edition of the SRS Heritage Foundation Newsletter. In the future, you will be receiving the Newsletter instead of the semi-occasional updates sent you by Walt Joseph.



Check out our new logo (above), created with the help of students in Dr. Fowler's computer design class at USCA. The design represents both the technical and ecological accomplishments of the Savannah River Site's heritage.

Good news

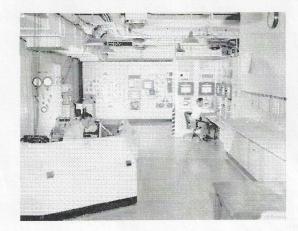
After many anxious months, we have finally achieved Tax Exempt Status as a 501(c)(3) corporation. The SRS Heritage Foundation, Inc. can now begin to raise money to convert our vision into reality.

We have applied for our first grant from the Aiken County Local Accommodations Tax. If our grant application is successful, we will raise matching funds; the total will be used for a pre-design study of the Heritage Center and the Ellenton interpretive trail. Keep your fingers crossed. We should know about the grant by mid August. We are continuing to seek other grant opportunities.

Saving artifacts

Artifact collection at the Site continues to be a major emphasis. Many of the historic artifacts from Building 777-10A have been saved, including the entire PDP control room. and the PDP reactor tank top. Building 777-10A is being demolished.

We are engaged in discussions with DOE about how to preserve equipment from the contamination facility in the Medical Building, 719-A. The unique equipment exemplifies not only the detailed planning for dealing with nuclear hazards but also the exemplary safety performance which never required the use of the facility.

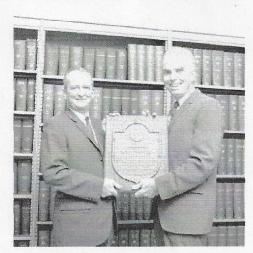


We have the entire PDP control room safely stored, waiting to serve as an interactive display in the Heritage Center.

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One unexpected treasure recovered during artifact collection efforts is the original 1950 map used by the team evaluating potential sites for the plant. The map is approximately 9x14 feet and covers the eastern part of the US. Over 100 potential sites are plotted; many with handwritten notes by the DuPont and AEC team members. A professional paper conservator has examined the map and estimated the cost of conservation at between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Artifacts are being stored temporarily in the Assembly Area of Building 105-C. Although this space is not ideal for the curation of artifacts, it does provide a safe, secure environment for interim storage. DOE and WSRC are working to provide an adequate facility with temperature and climate control. We hope to have a professionally trained curator on Site soon to begin cataloging and preserving artifacts.



In 1966, Ike Hobbes, director of the SR Technical and Production Division, and Dr. Edward J. Hennelly, research associate in SRL's Theoretical Physics Division, proudly displayed the High Flux plaque. In 2005, an alert SRS retiree spotted the plaque at a flea market, and reclaimed it for the Heritage Center!

Building the Foundation

Our Board of Directors is nearly complete. We have recruited excellent people who are well known in their communities and are strongly supportive of Foundation goals. It's amazing to reflect that we have been engaged in this endeavor for a little less than two years.

Save the date!

We'll introduce our new board of directors, and CNTA will officially transfer preservation activities to the SRS Heritage Foundation, at the Aiken County Historical Museum on August 11, 2005, at 10:00 AM.