

Facts

from the **Savannah River Site**

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP • NUCLEAR SECURITY • SCIENCE AND ENERGY

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- Until FY2012, the artifact collection was housed in temporary storage, inside a former reactor facility, 105-C, and an unoccupied office building, 742-A.
- The curation facility, 315-M, is a sheet metal building with 27,000 square-feet of space. The building was initially constructed in 1982 as a warehouse.
- The northern portion is partitioned off for storage of the Cold War artifact collection. The 12,200 square-foot room features laydown areas for very large artifacts; pallet racks for heavy, but smaller artifacts, and open, metal shelving for the bulk of the collection.
- The southeastern block is composed of personnel space and open-walled storage rooms. The southwestern portion of the building has been divided into two new rooms.
- The northern of these is the Curation Room, which houses the archival document collection. This 3,450 square-foot room promotes ideal climate control because of the lack of windows, doors, or skylights which were present in the original building.
- The southern room is occupied by the Savannah River Archaeological Department, which is keyed and managed separately.
- The HVAC and dehumidification system is designed to provide a climate that is in keeping with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior standards for artifact storage. A cool, dry, dark environment is ideal for preventing damage to historical artifacts caused by heat, humidity and light. The system also provides a slight positive air pressure to decrease particulate infiltration into the clean system.

Curation Facility

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, working with the Department of Energy, is fulfilling a commitment to preserve decades of culture, accomplishments and history associated with life at the Savannah River Plant (SRP), now known as the Savannah River Site (SRS).

This former warehouse preserves and protects historic artifacts from both the Cold War, the Sites; pre-acquisition history, and prehistory following collection management guidelines in 36 CFR 79.

Background

The goal of the SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program is to preserve the history of the Savannah River Site.

Tasked by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to care for resources 50 years of age and older, SRS relies on the Cold War Historic Preservation Program (CWHPP) to manage historic buildings in a way that is sensitive to a building's integrity. The HPP also collects artifacts from those buildings that must be torn down and, at times, when warranted from functioning buildings on site.

Items collected range in date from approximately 1950 to 1989, and they relate to the key themes of the collection: historical figures, historic events, the history of technology on and off site, and the social history of the men and women who worked at the SRP.

Because the themes are broad, the artifacts themselves are also diverse. They range from small campaign buttons worn by engineers from the Manhattan Project who transferred to SRP to control panels used to operate a test reactor. The collection also includes a large number of mockup reactor elements used for training and a collection of gauges used by tritium area employees to perform quality assurance checks on tritium reservoirs.



Model of the heavy water components test reactor which is being preserved in the SRS Curation Facility



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The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is the management and operations contractor at the Savannah River Site. Savannah River Mission Completion is the current liquid waste contractor at the Savannah River Site.

SRS
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Savannah River Archaeological Research Program

The Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) has worked with DOE at SRS since 1978 and meets DOE curation commitments to the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as described in the 1990 programmatic memorandum of agreement. The archaeological storage room uses 3,600 square-feet of space and will house over 2.5 million SRS archaeological artifacts. Its size will accommodate existing and future SRS operations for the next decade or more.

Artifacts housed here date from the end of the Ice Age (12,000 years ago) through the creation of SRP in 1950. DOE will continue to make these archaeological artifacts available for scientific research and public outreach purposes.



Pallet storage area at the SRS Curation Facility



Shelf storage area at the SRS Curation Facility



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