State Review for Historic Properties

31st Annual State Construction Conference March 22, 2012 McKimmon Center NCSU, Raleigh

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Why Review for Historic Properties?

• State Environmental Policy Act

• NC General Statute 121-12(a)

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Any project that:

- is carried out with public funds and/or uses state land, <u>and</u>
- requires a state approval or action in order to be implemented, <u>and</u>
- has the potential for an environmental impact
- is subject to SEPA

www.doa.state.nc.us/clearing/faq.aspx

How does SEPA affect ME?

- If a project exceeds an agency's *Minimum Criteria* there is extra time and planning required, including the preparation of the appropriate SEPA document and time for public review and comment.
- *Minimum Criteria* for state agencies, including the University of North Carolina, are at:

ww.doa.state.nc.us/clearing/minumumcriteria.aspx

• <u>Note</u>: there are exceptions to the *Minimum Criteria* for work that involves buildings more than 50 years old and/or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These require separate review. *Woe is Me!!!* My project exceeds *Minimum Criteria!!!*

What shall I do?

Check out the State Construction Manual (Blue Book), especially Chapter 200 (It's only 17 pages long):

ww.nc-sco.com/documents/manual/Chapter200%20-

Pay particular attention to 202.8 Department of Cultural Resources review, as there are *special requirements* for historic buildings and undisturbed ground, <u>because</u>

NC General Statute 121-12(a)

State agency with direct or indirect authority to

- fund, permit, license, or approve
- an **undertaking**
- that may affect a <u>property listed in the</u> <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>
- must offer the <u>North Carolina Historical</u> <u>Commission</u> the opportunity to <u>review and</u> <u>comment</u> upon the undertaking

What is an Undertaking?

- Any alteration, demolition, neglect, repair, renovation, move, or other change to a building owned by the State (or in which state assistance or funds are involved)
- Any state or state-assisted project affecting buildings *not* owned by State (includes privately owned)
- Any state or state-assisted project involving **ground disturbance** (What? Historic dirt?)

What is the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)?

A <u>list of properties</u> that have been determined by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the National Park Service to be <u>significant to the history of the</u> <u>United States at a local, state, or</u> <u>national level.</u>

The National Register is:



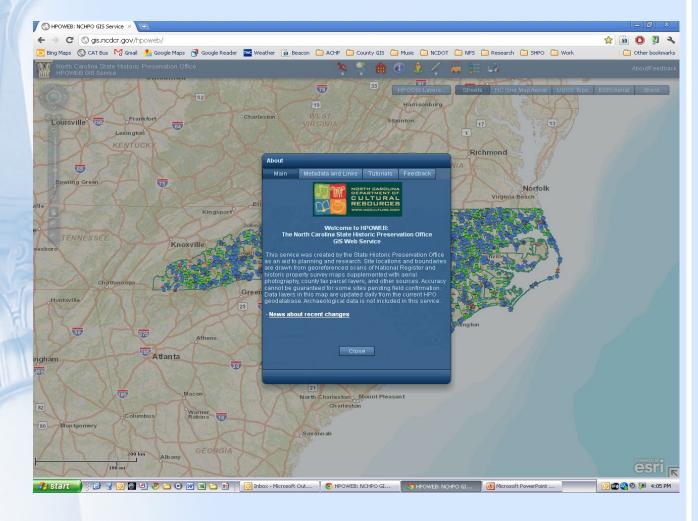
- Buildings
- Structures
- **Sites** (archaeological)
- Districts
- Objects

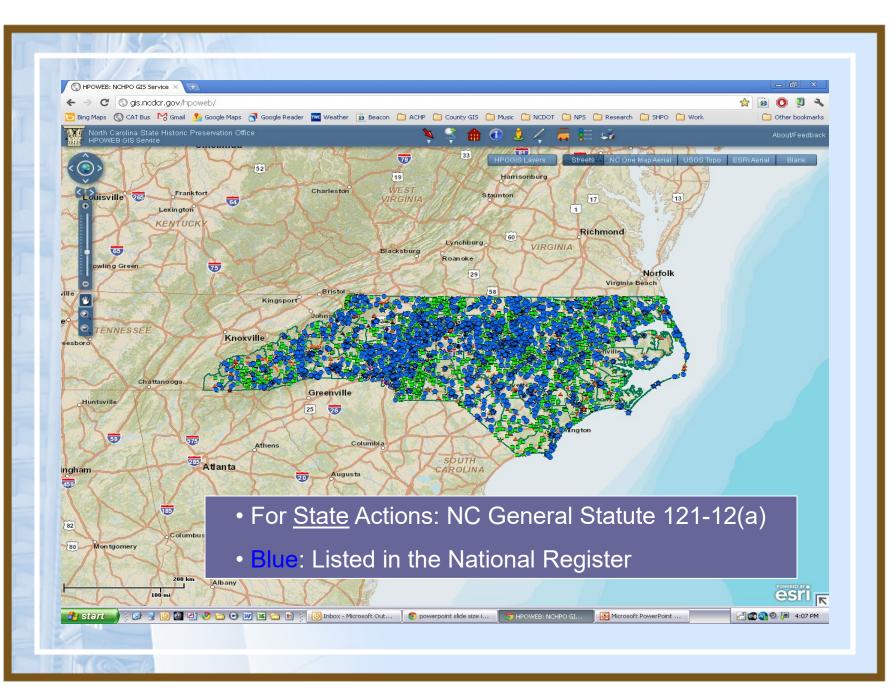
Is the affected property listed on the National Register?

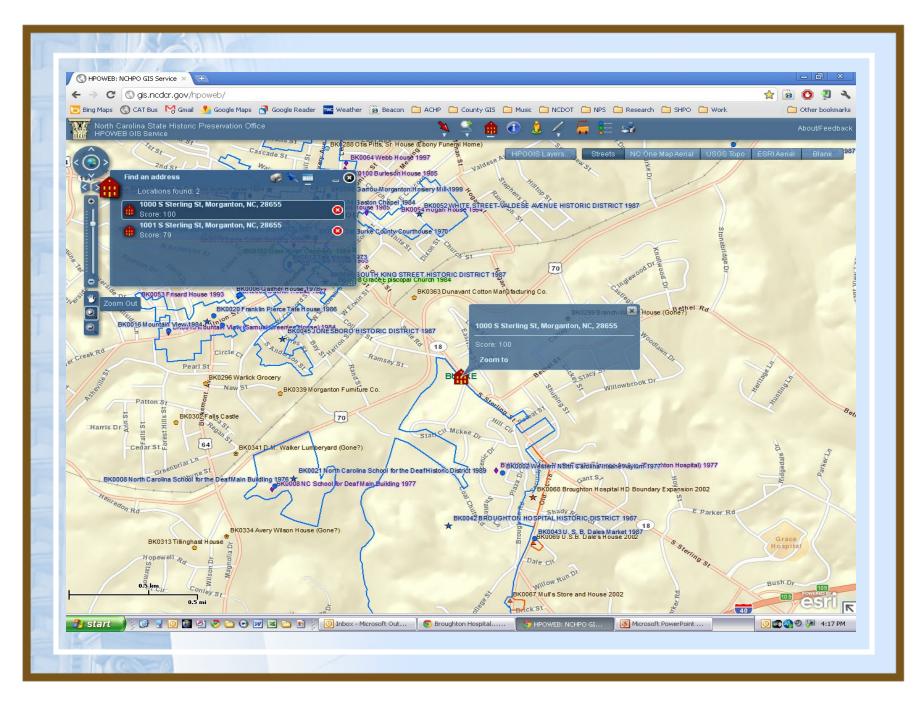
> Use the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) WEB GIS application @

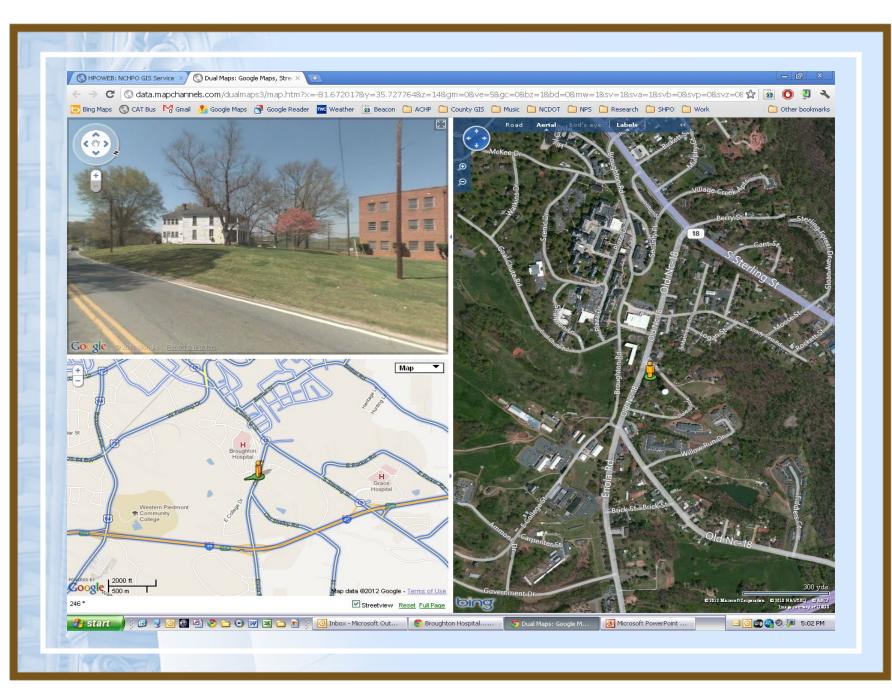
http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb/

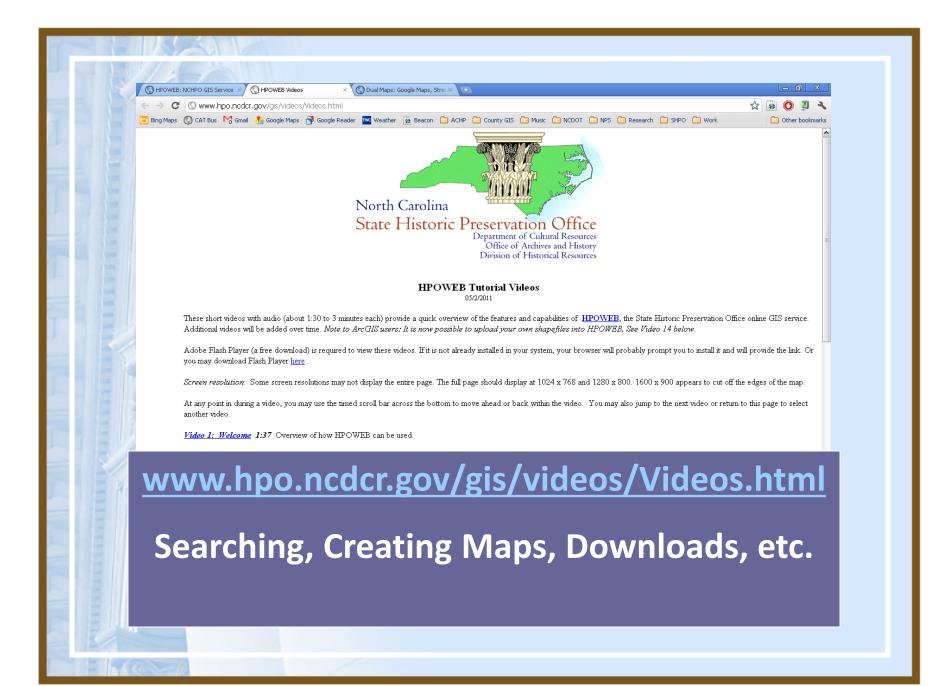
Take a look--











If an "undertaking" affects a National Register property?

The State agency should submit its plans to the HPO for review early in the planning process.

Electronic submissions (by email) through the HPO's Environmental Review email portal@

http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/er/er_email submittal.html

After submission to HPO, what happens next?

Staff of the HPO and Office of State Archaeology review the proposed project to determine if a listed property or archaeological resources may be affected. If so, further consultation is necessary including:

review of each phase of the design process – schematics, design/development, plans and specs

the potential for archaeological survey and testing of previously undisturbed areas

The goal - to avoid adversely affecting historic properties.

What is an adverse effect?

An action that damages or destroys the characteristics for which the historic property was determined eligible for listing. Adverse effects **include**, **but are not limited to**:

- **Destruction or alteration** of all or part of property
- **Isolation from or alteration** of a property's surrounding environment
 - **Introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements** that are out of character with the property or alter its setting
- Transfer or sale of a state-owned NRHP property without adequate conditions or restrictions regarding preservation, maintenance, or use
- Neglect resulting in deterioration or destruction

Uh-ho, the effect is <u>Adverse</u>

If the HPO, as staff to the Historical Commission, determines that a proposed undertaking **adversely affects** a NRHP-listed property, then

> formal review by the Historical Commission is necessary,

prior to any action taking place.

The NC Historical Commission

The Historical Commission meets **semiannually** to consider any adverse effects to NRHP-listed properties and <u>offers its</u> <u>recommendations</u> on those undertakings.

The recommendations are <u>advisory</u> and may or may not be implemented by the State agency.



No action should be taken or state funds expended on the undertaking **until**

<u>after</u> the NCHC has met and made its recommendations.



Questions????

http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/

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