ANATOMY OF A RESOURCE SURVEY

Survey & Research Methodology:
RMS Queen Mary, Long Beach, California
Introduction

In 2014, PCR prepared an HSR to record the existing conditions of the RMS Queen Mary, owned by the City of Long Beach and operated by The Queen Mary.

This presentation will focus on PCR’s research and survey methodology.

Royal Salon (former First Class Smoking Room), view forward
The Queen Mary HSR:

• **Serves as a guide for preservation**, documenting and assessing existing character-defining features of the ship’s architecture (structure, spaces, features, materials, and finishes)

• **Provides narrative and graphic information** about the ship’s history, alterations, and existing conditions, in support of the preservation management goals for the continued and future use of the ship

• **Presents a plan** for short and long-term preservation treatment and maintenance
Conduct focused research to understand the evolution of the structure, evaluate its significance, and propose appropriate treatment.

Research should be directed toward documenting the structure’s:

- History
- Alterations
- Occupancy history
- Uses over time
Research: Queen Mary HSR

PCR:

• Conducted archival and historical research and analyzed historic documents, histories, and historic photographs

• Prepared a narrative history, chronology of development and use, construction chronology, permit history, maintenance history, and history of alterations to character-defining features
In regard to research, this presentation will address:

- Identifying available resources
- Developing background and contextual information
- Developing a chronology of development and use
- Identifying the period(s) of significance
- Materials and treatments
Research: Available Resources

Resources may include:

- Libraries
- Historic societies
- Archives and special collections
- Period newspapers
- Historic plans and images
- Correspondence and oral histories
- Directories
- National, state, or local nominations
- Online archives, databases, and other resources
- Municipal records
- Architectural, engineering, and construction documents
- Maps
- Advertisements and promotional materials
Prepare a brief history of the building and its context, identifying:

- Designers, builders, and artists
- Significant personages
- Associated periods, styles, and themes
- Decorative programs
- Related properties

Right: Doris Zinkeisen painting a mural in the Veranda Grill (from James Steele, “Queen Mary,” Phaidon, 2011)
Research: Chronology of Development

Prepare a description of the building’s original construction, alterations, and uses over time by:

- Inspecting physical evidence
- Analyzing historic plans, images, and other relevant documents
- Creating a timeline and/or written chronology

Excerpt from *The Ship Builder and Marine Engineer-Builder, June 1936*
Based on the context and chronology, determine the period(s) of significance associated with the property:

• Queen Mary:
  • *Initial Construction* (1934-38)
  • *Troopship* (1939-46)
  • *Post-war* (1946-67)

Right: The RMS Queen Mary as a troopship (1939-46) (from James Steele, “Queen Mary,” Phaidon, 2011)
Conduct research on materials and appropriate treatments:

- Determine which materials are significant
- Conduct relevant historical research on the materials
- Identify appropriate conservation strategies

Bronze double doors by Walter and Donald Gilbert in former First Class Restaurant (PCR 2014)
“Deer Group,” John Skeaping (artist), Starboard Gallery (original location), bas relief on Honduras mahogany (from James Steele, “Queen Mary,” Phaidon, 2011)

Bakelite doorknob (PCR 2014)

Bakelite steward call light indicator (PCR 2014)
Document physical spaces and elements and assess the current condition of the building materials and systems.

In conjunction with historical research, the survey helps determine the historic integrity of a structure.

The survey could address exterior and interior:

- Spaces
- Materials
- Features and finishes
- Structural systems
- Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing fixtures
PCR:

• Conducted intensive inspection of the ship, documenting and describing each character-defining feature historic architectural element and assessing its current condition

• Created space-by-space Microsoft Access database of character-defining features associated with the Queen Mary’s period of significance, including photo documentation and a written assessment of its historic significance and integrity

• Organized database by space, location, structure/feature type, integrity and significance, and recommended preservation treatment
In regard to conducting a survey, this presentation will address:

• Defining the scope
• Coordination
• Methodology
• Technology
• Survey tips
• Case Study (Queen’s Salon, former First Class Main Lounge)
Survey: Coordination

Recommendations:

• Establish a schedule with service team, consultants, and clients
• Communicate clearly and regularly with everyone involved
• Determine availability and accessibility of spaces to be surveyed
Develop a survey methodology, making sure to:

• Create a prioritized list of spaces to survey
• Determine method of recordation
• Establish nomenclature for objects and features
• Establish level of detail for recordation
• Be consistent!
Recommendations:

• Select appropriate equipment based on project needs and budget
• Field test equipment to verify suitability
• Learn how to appropriately set-up and use equipment
• Make transpiration arrangement for heavy equipment
• Be aware of limitations, such as lack of Internet access on the survey site
• Queen Mary
  • Microsoft Access database
  • Tablets
  • Digital cameras
  • External hard drive
  • Cart/backpack to transport equipment
To streamline the survey process:

- Keep it simple!
- Be flexible
- Be mindful of time and budget constraints
- Set reasonable goals (e.g. make sure tasks are manageable)
- Divide and conquer (i.e. divide tasks among team members)
- Be mindful of surroundings
- Dress appropriately
- Be prepared to answer questions from passersby
Survey: Case Study

Queen’s Salon (former First Class Main Lounge)

PCR:

• Updated previous records from 2008 survey (also conducted by PCR)
• Identified features and objects to be recorded
• Consulted books and historic photographs
• Recorded survey results directly into database

Rending of First Class Main Lounge, Initial Construction (1934-38) period (from James Steele, “Queen Mary,” Phaidon, 2011)

Historic photograph of First Class Main Lounge (from James Steele, “Queen Mary,” Phaidon, 2011)
Detail of historic deck plan showing configuration of First Class Main Lounge during Initial Construction (1934-38) period
Survey: Case Study

Queen's Salon, view forward

Bronze relief panels by Maurice Lambert

Detail of etched mirror

Fireplace

Survey Photographs (PCR 2015)
Microsoft Access database of character-defining features associated with the Queen’s Salon (former First Class Main Lounge)
An Historic Structures Report:

• Provides documentary, graphic, and physical information about a property’s history and current condition
• Addresses management or owner goals for the current or future use of an historic property
• Presents a preservation strategy for the property, including conservation and maintenance
• Serves as a guide for all changes to the property
• Documents the property for future researchers