

# NGDA Dataset Report

**Official NGDA Title:** National Register of Historic Places

**Metadata Record Title:** National Register of Historic Places - National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) NPS National Register Dataset

**A-16 NGDA Theme:** Cultural Resources

## Executive NGDA Theme Champion(s):

**Name:** Stephanie Toothman

**Agency:** DOI-NPS

**Email:** Stephanie\_Toothman@nps.gov

## Theme Lead(s):

**Name:** Deidre McCarthy

**Agency:** NPS

**Email:** deidre\_mccarthy@nps.gov

## Dataset Manager(s):

**Name:** Matthew Stutts

**Agency:** NPS

**Email:** matthew\_stutts@nps.gov

## Metadata:

**Registration Status:** Complete

**Registered on** 3/24/2015

**GeoPlatform Link\*:** <https://www.geoplatform.gov/node/243/9f00bd5a-6bfc-4dd3-9fc4-e8da15cdaecb>

**Data.gov Metadata Link\*:** <http://catalog.data.gov/harvest/object/381aac49-daa7-46b0-bd04-79cfc3227895/html>

\*If the metadata has been updated and reharvested after publication of this report, the link may no longer be valid. The dataset may be searched for manually in Data.gov or GeoPlatform.gov.

# NGDA Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) Report

## Time Frame:

Baseline assessment responses include dataset activities from 2012 to 2015.

## LMA Submission:

**Status:** Complete

**Date:** 9/16/2015

**Extension Requested:** No

## LMA Reviewer(s):

**Supervisor:** Deidre McCarthy

**Theme Lead:** Did not review

**Executive Champion:** Did not review

**SAOGI\*:** Did not review

**Other:** Did not review

## LMA Verifier:

**Name:** Deidre McCarthy

**Email:** deidre\_mccarthy@nps.gov

## Attachments:

To get access to any attachments referenced in the report, email the LMA Help Desk at [NGDA\\_LMA\\_help@fgdc.gov](mailto:NGDA_LMA_help@fgdc.gov). Please use the subject "Dataset Report Attachment(s)" and indicate the associated official NGDA title.

\*Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI)

## Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) Summary

### Overall Maturity:

**Transition; Transformation**

General Questions: 24%

**Planned; Initial Development**

Stage 4 - Access: 100%

**Optimized; Established**

Stage 1 - Define/Plan: 55%

**Managed; Predictable**

Stage 5 - Maintain: 28%

**Planned; Initial Development**

Stage 2 - Inventory/Evaluate: 25%

**Managed; Predictable**

Stage 6 - Use/Evaluate: 44%

**Transition; Transformation**

Stage 3 - Obtain: 88%

**Mature; Consistent**

Stage 7 - Archive: 0%

**No Activity**

### NGDA Dataset Maturity Definitions:

How To Calculate Maturity: [https://www.geoplatform.gov/sites/default/files/How\\_to\\_Calculate\\_Maturity.pdf](https://www.geoplatform.gov/sites/default/files/How_to_Calculate_Maturity.pdf)

Maturity	Maturity Characteristics for All Lifecycle Stages
Optimized; Established Rank = 5	Dataset meets virtually all business needs of all users. The dataset is considered authoritative by owners and secondary users. It is curated across all stages of the approved lifecycle. Future needs are defined on a regular basis and resources for addressing both current and future business requirements are available.
Mature; Consistent Rank = 4	Dataset meets all the business needs of the primary owner and most of the secondary users. The dataset is curated and used as authoritative by the primary owner. Dataset is used widely by secondary users actively engaged in sustaining the dataset. Future needs are identified and steps are planned to address these. All stages are supported and reviewed on a recurring basis. The dataset is well managed in relation to the approved lifecycle.
Managed; Predictable Rank = 3	Dataset meets a significant number of the business needs of the primary owner and is widely used as an authoritative resource by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least four of the approved lifecycle stages. Management practices in relation to the approved lifecycle is moderate but consistent. Dataset is integrating changing business requirements in lifecycle stages impacting overall maturity.
Transition; Transformation Rank = 2	Dataset meets business needs of the primary owner and has moderate use by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least three stages. Efforts to integrate funding, include partners, and obtain data are not supported in a sustained manner. Management practices in relation to the stages of the approved lifecycle is limited.
Planned; Initial Development Rank = 1	Dataset limited in meeting business needs of the primary owner. Benchmark activities in the approved lifecycle are just starting to consider secondary uses, partnerships are forming to support additional dataset uses. Dataset development is in a very early stage. Minimal or limited management against the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.
No Activity Rank = no activity	Dataset meets project or local business needs of the primary owner, secondary or additional uses or users were not considered, not recognized as an authoritative data or is part of a similar dataset. Not managed to any of the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.

## General Questions for All Stages

1) Is there a recurring process to obtain funding for all lifecycle stages of this dataset?

**Answer:** No.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

There does not currently exist any designated funding to specifically support all Lifecycle Stages. Staffing for Data Manager support role is currently a federal term position with priority of duties assigned to tasks other than those defined by the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance documents for the National Register of Historic Places dataset.

2) Is there a process in place to ensure that open government and transparency guidelines are followed in all lifecycle stages for this dataset?

**Answer:** Process under development.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Process to obtain and create spatial data occurs under an SLA between the National Register of Historic Places program and the Cultural Resources GIS program. Formal user and business requirement needs have not been required but data is created and implemented according to internal NPS Cultural Resources Spatial Data Transfer Standards. Inventory and management plans have not been required and most procedures pertaining to benchmarks are not formalized. Internal documentation/guidance has been created and implemented regarding the creation, safeguarding, and release of sensitive data. Data is made publicly available via catalogs such as data.gov.

3) Are there processes and tools in place so that staff are sufficiently knowledgeable to ensure a continuity of the dataset for all stages of the lifecycle, especially during staffing transitions?

**Answer:** Processes and tools to ensure dataset continuity are under development.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

While most benchmarks related to Lifecycle Stages have not been formalized or implemented, internal standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been generated related to the data creation and distribution processes. Cultural Resources GIS (CRGIS) works with the National Register staff to obtain updated tabular data but current staffing and infrastructure conditions of the program preclude CRGIS from updating and processing data on a formal, predictable schedule.

## STAGE 1 - Define/Plan

4) Are user and business requirements defined and formalized?

**Answer:** Ad hoc process is used for involving Partners/stakeholders in identifying requirements.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Primary users appear to be general public, state, and federal agencies. Cultural Resources GIS receives regular feedback and questions from users regarding data quality and formats but we are limited in our ability to fully address concerns (particularly related to data quality) due to staffing, funding, and the manner in which the data is initial generated and stored in National Register Information Systems database.

Cultural Resources GIS: [http://www.nps.gov/crgis/nr\\_data.htm](http://www.nps.gov/crgis/nr_data.htm)

National Register: <http://www.nps.gov/Nr/>

5) How are partners/stakeholders involved in the requirements collection process?

**Answer:** No involvement.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

National Register (NR) nominations are generally submitted and approved through State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). Information that is collected and stored related to boundaries or locations have never been made with the intent to generate or use this data in a modern, GIS format. Spatial data is created by CRGIS from what data is available that routinely was meant as a means of general documentation and may be too coarse to serve specific needs of users. Policies have recently been put in place to accept modern, GIS formats from stakeholders but this has yet to be formalized in the NR nomination process as a whole.

Public National Register spatial data: <https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/2210280/>

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**6)** Is there a quality assurance process for the dataset?

**Answer:** Process under development.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

There exists known data quality issues within the National Register spatial dataset that originate with both errors on the official nomination forms and within the collection and storage practices of that information into the National Register of Historic Places Information System database. Due to numerous factors including the current nomination and data storage practices, the size of the dataset, and non-existent staffing and funding related to addressing the quality issues of the data, there does not exist any formal process in place related to quality assurance.

Data, however, does adhere to internal NPS Cultural Resources Spatial Data Transfer Standards. Limited, ad hoc efforts have also been undertaken internally to address some of the quality control issues but formal processes are not in place.

CRGIS and the NR staff are currently in discussion with FEMA to create SLAs related to data sharing and quality-improvement agreements whereby FEMA staff may help in review and improve the locational information of NR boundaries in exchange for expedited access to datasets. However, we are only in preliminary discussions at this time.

NPS Cultural Resources Spatial Data Transfer Standards:  
<https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/2206878>

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**7)** Is there a process to evaluate the sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality of this dataset?

**Answer:** Sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality evaluations fully implemented, reviewed and updated on a recurring basis.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

National Register systems identify resources that fall into heightened sensitivity requirements. Spatial data deemed sensitive is generated but withheld from public release. Requests for access to sensitive data must come through the National Register office and approved by staff before release.

National Register office: <http://www.nps.gov/Nr/about.htm#contactus>

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**8)** Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or rendering the data?

**Answer:** Standards fully implemented documented and published as appropriate.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Data is generated and stored in accordance with NPS Cultural Resources Spatial Data Transfer Standards. Metadata tools are used to publish the data in ISO 19115 format.

## STAGE 2 - Inventory/Evaluate

9) Is there a process for determining if data necessary to meet requirements already exist from other sources (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?

**Answer:** Process is under development to identify datasets promoting reuse and reduce unnecessary duplication.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

National Register data may or may not be stored in GIS format by State Historic Preservation Offices. Surveys of offices have been taken to assess the state of SHPO digital inventories. However, data collected at state-level may be different than at federal NPS level due to varied reporting requirements. The National Register Information System database is the only existing resource for data meeting the reporting requirements of the agency. No formal agreements are currently in place with SHPOs to update the NPS spatial dataset with improved quality data at the state level, though informal agreements with limited state offices are being developed.

National Register collection: <http://www.nps.gov/Nr/research/index.htm>

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## STAGE 3 - Obtain

10) Is there a process for obtaining data in relation to this dataset?

**Answer:** Process is being implemented.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

The National Register Information System database is the authoritative dataset that is regularly updated by NR support staff. An SLA exists between the NR and CRGIS staff to consume this data on a (minimum) annual cycle and produce and provide GIS-ready spatial data from their inventory. Currently, the NR program has experienced the loss of key staff related to the database, and a multi-year transition to a modernized db system is being implemented. Once these issues are addressed, CRGIS will be able to obtain and produce data related to this dataset in a more formal and regularly scheduled process.

National Register spatial dataset: <https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/2210280/>

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11) Is the metadata in a FGDC endorsed geospatial metadata standard?

**Answer:** Metadata is available in a format endorsed by the FGDC, it fully describes the dataset and provides all the information required to make the dataset discoverable, accessible, and usable.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Metadata is available to the public through the NR geodatabase products. The metadata is in the ISO 19115 format.

National Register spatial dataset: <https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/2210280/>

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12) How complete is the geographic coverage as defined in the requirements for the dataset?

**Part 1 Answer:** Business requirements for cyclic updates identified and a process is in place.

**Part 2 Answer:** Dataset has presently attained the greatest geographic coverage as defined by the current requirements or roughly 100%.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

The dataset is created from the contents of the National Register Information Systems database and covers the entire US and its territories. It is in constant production, with new nominations being produced on a regular basis. The NR spatial data is updated on a (currently) irregular basis with the goal of updating the data on an annual basis or better.

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#### STAGE 4 - Access

13) Do you have a process for providing users access to the data in an open digital machine readable format?

**Answer:** User access process is fully implemented, data is available, process is reviewed and updated on a recurring basis.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Data is currently provided in ESRI geodatabase format and through a REST service, both with public access.

National Register spatial dataset: <https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/2210280/>

REST service:

[http://mapservices.nps.gov/arcgis/rest/services/cultural\\_resources/nrhp\\_locations/MapServer](http://mapservices.nps.gov/arcgis/rest/services/cultural_resources/nrhp_locations/MapServer)

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#### STAGE 5 - Maintain

14) Is there a maintenance process for updating and storing the dataset?

**Answer:** Dataset maintenance process is under development.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Dataset maintenance issues have been identified and documented. We consume data from the National Register of Information Systems database based on staffing availability at both CRGIS and National Register programs. Current staffing and infrastructure issues exist that preclude CRGIS from updating and storing the data according to a regularly scheduled time-frame. As systems are migrated to documented, modernized databases and staffing issues are sorted out, we expect to be able to update and store data according to a more formalized schedule.

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15) Is there an error correction process as part of dataset maintenance?

**Answer:** Error correction process under development.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Issues regarding data errors are documented internally at to some degree in metadata. Formal error correction processes are not supported by current staffing and funding levels.

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#### STAGE 6 - Use/Evaluate

16) Is there a process to determine if the dataset meets user needs?

**Answer:** No.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Currently, the authoritative dataset related to National Register data is within the National Register Information Systems database itself, not the spatial data generated by CRGIS. We receive ad hoc feedback on the spatial data from the public and government agencies but no formal process has been created to address user needs.

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17) Is there a process to provide users information on how to access and properly use the dataset?

**Answer:** Process is fully implemented supporting access and proper use, process is reviewed on a

recurring basis.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Data is available through NPS Internal "data store", through NPS public-facing REST services, and searchable through online catalogs such as data.gov. Documentation with links to data are available through both NR and CRGIS web sites within NPS.gov.

National Register spatial dataset:

<https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/2210280/>

REST service:

[http://mapservices.nps.gov/arcgis/rest/services/cultural\\_resources/nrhp\\_locations/MapServer](http://mapservices.nps.gov/arcgis/rest/services/cultural_resources/nrhp_locations/MapServer)

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**18) Are the business processes and management practices assessed to meet changing technology?**

**Answer:** Assessment process is being developed to take advantage of changing technology.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

No formal plan has been established to address technology-related issues. CRGIS is limited in the variety of products we can produce by our access to support infrastructure within NPS community. However, through ad hoc user feedback, we are evaluating the need to produce data in different formats, particularly open-source (moving from geodatabase to shapefile, producing WMS services, etc.)

Internally, we are active in NPS-based GIS-related user groups to align our activities with those of the agency as a whole. These include discussions on technologies to support, formats to distribute, and infrastructure systems to implement.

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## STAGE 7 - Archive

**19) Is there an archiving process for the dataset?**

**Answer:** No archival or disposition process.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Formalized archival and disposition process have not been identified or implemented.