



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ANNUAL REPORT

1971

Division of Historic Architecture
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Division of Historic Architecture

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
James C. Massey, Chief

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This annual report to the HABS Advisory Board is the first in the new series designed to provide annual summaries of Historic American Buildings Survey activities. It has been compiled on a calendar year basis for the use of the National Park Service, the Library of Congress, the American Institute of Architects, and our many HABS Cooperators. It reinstitutes the reports that were regrettably suspended several years ago, before the organization of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

BUDGET

The HABS Appropriation for Fiscal Year 1970-71 was \$187,700, net, and for Fiscal Year 1971-72, \$202,200, net, representing about \$195,000 for the Calendar Year, if the figures are not weighted to the actual expenses during the specific months of each fiscal year. This sum was greatly augmented in 1971 by donations from cooperators amounting to \$42,550 in matching funds, and \$35,369 in records and services, equalling \$77,920 in additional funds for HABS. For instance, \$10,000 came from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana; \$3,000 from the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission; \$4,800 from the Haas Community Fund, Philadelphia; and \$3,000 from the Southern Oregon Historical Society. The Milwaukee Landmarks Commission donated complete photo-data coverage of seven buildings--an extension of the cooperative measured drawings project conducted in 1969. The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the University of Virginia donated student-drawn measured drawings of 12 Virginia houses, mostly from the Eastern Shore. Measured drawings of two Texas ranch buildings were donated by Jerry Rogers, Director of the Ranch Headquarters Museum of Texas Tech University. As other buildings are moved to the museum, drawings will be made and donated to HABS. In all, the donations and appropriations combined represent a program of nearly \$273,000 for the past calendar year.

HABS ADVISORY BOARD

The HABS Advisory Board met on May 21 and 22, 1971, at the Institute de Cultura Puertorriqueña in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as guests of Ricardo Alegría, its Executive Director. The terms of service of the following members expired on June 30: Dr. William T. Alderson, Jr., Director of the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tennessee; Mrs. William Slater Allen, Vice-President of the Providence Preservation Society, Rhode Island; Robert C. Gaede, AIA, of Visnapuu & Gaede, Architects and Planners, Cleveland, Ohio; and Raymond Girvigian, AIA, South Pasadena, California. Richard C. Frank, AIA, served during the year as an ex officio member, representing the American Institute of Architects. Appointments by the Secretary of the Interior to fill existing vacancies were pending at the close of the calendar year. The present membership of the board includes Mr. Orin M. Bullock, Jr., FAIA, Baltimore, Maryland; Dr. Richard W. Hale, Jr., Acting Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission; Dr. Barclay G. Jones, AIA, AIP, Professor and Chairman, Department of Policy, Planning and Regional Analysis, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Mr. H. Roll McLaughlin, FAIA, James Associates, Indianapolis, Indiana; Mr. F. Blair Reeves, AIA, Professor of Architecture, University of Florida at Gainesville, Professor of the Nantucket Institute, and Secretary of the HABS Advisory Board for 1971; Dr. George B. Tatum, Hon. AIA, Professor in the Department of Art History, University of Delaware, and Chairman of the Advisory Board for 1971; the Hon. Dr. L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress, ex officio member; Miss Virginia Daiker, Specialist in American Architecture, Division of Prints and Photographs, representing the Library of Congress; and Mr. Nicholas H. Holmes, Jr., AIA, Architect-Engineer, Holmes and Geer, Mobile, Alabama, ex officio member for the American Institute of Architects.

PERSONNEL

Architectural Historian John Poppeliers was promoted during 1971 and given responsibility for all processing and editing of HABS data, as well as responsibility for the HABS publications and reports program. Dr. Paul Goeldner, AIA, formerly Associate Professor of Architecture at Texas Tech University, became a member of the HABS staff as Principal Architect in June. Pictorial Records Supervisor and Photographer Jack E. Boucher joined the staff in January to carry out photographic assignments for both the Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record, under the direction of the Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mr. Boucher had previously worked with HABS from 1958 to 1967. Also in January Caroline Reynolds Heath was appointed Curator of the HABS Collections at the Library of Congress, to assist the Library in maintaining the HABS records. Editorial Clerk Christine L. St. Lawrence was advanced to a new position, working exclusively with the records processing group, to help reduce the backlog of records. She has also assumed the duties of Registrar. Cynthia L. Brown joined the staff as Clerk-Typist in December. In January HABS Architect Andrew Craig Morrison transferred to Independence National Historical Park, and Architect Allan Steenhuisen transferred to the National Register of Historic Places in November. Continuing

as Chief of HABS, Mr. James C. Massey was assisted by Cornelia Fowler, Secretary, Principal Architectural Historian Mr. Denys Peter Myers, Architectural Historian Nancy Beinke, and Writer-Editor Lucy Pope Wheeler. In addition, forty-four temporary Architects, Student Architects, and Historians in the Washington Office and on our field projects were listed on a separate roster issued in Summer 1971.

RECORDING PROJECTS

During 1971 major field projects were undertaken by the Survey in 11 States as well as many smaller projects, and numerous donations of records were received. Total production of records for 1971 included 313 buildings, recorded with 448 sheets of measured drawings, 1,889 black and white photographs, 1143 data pages, and 50 HABS forms.

Late 19th and early 20th century buildings in San Diego, California, were comprehensively recorded by measured drawings, photographs and written data. Rural 18th and 19th century structures in New Jersey and Pennsylvania were comprehensively recorded in the fifth Delaware Water Gap project, covering the area to be flooded by the Tock's Island Reservoir. Lyndhurst, the historic property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation at Tarrytown, New York, was thoroughly recorded in cooperation with the Trust. Photo-data records of 20 buildings in Hallowell, Richmond, and Bath, Maine, were compiled during the summer. A second comprehensive recording project in Middle Tennessee extended HABS work beyond the Nashville area into surrounding counties in 1971.

In southeast Florida the HABS project in Coral Gables and Palm Beach emphasized written data and historic district studies. In Madison, Indiana, the historic district was comprehensively recorded with measured drawings, photos and written analysis of the historic district. In Jacksonville, Oregon, a historic district study was carried out with photographs and data, and boundaries were recommended to the Division of History for the existing National Historic Landmark.

Documentations of previously recorded structures were carried to completion in Indianapolis, Indiana. In Nantucket, Massachusetts, and Newport, Rhode Island, previously made records and other documentation were edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress. These field editing projects were a new approach by HABS toward solving the problem of the growing backlog of records. The field editing approach was highly successful, and accelerated the flow of completed records to the Library of Congress. In both cases, parts of the project costs were met by local cooperating organizations.

Many smaller projects were carried on, especially for the purpose of recording buildings threatened with demolition, such as the Old Custom House, at Wilmington, Delaware, the Lemon Building, Washington, D. C., the Indiana Bank, Indianapolis, and the Empire House, Rome, New York.

National Register nomination forms were prepared for 10 selected buildings which were recorded during major HABS summer projects, in cooperation with the appropriate State Liaison Officers, and local cooperating organizations, and these will be submitted by the SLO to the National Register.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Progress was made during 1971 in editing and processing the backlog of records for transmittal to the Library of Congress. Although the situation is still critical, the flow of transmittals was much accelerated, particularly during the latter half of the year. Major projects whose records were transmitted include New Haven, Connecticut; St. Augustine and Pensacola, Florida; Nantucket, Massachusetts; Philadelphia and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Newport, Rhode Island; New York City and Rome, New York; Salt Lake City and other sites in Utah.

At the Library of Congress, 1971 requests for HABS records numbered 434, and a total of 7,651 items were transmitted to the public. In 1971 the National Park Service was able to fulfill its commitment to provide the Library of Congress with staff assistance by the appointment of Caroline Reynolds Heath as Curator of HABS Collections at the Library. Miss Heath is engaged in collaboration with Library personnel, planning for the eventual computerization of the HABS collections for data retrieval, and assisting the HABS staff with reference and catalog work.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The AIA's National Committee on Historic Resources (of which the Chief of HABS is a Consulting Member), AIA State Historic Preservation Coordinators, and individual AIA members aided the Survey extensively with advice, counsel, project assistance, and donation of records. To cite but two noteworthy instances of active liaison, H. Roll McLaughlin, FAIA, in Indiana, and John Henderson, AIA, in San Diego, California, were prime movers in arranging these recording projects in their areas. The generous cooperation of many architects throughout the United States continues to be a major factor in the success of the programs of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

NEW PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

Of the 12 field projects carried out in 1971, three--in Southeast Florida, Madison, Wisconsin, and Jacksonville, Oregon--were historic district studies. In accordance with recent new trends in historic preservation, HABS has been placing increased emphasis on the recording of the historic districts and urban complexes as a whole--departing from the older concern with recording individual structures, entirely apart from their surroundings. Based on

these experimental projects, the result has been a more meaningful documentation, and represents a major new direction in HABS studies.

The Survey has kept in the vanguard by utilizing new recording techniques. Architectural photogrammetry has been extensively used by the Survey since 1958, despite its high cost. Photogrammetric stereopairs were made in 1971 of the now-demolished Lemon Building, Washington, D. C., of the Hotel del Coronado, and the Spreckels Building in San Diego, California, and Lyndhurst and Olana in New York State, by Prof. Perry Borchers of the School of Architecture, Ohio State University.

In 1971 the Survey started systematic photography of especially important buildings in color, as well as in black and white, using 5 x 7 ektachrome positives. Generally only one or two color views of carefully selected buildings are taken, and the ektachrome positives will be transferred to CIBA-Chrome 5 x 7 positives for archival permanence. This new procedure follows the recommendations of the HABS Board. This represents the first use of color recording by HABS, except for a few watercolor renderings of the 1930s from New Mexico and Louisiana, and the first appearance of color photographs in the HABS archival collections. Jack E. Boucher, HABS Pictorial Records Supervisor, has made a detailed study of archival permanence of color photographs, and a report of his findings will be presented to the Board at their 1972 meeting in February.

The year 1971 also saw greatly extended use of aerial photography, in order to show more accurately the overall relationship of buildings, and buildings to their landscapes; and to document large buildings and complex groupings, such as forts. Some color aerial photos were also made.

The decision was made at the 1971 meeting of the Board to dispense with the old HABS program. Begun when there was no other architectural recording program in operation, the Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory Form was designed to provide a single, brief, and comprehensive listing upon which all the cooperating organizations could draw. Never very successful because of its voluntary nature, the inventory forms purpose has changed considerably in response to new Federal programs for recording and preservation, especially the National Register. Described as a "third level of recording," falling below HABS standards of accuracy, the variable quality of the inventory forms has created a burden in editing and cataloging not offset by their usefulness. Although popular with local organizations, they are seldom called in the Library of Congress. On the grounds that local level recording was not the responsibility of the Federal Government, the Board recommended that the HABS form be abolished, and this was carried into effect.

The field editing projects represented another new departure. This work was done by teams of professionally qualified persons working during the summer months at the project location, much in the manner of recording teams. Local cooperation was secured, and the rate of production was markedly higher than similar work in the HABS office.

PUBLIC SERVICE

During 1971 over 1,000 inquiries were made to the HABS office, and were answered either by letter or through personal consultation with the Chief and his staff. At least 20 professional groups requested lectures by the HABS staff, and 12 professional conferences were participated in. Among these were the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums; the Columbia University University Graduate Seminar on Restoration and Historic Preservation Architecture; the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; the Delaware Chapter of the Victorian Society and its Spring Symposium on 19th century American Architecture; the Alexandria Association, the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review, Alexandria, Virginia; an AIA-sponsored workshop in Architectural Preservation at the University of Maryland; the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, Washington, D. C.; the Annual Meeting of Historic Fallsington, Pennsylvania; the Second Ohio Conference on Historic Preservation and Aesthetic Responsibility; the Second Indiana Conference on Historic Preservation; and the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee. At the Annual Meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in San Diego, the HABS Chief was Chairman of the session on "The Architecture of Southern California." Mr. Massey also continued to serve as a director of the Society of Architectural Historians, and as editor of the "Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians."

HABS LITERATURE

In 1971 Recording Historic Buildings, the HABS Guide by Harley J. McKee, FAIA, was published by the Government Printing Office. This is the key HABS publication, setting out Standards for HABS documentation, and serving as a general guide to architectural surveys for the public. It is available from the Government Printing Office for \$3.50.

The 11th in the Report Series, "Selections from the Historic American Buildings Survey," and edited by Ted Sande, AIA, was "The New England Textile Mill Survey," issued by the National Park Service. Several other reports in the series were under way. A revised edition of "Organizing an Architectural Survey," by James C. Massey, was published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The first edition of "A Brief Bibliography for the Restoration of Historic Buildings," by Dr. Paul Goeldner was issued by the National Park Service.

Though no HABS catalogs were published in 1971, work advanced on several, and the New Jersey MS was delivered to the publisher, the New Jersey Historical Society. The MSS for Texas, Philadelphia, Rhode Island and Indiana were completed during the year, and a publisher for the Maine catalog is being sought.

Several dozens of HABS drawings and photographs appeared in articles in "Preservation News," the "Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians," the "Architectural Forum," and particularly the December issue of the "Architectural Record," which featured a special historic preservation issue.

Numerous news-media features concerning HABS and its field projects appeared in local papers and magazines in the project areas, and local network TV interviews.

The HABS library of approximately 850 books and pamphlets was cataloged in 1971. The library now begins to constitute an effective reference and research collection, available not only to HABS staff but to all Divisions of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, and to the public, and visiting scholars. Occasionally books are donated to the HABS library by authors and publishers, and we hope to receive further gifts in the future. Notable gaps are being filled by purchase in an on-going program of accessions.

The HABS slide collection, a part of the library consisting of approximately 1500, 35 mm slides in both black and white, and color, was organized by geographic location, to facilitate its use for lectures and reference by members of the OAHP staff. The slide collection continues to grow at a rapid rate, as have the other records, activities, and services, of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PERSONNEL - 1971

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