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Honorable Bruce Vento  
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks,  
Forests and Public Lands  
Committee on Natural Resources  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Vento:

Enclosed is a report on the efforts by the National Park Service to preserve cultural landscapes. The National Park Service has now completed or commenced many of the activities identified by Congress as integral to the proper management and preservation of these resources.

Sincerely,

s/ Jerry L. Rogers

Jerry L. Rogers  
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

Enclosure

Identical letter sent to the Honorable Dale L. Bumper

bcc: 001-Reading File 001-Kennedy 400-RF  
190-CL 413-McClelland (422-Page  
424-Birnbaum 429-Dolinsky  
424-BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 424

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H30(422)

DEC 19 1994

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors  
Assistant Director, Design and Construction

From: Associate Director, Cultural Resources

Subject: National Park Service Cultural Landscape Program Report

Attached for your information is a report that I requested be prepared on the cultural landscape program of the National Park Service (NPS). The primary purpose for the report is to account to Congress on the status of our work on cultural landscapes, based on activities identified several years ago by the NPS and Congress as integral to the proper management of these resources. As such, this report outlines the evolving role of NPS in landscape preservation during the past 15 years.

This report highlights activities in the National Register programs and the park cultural resource management programs of the NPS Washington Office to recognize and protect cultural landscapes, both within the National Park System and outside of it. The emphasis of these activities has been, and continues to be, on providing a framework for adequate stewardship, including the formulation of policy, standards, and guidelines; clarification of terminology; definition of methodologies for inventory, research and documentation; development of technical information; and organization of technical assistance and training.

However, as stated in the report, successful implementation of the park-related cultural landscape activities initiated by the Washington Office and discussed in this report is dependent upon the professionals in the regional offices and parks. Since 1984, professionals in the regional offices and parks have been instrumental in the evolving role of the NPS in landscape preservation. One of the major developments over the last few years has been the establishment of several new positions in regional offices and parks filled by professionals qualified to coordinate landscape preservation projects. It is primarily these professionals that allow the NPS to research, inventory, document, and treat cultural landscapes within the National Park System.

As this report documents, the NPS has begun in recent years to provide national policy direction for the preservation of cultural landscapes. Even in the absence of a significant increase in funding, a remarkable foundation has been laid and tremendous opportunities created for collaboration in building a greater capability and constituency for preserving the nation's landscape heritage. Many challenges lie ahead for this new area of preservation and I encourage your continued support for proper stewardship of these valuable resources.

s/ Jerry L. Rogers

Attachment

bcc: 413-Shull, McClelland  
424-Cliver, Birnbaum  
429-Kapsch, Dolinsky  
001-Reading File  
400-Reading File  
400-Bowers  
422-Reading File

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**National Park Service  
Cultural Landscape Program Report  
November 1994**

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Prepared by:  
Charles Birnbaum, Preservation Assistance Division  
Paul Dolinsky, HABS/HAER Division  
Linda McClelland, Interagency Resources Division  
Robert Page, Park Historic Architecture Division

## I. Introduction

This report describes the cultural landscape program of the National Park Service (NPS). With roots in projects stretching back to 1980, the NPS cultural landscape program has now completed or commenced many of the activities identified several years ago by the NPS and the U.S. Congress as integral to the proper management of these resources. The program is now being institutionalized and expanded. Increased staffing and funding have escalated the level of research, inventory, documentation and treatment accorded cultural landscapes. As a result, the NPS has assumed a leadership role in the emerging area of landscape preservation.

The importance of cultural landscapes to our national heritage was discussed when the 1992 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act were proposed. The original House proposal would have added landscapes as a category of historic resources recognized in the Act. However, landscapes were deleted from the bill because of a disagreement regarding an appropriate definition of historic landscapes.<sup>1</sup> The NPS, however, has not ignored landscapes as cultural resources worthy of preservation, despite the lack of a statutory definition.

This report outlines the evolving role of NPS in landscape preservation during the past 15 years. It highlights activities in the National Register programs and the park cultural resource management programs of the Washington Office. National Register programs support efforts to preserve the nation's heritage in cooperation with private organizations, State and Federal agencies, and Indian Tribes; park cultural resource programs support the preservation of cultural resources within the National Park System. The report also recognizes the efforts of private organizations with whom the NPS has entered into partnerships.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, identifies historic resources to include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Under the umbrella term of "cultural landscapes," the NPS park cultural resource management program defines four types of landscape resources: *historic designed landscapes*, *historic vernacular landscapes*, *historic sites*, and *ethnographic landscapes*. These categories are helpful in distinguishing the values that make landscapes cultural resources and in determining how they should be treated, managed, and interpreted.

<sup>2</sup>Not only have there been developments regarding cultural landscapes in the U.S., but on an international level as well. In December 1992, the sixteenth session of the World Heritage Committee met in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It revised the Committee's Operational Guidelines; as a result, the criteria for cultural properties now enable cultural landscapes to be individually recognized on the World Heritage List.

## II. Program History

The idea of preserving cultural landscapes is not new. People have long recognized the importance of landscapes related to particular historic properties. When Ann Pamela Cunningham and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union purchased the home of George Washington in 1858, they recognized the significance of the gardens, fields, and views associated with the buildings. What has changed is an improved understanding of cultural landscapes, their diversity, their significance to American heritage, and the need to preserve them along with archeological resources, historic structures, and museum objects. This expanded view of cultural resources has led to the identification of the need for leadership at the federal level for research, inventory, documentation, and treatment of cultural landscapes commensurate with that for other cultural resources.

The late 1970s and early 1980s were a formative period for cultural landscape preservation in the U.S. During that time, collaboration among historic preservation, park, and landscape architecture professionals began. Alliances and foundations for more recent activities were established. The emphasis during this time was on formulating guidelines for the identification and evaluation of cultural landscapes and on their registration in the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1980, at the initiative of the NPS, landscape architect Robert Melnick undertook one of the first studies of cultural landscapes within the framework of cultural resource management. Based on this research, *Cultural Landscapes: Rural Historic Districts in the National Park System*, by Melnick, Emma Jane Saxe, and Daniel Sponn, was published by the NPS in 1984. It provided the first technical guidance for the identification, evaluation, and management of rural historic landscapes. It also argued that cultural landscape preservation required managing change, rather than attempting to halt it.

This period was also important for national developments, such as the establishment of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation (1978); the National Association of Olmsted Parks (1980); the Historic Preservation Open Committee of the American Society of Landscape Architects (1982); the Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program in Massachusetts (1983); and The Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States (1986). These developments, and the pursuit of federal legislation, such as the Olmsted Heritage Landscapes Act of 1985 (never enacted), heightened interest in cultural landscapes. This increased attention fostered a growing awareness of the need for more direction and guidance.

In response to this interest, the NPS outlined in 1985 twelve major tasks to enhance landscape preservation both within and outside of the National Park System. These projects were identified with the assistance of organizations such as the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. The tasks called for

standardized terminology, evaluation criteria, a comprehensive inventory, documentation standards, and technical information on various aspects of landscape preservation. These projects (which included several publications for evaluating and documenting historic landscapes) were undertaken by the Washington Office and accomplished with existing NPS staff and cooperative efforts with other organizations. At the same time, the need for additional activities to address the entire realm of cultural landscape preservation issues was recognized.

Many of the issues and concerns identified in 1985 were validated two years later when the Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, published *Technologies for the Preservation of Prehistoric and Historic Landscapes*. The report presented findings of an assessment requested by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Subcommittee on Public Lands. Based on workshops involving a wide range of preservation professionals, it examined the principal issues related to historic preservation. With regard to historic landscapes, it found that the application of federal preservation laws to these resources lagged far behind similar efforts for historic structures and archeological sites. The report also outlined national issues in landscape preservation, such as the need for federal and state agencies to identify their historic landscapes, the need to develop technology for systematic and long-term maintenance, and the need to enhance public understanding of historic landscapes.

In response to these developments, and encouraged by external organizations, the Washington Office of the NPS defined a Historic Landscape Initiative in 1988. NPS recognized that treatment guidance for landscapes lagged behind identification and evaluation. Accordingly, the primary intent of the initiative was "To develop and disseminate uniform standards relating to the allowable treatments of historic landscapes that meet the National Register criteria and to adopt these standards within the NPS and as guidance for federal, state, and local governments and the private sector." The initiative later expanded to include development of technical information and training. To coordinate this effort, a historical landscape architect was hired in the Washington Office. Concurrent with this initiative, a second historical landscape architect was hired to manage a Servicewide program for landscape resources in the National Park System.

The Historic Landscape Initiative has drawn upon expertise in the NPS and in other organizations. The NPS, through cooperative agreements, has established partnerships with the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Catalog of Landscape Records, and the National Association for Olmsted Parks. For these efforts on behalf of historic landscapes, the NPS received a Federal Design Achievement Award in 1992 for establishing "a crucial base of information that allows people to better assess the value of historic landscapes and take action to preserve them." Additionally, the Initiative received an honor award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

A significant amount of work has been completed in recent years in response to tasks and issues outlined by both Congress and the NPS. The following pages outline the efforts of the Washington Office to recognize and protect cultural landscapes, both within the National Park System and outside of it. (Often, these activities are undertaken in cooperation with State Historic Preservation Offices, other Federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations.) The emphasis of these activities has been, and continues to be, on providing a framework for adequate stewardship, including the formulation of policy, standards, and guidelines; clarification of terminology; definition of methodologies for inventory, research and documentation; development of technical information; and organization of technical assistance and training.

However, the successful implementation of the park-related cultural landscape activities initiated by the Washington Office and discussed in this report is dependent upon the professionals in the regional offices and parks. Since 1984, professionals in the regional offices and parks have been instrumental in the evolving role of the NPS in landscape preservation. One of the major developments over the last few years has been the establishment of several new positions in regional offices and parks filled by professionals qualified to coordinate landscape preservation projects. Such professionals include Historical Landscape Architects, Preservation Horticulturists, and Preservation Gardeners. It is primarily these professionals that allow the NPS to research, inventory, document, and treat cultural landscapes within the National Park System. Regional offices and parks conduct cultural landscape inventories (to date, over 300 cultural landscapes have been inventoried). They also prepare cultural landscape technical reports, participate in training efforts and undertake site-specific treatments. These activities attest to the increasing attention paid to cultural landscapes within the National Park System.

### **III. Formulation of Policy, Standards, Guidelines**

Policy, standards, and guidelines provide the framework that supports a preservation ethic for cultural resources. This ethic is built around general principles that have evolved from decades of intensive preservation activity throughout the country.

The development of a preservation ethic for cultural landscapes has involved the application and interpretation of two documents that govern much of the historic preservation program in the U.S.: the National Register of Historic Places Criteria and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. The National Register Criteria provide the basis for evaluating the significance of historic resources; the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* guide the physical treatment of properties deemed significant. Additionally, the NPS has established policy for the treatment of cultural landscapes in the National Park System.

The following activities and publications apply this framework to cultural landscapes:

- Several publications were developed to guide Federal agencies, State Historic Preservation Offices, Certified Local Governments, preservation professionals, and interested individuals in nominating cultural landscapes to the National Register of Historic Places. Each of the following *National Register Bulletins* describes the process of evaluating and nominating a particular type of cultural landscape:
  - #18: *How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes* (1987)
  - #30: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* (1990)
  - #38: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties* (1990)
  - #40: *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields* (1992)
  - #41: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places* (1992)
  - #42: *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering Historic Mining Properties* (1992)
- A revision of *NPS Management Policies: Management of the National Park System* (1988) identified cultural landscapes as a type of cultural resource in the National Park System. The policy mandated the recognition and protection of significant historic, archeological, ethnographic and design values and provided direction for their appropriate management. Prior to 1988, the NPS management policies regarding the value of landscapes was limited to historic sites and historic gardens.
- The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised (1992) to include landscapes.
- The NPS, with full participation of regional resource specialists, prepared a multi-year plan outlining programmatic visions, goals, objectives, and tasks to ensure the preservation of cultural landscapes in the National Park System (1993). The plan identifies initiatives and a detailed action plan for the next five to ten years.
- Release no. 4 of *NPS-28, Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, used to expand, clarify, and apply cultural resource policy, was revised to include the most comprehensive guidance to date on managing landscape resources in the system (1994). It also defines several resource specialists associated with landscape preservation, including a "historical landscape architect."
- *Preservation Brief 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management*: This pamphlet in the popular "preservation brief" series details a preservation planning process for the treatment and management of cultural landscapes (1994).
- A companion document to the *Standards*, entitled *Guidelines for the Treatment of*

*Historic Landscapes*, is under development, with assistance from the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. It will provide a specific interpretation of the Standards as they apply to historic landscapes.

#### IV. Research

As the perception of what constitutes a cultural landscape has evolved, research has expanded to address the breadth of landscape resources, including those with designed, vernacular, and ethnographic values. Presently the understanding of cultural landscapes is limited to a small body of research conducted over the past fifty years. However, NPS is attempting to expand the research base through a variety of efforts and publications:

- NPS has encouraged states to develop contexts for agriculture, landscape architecture, state parks, and other cultural landscapes, as part of statewide preservation planning programs.
- *Cultural Landscape Bibliography: An Annotated Bibliography on Resources in the National Park System* covers over 100 reports prepared since 1940 on cultural landscapes in the National Park System. This compilation provides a perspective on past and present perceptions of cultural landscapes, along with techniques for researching, inventorying, documenting, and managing these resources (1992).
- *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* provides a sourcebook for practitioners in American landscape design, including biographical profiles of designers, annotated sources, and location and contents of archives (1993). The project is part of a larger database. To date, this database has over 2,000 entries. A second volume is scheduled for late 1995.
- *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942* provides a contextual study to encourage the nomination of landscapes in National Parks and state parks to the National Register (1994).
- *Parks and Preservation: Landmarks of National Park Service Landscape Architecture*, a National Historic Landmark (NHL) Theme Study of park landscapes designed for visitor use, interpretation, and administration under NPS management between 1916 and 1942. It is the first NHL contextual research under the theme of landscape architecture (in development).
- *Making Educated Decisions: A Landscape Preservation Bibliography*, a comprehensive annotated and indexed bibliography of landscape preservation publications (1994). The

project is part of a database to be maintained and made accessible to the public in the future. (It revises and expands *Preserving Historic Landscapes: An Annotated Bibliography* [1990], by Lauren Meier and Betsy Chittenden.)

## V. Defining and Inventorying Cultural Landscapes

With increased recognition of cultural landscapes has come increased recognition of the need for clear and consistent terminology, including the fundamental definition of what constitutes a "cultural landscape."

The academic context for the concept of a "cultural landscape" is based primarily on the work of cultural geographers and historians, who have been investigating the relationship between culture and the built landscape for many years. Within this context, a "cultural landscape" represents the influence of human beliefs and actions over time on the natural landscape. This definition is extremely broad; indeed, it encompasses most of the country, given the percentage of landscapes impacted by human intervention.

In order to establish parameters for determining which landscapes should be preserved for future generations, the criteria for listing properties in the National Register of Historic Places have been adopted. For a landscape to be considered a cultural resource, it must meet one or more of the criteria and the landscape must retain enough physical integrity to convey both why and when it was significant. Additionally, the National Register Programs of the NPS have integrated the definition of landscapes as "sites" and "districts," as per the National Historic Preservation Act, into general National Register guidelines.<sup>3</sup> A cultural landscape might include buildings, structures, and objects and be listed in the National Register as either a site or a district according to the following definitions:

*Site:* the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

*District:* a district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

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<sup>3</sup>*National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Forms, 1991; National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, 1990.*

During the past several years, the NPS park cultural resource management program has formulated the following definitions for specific landscape resource types. The specific characteristics attributed to each cultural landscape type are consistent with both formal and popular definitions employed by design and planning practitioners and scholars.

*Cultural landscape:* a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. There are four general types of cultural landscapes; (they are not mutually exclusive): *historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.*

*Historic site:* a landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity, or person.

*Historic designed landscape:* a landscape significant as a design or work of art; was consciously designed and laid out either by a master gardener, landscape architect, architect, or horticulturist to a design principle, or by an owner or other amateur according to a recognized style or tradition; has a historical association with a significant person, trend or movement in landscape gardening or architecture, or a significant relationship to the theory or practice of landscape architecture.

*Historic vernacular landscape:* a landscape whose use, construction, or physical layout reflects endemic traditions, customs, beliefs, or values; in which the expression of cultural values, social behavior, and individual actions over time is manifested in physical features and materials and their interrelationships, including patterns of spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, structures, and objects; in which the physical, biological, and cultural features reflect the customs and everyday lives of people.

*Ethnographic landscape:* a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources. Examples are contemporary settlements such as that at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, New Orleans neighborhoods, the Timbisha Shoshone community at Death Valley, and massive geological structures such as Devils Tower. Small plant communities, animals, subsistence and ceremonial grounds are included.

The clarification of terms and the integration and application of the National Register definitions and criteria provide a method for identifying and evaluating cultural landscapes significant to our national heritage and worthy of preservation. With this framework in place, inventories of

landscape resources can be made. NPS efforts in this area include:

- A three-year initiative to design and field test a Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI). The purpose of the inventory is to identify all cultural landscapes in the National Park System and provide information on their location, historical development, and management. The CLI is scheduled to be implemented Servicewide in 1995.
- A model multiple property documentation form developed for nominating "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks" to the National Register of Historic Places (1994). It is based on the contextual study, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1943*.

NPS has encouraged state preservation programs and others to inventory historic landscapes; in 1986 it distributed copies of the American Society of Landscape Architects National Landscape Survey Form to State Historic Preservation Officers, Federal Preservation Officers, and others. State and local landscape inventory efforts include:

- A statewide survey of historic designed landscapes in Rhode Island encompassing over 300 properties, including private residences, public parks, cemeteries, and institutional grounds.
- A survey of residential landscapes associated with historic buildings and districts conducted by the State of Georgia; it has become known as "Georgia's Living Places."
- A survey of the public park system in Kansas City, Missouri.
- A survey of public lands in Maine conducted by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine Association of Olmsted Parks.
- These and other efforts over the last 10 years have resulted in the nomination to the National Register of 530 properties significant in landscape architecture.

## VI. Documentation

The purpose of documenting cultural landscapes is to provide an accurate description of historic and contemporary landscape features. Documentation includes maps, plans, drawings, and photographs. The NPS has been documenting historic landscapes since the founding of the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1933. Charles E. Peterson, program founder, was a National Park Service landscape architect and understood the importance of documenting structures in context with their sites.

The tasks outlined in 1985 to promote landscape preservation provided the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) with the opportunity to define documentation approaches to landscapes. Since then HABS/HAER has conducted pilot projects that explore formal gardens, naturalistic parks, battlefields, "City Beautiful" boulevards, urban and suburban parkways, Native American sites, city plans, lighthouses and ranches. The measured drawings, written history and large-format photographs serve as tools for the management, maintenance and restoration of many of the sites, besides documenting their contribution to the nation's built environment. Projects include:

- Meridian Hill Park, Washington, D.C, an 11-acre Italian Renaissance Garden constructed over a forty-year period in the first half of the twentieth century. The documentation will enable the NPS to restore and maintain the park.
- Rancho Santa Fe, a suburb of La Jolla, California, is the state's first planned community. Work included an analysis of the intact historic civic center. A book, *Rancho Santa Fe*, highlighted the project results.
- Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland, one of the most intact Civil War battlefields. In this project, every historic structure and site was measured and photographed. Landscape viewsheds were also photographed. The results will serve as the basis for all treatment and maintenance decisions.
- Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, an intact example of "City Beautiful" planning. The entire Avenue was measured and drawn, every residence was inventoried, and every structure, monument and landscape corridor was photographed. The results have been published in a book, *Monument Avenue*.
- Dumbarton Oaks Park, Washington, D.C, a designed naturalistic landscape managed by the NPS since 1941. The project included drawings (comprehensive site plans at different scales to highlight specific design intent, planting plans highlighting historic material), large-format photographs replicating historic views, and a written history.
- Scotty's Castle, Death Valley, California, an enormous residence maintained by Death Valley National Monument. One year of this three-year project was devoted to a comprehensive site plan. The project provided a unique opportunity to analyze an arid historic landscape.
- Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado. To record unstable and inaccessible American Indian sites at Mesa Verde, Photogrammetric/Computer-Aided Drafting Laboratory was used--a first in the U. S. The documentation will be the basis for stabilization and

interpretation efforts.

- George Washington Memorial Parkway, McLean, Virginia, a 30-mile parkway begun in the 1920s. Large-format photography, both terrestrial and aerial, measured drawings and historical research are being undertaken. Work includes detailed sheets on original versus existing planting plans; landscape vista design; parkway furniture; interchange analysis; and comparative sheets of planned versus realized designs.
- L'Enfant/McMillan Plan of Washington, D.C. To document the original Pierre L'Enfant design for the City and successive major changes, over 400 large-format photographs were taken of vistas, avenues and details; over 30 sheets of measured drawings were made of historic plans, park designs and intersections; the comprehensive history completed will serve as the basis for a National Historic Landmark nomination.
- A guide to landscape documentation, entitled *Documenting Historic Landscapes* will highlight a number of these projects (under development).

## VII. Technical Information

In addition to policy, standards, and guidelines, the NPS has developed and published technical information regarding the identification, documentation, and treatment of cultural landscapes. Examples include:

- *Historic Landscape Directory*: an annotated listing of public and private organizations that sponsor programs, training, or technical assistance for landscape preservation. Educational programs, research facilities, and resources are also listed; published in collaboration with the Catalog of Landscape Records and U.S. International Council of Monuments and Sites (1991).
- Thematic issues of professional journals in cultural resource management: *CRM*: "Cultural Landscapes: The Intent and Tenor of the Times" (November 1991); *CRM*: "A Reality Check for Our Nation's Parks" (April 1993); *Preservation Forum*: "Focus on Landscape Preservation" (May/June 1993); *CRM*: "Historic Transportation Corridors: A New and Dynamic Element of Heritage Preservation" (July 1993); *CRM*: "Landscape Interpretation" (October 1994).
- *America's Landscape Legacy*: a full-color brochure on landscape preservation basics. To date, over 30,000 have been distributed. The brochure was produced with the American Society of Landscape Architects, with financial support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Battlefield Protection Program (1992).

- *Linking the Past to the Future: A Landscape Conservation Strategy for Waterford, Virginia*: produced in cooperation with the Waterford Foundation (1992). The study advances a planning strategy for protecting Waterford, a historic community in Loudoun County, Virginia.
- *The Landscape Universe: Historic Designed Landscapes in Context*: expanded and illustrated papers from a symposium sponsored in conjunction with The Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill and the American Society of Landscape Architects (1993).
- *Cultural Landscape Preservation Case Studies*: illustrated case studies in landscape preservation based on policy, standards, and guidelines; funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (under development).
- *Cultural Landscape Report Technical Manual*: a technical manual for the preparation of Cultural Landscape Reports, the principal research document for cultural landscapes that guides park management decisions regarding treatment and use (under development).
- *Managing Significant Agricultural Landscapes in the National Park System*: a technical manual, developed with the University of Georgia, providing management strategies and guidelines for resolving conflicts between natural and cultural resource preservation and between preservation and agricultural use in National Parks (under development).
- Inventory and Condition Assessment Program (ICAP): a module of the NPS Maintenance Management program has been developed that gives guidance on how to conduct a landscape feature inventory, assess conditions, identify maintenance needed, provide corrective work, and develop estimated treatment costs (ongoing).

### **VIII. Technical Assistance and Training**

Technical assistance and training in cultural landscape preservation has increased in recent years. This includes training specifically for NPS employees, as well as in collaboration with other Federal, state, local agencies; national organizations; and private and not-for-profit groups. Specifically, the NPS has:

- Organized and conducted a workshop in conjunction with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers to discuss issues and progress in the preservation of historic landscapes (1985). In subsequent years regional historic landscape symposia were designed for NPS regional offices and State Historic Preservation Offices, including the Southeast Regional Office (1991), the North Atlantic Regional Office (1992), the

Midwest Regional Office (1993), and the Western Regional Office (1994).

- Distributed over 8,000 copies of *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes* and *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*.
- Distributed copies of two model nominations for historic designed landscapes at a variety of public forums (Llewellyn Park Historic District, Essex County, New Jersey; Denver Park and Parkway System Thematic Group, Denver County, Colorado).
- Provided training in the identification and evaluation of historic landscapes at more than 36 workshops, courses, annual meetings, and symposia sponsored by the NPS, SHPOs, universities, professional associations and other organizations.
- Sponsored six Servicewide cultural landscape training courses on the identification, evaluation, and documentation of cultural landscapes.
- Co-sponsored annual historic landscape preservation symposia in collaboration with the American Society of Landscape Architects, and educational sessions with the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. Additionally, in the last four years, over a dozen other conferences and educational sessions have been sponsored by the NPS in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, US Forest Service, US Bureau of Land Management, The Catalog of Landscape Records, National Association for Olmsted Parks, Historic Massachusetts, Inc., the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and others.
- Held 3-day workshops on Historic Landscape Maintenance in cooperation with the North Atlantic Regional Office, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University (1991); the Midwest Regional Office (1992), and the Southeast Regional Office (1993).
- Adopted landscape/geography-based methodology for the Teaching with Historic Places program, which has produced 73 lesson plans since 1992 on topics such as the J. Alden Weir Farm (Connecticut), Ohio and Erie Canal (Ohio), Glen Echo Park (Maryland), Fort Frederica National Monument (Georgia), Going to the Sun Highway (Montana), and Wheat-Related Agricultural, Transportation, and Processing Properties.
- Adopted an approach for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping and reports based on landscape characteristics, which has resulted in six open file reports and several other studies for battlefields, national park cultural resources, and historic districts.

- Produced videos to be used in training and interpretation, including "Olmsted... From Pencil" and "America's Landscape Legacy" (in development with the American Society of Landscape Architects).

## IX. Partnerships

The NPS is not the only organization active in cultural landscape preservation. It recognizes that working in partnership with others produces results that exceed what the separate organizations could achieve individually. Almost all of the projects outlined in this report involved close consultation with other organizations, including Federal and State agencies, universities, and professional associations. But the NPS has also undertaken other projects and programs involving formal partnerships with such groups. Among the most noteworthy of these institutional partnerships are the following:

- *Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.* Established in 1992, the Olmsted Center is a partnership between the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, the North Atlantic Regional Office, and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. The primary mission of the Olmsted Center is to address critical historic landscape maintenance and preservation planning issues, and to build the professionalism and skill level of park staff, significantly enhancing each park's capability to accomplish landscape preservation.

The Olmsted Center also provides training and promotes technology development. Collaborative projects with Harvard University include the first National Historic Landscape Maintenance Workshop, the Gardener Intake Program, a Regional Historic Plant Inventory, and a Regional Historic Plant Nursery. Special projects undertaken by the Olmsted Center include Compliance Documentation for the Acadia Motor Roads and Land Use History of Marsh-Billings National Historical Park.

- The *American Society of Landscape Architects* (ASLA) has had a cooperative agreement with the NPS since 1989. During this time, the ASLA and the NPS have collaborated on conferences, notebooks, videos and a general brochure. These outreach activities have reached over 35,000 individuals.

The general brochure, *America's Landscape Legacy* was designed and managed by ASLA. In concert with the NPS, the ASLA has disseminated this brochure to all practicing landscape architects nationwide. The ASLA has co-sponsored Historic Landscape Symposiums with the NPS in Seattle, San Diego, Kansas City, MO, Washington, DC, and San Antonio. For each venue the ASLA developed all promotional materials, notebooks and proceedings. Other endeavors have included project support

on *The Pioneers of American Landscape Design: An Annotated Bibliography* and *The Landscape Universe* Conference at Wave Hill. The publications associated with these projects are marketed and sold through the ASLA bookstore nationwide. Currently, the partnering organizations are working on a video on protecting and managing our nation's cultural landscapes.

- Since 1990, *The Alliance for Landscape Preservation* has been assisting the NPS in the development of *Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes*. For this endeavor the Alliance has participated in drafting the document in a series of intensive workshops. The ASLA distributed the draft document to its members, and submitted the results of this peer review to the NPS. The draft is now undergoing revision, with a small follow-up workshop planned for early 1995. The Alliance is also working on the publication of *Case Studies in Cultural Landscapes Preservation*. The document, focusing on successful treatment projects, is scheduled for printing in 1995. It will be distributed nationally to Alliance members and others.
- The *National Association for Olmsted Parks* (NAOP) has had a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service since 1993. To date, the two organizations have collaborated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation on two meetings: "A Reality Check for Our Nation's Parks," held in St. Louis in 1993, and, in 1994, "Getting To Treatment" a conference focused on cemetery, park and garden preservation. The latter was organized with NPS and NAOP support before a sold-out audience in Boston. Currently, NAOP and the NPS are developing a national symposium on *Balancing Natural and Cultural Issues in the Preservation of Historic Landscapes*. The conference, the first of its kind, is scheduled for the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC, April 1995. NAOP, along with the NPS and the George Wright Society, will publish the papers.
- Since 1993, *The Catalog for Landscape Records at Wave Hill* has joined in partnership with the NPS on several projects. Wave Hill provided access to its national database, The Catalog, when NPS was developing its own database. The result of this partnership was the publication of the first volume of *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, which sold out its first printing. The two organizations are currently working on Volume II. Wave Hill also organized a conference on establishing a context for designed landscapes, *The Landscape Universe* (1993), which was held before a sold-out audience representing over thirty states. The proceedings from that conference are available through Wave Hill. The two organizations are currently developing a conference on *Preserving Contemporary Landscape Architecture* for the fall of 1995, and an expanded subscription series of designer profiles to be known as *Notes*.

## X. Closing

As this report documents, the NPS has begun in recent years to provide national policy direction for the preservation of cultural landscapes. It has also initiated a concerted program of research, publication, documentation projects, technical assistance and training in the new field of cultural landscape preservation. In doing so, NPS has attempted to establish an information base for planners, landscape architects, architects and historians, as well as historic property managers, administrators, homeowners, academics, and students. These activities combined provide the tools needed for wise preservation practice on a variety of landscape resource types nationwide.

Many challenges lie ahead for this new area of historic preservation. Since 1983, a National Historic Landmark Theme Study of landscape architecture has been an objective of the NPS. A number of national organizations, including the American Society of Landscape Architects, have encouraged NPS in this objective. To date, the required funding, staff expertise and time have been lacking to undertake this pivotal research. Without this thematic context, the recognition of nationally significant historic designed landscapes is hindered. Additional technical guidance is needed on a variety of topics, such as evaluating historic landscapes as setting; identifying and documenting historically significant viewpoints, vistas and transportation corridors; and evaluating the historical/cultural significance of natural features such as scenic lakes and waterfalls, cranberry bogs, and meadows. States need to be encouraged to survey and register designed and vernacular landscapes at the local and state levels. Further opportunities are needed for training preservation professionals and landscape architects through conferences, symposia, brochures, videos and other media.

However, as this report illustrates, even in the absence of a significant increase in funding, a remarkable foundation has been laid and tremendous opportunities created for collaboration in building a greater capability and constituency for landscape preservation. New and existing partnerships among governmental agencies and organizations involved in landscape preservation offer vast potential to maximize existing financial and staff resources, avoid duplication of effort, and foster collaboration. Such partnerships can play a vital role in preserving the nation's landscape heritage.