Management of Submerged Cultural Resources in the National Park System

The Submerged Cultural Resources Unit was established by the Service in 1979 at the Southwest Regional office with the servicewide mission to provide technical assistance and project supervision to park managers in meeting their needs for the conservation, management, protection, and visitor appreciation of submerged cultural resources in units of the National Park System. In addition, the unit provides professional assistance to the Chief Anthropologist, Washington Area Service Office (WASO) in developing policy, guidelines and program standards.

The unit staff consist of a chief, two cultural resource specialists, one diving technician, and a secretary. The chief and operations staff are certified...
Anthropologist, WASO, provides program oversight. The unit is under the line supervision of the Regional Director, Southwest Region who should be contacted concerning services of the unit. The Chief Archaeologist, WASO, provides program oversight and works closely with the Regional Director concerning the servicewide aspects of the program.

The project work of the unit is multidisciplinary, needing the involvement of historians, curators, historical architects, park rangers and technicians, and park maintenance staff. The unit’s staff are archaeologists. As part of their work in the parks, the unit not only identifies, evaluates, and provides national register nominations of submerged park cultural resources but also trains park rangers in the techniques of submerged cultural resources surveys, visitor safety while wreck-diving, hazard assessment, wreck interpretation, and similar park-based, visitor-oriented activities. When the unit leaves a park after a project, the park manager has a staff trained to carry out the responsibilities for the management, preservation, and visitor protection and visitor use of submerged cultural resources.

Project work has included underwater surveys at Isle Royale National Park, Biscayne National Park, Point Reyes National Seashore, Assateague Island National Seashore, War in the Pacific National Historical Park, and the U.S. S. Arizona Memorial.

In addition to the above activities and projects of the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit, the National Park Service, under Interagency Agreement IA-0773-4-8004, provides professional assistance to the Marine Sanctuary Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concerning the conservation and management of submerged cultural resources in marine sanctuaries.

National Park Service Activities in Remote Sensing

The National Park Service (NPS) utilizes a wide range of remote sensing methods and techniques to identify, record, and evaluate cultural resources. Remote sensing technology is a valuable tool used by archaeologists, historical architects, and other NPS specialists to obtain information about the location; nature; and characteristics of sites, buildings, structures, and objects, and generally in a nondestructive manner. However, the National Park Service does not have a formal program in remote sensing, per se. Instead, the methods and techniques of remote sensing are applied as needed to obtain information for cultural resources studies, management, and planning. Remote sensing applications include the use of magnetometers, radar, metal detectors, and resistivity equipment, for example, to define subsurface territoial anomalies; multispectral aerial photography to define vegetational, landform, and soil patterns, and to develop maps of terrain and cultural sites and features; assorted equipment such as side-scan sonar, magnetometers, and sub-bottom profilers for underwater investigations; and hand-held still photograph and video cameras for recording archaeological sites, buildings, objects, and other cultural phenomena. Remote sensing technology is regularly employed by NPS personnel or specialists under contract in many of the 10 National Park Service regions, including staff at our several archaeological centers, and the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit.

National Park Service Activities in Landscape Preservation

The National Park Service has taken the lead in coordinating a program for landscape preservation and has initiated a number of projects. We have worked with Congressman John Sieberling and his staff for changes in the Olmsted bill that the Service can support; the bill awaits passage in the Senate.

NPS is also working with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the National Association of Olmsted Parks (NAOP), and others in their efforts to inventory and nominate landscapes to the National Register. Inventory forms, prepared jointly by NPS, NAOP, ASLA, and a number of State Historical Preservation Offices (SHPOs), have been distributed to all Federal Preservation Officers and SHPOs. A “How-To” bulletin on nominating designed landscapes to the National Register was prepared by Timothy Keller, ASLA, and is in the final stages of completion.

Next year, we expect to prepare a “How-To” bulletin on nominating vernacular landscapes to the National Register. This will be based on the handbook Cultural Landscapes–Rural Historic Districts in the National Park System. A model nomination to the National Register is being prepared by Tom Kane, FASLA, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Shary Berg, site manager of Olmsted National Historic Site and the NAOP are preparing a model nomination form for designating landscapes as National Historic Landmarks.
Activity within the Washington Office of the National Park Service includes work on a subset database on landscapes and reports about landscapes in the National Park system prepared by the Park Historic Architecture Division. The Historic American Buildings Survey is developing methods for recording landscapes. Last year, they recorded the designed landscape at Meridian Hill Park (Washington, DC), and this year will be recording the vernacular landscape and historic scene at Antietam National Battlefield.


The National Park Service has sponsored and participated in a number of seminars, workshops, and training sessions, including the NCSHPO annual meeting in March 1985; Office of Technology Assessment meetings in February 1985 and April 1986; the NPS Landscape Preservation Field School held in March 1985 and April 1986; and the NPS Science Conference in July 1986 (with major involvement with natural scientists on vegetation management issues).

The National Park Service also has several projects planned for the future, including the development of definitions of “Historical Landscape Architect” and the preparation of “Tech Notes” on landscape preservation.

NPS invites discussion on what impact landscape preservation policy has on land use policy and agricultural economics, and on what NPS’S role in rural preservation should be beyond listing rural historic districts on the National Register. For further information on landscape preservation, contact Hugh Miller, Chief, Park Historic Architecture Division.

NPS Tasks for Landscape Preservation Programs

Task 1: Develop Bibliography of Past NPS Reports on Historic Landscapes. This has been done and is ongoing.

Task 2: Develop a Model Cultural Landscape Report. Several reports are now in progress.

Task 3: Organize and Conduct Historic Landscapes Workshop in Conjunction With the NCSHPO Meeting. This took place. NPS is willing to do more.

Task 4: Assure that The Landscapes Inventory Is Compatible With the List of Classified Structures. This has been done and NPS is now working on the second generation of information, coordinating with the National Register.

Task 5: Develop Several Model National Register Nominations for Historic Landscapes. This is in progress.

Task 6: Develop “How To” Technical Bulletin Showing How To Nominate Historic Landscapes to the National Register. This is complete and should be distributed soon.

Task 7: Research Past NPS Guidance for Historic Landscape Terminology; Make Recommendations Concerning Development of a Glossary. The research is done and the glossary is in NPS-28.

Task 8: Develop a Model National Historic Landmark Nomination on an Historic Landscape. This has begun by volunteers.

Task 9: Develop a Technical Bulletin Showing How To Document Historic Landscapes to HABS/HAER Standards. Two wetlands projects are being done.

Task 10: Develop a Definition of “Historical Landscape Architect” Comparable to the Other Discipline Standards Used in Cultural Resources. NPS has begun this definition.

Task 11: Develop Several Tech Notes on Historic Landscape Subjects. NPS has not yet started this task.

Task 12: Encourage States and Federal Agencies To Inventory Historic Landscapes and Include Them in the State and Federal Inventories of Historic Properties. NPS has done this and will continue to encourage such inventories.
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS DESIGNED HISTORIC LANDSCAPES NATIONAL LANDSCAPE SURVEY FORM 1985

10 LOCATION

Control Number__________________________

Historic__________________________

Common__________________________

2. LOCATION

USGS Quadrangle__________________________ Acreage__________________________

City~ Town__________________________ State__________________________

Zip Code__________________________ county__________________________ Congressional District__________________________

UTM Coordinates__________________________

3. OWNER OF PROPERTY (If group or government agency, give contact.)

Name__________________________ Phone__________________________

Street Address__________________________

City/Town__________________________ State__________________________ Zip Code__________________________

Pertinent Information__________________________

4. DESIGNED LANDSCAPE TYPE

Check category(s) for landscape surveyed.

Residence Garden Estate Public Building Institution

Monument Botanical Garden Square or Commons Streetcape

Park __Parkway __Park System City/Town Plan

Fort __Cemetery __Pond/Canal/Water~eature

50 LANDSCAPE STATUS

Please describe as required below.

Ownership: Public Private Other, please note

Public Acquisition: Considered In Progress Not Considered

Access: Unrestricted Restricted No Access

Status: Safe Endangered Preservation Action Needed

Preservation action undertaken, describe__________________________

Further Information:__________________________

6. LANDSCAPE ADDRESS AND BOUNDARY INFORMATION

Specific Location (Street, road, features comprising the boundary)

Location of legal description. Give contact person, if known.

Courthouse/Registry of deeds__________________________ State__________________________

Street Address__________________________ City/Town__________________________

State__________________________ Zip Code__________________________ Phone__________________________

7. REPRESENTATION IN OTHER SURVEYS

Yes or No, Please explain.

National Register National Landmark __State Designation

Local Designation Other__________________________

Title of Survey and Depository of Survey Records__________________________
8. HISTORIC INFORMATION Check and complete wherever possible.

Original landscape architect name(s)
Alteration/addition landscape arch. Names(s)
'Original gardner name(s)
'Builder/engineer name(s)
'Client name(s)
Date(s) of construction

BRIEF CHRONOLOGY Give pertinent facts about construction, subsequent changes, events, notable occurrences:

9. DESCRIPTION: Begin with overall description, then note specifics.

Condition Excellent Changes Unaltered
'Good Altered
'Fair 'Added to
'Deteriorated —Loss, removal
'Severely deteriorated —Encroached upon

DESCRIBE EXISTING CONDITIONS Emphasize landscape features, attach plan at 1" = 20' or 1" = 100'. Include a minimum of two photographs of significant views and features with location and direction of view noted on plan:

10. INTEGRITY Do these categories exist as in the historic landscape?

Original design Original property boundary Design intent
'Spatial relationships Topography/Grading Vegetation
'Architectural features Site furnishings Circulation systems

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY Describe the degree to which the overall landscape and its significant features are present today. Explain categories of integrity noted above and any others that apply:

11. SIGNIFICANCE Note reasons landscape is historically important.

Historic association with person, group, event
'Historic signif. in landscape design Unique regional expression
'Historic signif in culture Important landmark
'Work of recognized master Example of particular style
'Important artistic statement 'Example of particular type
'Example of fine craftsmanship 'Example of particular time
'Use of unique materials Example of time sequence
'Other verifiable quality
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Explain categories of significance noted above:

12. SOURCES FOR INFORMATION: Note sources used in survey with an *. ___Local repositories (name, address, type of material)__________
   ___Non-local sources of documents (same as above)_______________

Bibliography of major published sources:

13. FORM PREPARATION
   Name(s) ____________________________ Phone ___________________
   Street address ________________________ City/town __________
   State _______ Zip code __________

INCLUDE PHOTOGRAPHS, PLANS, AND MAPS FOR FULL INFORMATION. FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS-ADD SEPARATE PAGE, USE CATEGORY NUMBERS AS KEY.