

Honorary Membership
Nomination Narrative

Nominee: C. Ford Peatross
Nominee's Address: 1409 North Vermont Street
City/State/Zip: Arlington, Virginia 22207
Phone: (703) 989-7252



Nominators: Darwina Neal, FASLA, ASLA Past President (1983- 4)
Paul Dolinsky, ASLA, Chief, Historic American
Landscape Survey

C. Ford Peatross was the Founding Director of the Center for Architecture, Design & Engineering, in the Prints & Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. During his four decades at the Library of Congress, he has dedicated his life and exceptional career to the preservation through documentation of America's most significant works of landscape architecture, architecture, engineering and design.

In that capacity, he has been one of the nation's strongest advocates for the preservation of historic landscape architecture. In 2000 he was integral to the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the National Park Service (NPS), Library of Congress (LOC) and ASLA to document historic American landscapes through the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). Although the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) had already been documenting landscapes as part of their mission, this was the first time that historic landscapes were given their due recognition as a distinct works of design. As the principal contact for LOC, Ford has worked enthusiastically and effectively to manage and implement the terms of that MOU since then. LOC had already housed the HABS and HAER collections, so the addition of HALS was a valuable and compatible one.

The purpose of the Center is to focus attention on, encourage support for, and promote the study of the Library's unmatched architecture, landscape architecture, design, and engineering collections, thereby increasing the public's awareness and appreciation of the achievements of the architecture, design, and engineering professions, and their contributions to our quality of life. Thus a primary goal is to increase the percentage of the collections available through the Library's immensely popular website, which has become a principal tool for educators from K-12 to universities, and currently attracts over three billion hits a year. Providing access to, and preserving the HABS/HAER/HALS collections in, the Library of Congress, with the Historic Preservation community as another key audience for these materials, is also a crucial goal.

To support this work, Ford was integral in utilizing a \$500,000 grant from the Shell Foundation to put over 300,000 photographs, measured drawings, and pages of written information from the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey (HABS/HAER/HALS) on its website for students, teachers, researchers, and professionals throughout the world. This collection, preservation, and creation of access to related collections and archives of drawings, photographs, prints and other materials provides invaluable support for the work and study of Historic Preservation.

Last year before he retired, Ford was honored by the National Building Museum in Washington, DC as a friend and supporter from its very beginning, not only for his contributions to the museum, but also for a lifetime of service to the architecture and design community as a whole through the LOC. As a LOC ex-officio member of the Museum's board, he helped to guide museum staff to the riches of the Library's collections, and, where appropriate, to assist with the growth of the Museum's own collections and provide documentation for its exhibits, some of which included landscape records. The National Building Museum frequently includes landscape architects as lecturers in their "Spotlight on Design" series.

Ford has published and lectured widely, here and abroad, given broadcast interviews, served as a consultant to motion pictures, and helped to organize award-winning exhibitions. He also worked to conceive and establish the Art & Architecture Thesaurus of the Getty Research Institute and has guided the LOC Center's now ten-volume series of W. W. Norton/Library of Congress Visual Sourcebooks in Architecture, Design and Engineering, both of which include landscape architecture.

Ford has served on numerous boards and advisory committees throughout the U.S. In recognition of these contributions, Ford is a Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Historic American Buildings Survey and an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects. It seems only appropriate that ASLA should make him an Honorary Member, as well.

C. Ford Peatross's actions in public and professional service have continually embodied the values and mission of the American Society of Landscape Architects. His contributions to safe-guarding records of historic American landscapes, making them available to professionals and the public, and developing and advocating educational programs about them, not only reflect and support the values of the landscape architecture profession, but have also informed public advocacy for them. He has been an exemplary leader and is certainly a deserving candidate for Honorary Membership in the Society.



The American Society of Landscape Architects
Honorary Membership Nomination
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To ASLA Executive Committee:

It is my utmost pleasure to write a letter in complete support of the nomination of Mr. C. Ford Peatross for honorary membership of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Mr. Peatross, as you know, is the Director of Architecture, Design and Engineering at the Library of Congress. He was instrumental in the implementation of the Historic American Landscape Survey, the cooperative agreement between ASLA, the National Park Service and the Library of Congress. His enthusiasm and active support of this agreement has ensured the documentation, preservation and public availability of vital information pertaining to American Historic Landscapes.

Mr. Peatross was recently honored with the President's Award at the National Building Museum for his longtime service to the Museum by serving as the Library's representative on our Board of Trustees. He truly understands and promotes our mission at every instance and for that, he is a well-deserved awardee. His commitment to this institution is deeply valued and enriches the experiences of all who come through the doors of our treasured building.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of Darwina L. Neal, FASLA and Paul Dolinsky as they nominate C. Ford Peatross for this most deserved honor from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

If you have any questions or wish to obtain further information, please feel free to contact me at 202-272-2448. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chase W. Rynd", written in a cursive style.

Chase W. Rynd, Hon. ASLA
President and Executive Director



ASLA Board of Trustees
Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
636 Eye St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Nominee: Ford Peatross, Director, Center for Architecture, Design and Engineering Collections, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress
Nominee's Address: Library of Congress, Washington, DC Phone: 202-707-8695
Nominator: Darwina Neal, FASLA
Supporter: Patricia M. O'Donnell, FASLA

Ford Peatross, has advocated for the documentation and related recognition of the value of America's landscapes through his professional leadership of the Library of Congress, Center for Architecture, Design and Engineering Collections, Prints and Photographs Division (LOC ADEPP Center). I encountered Ford Peatross initially in the late 1980s when I served as chair of the ASLA Historic Preservation Committee and we were seeking a stronger professional collaboration and partnership among NPS, LOC and ASLA addressing landscapes. We made progress in those early days by executing the first Memorandum of Understanding between these parties to collaborate. This cooperation built toward the development of the HALS documentation guidelines and the updated MOU in 2000 that launched the official HALS program for widespread historic landscape documentation, which has since burgeoned with the support of the Historic Preservation Professional Interest Group and the work of our members.

Ford Peatross has also been responsible for negotiating the acquisition and donation of highly important collections to the LOC, such as the images of Gottscho and Schlesinger, which features historically significant estates like the landmark Longue Vue House and Gardens. These types of collections create access to invaluable documentation that underpins designed landscape scholarship.

As a signal of the appreciation of his role in the LOC ADEPP Center, Ford was Elected a Fellow of the Historic American Buildings Survey, November 1993, an Honorary member of the American Institute of Architects, January 1997 and a Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians, April 2007.

H e r i t a g e L a n d s c a p e s L L C
P r e s e r v a t i o n L a n d s c a p e A r c h i t e c t s & P l a n n e r s
PO Box 321 Charlotte, Vermont 802.425.4330 34 Wall Street Norwalk, Connecticut 203.852.9966

Ford Peatross continues to be an able and willing partner, ready to innovate in the digital processes of documentation as the work of HALS brings American landscapes to a nationwide platform through the Library of Congress. Peatross' professional work has advocated the documentation, research and management of the record of the American landscapes at the LOC. His contributions would be well recognized by awarding him Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

I fully endorse the nomination of Ford Peatross, as an individual who should be recognized by the ASLA for his outstanding contributions that bear directly on scholarship and broad public access to the documentary record of the American landscape over nearly three decades.

With appreciation for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia M. O'Donnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" being more prominent and the last name "O'Donnell" following in a similar style.

Patricia M. O'Donnell, FASLA

5608 Dogue Run Drive
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
638 EYE Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3738

Dear Madam/Sir:

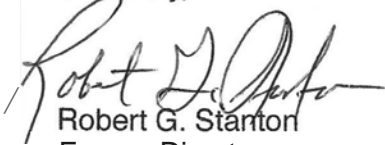
I am very pleased to offer my support for the nomination of Mr. C. Ford Peatross as an Honorary Member to ASLA.

While serving as the Director of the National Park Service (1997-2001), I was privileged to work with Mr. Peatross and his colleagues at the Library of Congress. In 2000, Mr. Peatross was instrumental in the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the National Park Service, the Library of Congress, and ASLA to document historic American landscapes through the Historic American Landscapes Survey. Furthermore, Mr. Peatross served as the official contact on behalf of the Library of Congress for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. As a result of his leadership, spirit of collaboration and cooperation, and outstanding professional skills, the architecture, landscape architecture and design collections were significantly expanded and made accessible to the American public. These collections also served as important references for the benefit of the staff of the National Park Service who are responsible for the stewardship of historic buildings and landscapes preserved in the 84-million acre National Park System.

I respectfully urge your consideration in electing Mr. Peatross as an Honorary Member to ASLA.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Stanton
Former Director
National Park Service



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To Whom It Concerns,

I am grateful for this opportunity to support the nomination of Ford Peatross for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. For more than forty years, Ford has devoted his life to the acquisition, preservation, and sharing of information about architecture, design, and engineering. The Library of Congress has recognized his exceptional success by naming him the first Director of its Center for Architecture, Design, and Engineering (ADE), <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/adecenter/adecent.html>.

The world of landscape design is an integral part of Ford's exceptional success in the ADE field. Two examples, chosen from many, indicate his longstanding advocacy for the importance of landscape in understanding how we shape our environment. First, he worked closely with the National Park Service to create the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), which "was permanently established to document historic landscapes" in the year 2000. Today, 594 HALS surveys with more than 6,500 photos and drawings are online at the Library of Congress, which ensures free and wide public access.

Second, Ford championed the importance of a set of 1,000 hand-colored lantern slides used by Frances Benjamin Johnston to lecture on garden design in the 1910s and 1920s. Architectural and photography historians have written about Miss Johnston's career many times, and they repeatedly dismissed these lantern slides as easy garden work. When a historian who understood gardens agreed to put in the five years of research necessary to identify the sites and explain the importance of the images, Ford ensured a close partnership with the Library, and the well-received book, *Gardens for a Beautiful America*, was published in 2012. Ford's recognition of the special value of these slides brought them back into public view as online digital images, and they are being heavily used.

Ford's remarkable ability to bring architectural records and American history to life engages the interest of both the general public and scholarly audiences. His exceptional knowledge of architecture and design history has resulted in important collection acquisitions that incorporate landscape design as essential elements. His lifetime of advocacy merits recognition through an honorary FASLA membership.

Sincerely,


Helena Zinkham
Chief, Prints & Photographs Division

cc: Darwina Neal, FASLA and Past President of ASLA
Paul Dolinsky, ASLA and Chief, Historic American Landscapes Survey



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Honorary Membership Nomination Committee
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Nominating Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I urge you to nominate C. Ford Petross for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). I can think of no better or more dedicated champion of architectural drawings of all types than Ford Petross. While his successful forty-plus-year career with the Library of Congress (LoC) speaks for itself, his intelligence, wit, and charm makes him the perfect spokesperson for those of us in the architecture profession.

As the Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service (NPS), I have had the pleasure of working with Ford in his position as curator of the Prints and Photographs Division, and finally as the first Director of the Center for Architecture, Design, and Engineering. His knowledge and understanding of architecture, design, and delineation never ceases to amaze me. In addition, Ford is an extremely compelling speaker and has the ability to engage the public in a manner that can make even the seemingly mundane topic inspiring. I mention this because it is important to support those who can express the value of what we do in order to forward the goals of the profession; Ford is that person. Through initiatives like the *Norton/LoC Visual Sourcebooks* series that addresses sites and structures by type through the use of measured drawings, Ford has developed important mechanisms for educating the public as to their value. Ford has also been highly successful in the acquisition of drawing collections, ensuring an enduring legacy of the architecture related professions.

From the vantage point of ASLA, Ford was also among those endorsing the establishment of the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). As curator of the HABS, as well as the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), collections Ford understood the need to address landscapes as a separate and distinct resource type. He worked to help define a tripartite agreement between the LoC, NPS, and ASLA commensurate with those already forged for HABS and HAER. Ford's endorsement went a long way in encouraging the Library to embrace landscape documentation, both for HALS and in general as part of the Prints and Photographs collections. In fact, the establishment of his current position as Director of the Center for Architecture, Design, and Engineering speaks to his influence in this area and the recognition that he has created within the LoC for architectural drawings, including landscapes.

For these reasons, I whole-heartedly endorse the nomination of C. Ford Petross as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Ford is a credit to any organization that includes him among its members, and thus I urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Catherine C. Lavoie
Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey