



**ASLA HP-PPN HALS Subcommittee
2020 2nd Quarter Conference Call
Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 12 Noon EDT**

HALS Subcommittee

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Meeting Notes

1. Old / Continuing Business

a. HALS Liaison and Documentation Updates:

- i. There are only three vacant Chapter HALS Liaison positions: Kansas (Prairie Gateway), Oklahoma, and Wyoming (Colorado).
- ii. There are only three states without any HALS documentation: Montana, North Dakota, and New Hampshire. Folks in Montana recently expressed interest into completing HALS documentation there.

b. 2020 Documentation competitions:

- i. 2020 HALS Challenge: *Lost or Vanishing Landscapes* (See LAM ads in April and May!!!)
https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/HALS_Challenge.html
- ii. Charles E. Peterson Prize
<https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/peterson.htm>
- iii. Leicester B. Holland Prize
<https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/holland.htm>

c. Reinvigorate HALS – Ideas

- i. Wider presence in college programs / curricula;
- ii. HALS Toolkit - best practices, consistency in message, presentations to members, share PowerPoints;
- iii. Continuing education credit for completing HALS reports or having HALS workshops (idea championed by David Driapsa);

- iv. Funding from ASLA chapters to HALS groups (e.g. perhaps a firm could host a few interns in their office, funded by chapter, to complete summer documentation);
- v. Funding from local historical commissions;
- vi. Look for small foundations to support HALS documentations;
- vii. Grants or academic partnerships for editing HALS documentation;
- viii. ASLA advocacy: Seek ASLA advocacy to fill HALS Chief position and the threatened term positions;
- ix. Share success stories from HALS liaisons / start a liaisons newsletter;
- x. Publish articles on historic landscapes in *LAND* and *THE FIELD* and *LAM*;
- xi. Annual SHPO HALS newsletter to share HALS documentation Library of Congress urls, highlighted projects and exhibitions like story maps;
- xii. Discuss HALS advocacy with potential partners TCLF, AHLP, NAPC, etc.
- xiii. Reformat CLRs, NR nominations, EC drawings, and/or period plans to HALS. Work with students or interns. Document more with less by picking the “low hanging” fruit. Clients often want something HALS-like. Convince them to use the HALS format or include funds to reformat to HALS later. Ideal student intern project.

2. New Business / Other Business / Open Discussion

- a. Jonathan Ceci has stepped away from serving on the HALS Subcommittee due to the demands of running his new firm. Jonathan expressed his gratitude for the ongoing service and advocacy of our subcommittee and wished us the best of luck with our ongoing efforts. The subcommittee thanks Jonathan for his many years of service and involvement! We all wish him well with growing his new firm. We have no doubt that it will thrive under his leadership!
- b. Ann Mullins has produced a COVID-19 PSA as a City of Aspen City Council Member. She has shared it in a collaborative multi-author post to *The Field* “COVID-19 Impressions from the Historic Preservation PPN.”
<https://thefield.asla.org/2020/04/16/covid-19-impressions-from-the-historic-preservation-ppn/>
 Everyone stressed the importance of having landscape architects in elected positions. Ann had put together an education session proposal for ASLA before on this topic, but it was not selected. It would make a great education session!
- c. Chris Stevens announced that the Heritage Documentation Programs (HABS/HAER/HALS) Chief position should soon to be advertised. Chris will share the job announcement with ASLA and its HP- PPN. This position has been vacant for over two years, and the replacement comes at a critical time. NPS HALS will most likely lose its only two staff employees this summer when their terms expire. This will be a tremendous loss to HALS, as Jason McNatt and Ryan Pierce have been with the program a combined total of almost 28 years between them. NPS HALS will

lose its ability to produce in-house survey documentation. To see some of their stellar work, check out the American Battle Monuments Commission WWI Cemetery virtual tours at www.nps.gov/hdp/exhibits.htm

- d. Barbara Wyatt announced that there is a new Chief of the National Register & National Historic Landmarks Program. Sherry Frear, a landscape architect, was selected for the position. She begins her new position at the end of April. Barbara has prepared an announcement for *The Field*:
<https://thefield.asla.org/2020/04/28/sherry-frear-appointed-chief-of-the-national-register-of-historic-places-national-historic-landmarks-program/>
- e. Barbara Wyatt discussed an exciting new internship. The National Register of Historic Places program is collaborating with the HALS and the Wisconsin Historical Society (the SHPO) to offer an internship that concerns the preparation of HALS short form documentation and the development of instructions for creating HALS documentation from National Register forms (for use by state historic preservation offices and others). Another component of the project is development of a list of prominent landscape architectural firms practicing in Wisconsin from the beginning of the profession until about 1970, including short bios and representative projects. The internship is funded by the National Council of Preservation Education (NCPE) and administered by the National Park Service. The Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office has agreed to host the intern and serve as the on-the-ground supervisor. Barbara will be the official supervisor, working from DC, but strongly engaged in the student's work. It is anticipated that the Wisconsin ASLA chapter will be advisory to the project. Carol Yetken mentioned that her firm has prepared many CLRs for WI properties. The state is very interested in cultural landscapes, and the state has very organized state parks.
- f. Folks discussed future HALS Challenge theme ideas. Based on the 2020 internship above to convert NR nominations to HALS short format historical reports, it may be good to have this as a theme to launch the instructions developed as part of that internship. The low-hanging fruit aspect of this theme may add to its appeal. The theme for the 2016 Challenge was *Documenting National Register Listed Landscapes*, though, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. It was a popular theme, with 43 entries. Another theme idea was inspired by Spanish Flu memorials given the current COVID-19 pandemic. In case this theme is too narrow, it could be broadened to *Healing Landscapes*. Historic veteran's, psychiatric, and tuberculosis hospitals had therapeutic landscapes that are typically threatened today. 2022 marks the bicentennial of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth, so *Olmsted / Olmsted Brothers Landscapes* would make a timely theme then.
- g. David Driapsa has suggested that HALS expands the standard Library of Congress (LOC) Credit Line format to include names of delineator, photographer, and/or historian. The original measured drawings and most of the photographs and data pages in HABS/HAER/HALS were created for the U.S. Government and are considered to be in the public domain. The current recommended LOC Credit Line: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, HABS [or HAER or HALS], Reproduction number [e.g., "HABS ILL, 16-CHIG, 33-2 "]. HALS includes this credit line in promotional materials such as articles for ASLA's *The Field* and for LAM HALS Challenge ads when a drawing or photograph from the collection is reproduced. To better represent the work of a professional and as an incentive to encourage professional donations, HALS will expand the credit line as following: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, HABS [or HAER or HALS], Reproduction number [e.g., "HABS ILL, 16-CHIG, 33-

2"], Name of Delineator or Photographer, Date.

3. Closing Comments – Next HALS Subcommittee Teleconference Meeting:
Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 12:00 noon (EDT)