

## Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network HALS Supplement, Summer 2006 Newsletter

### SPECIAL REPORTS on HALS PROJECTS

#### HALS Takes Root at the Birthplace of Conservation

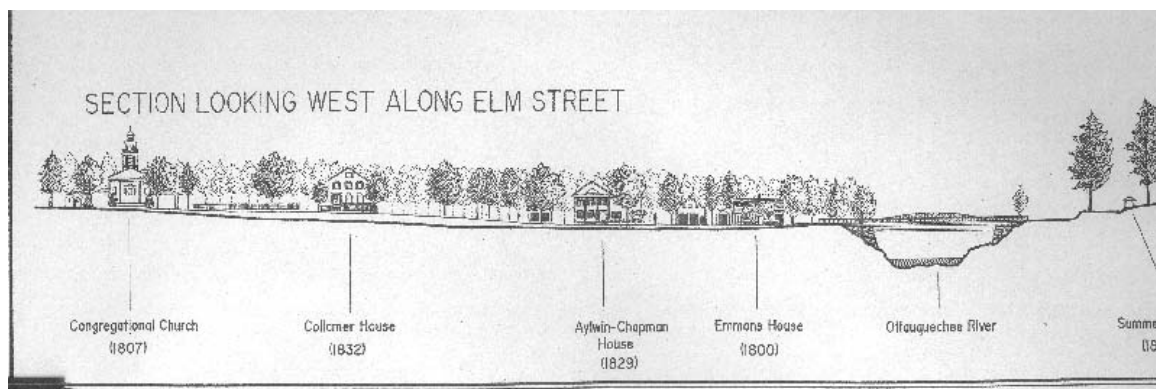
By Christina Marts, ASLA

A milestone in historic landscape preservation was reached in 2002 when a team of five landscape architects from the first Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) summer documentation program completed their collection of illustrative and technical drawings for the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park (MBR-NHP) in Woodstock, Vermont.

As a pilot location for the first HALS documentation project, MBR-NHP offered a complex and provocative history intimately tied to the park's 555-acres of forests, fields, gardens, and grounds. MBR-NHP is the only national park to tell the story of conservation and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. The park was home to George Perkins Marsh, author of *Man and Nature* (1864), one of the seminal texts of environmental thinking. Many of Marsh's insights into human relationships with the land were seeded during his boyhood years growing up in Woodstock, Vermont and witnessing massive deforestation, overgrazing of marginal hillside pastures, and the destruction of waterways.

Inspired by *Man and Nature*, Frederick Billings purchased Marsh's boyhood home and began to reforest the slopes of Mount Tom in 1874, creating one of the earliest planned and scientifically managed forests in the United States. The estate's forest and farm was a model in Vermont rural improvement. Its gardens, grounds, and carriage drives reflected the evolution of 19<sup>th</sup> century aesthetics and the influence of some of landscape architecture's most prominent figures, including Robert Morris Copeland (1869), Charles Platt (1899), Martha Brooks Hutcheson (1902), and Ellen Biddle Shipman (1912).

The HALS project at MBR-NHP was launched with a two-day planning charrette attended by the five members of the HALS summer team and landscape preservation experts. Charrette participants discussed how a landscape-focused documentation project differed from traditional HABS/HAER approaches, and developed a framework for the pilot effort that capitalized on the park's significance as a place with both formal gardens and historic forests. The group set an ambitious summer agenda that tested documentation approaches and grappled with capturing the more elusive characteristics of landscapes.



The team spent the first three weeks of the summer pouring over available literature about the park's history and existing conditions. They drew from sources ranging from cultural landscape

reports and land use histories; natural community and forest dynamic assessments; historic aerials, 19<sup>th</sup> century atlases, and site-level planting plans; maps of regional geology, watersheds, land use patterns, and topography; and historic accounts and biographies of the people associated with the site. They spent hours in the field noting general patterns, detailing character areas, and identifying and inventorying individual plant species.

As the team began to apply their developing knowledge of the site to the suggested course of action formulated in the planning charrette, the results were impressive. In the first set of documentation sheets, the team highlighted the spatial and historical relationships between the park and broader landscape. Several sheets depicted the connections between the park, the local watershed, and Woodstock community. In another sheet, the larger landscape context was further described through the identification of four component landscapes related to the park's historical significance—the park's mansion grounds and historic forest, the adjacent Billings Farm, and the Village of Woodstock.

The team then turned their attention to detailing the component areas most directly associated with the park—the mansion grounds and historic forest. In documenting the mansion grounds, team members crafted plans, sections, details, and plant lists to capture the overall character of key features.

To portray the more dynamic qualities associated with the historic forest, the team developed a sheet on “landscape experiences” that summarized the variety of views related to the historic road and trail system. Other sheets focused on characterizing the plantations and natural areas of the forest and highlighting the changes that led to their existence. More subtle details of the forest were accentuated through an examination of “traces,” small-scale features such as stone walls, fences, and old pasture-grown maples associated with historic land use patterns. Throughout all of the sheets, quotes from Marsh and Billings were coupled with the drawings to reflect the intellectual underpinnings that shaped the relationships between these stewards and the landscape.

The project also included large-format black and white and colored photography conducted by Jack Boucher, NPS HABS photographer. The photographs referenced historic images and recreated exact views to document changes in the landscape through time. Other photographs focused on the more subtle effects of landscape not easily depicted in drawings, such as the influence of light.

At the end of the summer, in those 18 sheets of drawings and dozens of photographs, the HALS team successfully captured the interplay of natural systems and cultural influences, spatial relations and individual biography, and regional patterns and site-level detail of the MBR-NHP landscape—recording the historic landscape characteristics that make this national park unique and providing a model of what landscape documentation can offer in the preservation and interpretation of historic places.

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## **A HALS survey of Peavey Plaza, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

*By Jean Garbarini, ASLA*

Designed by Paul Friedberg in the mid 1970s, Minneapolis' Peavey Plaza is the premier outdoor gathering space in the city's urban core. The plaza is a study in the masterful use of the highly detailed concrete construction typical of mid-century landscape architecture. Sunken well below

the grade of the adjacent Nicollet Mall and other periphery streets, the plaza provides a place where members of diverse groups—business professionals, transients, families, singles—can feel comfortable. The plaza boasts a large reflecting pool fed by a complicated pattern of cascading concrete waterfalls. When large events are held in the space, the pools are drained and used for additional plaza surface. Carefully detailed cascading steps and benches create the transition between street and pool level. Honeylocust bosques provide filtered shade over the seating areas.

Over the years, attention to the details that give Peavey Plaza its style has faltered, while the city's Public Works Department, which maintains the plaza, has made several seemingly harmless changes. Taken as a whole, however, these changes have an impact on the integrity of the space. Missing trees in the honeylocust groves have not been replaced; pavement has replaced turf; segmental concrete and timber retaining walls have replaced berms; and inappropriately styled planters have been added, to name a few.

The popularity of the space with Minneapolis residents and visitors has not halted since its opening in 1975. Because of the importance of the space in the historical development of a city that experienced dramatic change with the urban renewal movement, and the largely intact classic modern design of the plaza, the Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA) has begun the process of completing a HALS for the space. Several landscape architects are working with writers, historians, photographers, and others to complete the HALS survey. Our goal is to have a preliminary document by Fall 2007. MASLA was awarded \$1,250 from an ASLA CIP Grant and \$1,250 from the Minnesota Chapter of ASLA to cover material costs. The majority of the work for the HALS survey will be completed pro bono.

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## Remembering Denver's Skyline Park

*By M. Ann Mullins, FASLA*

Calls for a park along Arapaho Street to revitalize Denver's downtown financial district began in the late 1960's. **Lawrence Halprin, FASLA**, nationally-known landscape architect, was selected to design this new downtown jewel. Skyline Park opened in 1974 but by 2003, despite ten years of debate and study, it was demolished and replaced by an entirely new design. This is the fate of many significant works of landscape architecture and particularly modern landscape architectural work.

There is no way to replace the park or mitigate the loss of landscape works like Skyline. However, thanks to the establishment of the HALS Program, an opportunity to rigorously document these works before they disappear now exists. Sites in HALS, as well as its partner programs HABS and HAER, are documented through measured drawings, interpretive drawings, field notes, written histories and large-format photography. The documentation of Skyline Park included the required elements noted above, but also tested other documentation techniques that



better capture the dynamic nature of a landscape design which are not as prevalent in the engineering or architectural fields.

In the spring of 2003, a group of students, academics, and professionals used the HALS model to document Skyline Park before it was demolished. Though the fate of the park was debated for ten years, it became evident in the winter of 2002-2003 that the park would be changed significantly by a new design approved by the Parks Board of Denver. The construction schedule was set and demolition was eminent so the author applied to the Colorado State Historical Fund, with Colorado Preservation, Inc. as the non-profit administrator, for monies to document the park. The first of two grants approved was an emergency grant to take large format photographs, field photographs, field notes and field measurements.

The emergency grant was approved two weeks after the application was submitted. It left us approximately a month to document the park before the construction fencing was put up on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Ann Komara, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Colorado at Denver put together an enthusiastic group of students who braved Denver's fickle spring weather to take measurements, field notes and field photographs of the park. Halprin's design for Skyline was a complex series of angles and grade changes with elegant resolutions where different elevations intersected. While the plaza areas were a challenge to measure, the three fountains, one in each block of the park, at first glance appeared impossible to document. The students did a remarkable job of measuring, and later drawing, these plazas and fountains in plan and section. They also inventoried plant material to ascertain what was remaining from the original design and what had been added.



While the students were painstakingly measuring, Eric Altman of Allowing Films was filming what he could of the park before it was demolished. Using the short time he had, he filmed a festival, interviewed festival goers and maintenance crews, users young and old, resident users, and out of town users. The most intriguing footage was a trip through the park with the camera on the frame of a bike, a view of the landscape at twelve inches above ground level. We experimented with this video format to document the dynamics and vitality of the park. The final video includes the park footage as well as interviews with people involved in making the final decision about the fate of the park. The video has become an important part of the documentation showing the use of the park and the emotions surrounding the loss of the park which the drawings and the photographs cannot do.

With the city's help, we talked the contractor into putting up the construction fencing on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> instead of the Thursday before, giving us four extra days for documentation. A snowstorm blanketed Skyline on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and the entire team spent that May weekend in the snow finalizing our documentation of the Park.

The final element of the emergency grant was the large-format photography. Gifford Ewing of Gifford Ewing Photography captured images which clearly convey the elegance and beauty of Halprin's design. Some of the most graceful photographs were taken that last snowy weekend. The following week the demolition began. It took longer than anticipated due of the quality construction of the park.

We began work on the second of the two grants. This grant covered producing photographs and drawings in archival format for eventual storage in the Library of Congress. It also included the

final editing of the video, a history of the park as it related to Denver history, and a narrative about Halprin's design of the park. The drawings have now been completed, the history finalized and the photographs printed. Our two experimental products, the video and design narrative, add much to the understanding of the project and hopefully will be evaluated for inclusion in other HALS projects.

When we started the project the HALS program was still in flux. Without Colorado Preservation, Inc. to administer the Colorado State Historic Fund Grant, and the generous grants from the Colorado State Historic Fund, we could not have produced our work. Our project has become the first HALS project from Colorado, and one of the first HALS projects in the western United States.

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## **REPORTS FROM THE CHAPTERS: GEORGIA, UTAH, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND WISCONSIN**

### **Georgia's Historic Landscape Initiative**

*By James Cothran, FASLA*

Georgia's Historic Landscape Initiative is directed at supplementing the national HALS effort. While carried out on a smaller scale and following less stringent standards than those prescribed by the national HALS Program, Georgia's Historic Landscape Initiative has, nevertheless, played an important role in creating greater awareness for the preservation of the State's historic landscape resources.

Initiated in 2002 under the direction of Landscape Architect Jim Cothran, FASLA, a collaboration was forged between the State Historic Preservation Office, the Garden Club of Georgia, the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center, and the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office for the purpose of conducting a statewide inventory of Georgia's historic gardens.

In undertaking this ambitious program, it was decided that the publication *Garden History of Georgia: 1733-1933* would serve as a framework and guide for carrying out the project. This comprehensive work published in 1933 by the Peachtree Garden Club of Atlanta consists of three distinct sections: early gardens (before 1865); modern gardens (as of 1933), and institutional gardens / school gardens / campuses. The publication contains 163 listings that are illustrated with photographs and plans supported by narrative descriptions of each entry. It was mutually decided by participating organizations that the initial effort of the statewide inventory would be directed at documenting gardens listed in *Garden History of Georgia* as being developed prior to 1865. It was also agreed that the Cherokee Garden Library would serve as the repository for all material collected as a result of the survey process.

In order to insure consistency and uniformity of effort in developing baseline information, an initial step in the documentation process was the preparation of a survey form for use in the inventorying process. While the original form has proven to be extremely useful, over time, minor changes and additions have been made to address specialized conditions encountered in the inventorying process. Not only is the survey form directed at identifying current conditions at each site, but also those features that have been lost or destroyed over time, including walks, fountains, benches, plants, etc.

From the beginning of the project, it was decided that volunteers from the Garden Club of Georgia would serve as the primary resource for conducting the inventory. Training sessions



were held at various locations across the state to insure that volunteers were familiar with the objective of the program and properly prepared to complete the survey forms. In addition to completing the forms, volunteers were encouraged to search for old photographs, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other material that would help document the history of each garden. The Cherokee Garden Library has proven to be an ideal repository for the survey material as it serves as an important research facility for the study of southern garden history.

To date, 46 historic gardens throughout the state have been surveyed. Of these, 18 were found to be in very poor condition or completely destroyed. Of those that are extant, many have been changed or altered from the time they were first developed. Even so, the surveys have provided valuable information on each garden, often indicating a need for preservation, improved maintenance, or action to insure their preservation or survival. Additional benefits of the inventory include: increased awareness of landscape preservation; collection of information that will assist with research on southern garden history; and a greater appreciation of Georgia's rich landscape legacy. Another important aspect of the project has been the recognition of the potential of various organizations and interested volunteer groups to assist with the HALS program as it continues to develop and evolve over time.

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### **Institutionalizing HALS in Utah**

*By Susan Crook, ASLA, LLA, LEED*

Despite being home to five national parks, seven national monuments, one national recreation area, and parts of five national historic trails, historic landscapes are little understood and even less protected in Utah outside of the National Park System. This lack of awareness and appreciation puts at risk all four categories of historic landscapes in the state – designed landscapes, vernacular landscapes, historic sites and ethnographic landscapes. The pioneers of Utah landscape architecture are aging, dying and passing into oblivion as their works are neglected and destroyed. Vernacular and ethnographic landscapes are under constant assault from energy exploration, development and the consolidation of state and institutional lands in questionable real estate deals.

My strategy for HALS implementation in Utah is to institutionalize historic landscape preservation through education, legislation, projects, and political action. Progress on this program is outlined below.

### **Education and Legislation**

A meeting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Wilson Martin resulted in the following recommendations to integrate historic landscape preservation into the infrastructure of state and local government:

- Prepare a strategic plan for historic landscape preservation.
- Review state statutes for legislation to enable archiving of landscape plans for state projects and provide a record for future preservation.
- Review and revise state statutes to include language that recognizes historic landscapes.
- Review SHPO documents for language that recognizes historic landscapes; work with staff to revise.

Another outcome of the meeting with Martin was the presentation of a HALS overview at the Certified Local Government annual meeting, at which I passed out marketing brochures about historic landscape preservation. I also made a presentation with Professor Michael Timmons on the Orson Adams Farmstead HALS at the 2005 Utah State Historical Association Annual Meeting.

My service on the Salt Lake City and County Building Conservancy and Use Committee (CUC) has allowed me to network with preservationists in allied professions, and at the SHPO and Utah Heritage Foundation, as well as raising awareness of landscape preservation among staff and elected officials in Utah's capitol city. Using my position as chair of the CUC, I proposed a HALS to prepare a separate National Register nomination for Washington Square, the grounds of the City & County Building, which served as a gathering place and festival grounds for early Mormon settlers. I have also been able to initiate management and tree replacement master plans for Washington Square by the Parks Maintenance and City Forestry Divisions to preserve the historic integrity of the Square.

Established in 1966, Utah Heritage Foundation (UHF) was the first statewide preservation organization in the western United States. During the 2004 ASLA Annual Meeting, I scheduled the HP-PPN Reception at Memorial House, UHF's home, with Director Rob White as a guest. In a follow-up meeting with White, we discussed the inclusion of Nine Mile Canyon on the National Trust's 11 Most Endangered List. Last year I was invited to give a presentation during UHF's, Rehab it Right! workshop entitled, "Landscaping Your Historic Home." The presentation included a primer on HALS. My colleague Shalae Larsen and I repeated the workshop during the Weber Heritage Foundation's historic home tours in Ogden, Utah, and were asked to repeat as the featured program at UHF's Spring 2006 Rehab it Right! workshop. We are developing the presentation into a book on the historic landscapes of the intermountain region.

I integrated historic landscape preservation into a presentation on sustainability at the Utah Green Conference, the annual meeting of the Utah Nursery and Landscape Association (UNLA). Following the presentation, I talked to the UNLA president about partnering with Utah ASLA to document early nurseries, nurserymen, landscape gardeners, landscape architects and planners in Utah.

### **Projects**

- Orson Adams Farmstead, HALS UT-1. Project is nearing completion.
- Salt Lake City Cemetery HALS. Successful application was initiated with Salt Lake City Corporation to Utah Humanities Council for matching grant to conduct HALS of Salt Lake City Cemetery. The grant application proposed involving high school students and teachers to research and write about the cemetery, Global Artways after-school program to document the cemetery with photography and drawings, and having Youth City Government prepare the exhibit and guide tours. In addition to a HALS submission, the long-term expected outcomes include 1) the founding of a non-profit Salt Lake City Cemetery conservancy; 2) nomination of the Salt Lake City Cemetery to the National Register; 3) preparation of a strategic plan for the management, renovation and maintenance of the cemetery; 4) a pilot project for comprehensive inventory of Utah cemeteries and burial places as historic landscapes.
- AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT), Alexandria Township, New Jersey. I was invited to participate as historical landscape architect on a team that included a historical architect, planner specializing in TDR, sustainable agriculture consultant, hydrologist, and brownfields redeveloper. Follow-up includes 1) review and editing of historic preservation ordinance to include recognition and protection of historic landscapes; 2) Paul Dolinsky and staff will conduct HALS for the township while field testing the inventory form.

### **Political Action**

Last May I attended the ASLA Lobby Day and met with Senator Orrin Hatch and the staff of Representative Jim Matheson to advocate for HALS funding. As part of the lobbying for Congressional funding of HALS in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations Bill I have followed up by contacting the local offices of Utah's Congressional delegation.

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## **HALS – Northern California Chapter Report**

*By Chris Pattillo, ASLA*

The HALS Northern California Chapter, co-chaired by Betsy Flack, ASLA of the Garden Conservancy and Chris Pattillo, ASLA and Cathy Garrett, ASLA of PGAdesign<sup>inc</sup> hosted its first meeting in September 2004. Our chapter membership includes 55 professionals engaged in all aspects of landscape architecture and/or allied professions who share a passion for historic landscapes.

To date we have had six quarterly meetings and accomplished a great deal. We've set up an e-group that enables us to easily transmit HALS-related information to all other members.

We agreed to create a web site that will promote our efforts and serve as a digital repository of the documentation we produce. We have outlined the site content and gained a commitment from the Landscape Department at the University of California, Berkeley to host and maintain the site content.

Members agreed to use the HALS short form to nominate gardens for documentation. Nominated sites include: *Kaiser Roof Garden*, designed by Ted Osmundson, FASLA; *Oakland Museum of California*, designed by Dan Kiley with Geraldine Knight Scott; *Children's Fairyland*, designed by William Russell Everett; *Dunsmuir Estate* and *Mills Hall* on the Mills College Campus, all in Oakland, as well as Olompoli State Historic Park in Novato.

Waverly Lowell, Curator and Carrie McDade, Assistant Curator at the UC Berkeley Environmental Design Archives, hosted our May 2005 meeting and gave a tour of their facility. The archive is a tremendous source of archival material and has agreed to receive copies of documentation that we will produce.

Our fourth meeting took place at the Presidio in San Francisco where we selected three sites for documentation. Two sites were selected in part because they have existing groups that will contribute to the research and documentation process. These are Piedmont Way in Berkeley, one of a few landscapes envisioned by Olmsted in the West, and Olompoli, which is associated with native Americans and the Burdell Family. The Kaiser Roof Garden is our third selection and where our members will focus their attention.

Part of our strategy for encouraging members to attend meetings is to hold them at different historic locations and to include a talk or tour of the facility, as part of the meeting. Betsy Flack led a tour of the presidio campus that included the most historic buildings and she described current plans for restoring and reutilizing the buildings that have become available as a result of recent military base closures.

Our November 2005 was held at the Kaiser Roof Garden where we enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails in the restaurant overlooking the garden. We formed committees to undertake components of the documentation process per the HALS guidelines: Research and Writing, Drawings, and Photography. A fourth committee was formed to identify sources of funding to cover expenses associated with preparing the documentation.

Jim Flack, Executive Director of the Mechanics Institute and Library hosted our most recent meeting, in San Francisco. Progress reports advancing our initial nominations included: Friends of Piedmont Way announced that they had applied for and won a grant from the National Trust Preservation Fund to start the mapping of their site. PGAdesign, who volunteered to lead the



Drawings Committee for the Kaiser Roof Garden, reported that they had hired a part-time employee, Lindsay Mugglestone, to assist them with preparing the drawings for the nomination.

Shortly after the February 2006 meeting it was reported that Olompoli Friends have also applied for a grant and expect to secure seed money to hire someone to start their documentation as well.

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## **HALS in Wisconsin: Jensen And Wright, And The Kickapoo Too**

*By Arnold R. Alanen, PhD*

Wisconsin is a Midwestern state with a remarkable array of glaciated and non-glaciated natural landscapes. For close to 12,000 years the forces of human agency have molded, shaped, and transformed many of these physical features into distinctive cultural landscapes.

I have devoted considerable time to the study of these cultural landscapes during more than three decades as a faculty member in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Throughout this period I have always been impressed with the diversity and range of Wisconsin's cultural landscapes, which include designed, vernacular, and ethnographic examples. Thus, when HALS was formalized as a permanent NPS program in 2001, I immediately realized that several of the state's historic cultural landscapes should be considered for inclusion in this nation-wide effort.

Two Wisconsin sites with significant HALS potential are familiar to every knowledgeable landscape architect and landscape aficionado in the state and Midwest: The Clearing and Taliesin. The Clearing, developed as the Door County home and school of landscape architect Jens Jensen in the 1930s, continues today as an educational facility that maintains the traditions and landscapes developed by the Danish landscape architect. Taliesin, located by Spring Green, is associated with architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and also serves as one of the most important designed landscapes in the nation and world.

Other notable designed landscapes in Wisconsin include parks and park systems in Milwaukee (F.L. Olmsted, Sr., and Warren Manning), Madison (O.C. Simonds), and La Crosse (John Nolen), as well as designs for the State Capitol grounds in Madison (H.W.S. Cleveland and Nolen), and plans for the federal greenbelt town of Greendale (Elbert Peets), and the small company towns of Kohler (Peets and the Olmsted Brothers) and Montreal (Albert Taylor).

Among the vernacular landscapes that already have received some recognition are the Belgian-American Rural Historic District in Namur, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990; and the Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District in Richland County, owned by members of the same family for almost 170 years, and a landscape that still retains features dating to its period of significance, 1838-1905. When considering ethnographic landscapes, Wisconsin embraces some of the nation's most important Native American effigy mounds. The remnants of platform mounds and stockades at Aztalan, in Jefferson County, are strikingly similar to the World Heritage Site of Cahokia, Illinois, albeit at a smaller scale.

The landscapes mentioned above are generally well documented, but other less familiar sites also merit HALS consideration. But which ones are they? To help answer this question I conceived of a project that would include a state-wide inventory of historic landscapes in Wisconsin, and which is somewhat similar to the surveys that many state historic preservation agencies make of architectural resources. After securing a small grant from the Wisconsin Chapter of the ASLA, I was able to initiate a pilot survey of potential landscapes in a few counties. I then competed for and received a grant from the Graduate School of the University of

Wisconsin-Madison, which allowed me to work with a research assistant in pursuing the project during the 2004-05 academic year.

Our first step was to consider the state's more than 2,000 National Register of Historic Places nominations to locate those that include any recognition of landscapes. A much more expansive source was provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and History Index (AHI), an online database of more than 120,000 historic properties in the state. The AHI offers a relatively good source of data about some landscape types, but it does not always provide detailed or completely reliable information. And, as is true of such surveys, the AHI obviously focuses overwhelmingly on architecture, not landscapes. Nevertheless, the National Register and AHI databases, along with miscellaneous sources and publications, provided us with information about more than 1,000 sites that had a landscape component of some note.

Quite obviously, relatively few of these 1,000 sites are significant enough for HALS consideration. (The complete listing, however, could serve as the basis for publications about the state's cultural landscapes.) The obvious places revealed in the survey include parks and cemeteries in several of Wisconsin's small cities; community squares and commons; landscapes associated with state hospitals, asylums, hospitals, and veterans' homes; college and university campuses; and so forth. Even though they often cannot be documented in a conventional manner, vernacular landscapes are important to consider since they represent working environments that have both historical and contemporary features. In Wisconsin, these places include the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail, the nation's first rail to trails property; and certain segments of the state's Rustic Roads program, which represent some of America's earliest scenic byways. More difficult to document are vernacular landscapes that define an entire region. Should quintessential examples of the state's dairy farming landscape be considered? Can an entire river valley, such as the Kickapoo, represent the unique, non-glaciated landscape of southwestern Wisconsin? Should an entire county, Door, be included because it has its own landscape identity within the state and entire Midwest? These are questions that might best be addressed by interacting with other HALS participants throughout the United States.

Over the ensuing year Wisconsin's HALS program will be devoted to documentation. The Wisconsin Chapter of ASLA will play a key role in these efforts—especially those members who have a clear interest in the state's historic landscapes. Once the landscapes designed by Jensen, Wright, Simonds, Cleveland, Nolen, Peets, and others have been considered, we can devote our attention to the state's rich array of vernacular places, ranging from dairy farming regions to the Kickapoo.

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