

This is a nifty little book. In fact, it would make an excellent teaching tool for secondary school teachers. The essays are straightforward and provide an easy-to-read summary of the major events that occurred during this critical period of American history. (Teachers would need to supplement the essays with additional information, however.) Furthermore, the outstanding drawings, superb illustrations, and fascinating quotes would certainly capture the interest of the pupils as well as other general readers. Indeed, *Appomattox Court House* would make a fine addition to the collection of anyone interested in the Civil War, for the events in April 1865 come to life on the pages of this impressive volume.

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*Landmarks of the American Revolution*

By Gary B. Nash. American Landmarks Series, New York: Oxford University Press, in association with the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, and the Gilder Lehrman Association, 2003; 160 pp., illustrations, bibliography, index; cloth \$30.00.

This volume is one of the latest editions to the American Landmarks series. The stated intent of series general editor, James Oliver Horton, is to present an aspect of American history—in this case the American Revolution—using extant historic properties to illustrate the volumes, as “any historical event is much better understood with the context of its historical setting.” At least a dozen of these volumes will be published covering diverse areas of American social, political, and military history.

As might be expected from such a well-known publisher and experts in this field, this volume is

very well written and contains historical and contemporary illustrations that greatly enhance the text. The text is a fine example of what some scholars have called the “New American History.” Instead of concentrating solely on traditional American historical figures and the battlefield events of the American Revolution, the author presents history from the point of view of diverse ethnic, social, and cultural backgrounds, often based on a multidisciplinary approach of oral and written history, archeology, and anthropology.

In this volume, the viewpoints of enslaved peoples, women, common soldiers, Native Americans, and British loyalists and their English compatriots who participated in the American Revolution are presented. One of the author’s main strengths is not merely presenting a range of ideas and viewpoints, but offering readers information on the physical manifestations—homes, towns, battlefields, and sites—where people lived and worked.

The history of historic preservation is a relatively new field of study. The history presented in the text is impressive, detailing how following the American Revolution organizations, agencies, and individuals banded together to preserve properties for the future. The author keenly understands the importance of the present generation comprehending the commitment and purpose of past generations who preserved these landmarks of the American Revolution.

That being said, there are also some things missing. For example, some of the more significant battle and encampment sites managed and interpreted by the National Park Service were downplayed or not mentioned, such as Saratoga, Morristown, and Guilford Courthouse. From this reviewer’s southeastern perspective, the book suffers from the omission of the viewpoints and historic properties representing slave-owning American patriots, British loyalists forced to relocate to St. Augustine, and the Spanish military contributions to the American cause on the Gulf Coast. Likewise, the

successful southern campaigns of the British forces at Savannah and Charleston, and the numerous small-scale engagements throughout the Carolinas were glossed over or omitted. Possibly the story of the American Revolution and its related historic places is so big it deserves a companion volume to the one being reviewed.

Finally, some of the historical properties were misidentified with regard to their level of National Historic Landmark or National Register of Historic Places status. For example, Robert Venturi's late 20th-century steel tubular frame of *Ben Franklin's House in Philadelphia* and the Marblehead Historic District in Massachusetts are not National Historic Landmarks. The page heading for the Fort Pulaski National Monument is misleading as this property is a massive Second System Coastal Defense Fort, located some miles downstream from Savannah, Georgia, while the text describes a stone monument in Monterey Square, in Savannah, dedicated by Marquis de Lafayette in 1825.

Who will use this volume? Students are undoubtedly the prime audience for this volume, as are museum and historic site visitors. Exposure to good writing on the subject of the American Revolution and the physical remains of the properties and places discussed in the text cannot fail to inspire the readers. At the same time, people involved in the new approach to American history and the history of historic preservation should find this volume of great interest.

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### *Landmarks of American Women's History*

By Page Putnam Miller. American Landmarks Series, New York: Oxford University Press in association with the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, 2003; 144 pp., illustrations, bibliography, index; cloth \$30.00.

James Oliver Horton, general editor of the American Landmarks Series, states in the introduction to *Landmarks of American Women's History*, "any historical event is much better understood within the context of its historical setting." It is upon this idea that the American Landmark Series is based. In this edition, author Page Putnam Miller chose historic places listed on the National Register of Historic Places that not only illustrate a particular event or person in American women's history, but also a broader subject. Arranged chronologically, the chapters cover the breadth of American women's history, from the pre-colonial period to the first half of the 20th century, as well as women's activities in such areas as religion and business.

Each chapter has a similar layout. A sidebar provides more detailed information about the focal site, including its location, website if available, and a significance statement. Each chapter concludes with a related historic places section. One of the most interesting features included in almost all the chapters is a section containing a primary source relating to the chapter's subject. Miller has chosen a wide variety of examples to show the richness of available resources to historians, including: written documents, such as a 1756 letter from an indentured servant living in Maryland to her father in London; biographies, like that of Nampeyo, a highly respected Hopi female potter; and graphics, such as the drawing of the Bryn Mawr College campus. The only disappointment of this feature is that archeological resources and objects are not included, although they do serve as illustrations in a few of the chapters. *Landmarks of American Women's*

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