

Landscape Nomination Challenges

- * Multiple historic themes
- * Vegetation as contributing
- * Landscape as “Site”

Multiple Historic Themes

Pecos National Historical Park, New Mexico



To accurately represent a landscape with a complex history, the nomination may need to address several historic themes.

Example: Pecos National Historical Park: Period of Significance is over 12,000 years, and resources from Puebloan, Spanish, Mexican, Civil War and Euro-American ranching physically overlay each other. Separating by historic theme / cultural group would artificially divide landscape and information would be difficult to apply to management.

Multiple Historic Themes

Casa Grande National Monument, Arizona



Remains of Hohokam settlement (ca. 1100-1500 AD)



New Deal Era development (1930s-40s)

To accurately represent a landscape with a complex history, the nomination may need to address several historic themes.

Example: Casa Grande National Monument, AZ. Layers – Hohokam use and settlement, early Euro-American exploration and archeological investigations, and New Deal Era visitor facilities development. Initially, the SHPO rejected a CLI / nomination that addressed both archeological and New Deal era resources, but as the project has evolved, they now support a CLI / nomination that includes a broader period of significance (including stagecoach road and resources related to archeological stabilizations, ie 1892-1966) and references archeological sites as contributing. IE historic theme is broadened from New Deal Era development / historic designed landscape to Euro-American activities, with Hohokam era separated.

Vegetation as Contributing

Vegetation and biotic resources
key to landscape character

Need to be identified as contributing
to be addressed in Section 106 compliance

Vegetation / biotic resources are often key landscape elements that are major determinants of landscape character – that is, how the landscape is recognized as historic, as representing a historic theme. If historic vegetation (specific plants or overall patterns) is not mentioned or counted as contributing, changes may occur within that landscape – even with Section 106 compliance – that change landscape character and reduce integrity.

Vegetation as Contributing

Casa Grande National Monument

1) Native mesquite



2) Introduced plants



2009

Example:

Challenge: Casa Grande NM. Native vegetation especially mesquite is contributing, and plays large part in landscape character. Historically mesquite was more abundant – lowering water table has reduced mesquite growth and reduced integrity. Some plants around visitor center/museum are non-contributing, and change character here. Both natives and introduced plants were present during the period of significance – need to know which are contributing and which are not. (draft nomination includes this in narrative but not in list of contributing resources) Even if nomination identifies “native vegetation” and “historic introduced vegetation” in narrative or in list of contributing resources, we still need to know specifically which plants are contributing.

Vegetation as Contributing

Rainbow Forest Historic District, Petrified Forest NP, Arizona



Rainbow Forest historic district – vegetation not recognized as contributing by SHPO of Ntl Register office – per Ntl Register standards. Risk = changes to vegetation may happen that reduce integrity. At Rainbow Forest, the relative lack of vegetation is contributing – ie sparse natives and cottonwood clusters only are contributing. E.g. ideas to introduce more shade trees to district may be good design but is not historically compatible.

Cultural Landscape Report – idea to add “allee” of shade trees was considered but rejected. CLR calls for:

1. Remove 2 cedars on either side of entrance
2. Maintain historic (sparse natives and cottonwood clusters)

IE need to go beyond what is listed as contributing in nomination (ie hardscape) to retain landscape character

Vegetation as Contributing

Fruita Rural Historic District nomination

Fields and orchards listed as contributing sites

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Unless otherwise noted in parentheses, each of the following listed resources is counted as one (1) resource. Orchards and fields are classified as "sites" along with resources listed under "historic sites." The Fruita Schoolhouse is included in the building count although it is already listed on the National Register. All numbers are O'Bannon's survey identification numbers, which are not the same numbering system used by the park.

Agricultural Resources

106 Orchards and Fields (20 sites)

There are seventeen individual orchards and three fields and pastures currently managed in Fruita. They range in size from less than one acre to more than six acres. The location of the orchards and many of the trees in them are historic, dating to the 1940s. Throughout the district, orchard trees that are in poor condition have historically been replaced, and in some cases entire orchards have been replanted with new trees as the old trees failed. (For a detailed description of each orchard see the cultural landscape report for the district.)

Behunin Grove
Mott Orchard

Small-scale landscape elements (not individually counted)

Milford corrals
mail tree & companion
stone walls associated with mail tree
inscription rocks near Holt House
irrigation system remnants
home site remnants

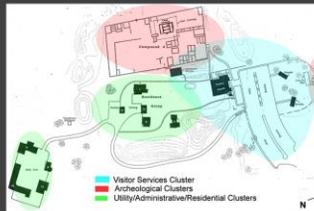
From 1997 nomination



Improvement: Fruita Rural Historic District (Capital Reef NP) nomination:

1. Specific orchards and fields listed as contributing - as "sites". This is good/better, BUT what is still not recognized is the characteristic patterns of vegetation, e.g. the rotation of active/fallow orchards over time. So – Section 106 compliance that preserves existing orchards in their current state could over time reduce integrity of historic system of rotations – the condition of some orchards/fields active and some not.
2. Specific tree (the Mail tree) identified as a contributing small-scale landscape element – this specific identification has helped preserve this tree.

Terminology – Landscape as “site”



Landscape as “site”

1. Whole landscape as “site” – disadvantages are that all landscape resources, biotic and abiotic, are lumped together with insufficient specific information on resources to be able to tell what exactly needs to be preserved.

Terminology – Landscape as “site”



Petrified Forest NP, historic store site. Trees and building foundation.



Landscape as “site”

Complex features/clusters as “site”

e.g. CARE Fruita Rural Historic District – field and orchards (each a system in itself) as “sites” – disadvantage is that sites may be perceived as less important than buildings and resources of equal importance to buildings are lumped together without specifics on what exactly needs to be preserved.

Example (on slide) - historic cluster of trees at Petrified Forest NP – site of historic store including trees and building foundations. Ok to identify this as a “site” if all contributing resources making up the site are identified as important to preserve (ie not just trees . . .)

Section 7 – Physical Description

Not Enough - 1. By contributing site and structures

Example:

Visitor and Operations Complex Cultural Landscape as one “site”,
(equivalent to each individual structure)

(includes parkwide “circulation features, vegetation, cluster arrangements, small scale features, natural features, evidence of cultural traditions, and archeological sites”)

Better - 2. By landscape characteristics and landscape character

Example: Fruita Rural Historic District (listed) – vernacular landscape

Example: Rainbow Forest Historic District (proposed amendment) –
designed landscape

Each landscape characteristic considered individually, not lumped as “site”

Advantages of organizing Section 7 by landscape characteristic, and including paragraph on overall landscape character:

- don't artificially separate buildings/structures and landscape elements
- include qualities (e.g. spatial organization) in addition to features
- each landscape characteristic/quality is equal to each individual building/structure

Best – 3. List specific landscape patterns and features including specific vegetation in List of contributing resources

NOT

Resource Name	Date Built	National Register Status	Level of Significance ¹
Northern Pacific railroad alignment (active)	1879	Contributing Structure	State and National
Natural/Cultural Landscape		Contributing Site	State and National
Main House Yard	1862-1900	Contributing Site	State and National

BUT RATHER

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Front lawn turf grass

Feature Identification Number: 101888

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cottonwood trees planted on a grid pattern

Feature Identification Number: 101886

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Egs

Top – GRKO Kohrs Ranch House nomination

Bottom – GRKO Kohrs Ranch House CLI

Ethnographic Landscapes

Mount Taylor, New Mexico

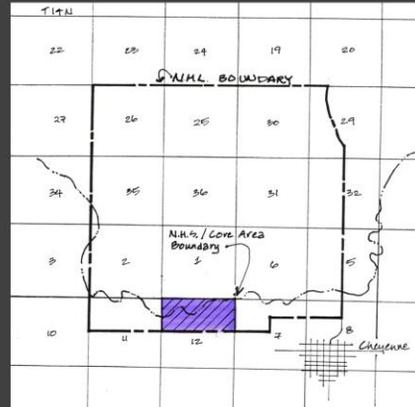


Ethnographic landscapes / Traditional Cultural Properties

Mount Taylor, New Mexico. Listed in STATE register. Multiple tribes/pueblos involved, large holistic area (over 340,000 acres), spiritual values recognized, private landowners could opt out. Contested since listing.

Ethnographic Landscapes

Washita Battlefield NHS, Oklahoma
Combined ethnographic and
historic landscape



NHL and NPS boundaries

Existing NHL nomination outdated (1976) , no landscape description

Ethnographic landscapes / Traditional Cultural Properties

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Oklahoma. National Historic Landmark – early (1976) nomination, includes more geographic area than is included within the NPS unit (the national monument). So, NHL identifies more area to be preserved, but nomination does not describe landscape or specify what is contributing about the landscape that needs to be preserved. Park is now facing oil and gas and wind turbine development threats within NPS unit viewshed (and potentially within NHL boundary). Supt. Tucker Blythe agrees that more detailed identification of contributing landscape patterns/features in nomination would make it a stronger preservation tool.

Integrity – NHL nomination says not much change (ie minimal buildings and development) but landscape has changed from prairie with free flowing river to agricultural land with controlled river flow.

Prairie restoration called for by legislation – restoration to “natural” prairie not really historically compatible . . . No details in 1976 nomination to go back to as reference for restoration . . .

Ethnographic Landscapes

Washita Battlefield, Oklahoma



Landscape management –
external threats (e.g. oil and gas)
More specific nomination needed
to identify what needs to be
preserved and to clarify integrity



On-going prairie restoration -
direction derived from legislation

Ethnographic landscapes / Traditional Cultural Properties

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