

**National Park System Advisory Board**  
**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**

**November 2012**

**Background**

Beginning in 2009, the National Historic Landmarks Committee of the National Park System has taken dramatic steps to open the door to a wide variety of resources and constituencies, offering NPS services to a broader audience than ever before. By completing and reviewing the nominations of historic sites representing the full spectrum of the nation's past, it is possible for the National Historic Landmarks Program to reach many more people than ever before and to tell a richer, more complex story about what it is to be an American.

**Addressing the Task**

The Secretary of the Interior has called on the National Historic Landmarks Program to consider places associated with Spanish speaking heritage. This "American Latino Initiative" has resulted in many properties being elevated to Landmark status and many others being nominated. At the same time, the Secretary called on the Landmarks Program to identify resources that are significant because of an association with the role of women in the history of the nation. Similarly, the Landmark Program has increased its effort to address resources in the Intermountain West, a region often overlooked. In addition, it initiated work on LGBT-related properties and on an Asian Pacific-Islander theme study. Responding to a congressional mandate, the Landmarks Program also completed a Cold War theme study, making it possible to address a newer period of American history.

**Progress Report**

The result of these efforts is to add new dimensions to the array of Landmarks. The Program has acquired a level of diversity that corresponds to a fuller range of the people who call themselves Americans. Thanks to the herculean effort of staff combined with the diligent work of the Committee and Advisory Board of the National Park System, it has become increasingly easy to draw on the list of Landmarks to tell the entire American story.

**Realizing Our Vision**

In all, 85 properties have been nominated to join the list of National Historic Landmarks. Some acknowledge the more traditional topics of the founders of the nation or the legacy of military conflict, but many more fill in the story in ways that rarely occurred previously. As the National Historic Landmarks Committee rounds out its tenure during the first term of this administration, it is possible to look at listings that embrace the full range of the nation's history, recognizing the experiences of a diverse nation, whether from the perspective of ethnicity, gender, geography, or economic status.

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