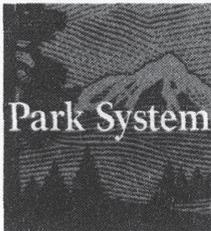


National Park System Advisory Board



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National Park System Advisory Board

National Historic Landmarks Committee Report

December 2012

**Board Report to the Director of the National Park Service
National Historic Landmarks Committee
December 11, 2012**

During the past four years, the National Historic Landmarks Program has engaged in a dramatic effort to extend its reach to a full spectrum of people and events that participated in building the nation. While the more traditional subjects of prominent political leaders, monumental architecture, and the military and its conflicts continue to be honored with additional listings, the program also recognized many other aspects of the past. With the new National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) and the many emerging nominations that are currently being processed, the National Park System is in a better position to interpret the rich, diverse range of the nation's past, making the agency and its programs more relevant to more people than ever before. Perhaps more importantly, the unfolding list of recent nominations and listings provide a hint of what the future might – and should – hold, informing National Park Service about the direction it can take in the future as it seeks even more properties for designation as National Historic Landmarks.

The following is an overview of properties that have been designated or are being nominated since 2009. Staff efforts have been herculean: facing cutbacks in support, National Park Service employees have risen to requests to implement initiatives and to rethink the very nature of the NHL Program. Four years of hard work have yielded outstanding successes, and it is important to recognize what these public servants have achieved. Also, the following lists of resources could be taken to imply that each has a significance that can be described in a nutshell, simply pigeonholed and filed in a single, specific location to be brought forth for the appropriate occasion. In reality, many if not most of these sites are part of more than just one story. These are nuanced expressions of the past, and it is how the resources shade and color aspects – and often several aspects – of American history that makes these chapters of history all the more thrilling. The accomplishment of the staff of the National Historic Landmarks Program is even more impressive when it is remembered that they helped craft stories that are sometimes difficult to tell and to understand, but which are no less important to our national saga.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has called on the National Historic Landmarks Program to consider properties associated with the nation's Spanish-speaking heritage. This "Latino Initiative" has resulted in many properties being elevated to Landmark status with many others in the process of being nominated. Designated or nominated places associated with Spanish-speaking heritage include:

- Drakes Bay Historic and Archaeological District in California: site of two important, early European landings on the Pacific Coast.
- Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, California, an important site associated with labor leader César Estrada Chávez.
- San José de los Jémez Mission and Gúsewa Pueblo Site in New Mexico, an early expression of Spanish/Mexican interaction with native populations.
- Trujillo Homesteads in Colorado, an important archaeological district that documents the Latino settlement of the region for ranching.

- Admiral David Glasgow Farragut Gravesite in New York, the only surviving expression of one of the nation’s most famous naval heroes, himself born to a Spanish father.
- Hispanic Society of America Complex in New York, a significant cornerstone for the study of the Latino experience in the New World.
- U.S. Post Office and Court House (Court House for the Southern District of California); this is the site of a pivotal court decision, involving Spanish-speaking children, who paved the way to the end of the “separate but equal” doctrine in education.
- Casa Dra. Concha Meléndez Ramírez in Puerto Rico, home of one of the more important Puerto Rican literary figures.
- *Epic of American Civilization Murals*, Baker Library, in New Hampshire; these expressions of New Deal art are one of the more highly regarded expressions of Mexican mural work in the United States.
- Old San Juan Historic District/Distrito Histórico del Viejo San Juan in Puerto Rico, the site of one of the oldest European settlements in the New World; the district incorporates several periods as this important capital helped build the identity of Puerto Rico.

Many more properties are being considered, meaning that this initiative will continue to bear fruit for many more years. These places represent a broad spectrum of possibilities, reflecting the complexity of the Spanish-speaking experience and heritage for the nation. The designation of properties associated with the Latino Initiative has opened the door to the telling of a significant part of the nation’s story through its NHL Program, the highest honor the National Park Service can bestow on a resource. By acknowledging the importance of these resources, many more Americans will be able to recognize their faces in the pantheon of the past.

Many other new nominations honor American Indians:

- Updated documentation for the Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain NHL in Wyoming makes this the first with this designation to be recognized as a Traditional Cultural Property.
- Montana’s Deer Medicine Rocks, a site related to the conflicts of the Great Plains, represents another important benchmark: unlike so many battlefields that have acquired NHL designation, by honoring this place, the National Park Service recognizes the way the Native American community tells its own story of conflict.
- Reaching back to an earlier chapter, Akima Pinšiwá Awiiiki – the Chief Jean-Baptiste de Richardville House – in Indiana – illustrates a time of negotiation and adaptation in the face of European American expansion.
- Honey Springs Battlefield in Oklahoma documents an important episode of the Civil War when Native American troops faced one another on both sides of the conflict, employing the techniques and uniforms shared in common with the great armies of the North and the South.
- Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School in Arizona, which is an excellent expression of shifting federal policies toward Native American tribes; the site demonstrates how seemingly diverse federal policies remained rooted in many of the same beliefs and prejudices about how Indians were to be treated.

Each of these resources adds yet another chapter to the unfolding American Indian experience as the National Park Service broadens its reach, with new perspectives through its NHL Program. Occasionally, the NHL designation process is lengthy and takes many turns. Efforts to designate the Chilocco Agricultural School in Oklahoma have been postponed because one of the tribes involved with that resource raised concerns. All nominations represent considerable effort on the part of staff as work proceeds with property owners and authors while editing the documentation to fit needs of the program. But sometimes even more effort is required and designation is delayed until all concerned are at ease with the process.

Many other resources document the experience of African Americans: Camp Nelson Historic and Archaeological District in Kentucky honors the struggle during the Civil War, as those of color fought for their right to serve even as they fought for the freedom of their brethren. This site is a rare survivor of its kind, and by affording it NHL status, future work of archaeologists can help unfold the pages to tell a pivotal story that is too often neglected. Hinchliffe Stadium in New Jersey reminds the nation of a time when baseball was played by segregated teams and leagues. With the nomination of Alabama's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the NHL program achieves much the same, but with a later, twentieth-century expression of the fight for civil rights.

Japanese-American heritage is honored with the nomination of the Poston Elementary School, Unit 1, Colorado River Relocation Center in Arizona, which is associated with the tragic chapter of interment during World War II. Many other sites have been recognized with NHL designation; this most recent recognition underscores the on-going commitment of the National Park Service to address this painful chapter of American history. NHL staff has also initiated work on an Asian Pacific Islanders Theme Study. Several considered properties relate to this theme including two California sites, Bok Kai Temple in Marysville and the Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds in Weaverville.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has also called on NHL staff to develop an approach to women's history. This initiative to nominate more properties associated with women's contribution to the nation has led to the evaluation of the following:

- Harriet Beecher Stowe's House in Connecticut; the famous author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was a lifelong advocate of gender issues and fought against polygamy.
- Anne and Charles Lindbergh Cottage, which the couple built in Darien, Connecticut, in 1961 and where Anne did most of her later writing.
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas House in Florida honoring the author of *The Everglades-River of Grass*, one of the most important environmental works of the twentieth century.
- Amelia Earhart's dormitory residence at Purdue University in Indiana, where she taught between 1936 and 1937.
- Annie Oakley House in Cambridge, Maryland, recognizing an important figure in the history of entertainment and how it shaped the national perception of the American West.
- The Harvard College Observatory and its role in promoting women in astronomy between the 1870s and the 1930s.
- Doris Duke's Center for Islamic Art and Architecture in Hawaii, is significant as a center for Islamic art and culture and for the building's architecture.

- The Maine house of Frances Perkins, the Secretary of Labor under Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet.
- The Molly Brown House in Denver and the Eilley and Sandy Bowers Mansion in Nevada, both monuments to the role of women in the mining West.
- NHL staff is also seeking to identify an appropriate property associated with former US Representative Patsy Mink, a leading women's rights advocate/activist who led the charge for women's equality in education and who is best known as the leading proponent behind the successful establishment of Title XIV.
- The Lydia Pinkham House in Massachusetts, commemorating one of the most important and well-known creators and purveyors of women's tonics while revolutionizing the patent medicine business.

Pursuing yet another theme, NHL staff currently has an intern in the process of preparing a nomination, in consultation with the Washington, DC, Historic Preservation Office, for the Frank Kameny House. Kameny was a nationally-prominent leader and advocate for the American LGBT civil rights movement from the 1950s until his death in 2011. The nomination for the Kameny House should be ready for submission to the NHL Committee in 2013.

Properties associated with themes that have traditionally been at the core of the NHL Program include those associated with military history. Landmark designation or nominations for the following:

- Black Jack Battlefield in Kansas, arguable the first pitched battle between opposing armed forces, anticipating the American Civil War.
- USS *Constellation* moored in Maryland, originally regarded as a survivor of the War of 1812, this resource is now recognized as an important part of the story of the Civil War and the struggle against slavery with updated documentation.
- Camp Nelson Historic and Archaeological District in Kentucky, as indicated above, this resource adds a much-needed dimension to the telling of the Civil War and the way African Americans participated in that conflict.
- Honey Springs Battlefield in Oklahoma; as indicated above, this resource adds yet another perspective – this one in relation to the Native American story – to the way the Civil War can be understood.

Each of these places contributes to a richer understanding of the American Civil War. Twentieth-century conflicts find commemoration through designation of the following:

- The Pennsylvania Railroad Depot and Baggage Room in Ohio, tells the story of the volunteer effort to care for the hundreds of thousands of soldiers crossing the nation for deployment during World War II.
- The USS *Slater* in New York served in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters during and immediately after the war.
- Camp Evans in New Jersey; this important site played a crucial role in the development of radar technology, providing the American World War II effort with a much-needed advantage.

And after the din of battle subsided, those who served continued to be a part of the nation's history. The important role of veterans is acknowledged with the recognition of homes and hospitals established for those who served in the military and either needed medical care or a place to live in their later years. Recognized districts are in South Dakota, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Kansas, and Ohio.

Many archaeological resources were recognized with Landmark nominations, expanding the story that can be told about the first phases of human history on the North American continent. Sites include:

- Grand Mound in Minnesota; this is an important example of the Native American construction of mounds in animal shapes as part of pre-contact culture and religion.
- Lynch Quarry Site in North Dakota; this quarry furnished material for the creation of stone tools for a wide variety of areas and culture, helping develop an understanding of pre-contact trade practices.
- The Carrizo Plain Archaeological District in California includes one of the largest collections of rock art in the nation, in this case found together with archaeological evidence of habitation within the district.
- Davis Oriole Lodge Site in Iowa; one of the best preserved lodge houses in the region.
- Murray Springs Clovis Site in Arizona, an excellent collection of two kill sites combined with a habitation site, dating to a brief period of occupation during the Clovis period at the beginning of North American habitation.
- The Lagomarsino Rock Art site in Nevada is an extensive collection of art spanning thousands of years, representing diverse styles.

Together, these resources tell a story about the depth of culture and life on land that now hosts a vibrant, twenty-first-century nation. They serve as vivid reminders of the thousands of years that are also part of our past.

Many properties listed above, including the Drakes Bay Historic and Archaeological District in California, the U.S. Post Office and Court House (Court House for the Southern District of California), Old San Juan Historic District/Distrito Histórico del Viejo San Juan in Puerto Rico, Pennsylvania's Braddock Carnegie Library (also designated for architectural significance), and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas House in Florida, contribute to the broadest picture of national history. Others resources not previously mentioned that have been designated, nominated or currently under the process of being nominated also fill this bill, providing tangible, physical reminders of benchmarks in the nation's history:

- General James Mitchell Varnum House in Rhode Island, representing a significant episode that defined the nature of judicial review as the nation was shaping this concept for its future constitutional government.
- Hamilton Grange in New York commemorates the important role of Alexander Hamilton as a founding father with updated documentation.
- West Point Foundry Archaeological Site in New York, reminding the nation of a vital step in the development of defense technology.

- The Harry S Truman Historic District in Independence Missouri, which received additional documentation, commemorating the life of one of the nation's more important presidents.
- The Nantucket Historic District in Massachusetts, which also received additional documentation, in this case designed to commemorate the important post-whaling period of early tourism.
- Two sites associated with the important twentieth-century artist Andrew Wyeth, in Massachusetts and in Maine; the artist is one of the more celebrated of the twentieth century.
- The Mountain Meadows Massacre Site in Utah, site of the killing of over one-hundred emigrants from Arkansas at the hands of a Mormon militia, the worst expression of domestic terrorism until the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.
- The Town Hall, New York, New York, illuminates a period of radio and the public, democratic discourse.
- Stepping Stones (Bill and Lois Wilson House) in New York and Dr. Bob's Home (Dr. Robert and Anne Smith House) in Ohio, two important icons of the struggle to overcome alcoholic addiction through the formation of the international organization known as "AA."
- George T. Stagg Distillery in Kentucky, not only acknowledging an important part of the nation's technological achievement, but also recalling the story of Prohibition and its effect on industry as well as people.
- The U.S. Post Office Building in Las Vegas, site of one of the more important hearings of the Kefauver Committee, which sought to expose and eradicate organized crime in the nation.
- Yaddo in New York, an important retreat for artists in the twentieth century, helping establish some of the better known figures in American literature, theater, and music.

Each of these resources received attention, and most are now either Landmarks or have completed the process of nomination.

In the realm of architecture, many important representations of the development of American architecture received designation or are in the process of being nominated:

- The Schaeffer House and Historic Moravian Bethlehem Historic District, both in Pennsylvania, each serve as examples of early German immigrant architecture.
- Eyre Hall and Pear Valley, both in Virginia, both illustrate the earliest period of European architecture of the Atlantic seaboard.
- Braddock Carnegie Library in Pennsylvania, built in 1888-1889, is the oldest intact library building in the United States funded by Andrew Carnegie. The Braddock Library played an important part in the evolution of Carnegie's role as a public benefactor of libraries.
- Meadow Brook Hall in Michigan, with its monumental Tudor Revival residence, secondary buildings and structures all set within an intact pastoral landscape, Meadow Brook Hall serves as an outstanding example of a twentieth-century American country estate.
- University Heights Campus (Bronx Community College of The City University of New

York) in New York is a nationally-significant example of Beaux-Arts architecture in the United States, and among the most important works by Stanford White, partner in McKim, Mead & White, the preeminent American architectural firm at the turn of the twentieth century.

- Denver Civic Center in Colorado is one of the best examples of the City Beautiful Movement, which in this case influenced the early twentieth-century development of a broad swath from the state capitol to the Denver City Hall.
- U.S. Post Office and Court House in San Francisco; Constructed between 1897 and 1905, the U.S. Post Office and Court House (James R. Browning U.S. Court of Appeals) is a superlative Beaux-Arts public building exhibiting a complex merger of a number of artistic disciplines: architecture, sculpture, painting, stained glass and decorative arts.
- Additional work on the nomination of the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex improves the level of documentation, refining the ability of the program to tell the nation's story through its architecture.
- Florida Southern College Historic District, an excellent example of the genius of Frank Lloyd Wright, applied to the planning of an entire campus.
- The Aubrey Watzek House in Oregon, The Republic building in Indiana, and Greendale Historic District in Wisconsin, represent a more recent chapter and benchmarks in the development of modern, twentieth-century architecture.

Religious sites recognized for their important role as expressions of American architecture include the following:

- Saint Peter's Parish Church in Virginia is an exceptional example of early eighteenth-century brick architecture from the Chesapeake Region.
- Central Congregational Church in Boston is nationally significant for the largest, intact Tiffany-designed ecclesiastical interior in its original location in America.
- Arch Street Friends Meeting House in Philadelphia was built by noted Federal period architect and author Owen Biddle and has been in continuous use since 1805. It is also the largest Quaker Meeting House in the country.
- United Congregational Church in Rhode Island; The murals and opalescent and stained glass windows of United Congregational Church, executed by artist John La Farge between 1880 and 1881, are the only comprehensive interior designed by the artist.
- Second Presbyterian Church in Illinois is one of the earliest, most complete and intact, non-residential expressions of the Arts and Crafts movement in this country.
- Gardner Earl Memorial Chapel and Crematorium in New York; Constructed in 1888-89 by a wealthy Troy couple as a memorial to their only child, the Gardner Earl Memorial Chapel and Crematorium is the most architecturally sophisticated example of early public crematoria in the United States.

The program acknowledged the importance of landscape architecture with nominations:

- The Camden Amphitheatre and Public Library in Maine; One of Fletcher Steele's few public projects, the amphitheater is a highly successful and outstanding early twentieth-century example of the classical amphitheater form adapted for contemporary popular use.

- Denver Civic Center in Colorado, listed above for architecture, but also designated for its importance in landscape design.
- The Platt National Park in Oklahoma in Chickasaw National Recreation Area reflects one of the most cohesive and intensive programs of master planning and landscape conservation carried out in the national parks through the collaboration of the National Park Service and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the New Deal era.
- Woodlawn Cemetery in New York is an early example of collaborative landscape architecture and contains some of the finest examples of funerary art in the nation.
- Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. is an early example of collaborative landscape architecture and contains some of the finest examples of funerary art in the nation.
- Greendale in Wisconsin, listed above for architecture is also important for its landscape architecture.

The advances in American transportation and technology are commemorated with the following nominations:

- The Split Rock Light Station in Minnesota is an extremely rare example of Great Lakes light stations designed as a single, cohesive, and self-sufficient complex with all major elements built during the initial period of construction.
- Lightship LV-118 (*Overfalls*) in Delaware is unique as the only small-hulled, diesel/diesel-electric powered third-generation lightship ever constructed, and as the last lightship built using riveted-hull construction.
- The McKeen Motor Car in Nevada; this rare survivor of the first effort to incorporate internal combustion engines with rail service. It is also an early example of experimentation with streamlining and railroads.
- Montauk Point Lighthouse in New York; Among extant lighthouses, the Montauk Point Lighthouse was the most important for the nation's foreign trade during the first eight decades of the United States lighthouse service.
- Denver & Rio Grande Railroad San Juan Extension (Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad) in Colorado and New Mexico; In terms of length, scale of operations, completeness, extensiveness of its steam operations, and state of preservation, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad San Juan Extension, is one of the country's best surviving examples of a narrow gauge system at the peak of American railroading, roughly 1870 to 1930.
- Humpback Bridge in Virginia, one of the nation's better-preserved expressions of a specific type of covered-bridge technology.
- Knight's Ferry Bridge in California; yet another, excellent example of a specific type of covered-bridge technology.
- The 1956 Grand Canyon United-TWA Aviation Accident Site, documenting the remains of an event that helped establish the Federal Aviation Administration and its mission to promote aeronautical safety.
- Fort Benton Historic District in Montana; the boundaries of this early designation were defined with additional documentation, making it easier to draw on this resource to help tell the story of the opening of the American West.

- The Cattle Trails National Historic Trail; extending through a north-south swath in the center of the continent this expansive resource documents the opening of the West and the pivotal role of ranging and cattle drives.

Each of these resources helps tell the story of American technology and transportation.

Besides the work on these many resources, the National Historic Landmarks Program has completed a draft of the Cold War Theme Study, a Congressionally-mandated project. Preliminary work for future nominations within this newest of chapters of American history includes a prominent radar facility in Alaska, several remaining and intact Nike sites, and a B-29 that was testing Cold War technology and now rests at the bottom of Lake Mead in Nevada.

In all, the National Historic Landmarks Program, through its staff and its Committee, has effected an enormous change in the way designations figure into the national story. The Program now recognizes or is in the process of recognizing a wider variety of resources than ever before. This critical period in the history of the NHL Program will influence – likely for another generation – the way the National Park Service tells the story of the United States of America.