

Good afternoon. I'm Sherry Frear, Chief of the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks Program.

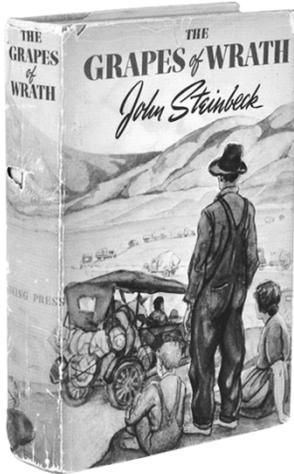
I'm joined this afternoon by my colleagues Drs. Julie Ernstein and Lisa Davidson.

First, a note on terminology: The National Register and the National Historic Landmarks Program are two different albeit related programs. National Register-listed places may be recognized as significant at the local, state, or national level. By contrast, NHLs are exclusively nationally significant places. But all NHLs ARE listed in the National Register. As I'll use the term "National Register" in this presentation and following discussion, I'll be referring to BOTH National Register-listed places and NHLs.

I have a thirty to thirty-five minute presentation to share with you on what we here at the National Register have identified as issues impacting the diversity of listings in the National Register, and our current strategies for addressing them. As I move through the presentation, keep an eye on the chat for helpful links to the webpages and documents I'll reference.

We'll also make this presentation and a list of those links available on our website.

“How will we know it’s us without our past?”



#PASTFORWARD21

How can we live without our lives? How will we know it's us without our past?

No. Leave it. Burn it.

They sat and looked at it and burned it into their memories.

How'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? How if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there? Can you live without the willow tree? Well, no, you can't. The willow tree is you.

Reference: *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck, New York: Viking Press, 1939.

The title of this presentation is derived from a passage in “The Grapes of Wrath,” of people deciding what to bring to California, what to leave in Oklahoma; and fearing losing themselves in the process of sorting their things and leaving the places important to them.

I believe historic preservation is about those places and things that support a community’s sense of itself, of its culture and history.

“How will we know it’s us without our past?”

“The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 ... authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to expand and maintain a National Register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.”

- **What listing does**

- Provides formal recognition
- Serves as a planning tool
- Provides eligibility for various grants and tax credits

- **What listing does not do**

- Federally prohibit actions by a private property owner, including alteration or demolition



Malcolm X-Ella Little Collins House, Boston, Massachusetts, listed 2021.

Reference: 54 USC 100101, *et seq.* (2016); 36 CFR 60.2. National Register nomination for Malcolm X-Ella Little House, NPS files.

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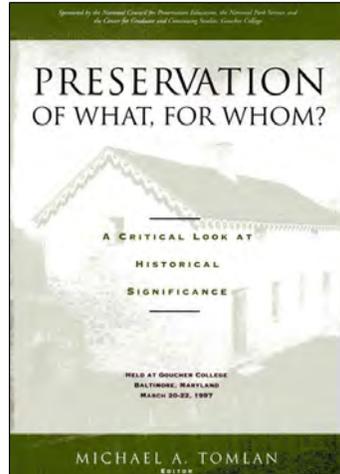
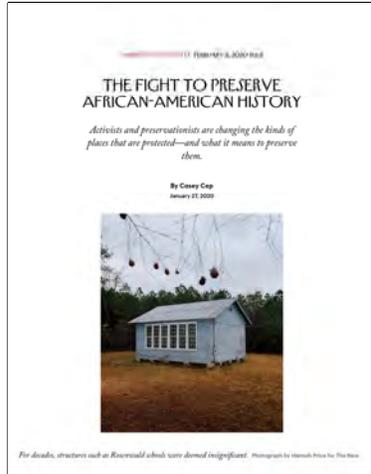
And listing in the National Register of Historic Places is one way of remembering, and memorializing, our past.

Listing in the National Register brings recognition as well as potential financial benefits.

But listing does not guarantee a place won’t be altered or demolished.

[The place you see here is the Malcolm X-Ella Little House in Boston, Massachusetts, listed in 2021 at under Criteria A, B, and D for its association with Malcolm X, Ella Little, and the development of Roxbury as a streetcar suburb and prominent black neighborhood; and for its demonstrated potential to provide information about a middling to prosperous 18th-century farm. This place was NOT listed under Criterion C for its Queen Anne style architecture.]

Of what, for whom....?



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Reference: *New Yorker*, 01/27/2020; "Preservation of What, for Whom?", Michael A. Tomlan, ed., 1997; *LA Times*, 12/15/2020.

So what gets listed?

Preservationists have long asked the question, "Of what, for whom?" Here you see the cover of a compilation of papers, edited by my mentor, Professor Michael Tomlan, from a symposium asking that question almost 25 years ago (which is before I went to school to study historic preservation planning).

Most recently, you may have seen articles concerning a lack of diversity among places listed in the National Register.

What is diversity....?

1. the state of being diverse; variety.

“National Register-listed properties represent a diversity of architectural styles”

2. the practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.

“Less than 10 percent of properties listed in the National Register reflect the diversity of the country’s population”

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Reference: *Oxford Languages*, as annotated.

But what is “diversity” as it applies to the National Register? I think it’s helpful to define our terms. Here are two definitions.....

One, the state of being diverse; variety ... as in National Register-listed places represent a diversity of architectural styles.

Two, the practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, et cetera ... as in less than ten percent of places listed in the National Register reflect the diversity of our country’s population.

And it is this second definition that applies to our discussion today.

What's that about less than 10 percent....?

- **National Register numbers**
 - 96K+ places listed = 1.8M+ resources
 - 70% for local significance
 - 2,621 National Historic Landmarks



James Baldwin Residence, New York, New York, listed 2019

Reference: National Register nomination for James Baldwin Residence, NPS files.

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Let's look at some numbers.....

There are more than 96 thousand places listed in the National Register; that represents more than 1.8 million buildings, structures, objects, and sites.

Approximately 70% of all places listed in the National Register are listed at a local level of significance.

That 96K figure includes 2,621 National Historic Landmarks, which are exclusively nationally significant places.

But it's difficult, for reasons you'll see later in this presentation, to accurately determine percentages of listed places associated with different cultural, ethnic, or identity communities.

[The place you see here is the James Baldwin Residence, listed in 2019, as nationally significant under Criterion B and Criteria Consideration G in the areas of literature and LGBTQ history for its association with prominent American author and activist James Baldwin during the final period of his life, 1965-1987, when he owned this home and it served as his primary American residence. Black history or heritage is NOT identified as an

area of significance in the nomination.]

So what gets listed....?

- **Historic Significance**
 - Criterion A "event"
 - Criterion B "person"
 - Criterion C "design/construction"
 - Criterion D "information potential"
 - Criteria Considerations A-G
- **Physical Integrity**
 - Location
 - Setting
 - Design
 - Materials
 - Workmanship
 - Feeling
 - Association



Brown Beret Headquarters, Los Angeles, California, determined eligible 2020

Reference: 36 CFR 60.4: National Register nomination for Brown Beret Headquarters, NPS files.

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So what gets listed....?

It's not my intention to provide a lecture on National Register practice, but, to frame our discussion, let's briefly review.....

A place must possess historic significance under one or more criteria AND it must retain physical integrity, although not all seven aspects need be present.

[The place you see here is the former Brown Beret Headquarters, determined eligible for listing in 2020 as locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Hispanic Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Politics and Government, with a period of significance of 1969 to 1970.]

So what gets listed? Places with historic significance

§60.4 Criteria for evaluation.

The criteria applied to evaluate properties (other than areas of the National Park System and National Historic Landmarks) for the National Register are listed below. These criteria are worded in a manner to provide for a wide diversity of resources. The following criteria shall be used in evaluating properties for nomination to the National Register, by NPS in reviewing nominations, and for evaluating National Register eligibility of properties. Guidance in applying the criteria is further discussed in the "How To" publications, Standards & Guidelines sheets and Keeper's opinions of the National Register. Such materials are available upon request.

National Register criteria for evaluation. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

"These criteria are worded in a manner to provide for a wide diversity of resources."

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Reference: 36 CFR 60.4.

With respect to historic significance.....

This is a quote I return to, again and again. It's from the National Register regulations:
"These criteria are worded in a manner to provide for a wide diversity of resources."

So what gets listed? Places with physical integrity

ASSESSING INTEGRITY IN PROPERTIES

Integrity is based on significance: why, where, and when a property is important. Only after significance is fully established can you proceed to the issue of integrity.

The steps in assessing integrity are:

- Define the **essential physical features** that must be present for a property to represent its significance.
- Determine whether the **essential physical features are visible** enough to convey their significance.
- Determine whether the property needs to be **compared with similar properties**. And,
- Determine, based on the significance and essential physical features, **which aspects of integrity are particularly vital** to the property being nominated and if they are present.

Ultimately, the question of integrity is answered by whether or not the property retains the **identity** for which it is significant.

“Integrity is based on significance:
why, where, and when
a property is important.”

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Reference: *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, p. 45.

And with respect to physical integrity.....

Here’s what I’ve highlighted in my copy of National Register Bulletin 15—the “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation” Bulletin:

“Integrity is based on significance: why, where, and when a property is important.”

So what doesn't get listed....?

- **National Register numbers**
 - FY20: rejections = 8, or less than <1%
 - FY21: rejections = 7, or less than 0.5%

Action Statistics FY20

Report contains counts of actions taken on properties grouped by Request Type.
For Period: 10/1/2019 to 9/30/2020

Request Type	Accepted	Returned	Rejected	Totals
Add.Doc.	101	8	0	109
Appeal	0	0	0	0
Boundary	20	4	1	25
Direct Sub	0	1	0	1
Federal DOE	3	2	3	8
Move	2	1	0	3
Multiple	126	54	3	183
NHL	2	0	0	2
Removal	55	1	0	56
Resubmission	91	6	1	98
Single	573	98	0	671
Totals	973	175	8	1,156

Action Statistics FY21

Report contains counts of actions taken on properties grouped by Request Type.
For Period: 10/1/2020 to 9/30/2021

Request Type	Accepted	Returned	Rejected	Totals
Add.Doc.	145	11	0	156
Appeal	0	1	2	3
Boundary	32	9	0	41
Direct Sub	0	0	1	1
Federal DOE	2	2	1	5
Move	7	2	0	9
Multiple	138	13	0	151
NHL	21	0	0	21
Removal	25	1	0	26
Resubmission	111	5	3	119
Single	775	77	0	852
Totals	1256	121	7	1,384

National Register statistics for FY20, FY21.

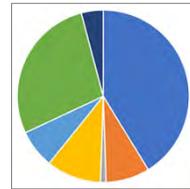
Reference: National Register Information System.

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So what doesn't get listed? Of the approximately twelve hundred actions handled by the National Register each year, on average, less than 1 percent are rejected for failing to meet the criteria for listing or for lacking physical integrity.

What are the issues....?

1. Evolution of the historic preservation field
2. Misapplication of criteria and integrity
3. Misunderstandings about documentation
4. Need for continuing and updated surveys, evaluations, nominations



#PASTFORWARD21

In discussions with the preservation community, we've identified several issues that appear to impact the diversity of listings in the National Register.

Evolution of the historic preservation field

Misapplication of criteria and integrity

Misunderstandings about documentation

And the need for continuing and updated surveys, evaluations, and nominations.

We'll look at all four of these issues in this presentation, AND what the National Register is currently doing to address them.

Let's look at some nominations.....



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To set the context for this discussion, let's first look at four nominations, each of which will touch on at least one of the issues we've identified.....

Houses

- Residences

- Built c. 1922
- Detroit, Michigan
- Within a historic district



Images c. 1971

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

#PASTFORWARD21

First up...some houses.....

Here you see two of some 300 houses built circa 1922 in Detroit, Michigan.

Houses

- **Comments**

- Architect
I find it hard to believe such things are of historical importance.
- Historian
I agree with the architect.
- Reviewer
I can't agree with the architect, since we are eventually going to have to face the problem of Georgian Revival, Stockbroker Tudor, etc.

Wayne Indian Village 72000667

NAME OF RECEIPT: Wayne Indian Village

DATE RECEIVED: 11/16/71

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S): 4

MAP DESCRIPTION (S): 2

LOGGED: 11/16/71

ACKNOWLEDGE: 11/16/71

REVIEWER: Tech ok JLS 1/13/72

REVISION: I can't agree with the architect since we are eventually going to have to face the problem of Georgian Revival, Stockbroker Tudor, etc. These are pretty OK + a well-integrated community.

HISTORIAN: Agree with the architect.

ARCHAEOLOGIST: OK

ASSESS. REVISION: OK

REMARKS: The monument of Brown Hill in yesterday's Starbuck's today, 7/2/72

RECEIVED: MAR 24 1972

Review notes, 1972, p. 3

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

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This nomination arrived at the National Register in 1972.

Let's see what the National Register staff of the early seventies had to say about it:

The architect wrote, I find it hard to believe such things are of historical importance.

The historian agreed with the architect.

However, the reviewer wrote, I can't agree with the architect, since we are eventually going to have to face the problem of Georgian Revival, Stockbroker Tudor, etc.

What do you think....?

- POLL
 - Listed
 - Not listed
 - Unsure



Images c. 1971

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

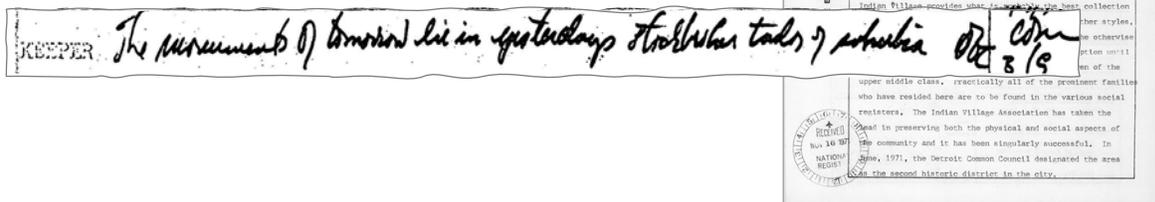
#PASTFORWARD21

What do you think?

Was this place—a proposed historic district—listed or not listed, or are you unsure?

Indian Village Historic District

- Listed 1972
 - Historic district of “about 300 buildings”
 - Area of Significance: architecture
 - Period of Significance: “20th century”
 - 5 pages of text



National Register nomination for Indian Village Historic District, 1971, 1972, pp. 3, 5

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

#PASTFORWARD21

These two houses are part of the Indian Village Historic District, listed in 1972, for its significant architecture.

As William Murtagh, the very first Keeper of the National Register, astutely noted, “The monuments of tomorrow lie in yesterday’s Stockbroker Tudors of suburbia.”

Notice the National Register form, shown here as used in the early seventies: there are 24 areas of significance suggested; today, there are 51, plus 56 cultural, ethnic, and identity sub-areas. Still, then as today, “other” was an option but our experience has shown that—then as today—it was and is rarely used.

Multi-story brick building

- **Multi-story brick building**
 - Built 1903
 - Jackson, Mississippi
 - Roof and third story destroyed by fire in 1938



Left image c. 1905, right image 1977

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

#PASTFORWARD21

Our second example..... This multistory brick building in Jackson, Mississippi, constructed in 1903.

It's roof and third story were destroyed by fire in 1938. The bottom right image shows the appearance of the building in 1977 when a nomination was submitted to the National Register.

Multi-story brick building

- **Comments**

- Historian

While building has been very substantially altered, it was not nominated for architecture but for education and social/humanitarian [significance].....

- Architect

The first building on Jackson State University campus, radically altered so as to affect integrity.

State <u>Miss.</u>	Working Number <u>217.77.294</u>	<u>Hinos Co.</u>
TECHNICAL		CONTROL
Photos <u>2</u>		<u>OK</u> <u>2.17.77</u>
Maps <u>1</u>		
<p><i>While bldg. has been very substantially altered, it was not nominated for architecture but for education and social/humanitarian [significance] for very strong reasons. Jackson State has had quite a multi-purposed history.</i></p>		<p>HISTORIAN <i>Accept</i> <u>LB Franklin</u> <u>4.25.77</u></p>
<p><i>The first bldg. on Jackson State Univ. campus — radically altered so as to affect integrity</i></p>		<p>ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN <i>CONF. H. Quinn</i> <u>4/25/77</u> ARCHEOLOGIST</p>

Review notes, 1977

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

#PASTFORWARD21

Let's see what the National Register staff of the mid-seventies had to say about this building:

The Historian noted that while the building had been very substantially altered, it was not nominated for its architecture but for its significance in education and social or humanitarian efforts.

The Architectural Historian countered that while this was the first building on the campus, it had been radically altered so as to affect its integrity.

What do you think....?

- POLL
 - Listed
 - Not listed
 - Unsure



Left image c. 1905, right image 1977

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

#PASTFORWARD21

But what do you think? Was this building listed or not listed, or are you unsure?

Ayer Hall, Jackson State University

- Listed 1977
 - Areas of Significance: education; social/humanitarian
 - Period and level of significance: 1903, state
 - Only extant original structure on campus today
 - 5 pages of text

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
1903-1909	ARCHITECTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
1910-1919	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	LAND
1920-1929	ARCHITECTURE	ENGINEERING	LITERATURE
1930-1939	ARCHITECTURE	GEOGRAPHY	SCULPTURE
1940-1949	ART	INDUSTRY	TRANSPORTATION
1950-1959	COMMUNICATIONS	INTELLIGENCE	WAR
1960-1969	CONSERVATION	MEMORIALS	WATER
1970-1979	CONSERVATION	RELIGION	WATER RESOURCES
1980-1989	CONSERVATION	SCIENCE	WATER RESOURCES
1990-1999	CONSERVATION	SCIENCE	WATER RESOURCES
2000-2009	CONSERVATION	SCIENCE	WATER RESOURCES
2010-2019	CONSERVATION	SCIENCE	WATER RESOURCES
2020-2029	CONSERVATION	SCIENCE	WATER RESOURCES

SPECIFIC DATES 1903 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ayer Hall, constructed in 1903 as the first academic building on the Jackson College (now Jackson State University) campus, is today the only extant original structure on the grounds of this institution and is significant for its role in the development of education for black Mississippians.

Originally established in Natchez, Mississippi, as Hatcher Seminary, Jackson College was the direct outgrowth of a great humanitarian movement that had its roots in antislavery sentiment within northern Protestant churches and emerged during and after the Civil War as a missionary commitment to aid the newly freed black people of the South. A prevailing faith in America's democratic ideals and the capacity of black Americans to enter fully into the nation's life energized the founding and staffing during the postwar period of numerous educational institutions for Southern blacks.

In keeping with this spirit, the American Baptist Home Mission Society of New York in 1877 authorized Dr. Charles Ayer (1828-1901) of New York to establish the Mississippi Valley for the training of Negro teachers and preachers [vide sound leadership within the black community. Averdy religious had purpose, the founders of Hatcher Seminary saw as their broad goal of the black sector as a vital force in the political, social, and economic life of the state. The school operated successfully in Natchez for six years. Recognizing the need for expanded accommodations and a more central location (see records in a more to Jackson, where the society purchased for \$10,000 property on North State Street, consisting of fifty-two acres in a section house.

not Ayer was succeeded in 1894 by Rev. Luther G. Barrett (1838-1902), administration Jackson College was moved to its present location. of the century, the migration of the more affluent members of the city there was fast expanding the institution from the people it was to serve. Recognizing the importance of a location within the black community, the American Baptist Home Mission Society sold the North State Street site for \$40,000 to Major Nathan Webster Millage. Temporary housing and classroom facilities were used until in 1903 the present site in southeast Jackson on Lynch Street was purchased for \$7,000. Construction was immediately begun on two brick buildings, which were completed in time for the fall school session of that year. The first of these structures, erected at a cost of \$13,000 was Ayer Hall. Originally intended for use as a men's dormitory, the building at various times since 1912 has

J. Stale has a new presentation of the... acceptance of the... will encourage that of the... creator Nels.

KEEPER
[Signature]
6-7-77

National Register nomination and review notes for Ayer Hall, 1977, pp. 3, 4
Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

#PASTFORWARD21

This building—Ayer Hall, on the campus of Jackson State University, a Historical Black University—was listed on the National Register in 1977 at a state level of significance in education and social or humanitarian movements, with a period of significance of 1903.

Although this building had been substantially altered, it was found eligible for listing because it was identified as significant under Criterion A for its role in historical events, not Criterion C for architecture.

In his notes, the Keeper expressed hope that listing would encourage restoration of the building. Today, Ayer Hall has indeed been restored to its early 20th century appearance. It continues to serve students and is the home of the Margaret Walker Center, an archive and museum named for Dr. Margaret Walker, a Jackson State University professor and renowned author and poet.

Single story adobe building

- **Single story adobe building**
 - F. commerce and community hub
 - Built in 1921
 - Navajo Nation, Utah



Image 1979

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

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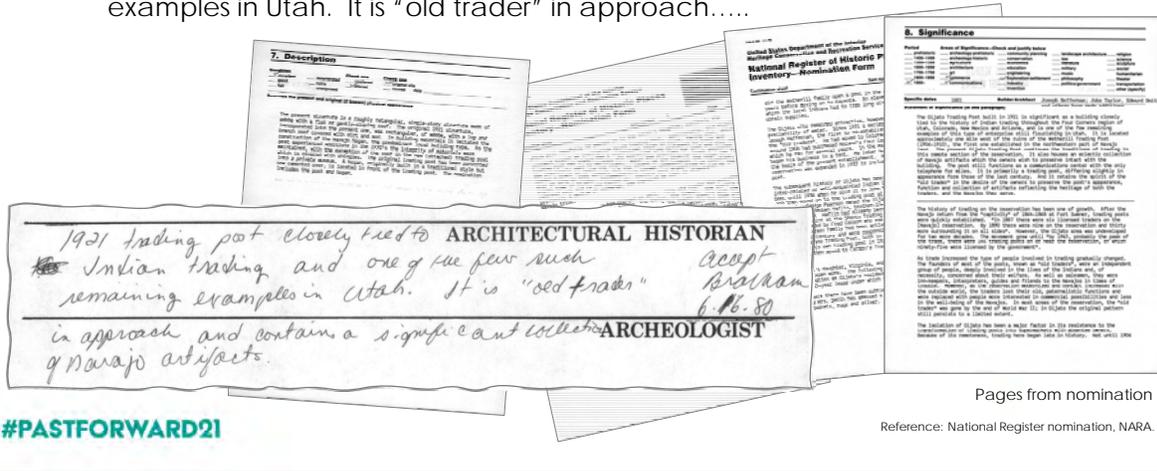
Now, our third of four examples..... This single story adobe building and associated structures built in 1921 in southeastern Utah.

Single story adobe building

- **Comments**

- Architectural Historian:

1921 trading post closely tied to Indian trading and one of few such remaining examples in Utah. It is "old trader" in approach.....



#PASTFORWARD21

Pages from nomination

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

Here are a few pages from the 1980 nomination: there is one page for the building description—really, less than half a page—and two-and-one-half pages for its significance.

The National Register architectural historian noted that the 1921 trading post was one of the few such remaining examples in Utah.

What do you think....?

- POLL
 - Listed
 - Not listed
 - Unsure



Images 1979

#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA.

Here are some additional images, showing the interior and an associated structure.

So what do you think? Was this place listed or not listed? Or are you unsure?

Oljato Trading Post

- Listed 1980

- Areas of significance: commerce; communications; exploration/settlement
- Period of significance: " 1900 –"
- 3 pages of text for Sections 7 and 8
- Identified by the National Trust in 2021 as one of " America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places"
- Stabilization in 2020 supported via NPS certified local government grant

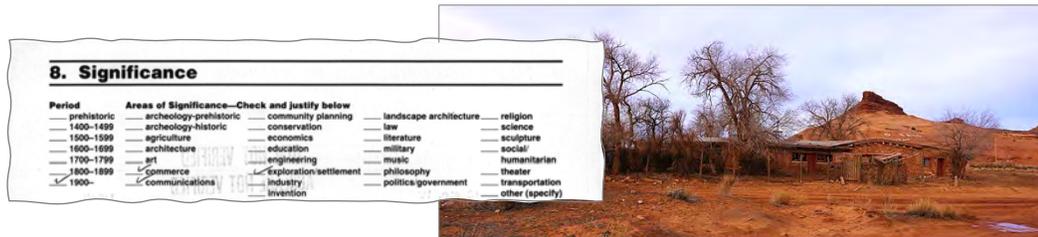


Image 2019, before stabilization work

#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: National Register nomination, NARA, accessed October 2021; photograph by Steven Baitakatei Sandoval
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oljato_Trading_Post#/media/File:Oljato_Trading_Post_ruins_January_2019.jpg
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

The [o LEE toe] Trading Post was listed in 1980 for its significance in commerce, communications, and exploration or settlement. This place includes a trading room, living and storage areas, and a traditional hogan. And it served as a social hub for decades.

The image you see here is before stabilization work was done in 2020. Key partners and participants in that work included the Navajo Nation and Utah State University-Eastern, which provided some 20 student and staff volunteers.

This place was identified by the National Trust in 2021 as one of America's most endangered historic places.

Again, notice this portion of the National Register form: by 1980, the suggested areas of significance had grown from 24 to 28, but even so, neither cultural nor ethnic nor identity associations are among them.

Single story house with carport

- **Single story house with carport**
 - F. boarding house
 - Built 1942, 1955
 - Carport added in 1975
 - Las Vegas, Nevada



Image 2016

Reference: National Register nomination, NPS files.

#PASTFORWARD21

Now we leap ahead 26 years to 2016 for our final example, this single story house in Las Vegas, built in 1942, and expanded in 1955 and again in 1975.

Single story house with carport

**LAS VEGAS
TOURIST HOMES
HARRISON'S GUEST HOUSE
1001 NORTH 'F' STREET**

55

*The Negro Motorist
GREEN BOOK
AN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GUIDE
U.S.A. ALASKA BERMUDA MEXICO CANADA
1949 EDITION*

Carry your Green Book with you - You may need it.

The Negro Motorist Green Book, 1949

Reference: New York Public Library digital collection, accessed May 2021.

This place served as a boarding house for almost two decades.

Here is its listing in the 1949 edition of *The Green Book*, the guide developed by and for Black travelers to help them find safe accommodations in an era of segregation.

If you take a look at the chat, you'll see a link to an excellent compilation of Green Book places listed in the National Register, prepared by Alicia [a LEE ce ah] Guzman who interned with us this past summer.

What do you think....?

- POLL
 - Listed
 - Not listed
 - Unsure



Image 2016

Reference: National Register nomination, NPS files.

#PASTFORWARD21

Here's another view of the house and grounds.....

So what do you think? Was this place listed? Not listed? Or are you unsure?

Harrison's Guest House

- **Listed 2016**

- Areas of Significance: ethnic heritage: Black; entertainment/recreation
- Period and Level of Significance: 1942-1960, local
- Modified 1970-1990
- 24 pages of text



Harrison's Guest House, Las Vegas, Nevada, image 2016; picture of Sammy Davis, Jr., National Museum of African American History and Culture

#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: National Register nomination, NPS files: NMAAHC, accessed June 2021.

Harrison's Guest House, a segregation-era boarding house, from 1942 to 1960, was listed in the National Register in 2016, for its local significance in entertainment and Black heritage.

The nomination noted that the design of the house had been disrupted by modern additions, including a carport, and attached shed.

But the nomination described—in one, 10-sentence paragraph—just how this place retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

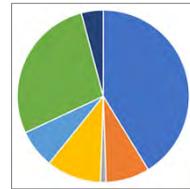
And the nomination authors documented its status as the only known surviving example of an African American boarding house in Las Vegas from the segregation era.

What are the issues....?

1. **Evolution of the historic preservation field**
2. Misapplication of criteria and integrity
3. Misunderstandings about documentation
4. Need for continuing and updated surveys, evaluations, nominations



#PASTFORWARD21	
Year	Number of Listings
2010	1,200
2011	1,300
2012	1,400
2013	1,500
2014	1,600
2015	1,700
2016	1,800
2017	1,900
2018	2,000
2019	2,100
2020	2,200



#PASTFORWARD21

Turning back now to the issues the National Register has identified as impacting cultural, ethnic, and identity diversity among listings.....

Let's look first at the evolution of the field with, of course, a focus on the National Register.....

Issue | Evolution of historic preservation field

1	A	B	C	E	H	I	J
Ref#	Property Name	State	City	Listed Date	Area of Significance	Category of Property	
1378	Aventine Hall	VIRGINIA	Luray	2/26/1970	ART	BUILDING	
1379	Aycock, Charles B., Birthplace	NORTH CAROLINA	Fremont	2/26/1970	EDUCATION; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1380	Baca House and Outbuilding	COLORADO	Trinidad	2/26/1970	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT; ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1381	Bath Historic District	NORTH CAROLINA	Bath	2/26/1970	COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; COMMERCE; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	DISTRICT	
1382	Beehive House	UTAH	Salt Lake City	2/26/1970	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE; RELIGION	BUILDING	
1383	Bel Air	VIRGINIA	Minnieville	2/26/1970	LITERATURE; ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1384	Belgian Building	VIRGINIA	Richmond (Independent City)	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1385	Bennett Place State Historic Site	NORTH CAROLINA	Durham	2/26/1970	MILITARY; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE	SITE	
1386	Bentonville Battleground State Historic Site	NORTH CAROLINA	Princeton	2/26/1970	MILITARY	SITE	
1387	Bloom, Frank G., House	COLORADO	Trinidad	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1388	Bonner House	NORTH CAROLINA	Bath	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1389	Brownsville	VIRGINIA	Nassawadox	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1390	Bunker Hill Covered Bridge	NORTH CAROLINA	Claremont	2/26/1970	TRANSPORTATION; ARCHITECTURE	STRUCTURE	
1391	Cragfont	TENNESSEE	Gallatin	2/26/1970	MILITARY; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1392	Donnan-Asher Iron-Front Building	VIRGINIA	Richmond (Independent City)	2/26/1970	COMMERCE; ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1393	Drydock No. 1	VIRGINIA	Portsmouth (Independent City)	2/26/1970	MILITARY; MARITIME HISTORY	BUILDING	
1394	Fairfield	VIRGINIA	Berryville	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE; SOCIAL HISTORY	BUILDING	
1395	Falls Church	VIRGINIA	Falls Church (Independent City)	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE; RELIGION	BUILDING	
1396	Falmouth Historic District	VIRGINIA	Falmouth	2/26/1970	COMMERCE; ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1397	Fork Church	VIRGINIA	Ashland	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1398	Fort Davidson	MISSOURI	Pilot Knob	2/26/1970	MILITARY; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	BUILDING	
1399	Fort Garland	COLORADO	Fort Garland	2/26/1970	MILITARY; EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	BUILDING	
1400	Fort Macon	NORTH CAROLINA	Atlantic Beach	2/26/1970	MILITARY; ENGINEERING; ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1401	Glebe of Hungar's Parish	VIRGINIA	Franktown	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE; RELIGION	BUILDING	
1402	Granger Station	WYOMING	Granger	2/26/1970	TRANSPORTATION; EXPLORATION	BUILDING	
1403	Greene County Courthouse	VIRGINIA	Standardsville	2/26/1970	ARCHITECTURE	BUILDING	
1404	Hampden-Sydney College Historic District	VIRGINIA	Hampden-Sydney	2/26/1970	EDUCATION; ARCHITECTURE; RELIGION	DISTRICT	



Bel Air, Minnieville, Virginia, listed 1970 ; partial list of National Register listed properties

Reference: NPS NRIS, accessed June 2021; National Register nomination, NARA.

#PASTFORWARD21

You see here a portion of a “list of listings” pulled from our workflow application, and available on our website.

Again, take a look at the chat for the link. But as a reminder, we will be posting to our website a list of links referenced in this presentation.

The earliest properties listed in the National Register were the most obvious: they had already been designated as National Historic Landmarks—or national sites or national parks—or were readily identifiable for their architectural significance or well-known for their historical associations, such as the place you see here. This is Bel Air in Minnieville, Virginia, a well-preserved 18th-century stone house associated with George Washington’s mother, Mary Ball.

Issue | Evolution of the historic preservation field

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known) 1788

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Paragraphs, Dates, Events, Etc.)

December 1968

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT wrought Iron Bridge Company

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

October 1974

8. Significance

Period

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates c.1830

Builder/Architect Builder: uncertain (see historical note below)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) criterion f

March 1982

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally interstate locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Translocation

Period of Significance 1853-1916

Significant Dates 1853-1862

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Significant Person N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

August 1986

NRHP nomination forms, areas of significance

Reference: National Register nomination forms, NPS files.

#PASTFORWARD21

But as you've seen in the examples shown earlier, as the field of historic preservation evolved, the National Register evolved to capture additional areas of significance and recognize more places.

By the way, take a close look at the piece of the 1968 form—the first form—at the upper left.....

Issue | Evolution of the historic preservation field

6. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1788			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi- <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Isosphy <input type="checkbox"/>	
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	
Art Archit. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human- <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	itarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)			



NRHP nomination form 1968, areas of significance; "Inverted Jenny" postage stamp reprint 2013

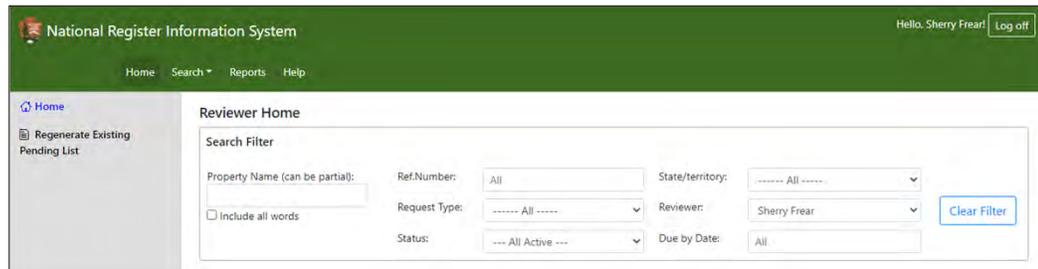
#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: National Register nomination form, NPS files: USPS.

It looks like the National Register had a bit of an "Upside Down Jenny" moment when it mistakenly left "architecture" off the form.

Issue | Evolution: Improving the data

- **Expanding National Register Information System (NRIS) to better track data and support research**
 - Expand Areas of Significance choices
 - Validate older nominations



The screenshot shows the 'National Register Information System' interface. At the top, there is a green header with the system name and a user greeting 'Hello, Sherry Fear!' with a 'Log off' button. Below the header is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Search', 'Reports', and 'Help'. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Home' and 'Regenerate Existing Pending List'. The main content area is titled 'Reviewer Home' and contains a 'Search Filter' form. The form includes a text input for 'Property Name (can be partial):', a checkbox for 'Include all words', and several dropdown menus: 'Ref.Number:' (set to 'All'), 'Request Type:' (set to 'All'), 'Status:' (set to 'All Active'), 'State/territory:' (set to 'All'), 'Reviewer:' (set to 'Sherry Fear'), and 'Due by Date:' (set to 'All'). A 'Clear Filter' button is located to the right of the dropdowns.

Screenshot of a portion of the National Register Information System

#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: NPS.

Here at the National Register, we're responding to the need to support and track diversity among nominations by improving our internal workflow application—the National Register Information System, or NRIS—to be a more robust research tool.

To do this, we've expanded, and will continue to expand, the choices for Areas of Significance, so that we may more readily track places associated with cultural, ethnic, and identity groups. As we saw in the examples earlier in this presentation, the way this information has been provided by nomination authors, and collected by the National Register, over the decades has evolved and this has been the major challenge in determining just how many listings are associated with any particular group or community.

Nevertheless, it's apparent that the historic places of significance to many communities are under-represented in the National Register.

Issue | Evolution: Improving the data

- Expanding areas of significance choices to ensure cultural, ethnic, and identity place relationships are captured



Areas of Significance, 2021

Reference: NPS.

#PASTFORWARD21

In 1968, 23 areas of significance were suggested. Today, there are 51, including 56 cultural, ethnic, and identity sub-areas.

This list is available on the National Register website; [check the chat for a link](#).

Issue | Evolution: Updating nominations

- Reviewing older nominations to identify additional areas of significance



Left, Oljato Trading Post, listed 1980; Ayer Hall, Jackson University, listed 1977

#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: National Register nominations, NARA.

We're reviewing older nominations—those from the 1970s, '80s, and '90s—to assess them for possible significance to cultural, ethnic or identity groups. We'll capture that information in NRIS, so that historic places of importance associated with these communities can be readily identified among listings. This effort will also help us identify which nominations may be ripe for updating.

For example, Ayer Hall—the first example we looked at in this presentation—would not turn up in a NRIS search for significance in Black or African American heritage because that Area of Significance wasn't specified by the authors of the nomination; it was not among the check-box choices on the form in 1977, and the nomination author's did not call it out under "other."

Likewise, [o LEE toe] Trading Post would not turn up in a NRIS search as a place associated with Native Americans, as, again, that wasn't a check-box choice in 1980 nor was it specified in the nomination by the authors.

Additionally, the [o LEE toe] nomination is an example of the sort that will be identified as in need of a second look, as the 1980 documentation focuses almost exclusively on the White experience of this place. While no National Register nomination is expected to be an exhaustive history, it's important that places be assessed—or re-assessed—for their

significance to any number of communities.

Issue | Evolution: Updating nominations

- Reviewing older nominations to identify additional areas of significance

Original, 1968

Update, 2019



Tuckahoe, Goochland and Henrico Counties, Virginia, listed 1968, designated 1969.

Reference: National Register nominations, NARA, NPS files.

#PASTFORWARD21

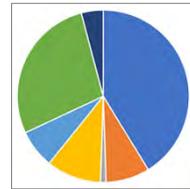
Here's another example: "Tuckahoe" was listed in the National Register in 1968 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1969 for its significance as one of the finest examples of early-to mid-18th century domestic colonial architecture in the United States, as well as for its association with a young Thomas Jefferson. In 2019, this nomination was brilliantly updated not only to further document the built environment but to tell the fuller story of historical events here, including the enslavement of Black people and their lives.

If you'd like to learn more about updating National Register nominations, I suggest you check out the workshop offered through the National Trust on November 16, presented by the National Register's Jim Gabbert, Lena McDonald of Virginia SHPO—and one of the authors of the Tuckahoe update—and Greg Smith of Texas SHPO.

[Check the chat for a link to that session.](#)

What are the issues....?

1. Evolution of the historic preservation field
2. **Misapplication of criteria and integrity**
3. **Misunderstandings about documentation**
4. Need for continuing and updated surveys, evaluations, nominations



#PASTFORWARD21

Let's look now at issues relating to criteria, integrity, and documentation.....

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation

INTRODUCTION

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. To be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a property must not only be shown to be significant under the National Register criteria, but it also must have integrity. The evaluation of integrity is sometimes a subjective judgment, but it must always be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance.

Historic properties either retain integrity (this is, convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognizes seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance. **Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant.** The following sections define the seven aspects and explain how they combine to produce integrity.

Such nomination forms must be “adequately documented” and “technically and professionally correct and sufficient.”
36 CFR 60.3(i)

Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant. *Bulletin 15 “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation,”* p. 44.

(i) *National Register Nomination Form.* National Register Nomination Form means (1) National Register Nomination Form NPS 10-900, with accompanying continuation sheets (where necessary) Form NPS 10-900a, maps and photographs or (2) for Federal nominations, Form No. 10-306, with continuation sheets (where necessary) Form No. 10-300A, maps and photographs. **Such nomination forms must be “adequately documented” and “technically and professionally correct and sufficient.”** To meet these requirements the forms and accompanying maps and photographs must be completed in accord with requirements and guidance in the NPS publication, “How to Complete National Register Forms” and other NPS technical publications on this subject. Descriptions and statements of significance must be prepared in accord with standards generally accepted by academic historians, architectural historians and archeologists. The nomination form is a legal document and reference for historical, architectural, and archeological data upon which the protections for listed and eligible properties are founded. The nominating authority certifies that the nomination is adequately documented and technically and professionally correct and sufficient upon nomination.

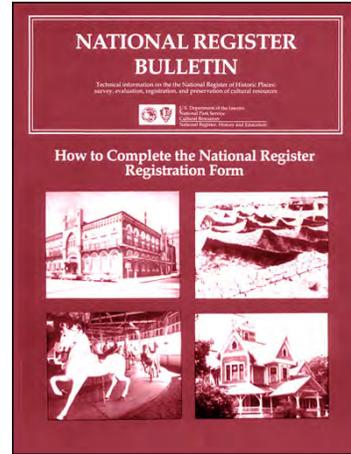
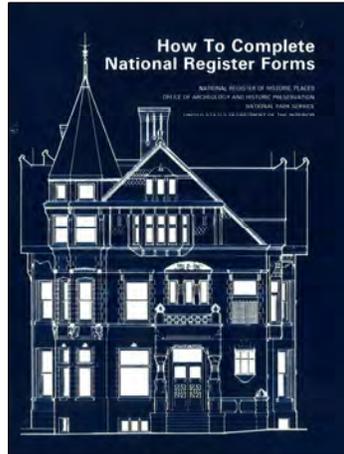
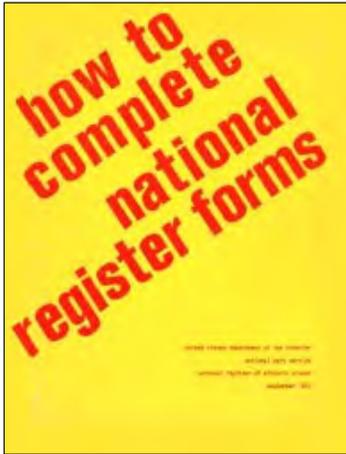
#PASTFORWARD21

These three issues are very much intertwined and impact the success of a nomination.

The choice of criteria determines which aspects of integrity are most important.

And the discussion in the nomination of a place's significance and integrity needn't result in a 200 page document. “Such nomination forms must be “adequately documented” and “technically and professionally correct and sufficient.” And that's a quote—literally—from the National Register's regulations.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation



National Register Bulletin 16A, left to right, 1972, 1977, 1997

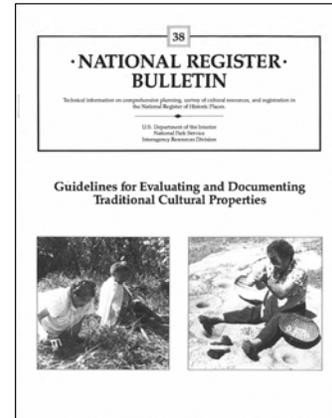
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Reference: NPS.

The National Register regulations are supplemented by guidance, and the earliest guidance was issued in the early seventies. Most of this guidance—in a form that came to be known as “Bulletins”—was last updated in the mid-nineties.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation: Updating guidance

- Revising Bulletins to provide additional guidance and examples
 - *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*
 - *National Register Bulletin 16: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*
 - *National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Places*
 - *NHL Bulletin: Guidelines for Preparing National Historic Landmark Nominations*



National Register Bulletin 38 Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties, 1992

#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: NPS.

So we're working on updating the Bulletins. All are more than twenty years old and all will greatly benefit from updated language and additional examples for applying the criteria and assessing integrity.

First up, Bulletin 38 *Traditional Cultural Places*. Some of you may recall an initiative in 2017 to revise and reissue this Bulletin; however, that effort was not among the priorities of the previous administration and it was set aside. It IS a priority of Secretary Haaland and we're working now on developing a schedule for a relaunch.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation: Developing guidance

- Developing a vehicle for best practices in developing nominations
 - Focus on emerging issues
 - 3-5 illustrated pages



Proposed "Best Practice Review"

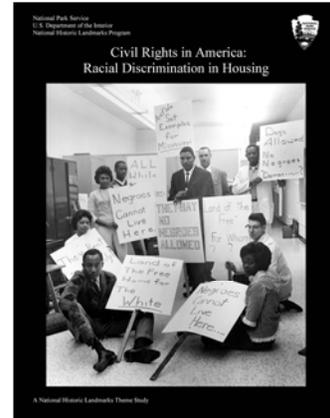
Reference: NPS.

#PASTFORWARD21

But because Bulletin revision and reissuance can be a lengthy process, we're developing a vehicle for sharing best practices on targeted topics. These will be shorter documents than our Bulletins, something on the order of 5 or so pages, that can be quickly developed to address emerging issues. If you have ideas on best practice topics, I'd love to hear them.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation: Recent theme studies

- **Civil Rights Theme Studies**
 - *Racial Desegregation in Public Education in the United States* (2000, supplement 2004)
 - *Racial Desegregation of Public Accommodations* (2004, rev. 2009)
 - *Racial Voting Rights* (2007, rev. 2009)
 - *Racial Discrimination in Housing* (2021)
 - *Racial Discrimination in Employment* (2022)



Cover, *Civil Rights in America: Racial Discrimination in Housing*

Reference: NPS.

#PASTFORWARD21

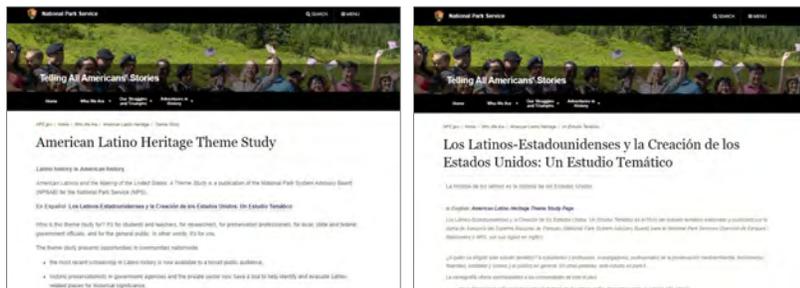
Clear and targeted guidance has been shown to increase the number of nominations for places associated with under-represent-ed groups.

In the past several years, a number of National Historic Landmark theme studies focused on cultural, ethnic and identity groups have been issued and although theme studies have a national focus, remember that they can provide invaluable context and references for National Register nominations with state or local levels of significance.

In 1999, Congress directed the National Park Service to conduct a multi-state study of civil rights places to determine their national significance. A framework was developed to guide the work and it included a recommendation that NHL studies be developed based on the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the 1968 Fair Housing Act. This recommendation has resulted in the issuance, to date, of four theme studies. The first, “Racial Desegregation in Public Education,” was issued in 2000. The most recent, “Racial Discrimination in Housing” was released this past summer.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation: Recent theme studies

- ***American Latinos and the Making of the United States: A Theme Study (2013)***
 - Written and peer-reviewed by experts in Latino Studies
 - Updated NHL registration guidelines and study list forthcoming late 2021



Website, Latino Heritage Theme Study, available in both English and Spanish

#PASTFORWARD21

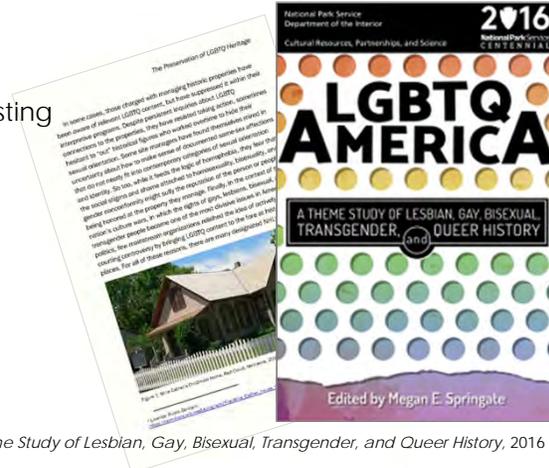
Reference: NPS.

American Latinos and the Making of the United States: A Theme Study was issued in 2013.

This theme study presents the most recent scholarship in Latino history, providing preservationists and the public with a tool to help identify and evaluate Latino-related places for historic significance.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation: Recent theme studies

- *LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History* (2016)
 - Written and peer-reviewed by experts in LGBTQ Studies
 - Provides guidance for National Register listing or NHL designation



Cover, page, from *LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History*, 2016

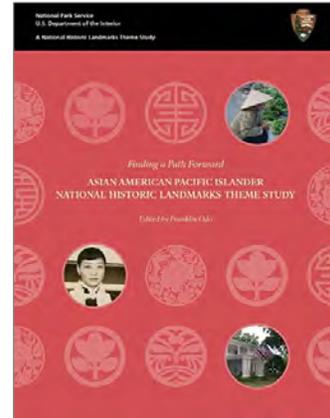
#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: NPS.

LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History was issued in 2016. Each chapter was written and peer-reviewed by experts in LGBTQ Studies.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation: Recent theme studies

- *Finding a Path Forward: Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study (2017)*
 - Written and peer-reviewed by experts in Asian American and Pacific Islander studies
 - Nomination underway for the Summit Camp Site, identified in 2021 by the National Trust as one of “America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places”



Left, Chinese coin fragment; right, cover, *Finding a Path Forward: Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study*

#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: NPS.

Finding a Path Forward: Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, was issued in 2017. It was written and peer-reviewed by experts in Asian American and Pacific Islander studies.

NHL nomination preparation is underway for the Summit Camp Site, home to thousands of Chinese railroad workers who constructed the Transcontinental Railroad through the Sierra Nevada mountains. These individuals labored to build railroad beds and dig tunnels in incredibly difficult living and working conditions, while being paid less than their White counterparts.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation: New theme studies

- **Theme studies in progress**
 - Labor history
 - Underground Railroad (update)
 - African American Outdoor Recreation
 - Sites of Violence Against Americans of African Descent
- **Topics under consideration**
 - Disability history
 - Native American sovereignty + civil rights
 - Women's history + civil rights



Rio Vista Bracero Center, Socorro, Texas

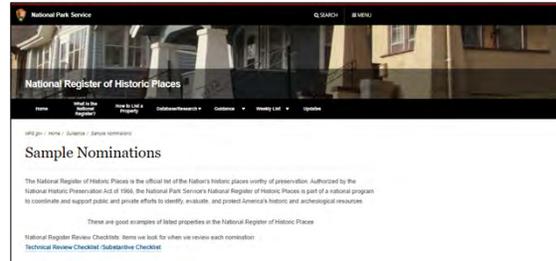
Reference: Front Range Research Associates.

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Additional theme studies are in progress—including one on labor history and another on sites of violence against Americans of African descent—with yet more topics being considered for theme study development, including one on disability history and another on Native American sovereignty.

Issues | Criteria, integrity, documentation: Sample nominations

- Examples
 - Concise contexts
 - Clear criteria/integrity discussions
 - Unique properties



Bazon, William Lee and Eudora Courtney, Farmstead, St. Helena County, Louisiana
Reference Number: 16000673
Listed: 9/21/2016
Criteria: C
Area(s) of Significance: Architecture
Level of Significance: State
Nomination includes a good short context

Bazon Farmstead, listed 2016, example of good, short context of 4-1/2 pages; sample nominations webpage.

#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: National Register nomination, NPS files: NRHP website.

We know that additional guidance results in an increase in successful nominations, and so too does providing examples of those successful nominations.

We've shared examples on our website on a variety of topics for several years now, and we're working on expanding those examples, as well as building a tool to better support you in your search for them.

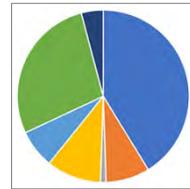
Included among the examples we've posted, and will continue to post, are those that attempt to defuse the "documentation arms race" we've seen in the past three decades with respect to nomination length. While the earliest nominations were, at three to five pages, woefully short, recent nominations are too often well over a hundred pages and it's our hope that examples of shorter, successful nominations will help right-size documentation.

What are the issues....?

1. Evolution of the historic preservation field
2. Misapplication of criteria and integrity
3. Misunderstandings about documentation
4. **Need for continuing and updated surveys, evaluations, nominations**



PROPERTY INFORMATION	
Address:	123 Main St, Anytown, USA
City:	Anytown
State:	USA
Zip:	12345
Year Built:	1920
Style:	Tudor Revival
Condition:	Good
Notes:	Historic house, well-maintained.



#PASTFORWARD21

Finally, let's look at the issue of the need for continuing and updated surveys, evaluations, and nominations.....

Issue | Updated surveys, evaluations, nominations

- **NPS Underrepresented Community Grants =**
 - National Register listings and National Historic Landmark designations**
 - Asian American / Pacific Islander communities
 - 3 multiple property contexts with 4 associated NR listings
 - African American communities
 - 3 multiple property contexts with 11 associated NR listings; 7 stand-alone listings; and 1 additional documentation action
 - Hispanic communities
 - 1 multiple property context with 8 associated NR listings; 5 stand-alone listings; and 1 NHL nomination forwarded just last week by NHL Committee to NPSAB
 - LGBTQ communities
 - 2 multiple property contexts with 2 associated listings and 2 associated additional documentation actions; 1 survey resulting in 5 listings and 2 additional documentation actions
 - Native American communities
 - 2 multiple property contexts with 4 associated listings; 3 stand-alone listings
 - Underway: numerous projects in each of the above-named areas + women's history projects in Maryland, Nevada, and Washington, DC

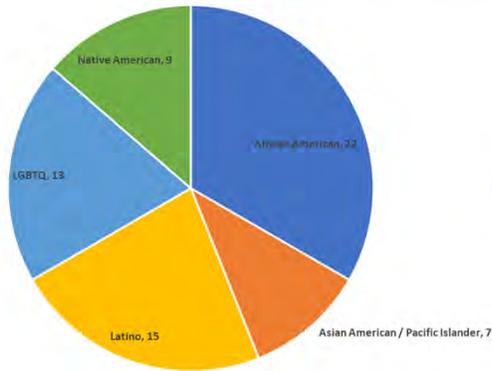
#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants (STLPG), NPS.

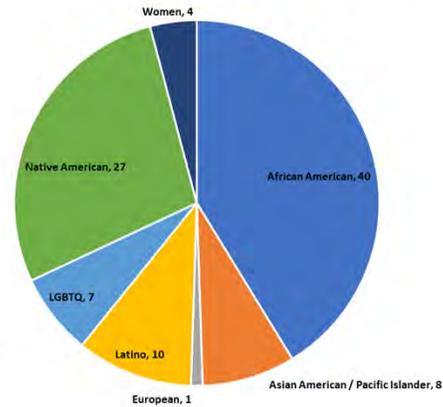
This slide details the number of contexts, nominations, and designations that have directly resulted from the under-represent-ed community grants administered by the NPS's State, Tribal, Local, Plans and Grants program. And I know that's a lot of words here.....

Issue | Updated surveys, evaluations, nominations

Listings + Designations Supported by URC Grants, 2014-2020



Work Funded by URC Grants, 2014-2020



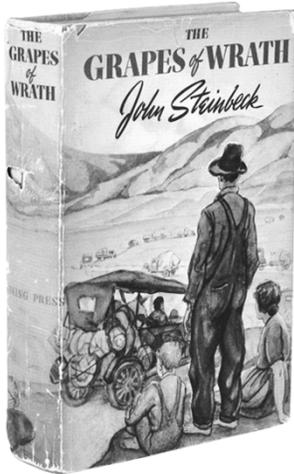
#PASTFORWARD21

Reference: State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants (STLPG), NPS.

So here's are some charts..... The chart on the left graphically presents the information shown on the previous slide. The one on the right presents the broader scope of activities supported by URC grants, including research and surveys.

You can learn more about NPS grants at 5 o'clock today: Megan Brown, Chief of State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants (STLPG), will present the variety of grant programs that can assist in documenting and preserving historic places associated with cultural, ethnic, or identity communities.

“How will we know it’s us without our past?”



By documenting our past through National Register listings and National Historic Landmark designations that reflect the diversity of our country.

How can we live without our lives? How will we know it's us without our past?

No. Leave it. Burn it.

They sat and looked at it and burned it into their memories.

How'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? How if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there? Can you live without the willow tree? Well, no, you can't. The willow tree is you.

#PASTFORWARD21

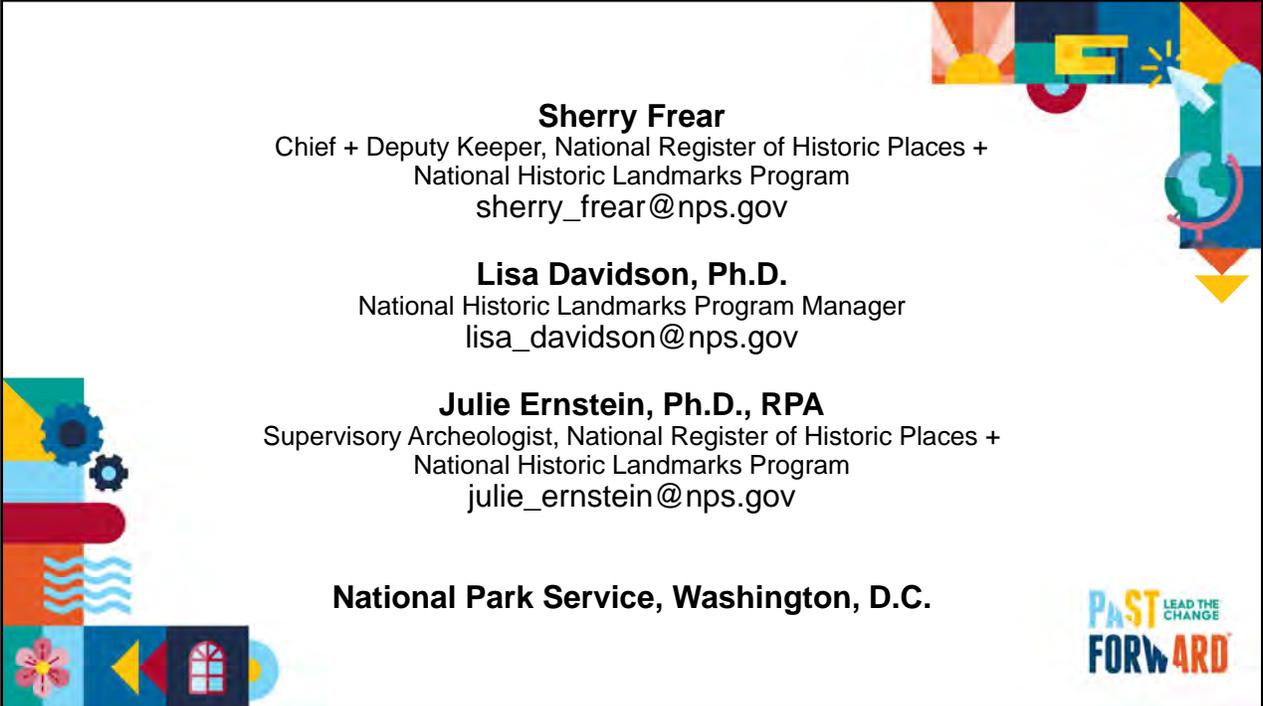
Reference: *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck, New York: Viking Press, 1939.

And that brings us to the conclusion of this presentation.....

At the beginning of the presentation, I shared a quote from *The Grapes of Wrath*: “How will we know it’s us without our past?”

I believe the National Register of Historic Places can help by supporting the documentation of our past through listings and designations that reflect the diversity of our country.

And as I hoped I’ve successfully shared, the work towards representing the depth and breadth of our culture and history includes supporting research, developing guidance, providing assistance, and collaborating with all of you, to preserve those historic places that remind us of who we are.



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National Park Service, Washington, D.C.



Thank you for your kind attention.

As a reminder, I'm joined by my colleagues Drs. Julie Ernstein and Lisa Davidson, and we look forward to your questions and comments.

END END END