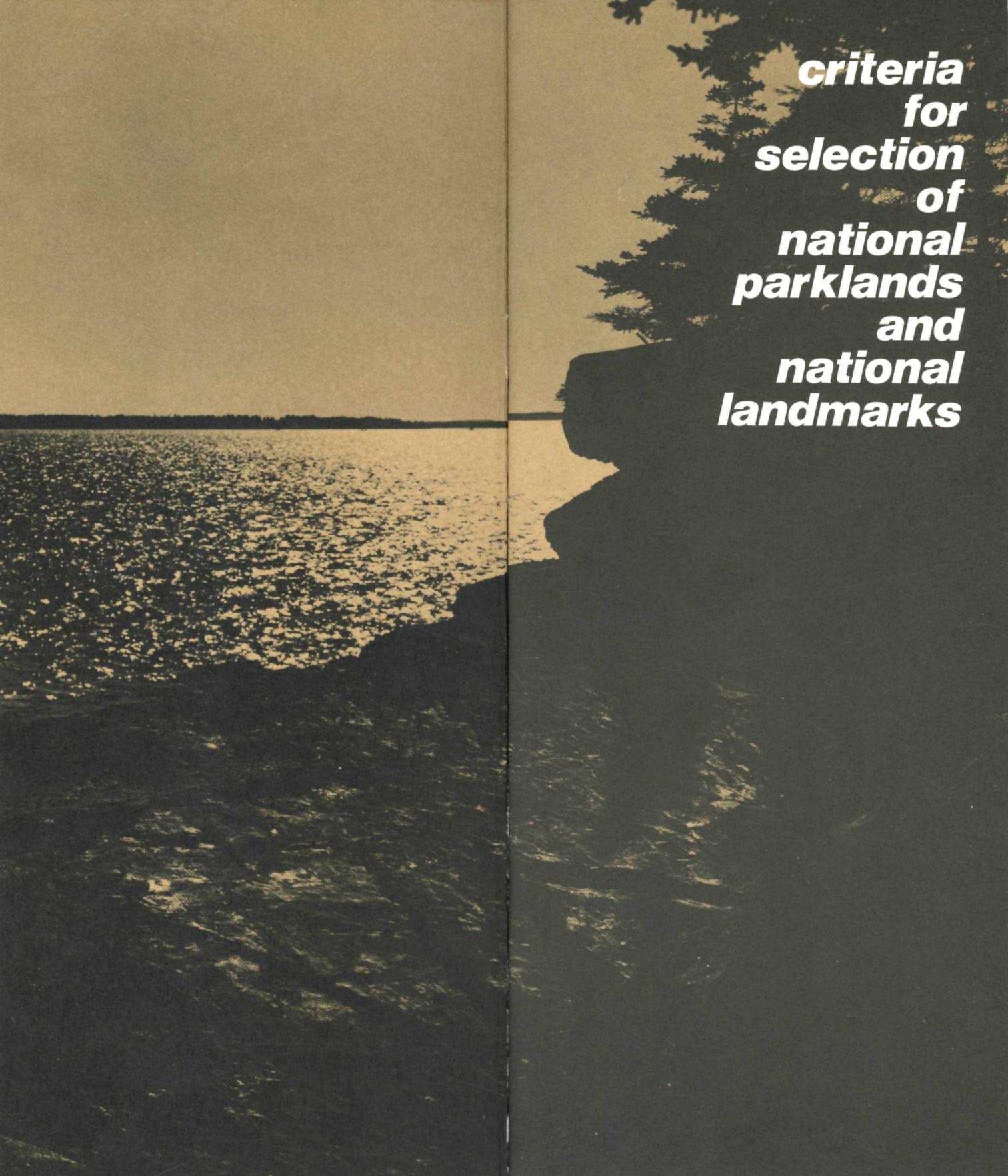


nps

***criteria for
parklands***



**criteria
for
selection
of
national
parklands
and
national
landmarks**

foreword



In 1972 the National Park Service celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Yellowstone, the world's first national park. The distinctive concept of natural area preservation and use expressed by the establishment of Yellowstone has endured and grown. We enter the second century of the national parks engaged in a long-range program designed to mobilize the resources and capabilities of the National Park Service in support of a New Federalism.

Sustained by the vitality of the National Park idea, the program pledges the Service: to make the beauty of the land and the history of our Nation a richer and more meaningful part of the daily life of every American; to renew beauty where it has already been destroyed; and to seek out and protect the surviving landmarks of our national heritage.

The vital element of conservation in any country in any time is the preservation of those places of beauty and history which give meaning and substance to the national character.

This is neither antiquarianism nor barren pride in past glory of scenic wonders. "It is something that gives us deep assurance and a sense of destiny and a determination to hold on fast to the great things that have been done through valor and imagination by those who have gone before us."

If, in our time, we are to conserve the great cultural and natural resources of this Nation, it will demand the combined efforts of Federal, State, and local governments, citizens' organizations, and individuals.

It is my hope that this publication will provide a useful guide for those who promote the cause of a nationally shared environmental ethic by which all people may find harmony with their natural and cultural inheritance.

George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director

introduction



We enter the seventies a Nation increasingly conscious of the need for humanity to make peace with its own kind and with the physical environment on which our survival depends. Recognizing the folly of treating mankind as something apart from nature, we strive toward an environmental ethic that draws on our cultural and historical heritage, as well as on the benefits of nature; and we seek the just distribution of the costs and benefits of man's uses of the environment, by offering more effectively the good of the parks to all people.

The miracles of modern science and technology have taken man to the Moon. Science cannot make Earth grow larger, nor can it add substantially to the planet's finite resource base. But it may help extend the benefits of those resources, and to alleviate the effects of past abuses. The Nation's parklands, as places in which the misapplication of technology is avoided, and its opportunities utilized with care and creativity, may serve as exemplars in that endeavor.

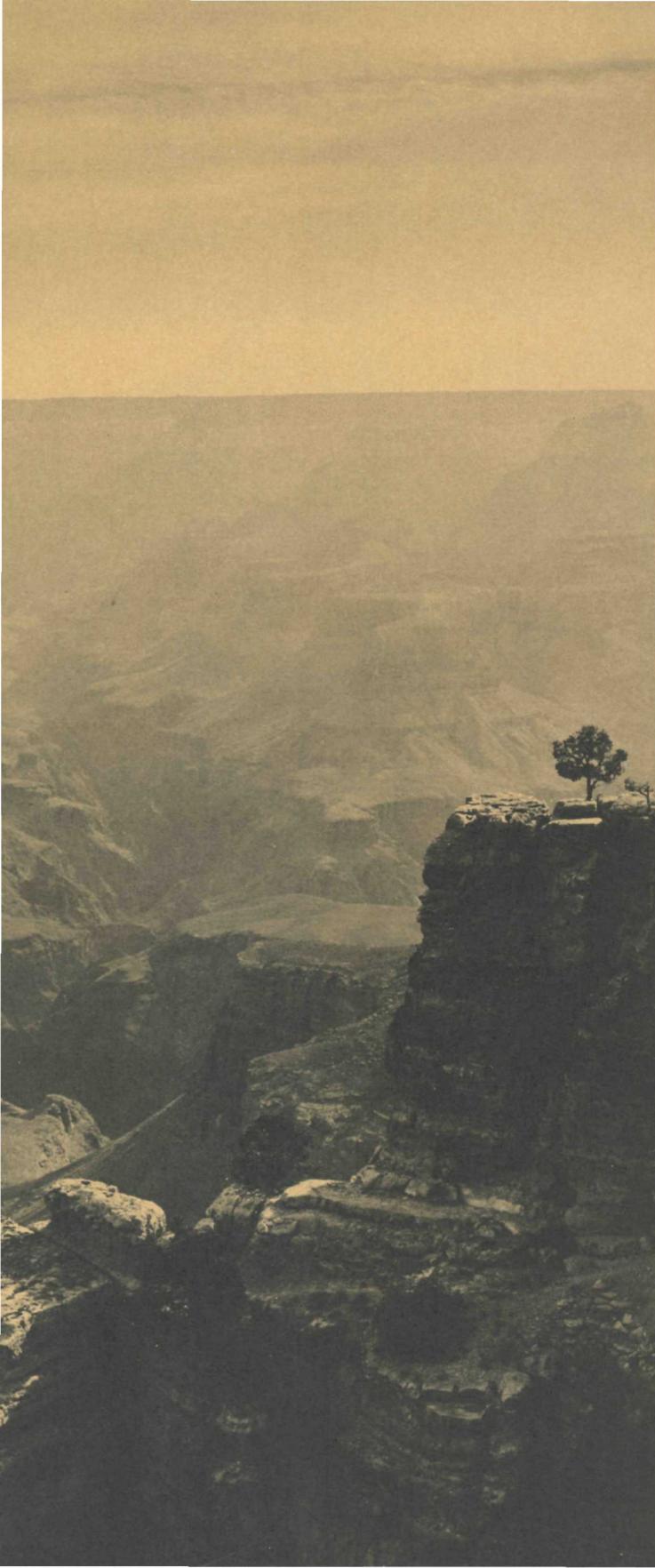
Through legislative enactments, over the years, Congress has articulated a national policy of preserving the outstanding examples of this country's natural and historical resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. This national policy is implemented by two major programs of the National Park Service:

- I. Administration of parks established by the Congress as a part of the National Park System.
- II. Administration of the Registry of National Landmarks, which encourages preservation of natural and historical properties under other ownerships.

The criteria that follow have been developed on the basis of those legislative mandates, in the context of America's growing and dynamic society.

***the national
park system***

1



general information



From the establishment of the first national park—Yellowstone—in 1872, the National Park System has evolved through successive congressional enactments into a system containing more than 285 parks in the 50 States and in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The System is composed of three categories of areas: natural, historical and recreational.

Natural areas contain the great scenic wonderlands—unspoiled mountains, lakes, and forests, desert canyons, and glaciers.

Historical and archeological areas contain examples of ancient Indian cultures, as well as buildings, sites, and objects which have been witness to great events of American history.

Recreational areas of the National Park System—together with recreational areas administered by other agencies—provide healthful outdoor recreational opportunities for a population which today is increasingly urban.

Today there are approximately 200 million visits annually to the parks and forecasts indicate that this figure will reach 300 million in the 1980's.

criteria for natural areas

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- A. National significance is ascribed to areas which possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural heritage of our Nation, such as:
1. Outstanding geological formations or features significantly illustrating geologic processes.
 2. Significant fossil evidence of the development of life on earth.
 3. An ecological community significantly illustrating characteristics of a physiographic province or a biome.
 4. A biota of relative stability maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions, such as a climatic climax community.
 5. An ecological community significantly illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural condition following disruptive change.
 6. A habitat supporting a vanishing, rare, or restricted species.
 7. A relict flora or fauna persisting from an earlier period.
 8. A seasonal haven for concentrations of native animals, or a vantage point for observing concentrated populations, such as a constricted migration route.
 9. A site containing significant evidence illustrating important scientific discoveries.
 10. Examples of the scenic grandeur of our natural heritage.

- B. To possess national significance, the area must reflect integrity, i.e., it must present a true, accurate, essentially unspoiled natural example.

SUITABILITY

A. National Parks

1. National Parks should be relatively spacious land and water areas so outstandingly superior in quality and beauty as to make imperative their preservation by the Federal Government for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all people.
2. They should embrace a sufficiently comprehensive unit as to permit public use and enjoyment and effective management of a continuing representation of its flora and fauna.
3. They should be adaptable to a type of management that can provide a wide range of opportunities for human enjoyment, such as camping, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, and sight-seeing, in a natural setting consistent with the preservation of the characteristics or features that merited their establishment.
4. They will most often contain a diversity of resources and values, including scenic and scientific.

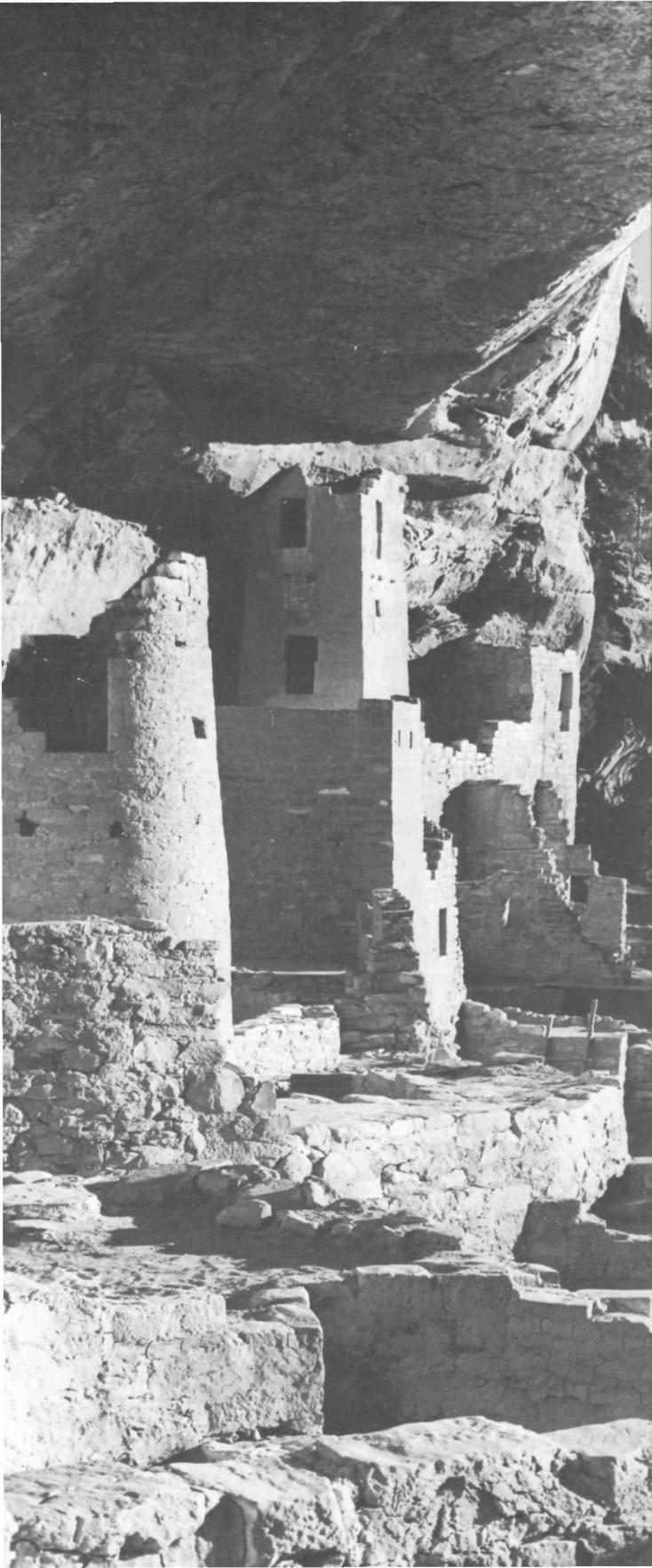
B. National Monuments

1. National Monuments are land and water areas usually involving lesser acreage than National Parks.
2. Generally, National Monuments preserve resources having primary scientific significance.
3. They should embrace a sufficiently comprehensive unit to permit public use and enjoyment of the scientific object, feature, or assemblage of features consistent with the preservation of such features.
4. National Monuments, for the most part, are not of sufficient size to support as broad a range of visitor-use programs as National Parks.

FEASIBILITY

The test of feasibility involves weighing all of the values and public needs served by the proposal.

criteria for historical areas



NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- A. National significance is ascribed to buildings, sites, objects, or districts which possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the historical (history and archeology) heritage of our Nation, such as:
1. Structures or sites at which events occurred that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified prominently with, or which outstandingly represent the broad cultural, political, economic, military, or social history of the Nation, and from which an understanding and appreciation of the larger patterns of our American heritage may be gained.
 2. Structures or sites associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States.
 3. Structures or sites associated significantly with an important event that outstandingly represents some great idea or ideal of the American people.
 4. Structures that embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style, or method of construction; or a notable structure representing the work of a master builder, designer, or architect.
 5. Objects that figured prominently in nationally significant events; or that were prominently associated with nationally significant persons; or that outstandingly represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or that embody distinguishing characteristics of a type specimen, exceptionally valuable for a study

of a period style or method of construction; or that are notable as representations of the work of master workers or designers.

6. Archeological sites that have produced information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have produced, or which may reasonably be expected to produce, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

7. When preserved or restored as integral parts of the environment, historic buildings not sufficiently significant individually by reason of historical association or architectural merit to warrant recognition may collectively compose a "historic district" that is of historical significance to the Nation in commemorating or illustrating a way of life in its developing culture.

B. To possess national significance, a historic or prehistoric structure, district, site, or object must possess integrity. For a historic or prehistoric *site*, integrity requires original location and intangible elements of feeling and association. The site of a structure no longer standing may possess national significance if the person or event associated with the structure was of transcendent historical importance in the Nation's history and the association consequential.

For a historic or prehistoric *structure*, integrity is a composite quality derived from original workmanship, original location and intangible elements of feeling and association. A structure no longer on the original site may possess national significance if the person or event associated with it was of transcendent importance in the Nation's history and the association consequential.

For a historic *district*, integrity is a composite quality derived from original workmanship, original location, and intangible elements of feeling and association.

For a historic *object*, integrity requires basic original workmanship.

C. Structures or sites which are primarily of significance in the field of religion or to religious bodies but are not of national importance in other fields of the history of the United States, such as political, military, or architectural history, will not be eligible for consideration.

D Birthplaces, graves, burials, and cemeteries, as a general rule, are not eligible for consideration and recognition except in cases of historical figures of transcendent importance. Historic sites associated with the actual careers and contributions of outstanding historical personages usually are more important than their birthplaces and burial places.

E. Structures, sites, and objects achieving historical importance within the past 50 years will not as a general rule be considered unless associated with persons or events of transcendent significance.

SUITABILITY

1. Each historical area should contain sufficient land to preserve all the significant historic or prehistoric features associated with this site and such additional lands as may be needed to protect the historic scene and provide unobtrusive sites for necessary developments for management and public use.

2. The site and its authentic historically related environment should lend itself to effective preservation and interpretation.

FEASIBILITY

The test of feasibility involves weighing all of the values and public needs served by the proposal.

criteria for national recreation areas



In its role of coordinating the Federal effort in outdoor recreation, the Recreation Advisory Council (Secretaries of Agriculture; Commerce; Defense; Health, Education, and Welfare; and Interior; Chairman, Tennessee Valley Authority; and Administrator, Federal Housing Administration) in its Policy Circular 1, dated March 26, 1963, stated that National Recreation Areas should: “. . . be areas which have natural endowments that are well above the ordinary in quality and recreational appeal, being of lesser significance than the unique scenic and historic elements of the National Park System, but affording a quality of recreation experience which transcends that normally associated with areas provided by State and local governments. . . .”

The Council has prescribed the following administrative criteria for the selection of such areas:

Primary Criteria. Application of the following seven primary criteria shall be mandatory for all proposals:

1. National Recreation Areas should be spacious areas, including within their perimeter an aggregate gross area of not less than 20,000 acres of land and water surface, except riverways, narrow coastal strips, or areas where total population within a 250-mile radius is in excess of 30 million people.
2. National Recreation Areas should be located and designed to achieve a comparatively high recreation-carrying capacity in relation to type of recreation primarily to be served.
3. National Recreation Areas should provide recreation op-

portunities significant enough to assure interstate patronage within the region of service, and to a limited extent should attract patronage from outside of the normal service region.

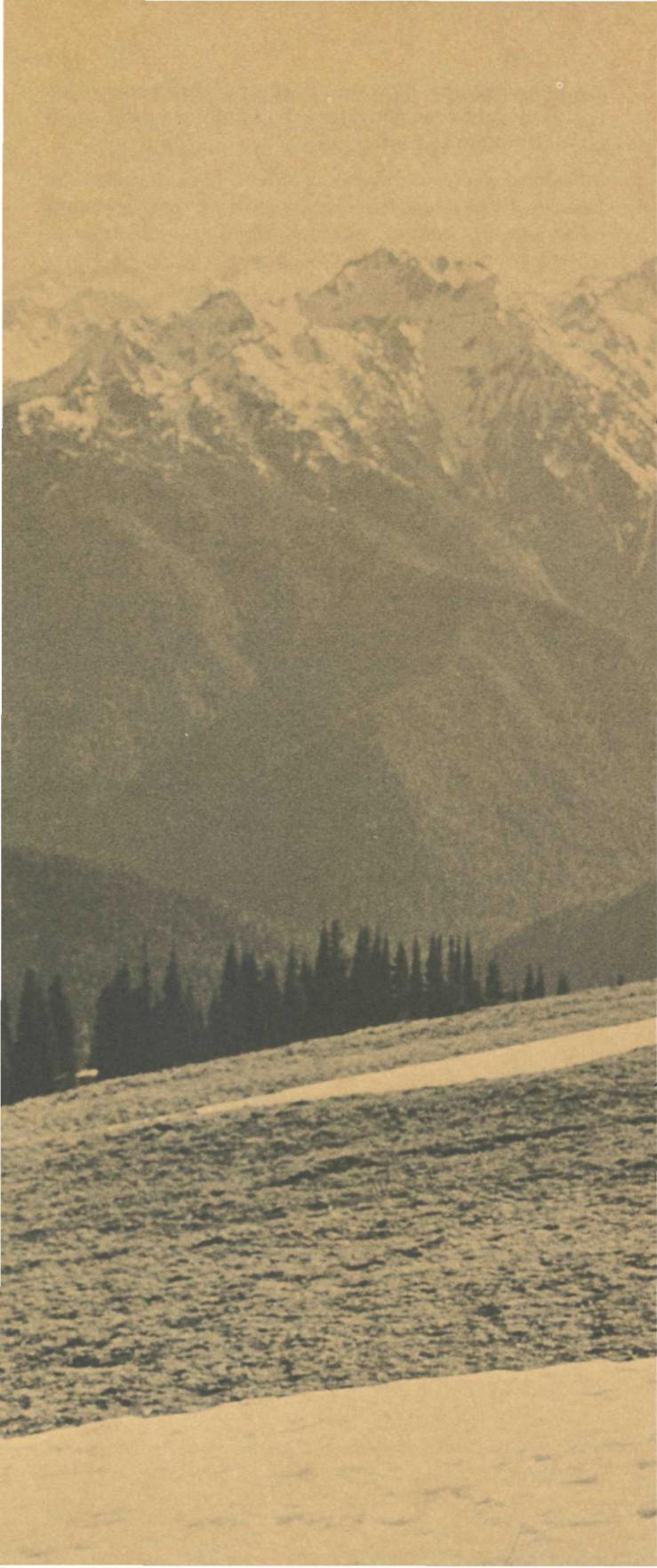
4. The scale of investment, development, and operational responsibility should be sufficiently high to require either direct Federal involvement or substantial Federal participation, to assure optimum public benefit.
5. Although nonurban in character, National Recreation Areas should nevertheless be strategically located within 250 miles of urban centers. Such areas should be readily accessible at all times, for all-purpose recreational use.
6. Within National Recreation Areas, outdoor recreation shall be recognized as the dominant or primary resource management purpose. If additional natural resource utilization is carried on, such additional use shall be compatible with fulfilling the recreation mission, and none will be carried on that is significantly detrimental to it.
7. National Recreation Areas should be established in only those areas where other programs (Federal or non-Federal) will not fulfill high priority recreation needs in the foreseeable future.

Secondary Criteria. Application of the following six secondary criteria will be given weight in situations where they bear a meaningful relationship to a specific proposal:

1. Preference should be given to proposed National Recreation Areas that:
 - a. Are in or near the U.S. Census divisions having the highest population density;
 - b. Are in areas which lack sufficient private and public recreation areas and facilities as determined by the National Recreation Plan;
 - c. Are in areas which have a comparatively low amount of federally provided recreation-carrying capacity.
 - d. Will show an optimum ratio of carrying capacity to estimated cost.
2. National Recreation Areas may be based upon existing or proposed Federal water impoundments where it can be shown that significant increases in the scale of recreation developments are required, beyond the level normally justified under standard multiple-purpose project development, in order to assure that full recreation potential is provided for projected needs.
3. National Recreation Areas may include within their boundaries scenic, historic, scientific, scarce, or disappear-

ing resources, provided the objectives of their preservation and enjoyment can be achieved on a basis compatible with the recreation mission.

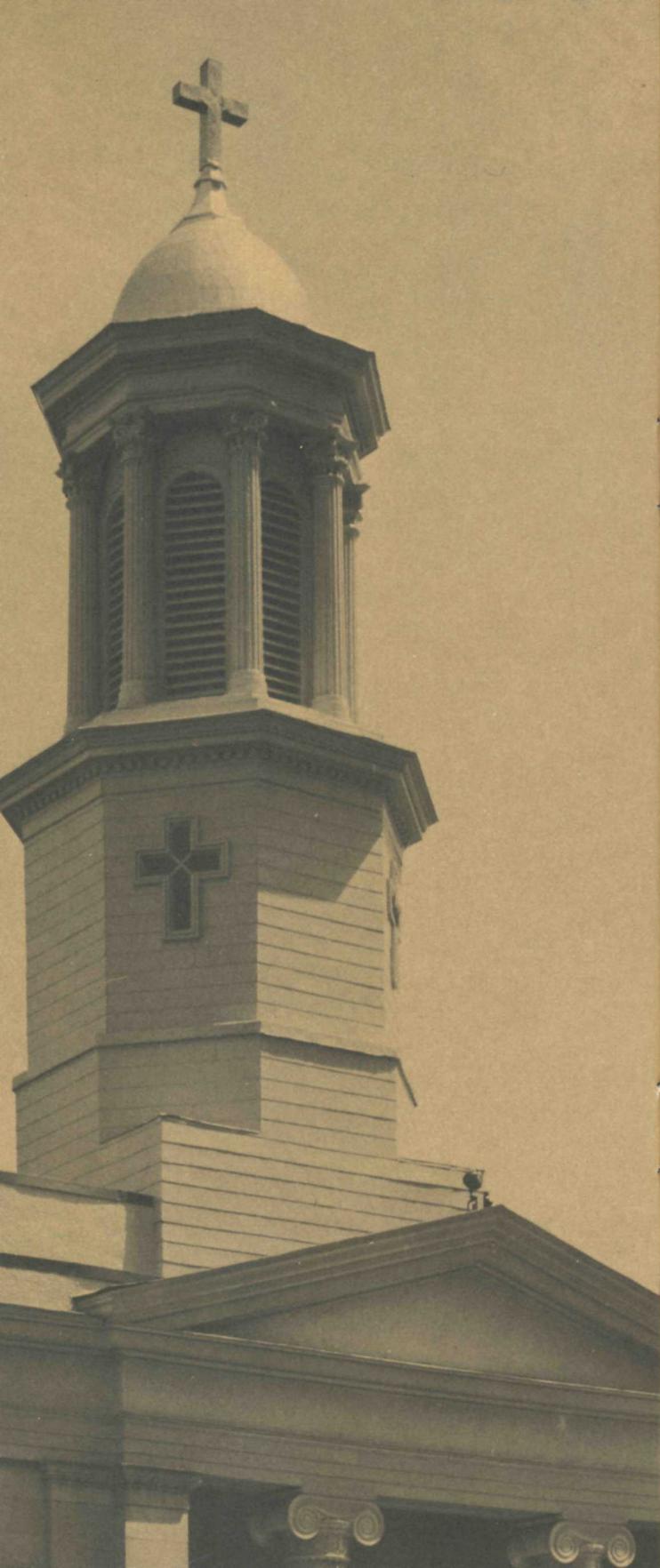
4. National Recreation Areas should be in conformity with the National Recreation Plan prepared by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and shall take into consideration, State, regional, and local comprehensive plans.
5. Whenever possible, National Recreation Areas should be selected, developed, and managed to provide maximum compatibility with the recreation potential of adjacent rural areas in private ownership.
6. Preference should be given to areas in or near to a Redevelopment Area as officially designated by the Department of Commerce and deemed significant in the economic improvement of such a Redevelopment Area.

A sepia-toned photograph of a mountain range. The foreground shows a grassy slope leading up to a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, a range of rugged mountains with snow-capped peaks stretches across the horizon under a hazy sky.

establishment of areas

2

Generally, areas are added to the National Park System by individual acts of the Congress. Accordingly, while the foregoing criteria govern the areas to be recommended administratively for inclusion in the National Park System, the Congress is the ultimate judge of the criteria it shall use in adding areas to the System. Moreover, when established, each area of the National Park System is managed in accord with policies enunciated by the Congress in the act establishing that area.



**registry
of
national
landmarks**

3

general information



The Registered National Landmarks program, administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, involves an inventory of the nationally significant historical, natural, and environmental educational properties of America. The purpose of the program is to vigorously encourage the continued preservation of our Nation's cultural and natural inheritance.

The Registered National Landmarks program is voluntary. Landmark designation does not change ownership or responsibility for the property. There are no funds currently within the Landmark program for acquisition of lands or to assist owners in preservation or development of the property.

Landmark designation is generally achieved through the following steps:

NATIONAL LANDMARK SURVEY

Comprehensive field evaluation by National Park Service specialists of all appropriate sites identifies the most significant natural and historic sites for evaluation by consulting committees of recognized authorities, with ultimate screening by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments.

SELECTION BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Advisory Board submits its recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, upon whom rests final responsibility for declaring sites eligible for the Registry of National Landmarks.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

Owner of site who wishes to make application for landmark designation agrees to maintain integrity of site and to manage it in a manner consistent with accepted preservation and use practices.

REGISTRATION

Upon voluntary application by the owner, a site is entered into the Registry and a certificate and an official bronze plaque are presented, followed by periodic visits to the landmark by National Park Service representatives to consult with and advise the owner.

ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERIA

The single, absolute requirement in the evaluation of areas is that they be of *national significance*. Each selected site must possess exceptional significance in illustrating or commemorating the natural character or the historic heritage of the United States.

To define this quality of national significance, a body of administrative criteria has been formulated, which provides a comprehensive basis upon which to make the determination.

When the application of the criteria results in a determination of national significance, the area may then be recommended for registration as a landmark. If it is further determined that the area might qualify for National Park status, further studies may be conducted. However, in addition to being of *national significance*, areas considered for inclusion in the National Park System must further meet the criteria of *suitability* and *feasibility*.

criteria for natural landmarks

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- A. National significance is ascribed to areas which possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural heritage of our Nation, such as:
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 2. Significant fossil evidence of the development of life on earth.
 3. An ecological community significantly illustrating characteristics of a physiographic province or a biome.
 4. A biota of relative stability maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions, such as a climatic climax community.
 5. An ecological community significantly illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural condition following disruptive change.
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 8. A seasonal haven for concentrations of native animals, or a vantage point for observing concentrated populations, such as a constricted migration route.
 9. A site containing significant evidence illustrating important scientific discoveries.
 10. Examples of the scenic grandeur of our natural heritage.
- B. To possess national significance, the area must reflect integrity, i.e., it must present a true, accurate, essentially unspoiled natural example.

criteria for historic landmarks

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A. National significance is ascribed to buildings, sites, objects, or districts which possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the historical (history and archeology) heritage of our Nation, such as:

1. Structures or sites at which events occurred that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified prominently with, or which outstandingly represent the broad cultural, political, economic, military, or social history of the Nation, and from which an understanding and appreciation of the larger patterns of our American heritage may be gained.
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For a historic object, integrity requires basic original workmanship.

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E. Structures, sites, and objects achieving historical importance within the past 50 years will not as a general rule be considered unless associated with persons or events of transcendent significance.

criteria for national environmental education landmarks

National significance is ascribed to a site, previously listed in the National Environmental Study Areas catalog, exceptionally valuable for illustrating the interdependence and interrelationship of man and the total environment, and regularly used as part of a curriculum-related environmental education program of exceptional quality. National Environmental Education Landmarks must have the following characteristics:

1. Distinctive value in relating man to the environment of America.
2. Sufficient size and quality to achieve the educational objective and accommodate the educational uses without impairment of the essential integrity of the resources. Since the program will involve urban areas to a large extent it is to be expected that Landmarks will range in size from a small plot to many acres.
3. Set aside and used regularly as part of curriculum-related education programs, dealing with the total environment by public or private schools, as prescribed by the school board or other appropriate local or State authority responsible for approval of school curricula.
4. Environmental education is its primary purpose.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

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National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

