

# National Historic Landmarks Heritage Initiatives

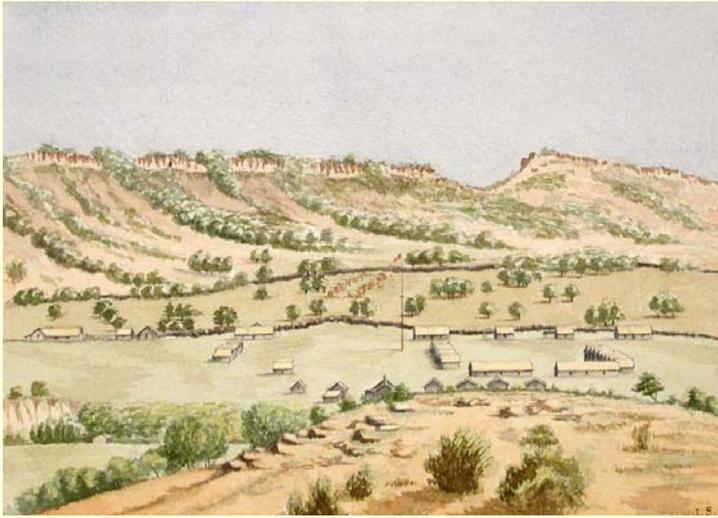


Progress Report  
2011-2013

## **Cover Images**

Left: Detail of *The Epic of American Civilization*, Hanover,  
New Hampshire, Designated 2013

Right: Marchers en route to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma,  
Alabama, 1965, Designated 2013



Fort Apache, Joseph Girard, ca. 1875  
(Arizona)

Designated a National Historic  
Landmark as Fort Apache and  
Theodore Roosevelt School, 2011

## Introduction

During the past four years, the National Historic Landmarks Program has engaged in a dramatic effort to extend its reach to reflect a full spectrum of people and events that participated in building the nation. While the more traditional subjects of prominent leaders, monumental architecture, and the military and its conflicts continue to be honored with additional listings, the Program also recognized many other aspects of the past.

Beginning in May 2011, three new initiatives---the American Latino Heritage Initiative, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Initiative, and the Women's History Heritage Initiative---were developed and implemented with the goal of furthering the representation of diverse stories within the National Historic Landmarks Program.

These new initiatives have resulted in the designation of thirty-one new National Historic Landmarks, all of which reflect and tell complex stories regarding the diversity of the American experience. These thirty-one National Historic Landmarks represent 70.06 percent of the new properties presented to the Secretary of the Interior for designation as National Historic Landmarks since May 2011.

These new National Historic Landmarks highlight the experiences of American Indians, Latino Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders, and women.



United States Post Office and Court House  
(Court House for the Central District of  
California), Los Angeles  
Site of *Mendez v. Westminster*,  
Designated a National Historic Landmark,  
2012

The documentation, preservation, and protection of these important sites associated with diverse Americans enriches and enhances understanding of our shared history as a nation.

# 2011-2012

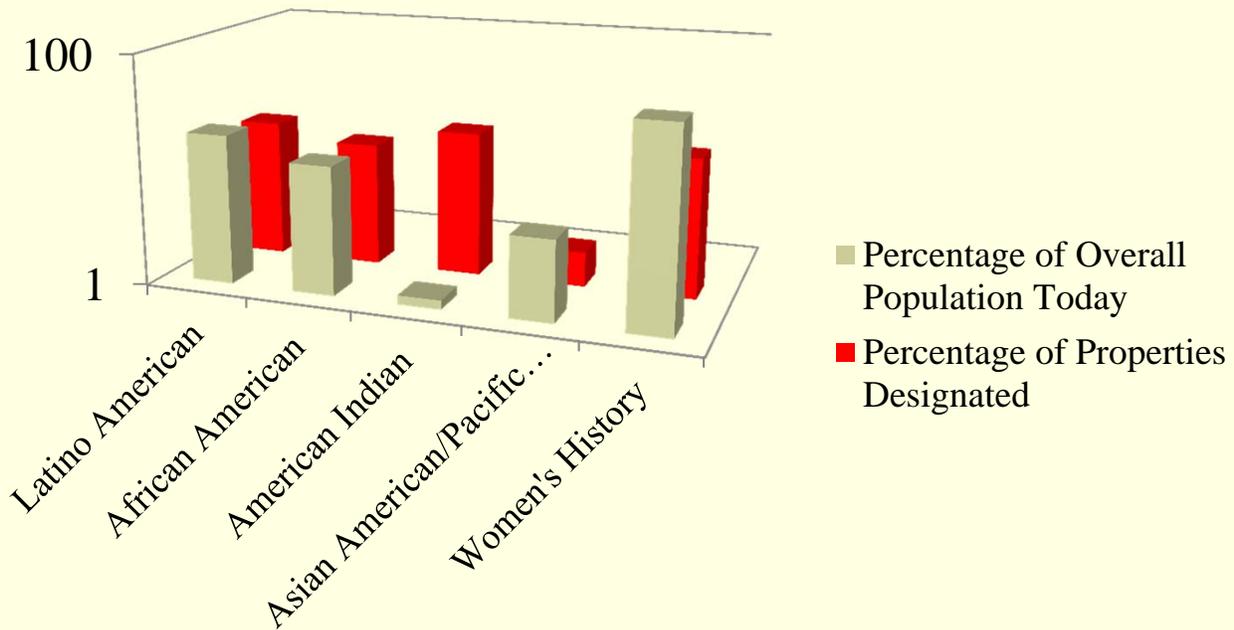
## Percentage of Diverse Properties Designated as National Historic Landmarks



The number of nominations presented at each Landmarks Committee varies.

Over the last two years, a total of 51 properties were presented to the Secretary of the Interior for designation; 31 or 70.06 percent of all the properties presented told diverse stories.

# 2011-2012



Group	Percentage of the American Population Today	Percentage of New NHLs Nominated Between 2011 and 2012
Latino American	16%	20%
African American	13%	12%
American Indian	2%	5%
Asian American	5%	2%
Women**	52%	30%

See the following page for a full discussion of these figures.

\*\*Assessing percentages of sites relating to women's history is especially misleading as districts and almost all sites have, simply because of the ubiquity of women, stories associated with women's history. This percentage reflects specific stories that relate to women's history.

# 2011-2012



Left: San José de los Jémez Mission and Gúsewa Pueblo Site, Jemez Springs, New Mexico Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2012

Below: Humpback Bridge, Covington, Virginia Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2012



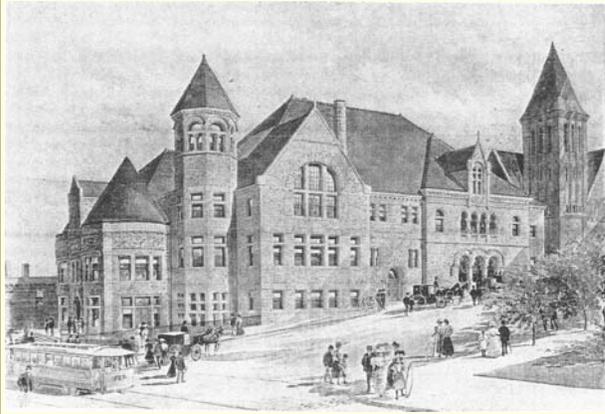
Between 2011 and 2013, new initiatives have increased the number of stories the National Historic Landmarks Program tells about African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders, Latino Americans, and women.

While some National Historic Landmarks such as San José de los Jémez Mission and Gúsewa Pueblo Site (designated 2012) tell stories related to specific ethnic or racial groups within the United States, most, such as the Humpback Bridge (designated 2012), cannot and do not fit into a specific category relating to any specific race, class or gender within the American population overall. As a result, discussions about the percentages of all National Historic Landmarks which tell diverse stories may be misleading as many National Historic Landmarks cannot be easily categorized.

Further complicating this is the fact that no studies have been done that assess the existing 2,540 National Historic Landmarks by race, ethnicity or gender.

Although the chart on the preceding page (page 3) compares the percentage of specific racial or ethnic groups within the population today to the percentage of historic properties designated as National Historic Landmarks between 2011 and 2012, percentages of many of these groups within the American population overall were significantly lower in the past. The figures (page 3) provide the specific percentages of these groups within the American population as a whole today and the percentage of new National Historic Landmarks.

# Complex Stories, Complex Histories



Upper Left and Center: Braddock Carnegie Library, Braddock, Pennsylvania

Lower Left: Workers' Housing, ca. 1900 Braddock, Pennsylvania

Funding the Braddock Carnegie Library (designated 2012) led Andrew Carnegie to develop a comprehensive plan to fund and promote the building of libraries across the United States. Ultimately, these libraries came to serve a diverse population throughout the country.

Although originally built to serve a white immigrant working-class population, the Braddock Carnegie Library serves a predominantly African American community today as the population of this small town has changed over time.

# American Latino Heritage



Since the launch of the American Latino Heritage Initiative in June of 2012, ten new Latino history properties have been designated as NHLs; an additional property was sent to the Landmarks Committee for review in April 2013.

Designated properties include sites such as the Trujillo Homesteads (Colorado) and the Hispanic Society of America Complex (New York). These properties tell stories ranging from the experience of Latino American settlers on the western frontier to the ways in which scholarly understanding of Latino contributions to American culture and history has shifted over time.



Above Left: One of the two Trujillo homesteads, Alamosa County, Colorado

Above: Teofilo Trujillo and his grandchildren, ca. 1900. Courtesy of Maria T. Causby Photographic Collection

Trujillo Homesteads, Hooper, Colorado  
Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2012

## American Latino Heritage



The National Park Service American Latino Heritage programs explore how the legacy of American Latinos can be recognized, preserved, and interpreted for future generations. The National Park Service, as a storyteller of our Nation's past, is committed to connecting and amplifying American Latino stories throughout communities across the United States.

This brochure highlights projects undertaken by National Park Service parks and programs as part of the Service's commitment to telling the American Latino story. Projects vary from increased interpretation, collaboration with community organizations, and the production of scholarly publications.

## Highlighted Property: American Latino Heritage Initiative



### Casa Dra. Concha Meléndez Ramírez San Juan, Puerto Rico National Historic Landmark Designated 2013



Left: Dra. Concha Meléndez Ramírez  
Right: Casa Dra. Concha Meléndez Ramírez, San Juan, Puerto Rico

The Casa Dra. Concha Meléndez Ramírez is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 for its association with major trends in Puerto Rican literature, in particular the legacy of the *Generación del Treinta* (Generation of 1930), a 1930s middle-class creole literary movement that, in response to American control over the island, shaped Puerto Rico's twentieth-century cultural identity.

This property is also significant under NHL Criterion 2 because it served for forty-three years as the residence and workspace of Dra. Concha Meléndez Ramírez (1895-1983), a prolific literary critic and one of the most prominent female voices in the *Generación del Treinta* and subsequent twentieth-century Puerto Rican literary criticism.

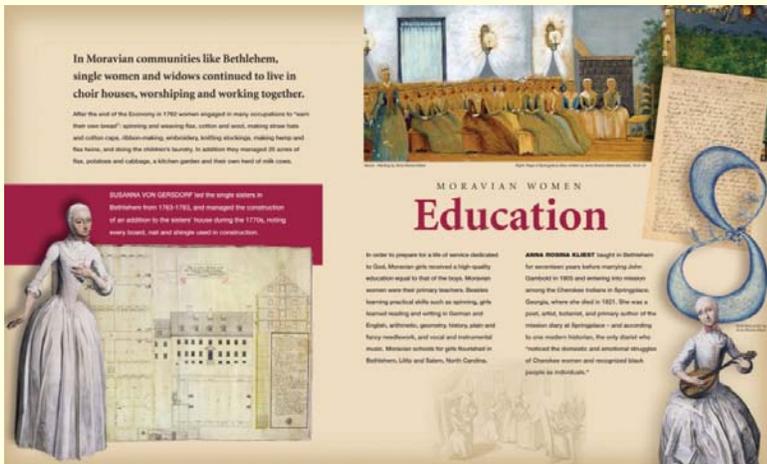
This property was presented to the

Landmarks Committee in November 2012 and recommended to the National Park System Advisory Board. The National Park System Advisory Board then recommended the property to the Secretary of the Interior in November 2012 and it was designated in February 2013.

The property is owned by the Puerto Rican government and the nomination is strongly supported by the Puerto Rican State Historic Preservation Office.

The nomination was written by Antonio Ramírez, a doctoral student in history at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a past intern in the National Historic Landmarks Program. The American Latino Heritage Fund of the National Park Foundation provided funding for this nomination.

# Women's History Initiative



Left: Image Courtesy of Moravian Archives

Below: Sister's House, Historic Moravian Bethlehem Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Moravian Bethlehem Historic District, Pennsylvania Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2012

Since May 2011, the National Historic Landmarks has forwarded 9 sites that reflect and tell important stories about women's history in America or about the construction of gender roles in American culture.

On December 10 and 11, 2012, National Park Service staff met with scholars and experts in women's history at an event designed to encourage and promote the nomination of properties which illustrate women's history or provide insight into gender roles in American history. This event, done in collaboration with the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, developed a set of recommendations intended to ensure that the National Park Service tells the stories of women.

Even before this event was held, the National Historic Landmarks Program worked to locate, research, and nominate properties relating to women's history.

Between 2011 and 2012, sites ranging from Yaddo to Historic Moravian Bethlehem were nominated and/or



designated as National Historic Landmarks. Yaddo, often regarded as the nation's premier arts colony, was founded in part by the poet and philanthropist Katrina Trask. It has sponsored writers such as Gwendolyn Brooks, Sylvia Plath, Patricia Highsmith, and others. Historic Moravian Bethlehem sheds light on the complexity of gender roles both within this unique community and in eighteenth-century America as a whole.

## Highlighted Property: Women's History Initiative



Above: Lois Burnham Wilson  
Right: Stepping Stones

### Stepping Stones Town of Bedford, Village of Katonah, New York National Historic Landmark Designated 2012



Stepping Stones is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 for its association with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Al-Anon, and Alateen, groups whose mission is to assist alcoholics and their families in the struggle for sobriety, and under NHL Criterion 2 for its association with Lois Burnham Wilson and William "Bill" Wilson.

Lois Wilson, with Anne Smith, was the co-founder of Al-Anon Family Groups, the self-help group for family members of alcoholics, and the founder of Alateen, a group for the children of alcoholics. Like AA, Al-Anon and Alateen have also grown to include an international membership with chapters in 115 countries.

This property was presented to the Landmarks Committee in November 2011 and recommended to the

National Park System Advisory Board. The National Park System Advisory Board reviewed this nomination and recommended it to the Secretary of the Interior who designated this site in October 2012.

The property is owned by the Stepping Stones Foundation and the nomination was strongly supported by the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

The nomination was written by Annah Perch, the Executive Director of the Stepping Stones Foundation, with assistance from the National Historic Landmarks Program.

# Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage



In 2012, Secretary Salazar initiated the Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Initiative. This initiative will enable the National Historic Landmarks Program to locate and document important sites associated with the contributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout our history.

In January and May 2013, scholars, preservationists, and National Historic Landmarks Program staff met to develop a structure for a theme study on Asian American and Pacific Islander history. This theme study will ultimately result in the nomination of sites associated with this diverse history.

Even before this theme study was initiated, the National Historic Landmarks Program had begun to locate, research, and document sites associated with the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Research on sites ranging from an early twentieth-



Above Left: George Nakashima  
Woodworker Complex, Solebury Township,  
Pennsylvania

Above Right: George Nakashima

Recommended by the Landmarks  
Committee, April 2013

century Chinese temple to a house associated with one of the most important Japanese American artists of the twentieth century, is ongoing.

## Highlighted Property: Asian American Heritage Initiative



Above Left: Depiction of Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston), Wikipedia Commons  
Right: Japanese American internees en route to Poston

### Poston Elementary School, Unit 1, Colorado River Relocation Center, Parker, Arizona National Historic Landmark Designated 2012

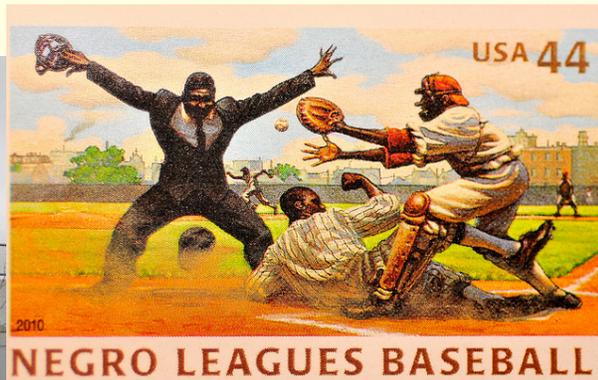


After President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were removed from their homes and detained in a system of government assembly and relocation centers. The Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston) in Arizona became the second of ten relocation facilities to open, was one of the longest operated, and served as the largest of the centers until November 1943.

Poston is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 for its association with politics and government (the Relocation Decision), ethnic heritage (Japanese American history), and social history (History of Minorities in the U.S.). Its unique combination of buildings, history, and related research materials enhances Poston's exceptional significance.

As the largest, most intact, and most cohesive collection of buildings remaining on the site, the Poston Elementary School is representative of the physical development in the center and is associated with the significant events in its history. Standing buildings are relatively rare at relocation center sites. Poston is the only relocation center that retains a complex of elementary school buildings. After controversy arose over school construction at Colorado's Granada Relocation Center, the War Relocation Authority did not build any other elementary school buildings. The schools are notable for their design by an evacuee architect, composition of blocks of adobe manufactured by Japanese Americans on the site, and construction by evacuee laborers.

# African American Heritage



Above Left: Hinchliffe Stadium, Paterson, New Jersey

Above: American stamp commemorating Negro League Baseball

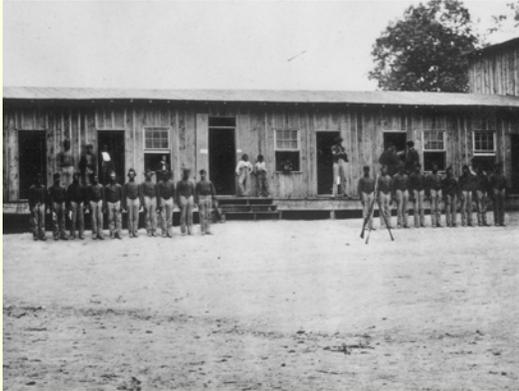
Hinchliffe Stadium, Paterson, New Jersey  
Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2013

The National Historic Landmarks Program seeks to ensure that stories associated with African American history are told. Since 2012, 6 new sites associated with African-American history have been nominated for designation as National Historic Landmarks.

Designated and nominated properties include sites such as the Hinchliffe Stadium (New Jersey) and the Edmund Pettus Bridge (Alabama). These properties tell stories ranging from the history of segregated baseball to the battle for civil rights in the 1960s.

The designation of sites such as Hinchliffe Stadium, which was listed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the most endangered historic sites in the United States (2011), will ensure that these sites have access to funds and grants which will help preserve and protect these sites for future generations.

## Highlighted Property: African American History



Left: U.S. Colored Troops, Camp Nelson, n.d.  
Right: Camp Nelson Logo, Courtesy of Camp Nelson

### Camp Nelson Historic and Archeological District Nicholasville, Kentucky National Historic Landmark Designated 2013



Camp Nelson in Kentucky (1863-66) was one of the nation's largest recruitment and training centers for African-American soldiers during the American Civil War, as well as a refugee camp for the wives and children of these African-American soldiers. It began as a fortified U.S. Army supply depot, hospital, and garrison in 1863, and became a recruitment and training center for African American troops in the spring and summer of 1864.

The Camp Nelson Historic and Archeological District is significant under National Historic Landmark Criterion 1 in the areas of Civil War and African-American history for its association with the history of emancipation and African-American contributions to the Civil War.

Camp Nelson is also significant under National Historic Landmark Criterion 6 in the area of historical archeology since the site has yielded and is likely to yield further information of major scientific importance affecting theories, concepts, and ideas about emancipation and the lives of escaped enslaved people, particularly the incredible persistence and survival of the African American women and children refugees who lived in these centers under extreme circumstances.

# American Indian Heritage



Reflecting its mission to tell the stories of all Americans, the National Historic Landmarks Program has forwarded 9 sites associated with American Indian history since 2011.

Designated properties include sites such as Deer Medicine Rocks (Montana) and the Davis Oriole Earthlodge (Iowa). These properties tell stories ranging from the Battle of Little Big Horn, as understood from the perspective of the Hunkpapa Lakota to the traditions and folkways associated with Plains Indians.

Designation of these sites will ensure their protection and preservation for future generations. Designation also helps to promote scholarly research on these and other sites associated with American Indians, thereby ensuring that all Americans understand the complex history of early Americans.

Above Left: Inscription, Deer Medicine Rocks, Lame Deer, Montana

Above: Overview of Deer Medicine Rocks

Deer Medicine Rocks, Lame Deer, Montana  
Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2012

## Highlighted Property: American Indian History



### Honey Springs Battlefield Checotah, Oklahoma National Historic Landmark Designated 2013



Left: Artifacts from the Battlefield  
Right: Honey Springs Battlefield, Original Painting by Cecil Savage

Although the Battle of Honey Springs on July 17, 1863, occurred within the context of the American Civil War and was partially the result of Indian Nations' alliances with the Confederacy, it was the climax of a devastating concurrent civil war within the Cherokees and Creeks, rooted in their pasts and key to the futures of all five Indian Nations. It had a direct and immediate impact on noncombatants as well as men under arms, driving large segments of Indian populations into exile, while freeing others from slavery. The battle was by far the largest engagement of the 1861-1865 period of conflict within Indian Territory, which saw more than 150 battles and skirmishes.

This property was presented to the Landmarks Committee in November 2012 and recommended to the National Park System Advisory Board. The National Park System Advisory Board reviewed this nomination and recommended it to the Secretary of the Interior in November 2012. The site was designated in February 2013.

The nomination, which was written by Mary Jane Warde and Lynda B. Schwan, is strongly supported by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

# LBGTQ Heritage Initiative



The National Historic Landmarks Program has begun working on a framework that will help preservationists and scholars in and outside of the National Park Service to identify, document, and nominate sites associated with the history of lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and queer Americans.

This framework will help us to conceptualize LBGTQ history and to begin to determine potential property types associated with this history. The framework will also enable National Historic Landmarks staff to pinpoint potential sites for nomination and designation. A draft of this framework will be completed in May 2013.

Designation of these sites will further enhance Americans' understanding of LBGTQ history and the ways in which this history enhances our understanding

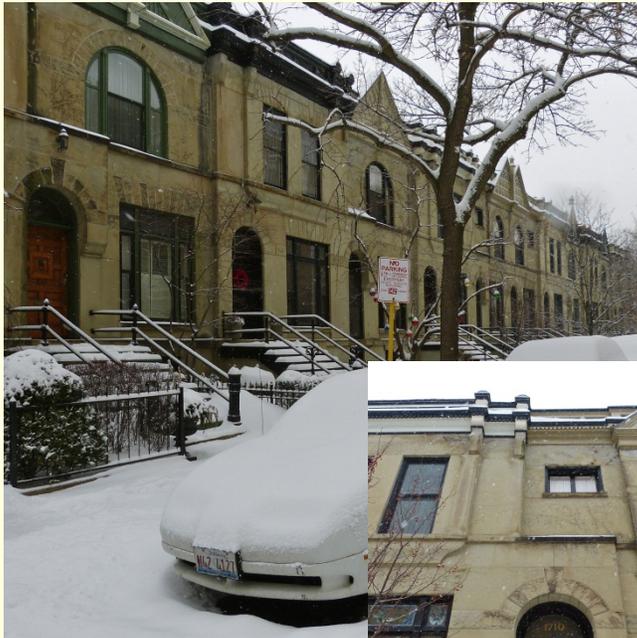
Above Left: Stonewall Inn, New York City, New York

Above: Protestors outside the Stonewall Inn, 1969

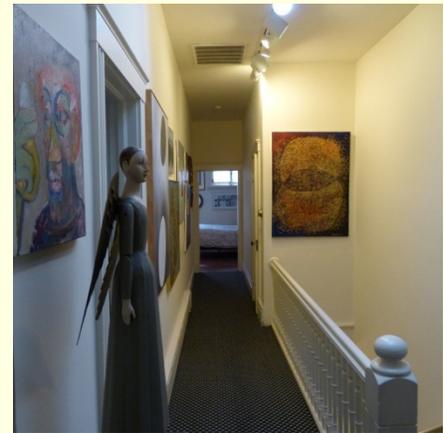
Stonewall Inn, New York City, New York Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2000

of a broad range of topics such as civil rights, the American family, and American communities. Designation will also help to protect these sites and to promote scholarly research on sites associated with LBGTQ history.

## Highlighted Property: Henry Gerber House



Henry Gerber House  
Chicago, Illinois  
Currently Being Considered  
for Nomination



Left: Crilly Court, Chicago, Illinois. Photo by April Slabosheski, February 1, 2014

Center: Henry Gerber House. Photo by April Slabosheski, February 1, 2014

Right: Interior of Henry Gerber House. Photo by April Slabosheski, February 1, 2014

The Henry Gerber House in Chicago, Illinois, represents an early period of gay rights activism in the United States. Henry Gerber, a World War I veteran and German immigrant, played a crucial role in the gay rights movement as the founder of the first organization for the advocacy of homosexual rights in the United States, the Society for Human Rights.

Founded in 1924 in Chicago, Illinois, the society, the first gay organization in the U.S., did not exist for long. However, its founding is considered a critical turning point in the history of gay rights. Gerber also published an organization newsletter, *Friendship and Freedom*, which is acknowledged as the first gay rights publication in the country. Gerber is nationally significant as a trailblazer for later gay rights organizations in the

United States.

A nomination for this site is currently being prepared by graduate students in the History Department at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in collaboration with the National Historic Landmarks Program. This is the second collaboration of its kind between the university and the NHL Program.

The nomination is expected to be presented to the Landmarks Committee at their Fall 2014 meeting. If approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the Henry Gerber House will become the second NHL designated for its association with the gay rights movement in America, and the first property designated as a result of the Program's LGBTQ Initiative.

# 2011-2012



Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, California  
Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2012



César Chávez

Between 2011 and 2013, new initiatives have dramatically increased the diverse stories which new National Historic Landmarks tell about the American experience. New theme studies will help ensure that the National Historic Landmarks Program will continue to work with diverse communities to locate, research, and nominate sites that tell stories important to all Americans.

The National Historic Landmarks Program also seeks to ensure that existing National Historic Landmarks accurately reflect the complex stories associated with our diverse history. To this end, the Program also seeks to use its new database to better track and better understand the ways in which existing National Historic Landmarks already tell diverse stories.

## Complex Stories, Complex Histories

The Ludlow Tent Colony Site (designated 2009) reflects the complex history associated with one of the most important strikes in American history. Strikers and their families included many immigrants drawn from across Europe, and the site illustrates not only the strike but also the ways in which these diverse groups interacted with one another.

Although the striking miners were men, archeological studies conducted here provide insight into gender roles in these diverse communities.

Image (above): Striker at the tent colony after the fire and violent deaths of numerous strikers and their family members, 1914

Image (below): Cover depicting the strike, *The Masses*, June 1914, by J. F. Sloan



# National Historic Landmarks Heritage Initiatives



Information regarding the National Historic Landmarks Program can be found here: <http://www.nps.gov/nhl>

Information regarding Latino American Heritage Initiative Projects can be found here: <http://www.nps.gov/latino/latinolinks.html>

Information regarding Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Initiative Projects can be found here: <http://www.nps.gov/aapi>



Old San Juan Historic  
District/Distrito Histórico del  
Viejo San Juan, San Juan, Puerto  
Rico  
Designated a National Historic  
Landmark, 2013



Carrizo Plain Archeological District, California  
Designated a National Historic Landmark, 2012