

Network

VOLUME I, NO. 1 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SPRING, 1998

Grants-in-Aid Proposed for Threatened NHLs

The President's FY 1999 Budget proposes a \$2.7 million increase to the Historic Preservation Fund for Grants-In-Aid to Protect Threatened National Historic Landmarks.

Pending Congressional action, these funds would provide a much-needed source of funds to preserve these most significant examples of our national heritage.

The President's budget marks the first time funds have been proposed specifically for this purpose. Section 101(e) (3) (i) of the National Historic Preservation Act directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate State Historic Preservation Officers, to administer a program of direct grants "for the preservation of National Historic Landmarks which are threatened with demolition or impairment."

A \$2.7 million annual appropriation could make the vital difference between loss and preservation of dozens of National Historic Landmarks each year. The highest priority would be given to restoration and stabilization work on properties and sites as well as condition assessments, historic structures reports, architectural plans, and specifications and

SEE GRANTS, PAGE 14, COLUMN 3



California's newest National Historic Landmark is Angel Island Immigration Station, shown here ca. 1916. Story on page 7. Historic photo from the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, San Francisco District, General Correspondence (12030/24-2). Courtesy of the National Archives, Pacific Sierra Region, San Bruno, California.

NHL Stewards Hold First Congress

by *Bill Bolger, Susan Escherich, Jacqui Handly, and Lisa Kolakowsky*

Owners and managers of National Historic Landmarks from throughout the Northeast gathered for the first National Historic Landmark Stewards' Congress, November 5-7, 1997 in West Point, New York. The meet-

SEE CONGRESS, PAGE 12, COLUMN 1

NPS Follow-Up on Stewards' Congress

by *Susan Escherich*

The NPS NHL Assistance Program will be taking a number of actions at the national level to meet requests for assistance made by owners who returned the NHL Stewards' Survey and who attended the National Historic Landmarks Stewards' Congress held at West Point in November, 1997.

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Visit the One-Stop NHL Web Page at www2.cr.nps.gov/nhl. Details on page 11.

A Word from the Associate Director

National Historic Landmarks Network

Published by the National Park Service

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Mission of the National Park Service.
*The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the
natural and cultural resources and values of the
National Park System for the enjoyment, education,
and inspiration, of this and future generations. The
Service cooperates with partners to extend the bene-
fits of natural and cultural resources conservation
and outdoor recreation throughout this country and
the world. -National Leadership Council*

HPS
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U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Cultural Resources

by Katherine H. Stevenson

Welcome to the premier issue of *National Historic Landmarks Network*, the National Historic Landmarks program newsletter. It represents the fulfillment of one of the promises made at the NHL Stewards' Congress at West Point last November to improve communication with and among NHL owners and friends. We hope that all who read it will find it to be entertaining, informative, and inspiring.

In this issue, individuals from across the country have written articles that focus on NHL preservation activities within their communities or regions. The common theme of these articles is the partnership that exists between the National Park Service and the stewards who are on the front line in the endeavor to preserve, maintain, and showcase these nationally significant historic properties that are in their care. The NPS is proud of the role it plays in this relationship and will do whatever is necessary to ensure that it provides the highest level of service to its constituents.

Of course, the major reason why we are engaged in this joint enterprise is because of the compelling stories that these properties impart to the public. The significance of these properties is what ties each to the narrative of national history.

Future issues of this newsletter will cover in greater detail the efforts of the NPS, other government agencies, professionals, and individuals who are working on nominating new properties as National Historic Landmarks. The NPS provides technical and administrative information on the designation process, oversees the development of thematic studies that are based on an understanding of broad national themes, and shepherds new NHL nominations through the designation process.

In subsequent issues of this publication, it is our hope that the stewards and friends themselves will become more involved in the production of the newsletter by suggesting issues or topics that they would like to see covered, or by contributing articles that convey the joys and frustrations, successes, and failures they experience as stewards of the nation's most significant cultural resources.

*Katherine H. Stevenson is the
Associate Director, Cultural Resource
Stewardship and Partnerships, National Park Service.*

REGIONAL NEWS

ATLANTA

The Savannah Survey: A Cooperative Undertaking

by Hector M. Abreu-Cintron

Since 1994, the Savannah College of Art and Design's (SCAD) Historic Preservation Department has been carrying out an intensive building-by-building survey to better understand the nature of the historic resources within the National Historic Landmark District of Savannah, Georgia. This multi-year commitment of the faculty and students of SCAD, with guidance from the National Park Service's National Register Programs Division in Atlanta, has produced a rich and extensive database of over 1,500 Georgia State Site Survey Forms for future preservation planning and interpretive purposes. It has also provided the students of SCAD's Historic Preservation Department with the unique experience of making a real contribution to the nation's heritage and resources.

The city of Savannah is one of the loveliest historic cities in the United States. A jewel in the Southern crown, it is sited on the bluffs above the Savannah River of coastal Georgia. Savannah's history starts in 1733, when General James Oglethorpe founded the city. It was Oglethorpe's design for the city plan that would forever mark the shape of Savannah. He established a geometric grid of squares surrounded by equidistant streets. These squares were uniformly distributed among the city streets, creating a series of open green spaces for public enjoyment and use.

Many theories abound related to their actual use. There are

those who theorize that the squares were for defensive purposes; the local militia could gather at them during attack thus dispersing the forces equally throughout the city. Others felt that the squares were social gathering places needed to create a sense of communing with nature. Whatever the reasons for Oglethorpe's use of the squares, they have created the unique cityscape of Savannah.

Sited throughout this singular city are over 1,000 historically and architecturally significant structures dating from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Buildings of such varied styles as Queen Anne, Regency, Italianate, Greek Revival, Neoclassical, and examples of colonial building are to be found throughout the historic district. Of the peak number of 24 squares, 21 still are in existence, and many of the squares and cross streets contain numerous public monuments and stately live oaks festooned

with Spanish moss, giving these public spaces a special feeling of history and rest. This rich architectural and urban heritage of Savannah is unsurpassed in the United States.

In recognition of the significance of the downtown area of Savannah, the Secretary of the Interior designated the Savannah Historic District a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on November 13, 1966. The boundary description for the district, in keeping with NHL studies of the time, succinctly stated that it was, "bounded on the north by the south bank of the Savannah River, on the east by East Broad Street, on the south by Gwinnett Street, and on the west by West Broad Street" (today called Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard).

While the above boundaries follow Oglethorpe's original city layout, the description of the incredible architectural treasures sited within the district received only minimal discussion:



This view illustrates the recent restoration of the cast-iron balcony on the Owens-Thomas House, a National Historic Landmark property within the Savannah Historic District. The comprehensive survey of historic properties within the district is the first step in the Savannah College of Art and Design and the National Park Service's effort to revise the NHL district nomination. Photo by Mark R. Barnes, National Park Service.

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The present historic district encompasses approximately two square miles and contains about 1,100 noteworthy buildings. Architectural styles represented are Georgian, Federal, English Regency, Greek Revival, Italian villa, Gothic Revival, and several examples of row houses. Building materials most commonly used were wood, gray brick, and stucco on brick.

The statement of significance for the NHL district emphasized the town plan, with little space given to the discussion of the architectural significance of the buildings sitting on the cityscape. With no understanding of which buildings would be considered "contributing" to the national significance of the district, Section 106 cases repeatedly caused problems for planners simply because there did not exist a complete architectural database for the city to aid in decision-making.

With this situation in mind, SCAD, through coordination with the National Park Service, the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Savannah embarked on the daunting task of reassessing every single building and structure within the NHL district. The Historic Preservation Department of SCAD used the students in its Preservation Research and Survey course to undertake this survey. The goals of the course are to provide the student with a solid, working knowledge of the resources available for preservation research as well as a firm understanding of the various approaches that can be taken regarding the research and survey of historic resources. It seemed only logical that a coordinated

survey effort would evolve that would benefit students and preservation agencies. As part of their course work, the students proceeded to survey every single building and structure within the NHL district. The State of Georgia's computerized State Site Survey Forms were used and filled out using the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) guidelines. Students photographed every building in the district—even the noncontributing ones—and prepared documentation relating to the architectural styles, dates of construction, and contributing significance to the district.

To assist the SCAD faculty in this endeavor, the Georgia SHPO provided grant funds that enhanced the survey work. These funds were used to pay for entering the students' data into the SHPO's computer database for over 750 buildings. Another 750 buildings have been surveyed and await entering into the database.

Dozens of SCAD students have participated in this survey over the last three years, along with more than a few faculty members, including this writer, who have helped to achieve the project goal. All of the participants should be commended. It is expected that the entire district, with well over 1,500 historic buildings, will be finally surveyed by early 1998. This information will be shared with the Georgia SHPO to assist in Section 106 activities, with the city of Savannah to enhance its planning capabilities, and with the NPS to revise the existing NHL nomination form. It is hoped that this information will greatly assist the city, state, and nation in better interpreting and preserving the historic resources of the city of Savannah. The Savannah survey is a great example of how

a community college can really contribute to the betterment of its native city. SCAD and Savannah go hand in hand; the students will forever feel that they, in some small way, have contributed to their adopted home.

Hector Abreu is a Professor of Historic Preservation at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Preservation of Stallings Island Site

by Mark Barnes

The Stallings Island Site is located on an island in the middle of the Savannah River, a few miles above Augusta, Georgia. Designated in January, 1961, it was one of the first Late Archaic sites (ca. 1200 BC) to be recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark.

Stallings Island was occupied in the transitional Late Archaic/Early Woodland periods between the end of hunting and gathering societies and the beginning of settled village life in the prehistoric Southeast. It has the potential to offer researchers insights into this important transition in prehistoric culture. The site was famous among southeastern researchers for having produced some of the earliest examples of Native American ceramics in North America.

The isolation of Stallings Island in the middle of the Savannah River did not, however, prevent it from being the object of looters. For over ten years, this site was listed in the Secretary of the Interior's *Report to Congress on Endangered and Threatened National Historic Landmarks*.

Recently, the Archeological

Conservancy acquired the island by donation from the private landowner, Mr. Wyck Knox, of Augusta. The Conservancy has developed a long-range management plan for the stabilization, protection, and study of the Stallings Island Site.

The Stallings Island Site and its nationally significant resources are now going to be preserved for the future. The Atlanta office of the National Park Service is recommending the award of Certificates of Appreciation, signed by the Director of the National Park Service, for the individuals and organizations involved in the preservation of this NHL.

Mark Barnes is Senior Archeologist, National Register Programs Division, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service.

DENVER

Fair Park's Prospects Rise

by Thomas G. Keohan

When Fair Park opened in June 1936 as the Texas Centennial Exposition, it was not only a celebration of Texas independence, but also a festival of art and architecture.

Designed by George Dahl in the Art Deco style, the geometric crispness of the 30 buildings combined with grand plazas and vistas of informal plantings and winding paths made Fair Park one of America's best-planned parks. Fair Park also contained the largest collection of public art in Texas. It included painted

murals, sculpture, and bas reliefs, all of which served to reinforce the monumentality of the buildings and landscape.

The intact 30-structure complex constitutes the largest grouping of Exposition buildings and public art remaining in the United States. Because of its exceptional significance in American history, Fair Park was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986. Fair Park was first listed in the Secretary of the Interior's *Report to Congress on Endangered and Threatened NHLs* in 1987, as many of the buildings remained underutilized, and both art and architecture suffered from poor maintenance and deterioration. Most of the murals had been painted over and many of the buildings suffered leaking roofs, damaged plaster, and faulty electrical wiring. Estimated costs for repairs exceeded the City of



This view of the Administration Building at Fair Park, ca. 1936, illustrates the elaborate art and landscaping and is indicative of the work which characterized the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition.

Historic photo courtesy of the Intermountain Support Office—Santa Fe, National Park Service.

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Dallas Parks and Recreation annual budget.

The threat of possible demolition acted as a catalyst for the local non-profit, Friends of Fair Park, to seek National Park Service help. In 1990 the National Park Service's Rocky Mountain Region funded an inspection of the Administration Building and preparation of a Condition Assessment Report detailing costs for preserving its significant features. Then, expanding the project under a cooperative effort between the Meadows Foundation, the National Park Foundation, and the National Park Service, eleven additional buildings were inspected together with their paintings and sculptural art. Total cost to preserve the twelve key buildings was significantly lower than expected.

Armed with this new information, the Friends of Fair Park was able to pursue possibilities for preserving Fair Park with both the city and other interested parties. Even though a general referendum for a sales tax increase failed in 1994, new interest in finding uses for the park has resurrected funding for stabilization and rehabilitation of both art and architecture. Funding sources include local bond money, an Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grant, private investment, and state fair improvement money. To date, about \$18.5 million in feasibility studies and stabilization work have been completed. Another \$3 million has been awarded and work is ongoing, while \$18.7 million has been identified for future capital improvement. Recently, a panel of 30 architects, NPS staff, National Trust for Historic Preservation staff, and Texas Historical Commission staff met to discuss

the future direction for preserving the landmark.

Fair Park is owned by the City of Dallas and is used by the State Fair Association every year for the three-week State Fair. A major challenge facing the park is to find year-round uses for the buildings while keeping them available for the seasonal State Fair commitment. Many ideas are being explored today, including small conventions, city offices, theaters, and expanded museum uses.

Less than a decade ago, the prospects for this important NHL seemed gloomy. Hard work by the Friends of Fair Park and other interests has paid off with new support and commitment for preserving this important landmark.

Thomas G. Keohan is a Historical Architect, Intermountain Support Office—Denver, National Park Service.

OMAHA

Midwest to Sponsor NHL Preservation Workshop

by *Bill Nelligan*

The Midwest Support Office is sponsoring a preservation workshop for National Historic Landmark (NHL) owners in the thirteen state Midwest Region of the National Park Service (AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI). The workshop is designed to respond to the input received from NHL owners in the survey conducted last spring, and includes sessions on the topics they identified as most important. The workshop, co-hosted by the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio, an NHL in Midland, Michigan, will be held from August 21-23,

1998. Workshop sessions will be held at the Dow property and at nearby Northwood University.

A pre-workshop seminar on the basics of fund raising and grant-writing will take place on Friday, August 21, followed by an evening reception and tour at the Dow Home and Studio to kick off the workshop. On Saturday morning, sessions will take place at Northwood University where NHL owners will be introduced to issues of preservation, financing, and rehabilitation/restoration. Concurrent sessions on a variety of topics ranging from "Accessibility and the ADA" to "The Stabilization and Maintenance of Historic Structures" will enable NHL owners to tailor the workshop to meet their needs.

There will be ample opportunity for attendees to share preservation experiences and to meet and discuss their concerns with preservation professionals. An exhibit hall is planned to provide a forum for vendors, contractors, and preservation organizations to share their products and expertise with NHL owners. Saturday evening features a dinner and keynote speaker. Sunday morning begins with breakfast, followed by an open format "Ask the Expert" session with workshop speakers and a tour of the local historic district.

Invitations and a workshop program will be sent to National Historic Landmark owners in the Midwest Region beginning in April. For additional information contact, Bill Nelligan at 402-221-3748.

Bill Nelligan is an Architectural Historian, Cultural Resources Division, Midwest Support Office—Omaha, National Park Service.

PHILADELPHIA

Record Response To Challenge Cost Share RFP

The Philadelphia Support Office, which serves over half the nation's National Historic Landmarks, included a request for preliminary proposals for the 1998 Challenge Cost Share program in its new regional NHL newsletter.

Proposals were to be for amounts under \$15,000 (with an equal non-federal match) for projects that would "alleviate a threat to an NHL, or incorporate innovative technology or an innovative technique where the results could potentially benefit future projects elsewhere."

By the February 20 deadline, the office received a record 80 proposals for work ranging from writing design guidelines for an historic district to employment of interns from a university preservation program to work on conservation of an NHL building. Up to twelve proposals will be chosen from the preliminary round to submit full grant applications.

SAN FRANCISCO

The Angel Island Immigration Station: California's Newest Landmark

by Jeannette Schulz and Ann Huston

The U.S. Immigration Station at Angel Island is Califor-

nia's newest National Historic Landmark. The Immigration Station comprises 15 acres of the 740-acre Angel Island State Park. In addition to the Immigration Station, Angel Island contains several other historic military complexes that served as fortifications for San Francisco Bay during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Angel Island served as the West Coast equivalent of New York's Ellis Island. Between 1910 and 1940, the years that the Immigration Station was in operation, approximately a million immigrants were processed through Angel Island, most of whom were of Asian origin. Due to prejudice and laws restricting the immigration of certain nationalities and social classes of Asians during this period, the immigrants, particularly the Chinese, were subjected to lengthy detention periods and questioning before they were allowed entry into the U.S. The remaining buildings of the immigration station, which include a detention barracks, hospital, power plant, carpentry shop, and several World War II era buildings, illustrate a sad chapter in the history of Asian immigration to the United States. Chinese poetry carved and written on the walls of the detention barracks testifies to the anger, loneliness, and homesickness of the immigrants as they awaited authorization to enter the U.S.

When the administration building burned in 1940, the station was closed and immigrants were moved to San Francisco. During World War II, the Army administered the remaining buildings as a detention facility for Japanese, German, and Italian prisoners of war. These detainees also left their thoughts carved and written on the walls of the barracks.

The physical condition of the

Immigration Station buildings and other historic buildings, structures, and complexes on Angel Island varies from good to very poor. As part of an ongoing program of assessment and development at Angel Island State Park, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is starting a pilot program to evaluate the island's buildings. Building phases and construction materials in evidence on the island range from the wood-frame buildings of the 1860s and 1870s at West Garrison and Ayala Cove, to the stucco and tile-finished frame and concrete buildings of the 1910s at East Garrison. Fortifications include concrete bunkers and metal missile sheds.

An initial evaluation survey will focus on roof condition reports for all the major buildings on the island. This information will then be used to establish a phased maintenance and stabilization plan to repair or patch roofs based on rankings of "must do now," "do in a year," "do in three years," and "will hold for at least five years." This effort will help to restore weather-soundness to many of the buildings now threatened by accelerated deterioration from roof holes and leaks.

A second assessment will evaluate "mothballing" techniques used on some of the buildings. Initially boarded up in the 1960s and 1970s, these buildings were tightly sealed off with plywood sheathing, without providing ventilation to the interior. Interior conditions and moisture levels will be recorded, then passive (leaving protected windows cracked) and active (installing solar-run fans) ventilation will be initiated. One- and two-year condition checks are planned to monitor the changes.

Ultimately, the survey data can also be used as a foundation for chronological graphing for the

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island. California State Parks hopes to nominate the entire island to the National Register as a cultural landscape and will need such sequential data to establish context and attributes for the various phases of occupation and development. The Civil War-era garrison is sited very differently from the World War I and World War II expansions. Perimeter roads and pathways remain remarkably consistent over time.

Angel Island is a frequent destination of schoolchildren who are able to learn about the nation's West Coast immigration station and the role the island's garrisons played in San Francisco Bay defenses. California State Parks is currently completing a Historic Structure Report for a historic chapel located at West Garrison in order to adaptively reuse the building as an environmental classroom. Built in 1876, the chapel was converted into a school from 1930 through 1946. Restored to its classroom period, the building will serve as part of a living history program that provides overnight camping experiences and environmental education for California schoolchildren.

Jeannette Schulz is a Historical Archeologist with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and Ann Huston is a Historian, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, National Park Service.

Mervyn's Stores Focus on California Missions

by Ann Huston

Mervyn's California, a subsidiary of the Dayton-Hudson Corporation, has formed a partnership with the California Heritage Fund to raise public awareness and

concern for the preservation of California's Spanish Mission heritage. The 21 California Missions, stretching from San Diego to Sonoma, are among the State's most-visited historic sites. Seven of the missions are National Historic Landmarks or are located within National Historic Landmark districts. Landmark designation is currently being sought for two other missions.

Mervyn's has created a collectible series of illuminated mission replicas which were introduced in their stores shortly before Christmas, along with related merchandise such as ornaments and trivets. A dollar from the sale of each of the illuminated mission replicas goes into the store's Mission Garden Restoration Fund. These funds will be distributed to each of the California missions through the California Heritage Fund to provide assistance in preserving and interpreting the mission gardens and settings. The Heritage Fund is administered by California's State Historic Preservation Office.

The mission garden restoration program is part of Mervyn's 18-month focus on the California Missions. Through 1998, the store will highlight the missions in its advertising and through sponsorship of television specials, art exhibits, a school essay contest, and other activities. Mervyn's is working with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to fund an exhibit on the California Missions at the State Capitol Museum in Sacramento. The exhibit will open with a kick-off celebration in February, to be followed by a series of lectures and musical events. Mervyn's also underwrote a seven-part public television series about the California

Missions, which featured Huell Howser, the host of a regular public television program on California history called *California's Gold*.

The California State Historic Preservation Office is very pleased with the interest and support that Mervyn's is demonstrating toward the preservation of California's Mission heritage. With Mervyn's as an example, other companies have also come forward to indicate their interest in supporting California's historic resources through the California Heritage Fund.

Ann Huston is a Historian, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, National Park Service.

SANTA FE

NHL Owners' Workshop Held in Scottsdale

by Bob Spude

Last July, National Historic Landmark owners and managers, from sites as varied as Pictograph Cave in Montana to Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, gathered in Scottsdale, Arizona for three days of sharing experiences, learning from preservation architects, technical specialists, National Trust for Historic Preservation partners, and friends' groups.

Co-sponsored by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service (Intermountain Region and Washington Office), the dual goals of the workshop included providing technical preservation guidance and information about financial incentives, such as grants,

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Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona was visited by participants in the NHL Owners' Workshop presented by the Arizona SHPO and Santa Fe office of the National Park Service. Photo courtesy Susan Escherich, National Park Service.

foundations, and loans. A banker added a dose of reality. Susan Escherich of the NPS Washington office was on hand to pass out the first of the NHL *Stewards' Sourcebooks*. Workshop coordinator Fran Tropea, who is Grants Manager for the Arizona SHPO, balanced the indoor lectures with tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West and Pueblo Grande ruin.

During the three-day workshop, Arizona SHPO Jim Garrison and Bob Spude of the NPS Santa Fe office led the group through a planning exercise. The owners defined some goals and objectives for NHLs. These included: **recognition:** cultivate grass roots support and recognition through marketing, promotion, and community service; **preservation/ protection:** foster a preservation ethic and support, including financial, for all NHLs; **education:** reach people at all levels of the public with accurate and relevant information; **partnerships:** seek strong partnerships to not only enhance NHL preservation but to

share information and values with the broadest community; and **technical assistance:** the NPS, SHPOs, and the National Trust should be collaborators and clearinghouses for technical information and assistance.

Many other ideas, dreams, and nightmares were shared during the workshop. But most important, owners developed a sense of camaraderie among themselves, while the agencies interested in the preservation of NHLs learned of successes, concerns, and ways to better serve their constituents.

Bob Spude is Chief, National Preservation Programs, Intermountain Support Office—Santa Fe, National Park Service.

SEATTLE

Seattle Support Office Hosts Maritime NHL Owners' Round-Table

by Gretchen Luxenberg

In May of 1996, the Seattle Support Office of the National Park Service hosted a Maritime Round-Table for the owners of NHL and other historic vessels in the Pacific Northwest. There are eight NHL vessels in western Washington, and all but two of them still float (the other two are museum/exhibits).

For years, the NHL boats, ships, and vessels belonged to separate non-profit foundations, organizations, or museums. By the time the NPS entered the picture as a local player in the NHL program, all of these disparate groups had come to realize there was value in speaking with one

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The Lightship No. 83, designated as an NHL in December 1989, is one of the oldest lightships in the country, having seen 56 years of continuous lightship duty. No. 83 has had five different names on her sides, all of which indicated the location of her station. Her name returned to *Swiftsure* in 1995 to reflect the upcoming restoration to her 1950-59 appearance when she served on the *Swiftsure Bank*.

Photo courtesy of the Columbia Cascades Cluster, Pacific West Region—Seattle, National Park Service.

voice to bring attention to these significant maritime resources. It was an opportune time for the NPS to step in and bring these various groups together to discuss items of mutual concern.

The Round-Table was held in Seattle, and the vessel owners and representatives were joined by Ralph Munro, Washington Secretary of State (and former deckhand on the NHL steam-powered vessel, the *Virginia V*, as a youth) and State Historic Preservation Officer Mary Thompson. NPS Maritime Historian Kevin Foster provided information to vessel owners and operators on the Maritime Heritage Initiative, NHL program, and the Secretary of the Interior's *Report to Congress on Endangered and Threatened NHLs*. It was an opportunity to become familiar with each other, hear the concerns of the vessel owners, and help the NPS to better understand how it could assist

these organizations.

That meeting turned out to be a springboard for additional gatherings of this now unified coalition of historic vessels. To avoid losing momentum, Scott Stroh of the Anacortes Museum, representing the NHL *W.T. Preston*, took the lead in organizing the next several meetings. The Commissioner of Public Lands, Jennifer Belcher, was invited and attended so she could learn first-hand the concerns these vessel owners have for dock facilities around the state. The end result was a "white paper" describing many of the historic vessels and each one's specific needs for moorage. It is hoped that this document will assist the commissioner when preparing new leases for dock facilities or renewing existing leases, so these vessels can travel around the state for special events and other activities. There are plans to have another meeting with the commissioner on board the NHL

Adventress, a 1913 schooner, to further discuss the needs of these important resources.

Finally, as a show of support for the NHL vessels, the NPS provided small stipends for individuals representing the NHLs to attend the Third International Conference on the Technical Aspects of the Preservation of Historic Vessels, held in San Francisco in April 1997. It seemed like a unique opportunity for members of these groups to share information and learn how to better manage their special resources; the financial assistance was an incentive for seven individuals who all thought the conference was a very worthwhile experience.

Gretchen Luxenberg is a Historian, Columbia-Cascades Cluster, Pacific West Region—Seattle, National Park Service.

Regional News

Students Prepare HABS Documentation for Timberline Lodge

by Gretchen Luxenberg

The Timberline Lodge, an NHL located east of Portland, Oregon, on the slopes of Mount Hood, is being documented to Historic American Building Survey

(HABS) standards by students at the University of Oregon, under the guidance of Professor Don Peting.

Timberline is a WPA-era structure that was built using Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor. Along with a historical narrative and large format photographs, a full set of drawings will be produced that will delineate both the building's complex exterior and

some of its interior details, such as the intricate hand carved wood or hand wrought iron stair rails.

Several groups are involved in the project. The major players are the university and the United States Forest Service; others providing technical and financial support include the NPS Seattle Support Office, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, and the lodge concessioner.



Now I can surf the Web and find information on how to save historic buildings, landscapes, battlefields, and my linoleum.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION
Services National Park Service

www2.cr.nps.gov

Visit the One-Stop National Park Service NHL Web Page

At this site, <www2.cr.nps.gov/nhl>, you can find: which properties are NHLs, where they are located, how the designation procedure works, what it means to be an NHL, what the laws say about NHLs, where to get answers to preservation questions, sources of financial and technical assistance for NHLs, and which properties are currently listed as endangered. The site is linked to web pages of non-profit NHLs to help the public learn about them. Check it out—and let us know your NHL's web page address if it is owned by a non-profit. Send the address to Susan_Escherich@nps.gov.

FROM CONGRESS, PAGE 1

ing was convened by the National Park Service, which administers the NHL program, to promote discussion of the advantages of networking and collaboration among these stewards of the nation's most significant historic properties. This was the first attempt to help stewards consider how they can work together to preserve their Landmarks and raise public

identified its needs and strategies to meet those needs. At the end of the Congress, the four groups reported back to a final plenary session with their recommendations.

Between plenary sessions and group discussions, the stewards were treated to tours of the U.S. Military Academy, led by Julian Adams of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and

ly every type of ownership from private homeowners to sites owned by government and non-profit groups.

The NPS is taking immediate steps to improve communication with and among stewards. (Please see related article, "NPS Follow-Up on Stewards' Congress.") The National Park Service will continue to work with NHL stewards to aid them in dealing with the responsibilities of preserving the National Historic Landmarks and in exploring what form and scope a stewards' organization would take.

The congress was chaired by William Bolger, the National Historic Landmarks Program Manager for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service. The Northeast Region includes thirteen states from Maine to Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia, and includes nearly half of the 2,247 National Historic Landmarks nationwide. Organizations cooperating to produce the Congress included the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the Historic Preservation Education Foundation.

According to the feedback of the more than 150 attendees, the meeting was a success. Dorothy Ferrell, President of the National Woman's Party (NWP), which is headquartered at the Sewall-Belmont House, a National Historic Landmark associated with the suffrage and equal rights movements, was enormously impressed with all the information she received at the National Historic Landmarks Congress. Ms. Ferrell wrote, "I can tell you that I returned with a new appreciation of our house as a National Historic Landmark. I am, howev-



A group of NHL Stewards' Congress participants gather for a photograph in front of the historic "Point" during a tour of the U.S. Military Academy, led by Julian Adams of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Photo courtesy of the National Historic Landmarks Program, Northeast Region, National Park Service.

awareness of the importance of these properties. Katherine H. Stevenson, Associate Director for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships of the NPS, opened the Congress. "National Historic Landmarks are one of my highest priorities," said Stevenson. "They are authentic, tangible reminders of our common history, and as such, they are irreplaceable."

For three days, the stewards met in four affinity groups: historic districts, private homes, institutionally owned properties, and sites with interpretive programs for the public. Facilitated by NPS staff members Deirdre Gibson, Lisa McCann, Sherry Peck, and Linda Neal, each group

Historic Preservation. In addition, they visited NHLs in the Hudson River Valley to study their preservation problems and solutions.

The Congress resulted in common recognition by NPS staff, the National Trust, and the stewards themselves, of the need for an NHL stewards' association to foster communication among those with the responsibilities and obligation of maintaining the properties. Such an organization would offer the stewards an opportunity to collectively represent their achievements and contributions to the nation as well as their needs. This would also be a precedent-setting organization by including over 2,000 properties nationwide which include virtual-

National News

er, more keenly aware that along with the honor, go the tremendous responsibilities.”

National Historic Landmarks are designated by the Secretary of the Interior and acknowledged as the nation's most important historic and archeological properties. The NHL Assistance Initiative is a program coordinated in the NPS National Center for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships and carried out by preservation professionals in eight regional NPS offices. The initiative monitors the condition of National Historic Landmarks nationwide and provides technical assistance to their owners.

Bill Bolger is Program Manager and Lisa Kolakowsky is a Historian for the the National Historic Landmarks Program, Northeast Region; Susan Escherich is Coordinator, National Historic Landmarks Assistance Initiative, Preservation Initiatives Branch, Heritage Preservation Services; and Jacqui Handy is a Public Affairs Specialist, all of National Park Service.

FROM FOLLOW-UP, PAGE 1

First, this is the first edition of a new newsletter published for NHL stewards. Frank Miele, of the Southeast Regional Office of the NPS, is the editor. Stewards may send articles pertaining to NHLs and their preservation and promotion to Frank at the address on the masthead. Please call Frank first for guidelines at 404-562-3173.

Second, information on training courses will be made available to NHL owners. The Cultural Resource Training Directory is listed in the *NHL Stewards' Sourcebook*. This sourcebook was distributed at the Congress, and will be distributed to the remainder of NHL Stewards by the NPS regional offices. The training directory will be updated annually and is available free from the NPS. It is

also updated on the NPS cultural resources web site, <<http://www2.cr.nps.gov>>, as new information becomes available.

Third, information on NHLs will be made easier to find on the web site. An NHL assistance web page has been created which will be accessed through a button on the <<http://www2.cr.nps.gov>> home page (please see related article, "Visit the One-Stop NHL Web Page.") Information is also available by using the search button or by searching under "help yourself" on the <<http://www.cr.nps.gov>> site. Many national parks contain National Historic Landmarks, and visitor information on these is available through the NPS web site at <<http://www.nps.gov>>

Fourth, an information clearing house has been created. The "h-landmarks" discussion group is up and running on the Internet. Interested parties can subscribe by sending an E-Mail message to <majordomo@nps.gov>. Leave the subject line blank. Type <subscribe h-landmarks> on the top line at the left margin and send the message. You will receive an acknowledgment, and will be able to ask questions and share information and answers with other NHL stewards and preservation professionals.

Fifth, coordination with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other preservation partners will be improved. The NPS will arrange a meeting with its preservation partners to discuss what each can best contribute to strengthening NHL assistance and establishing an owners' group.

Sixth, NPS will continue to provide technical publications. The NPS Publications Section of the *Sourcebook* includes HPS publications in addition to selected publications from other divisions. These include information on the "Teaching with Historic Places"

program. Many free preservation publications may be requested from the National Park Service by calling Larry Hunter at 202-343-9583.

Seventh, NPS and its partners will provide on-line tutorials. Three of these are being developed. The first, on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, is nearly completed. Goucher College is beginning preparation of one for local government officials, and the Air Force is interested in funding one on Section 110 responsibilities of Federal agencies.

Eighth, lists of NHLs with similar themes and types will be available. This will be useful to stewards for networking. When the new NPS database is operational, it will allow the NPS to generate these lists. The NPS will attempt to make this information available eventually through the web site.

Ninth, locations of NHLs available to the public will be publicized. The new NHL web page will link to non-profit NHL web sites that already exist as we become aware of them. The NPS also is working on a book that describes NHLs and arranges them by state. Questions about this book should be addressed to Robie Lange at 202-343-0350.

Tenth, NPS is planning sessions for NHL owners at the next National Trust for Historic Preservation conference which will be held in Savannah during October 1998.

Susan Escherich is Coordinator, National Historic Landmarks Assistance Initiative, Heritage Preservation Services, National Center for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, National Park Service.

PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL TRUST

National Trust for Historic Preservation Publications

by Antoinette J. Lee

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently issued updated catalogues for two series of technical publications and other products. They are of interest to all preservationists, including owners of National Historic Landmark properties. The catalogues include the Winter 1997/Spring 1998 issue for the *Information Series*, a long-standing series of publications that responds to frequently-asked questions. The other is *Catalog97: Publications, Audiovisuals, and Software for Revitalizing Your Main Street*, that reflects targeted technical assistance of the National Main Street Center.

The National Trust's *Information Series* is described as "concise information on basic and frequently used preservation techniques. Topics cover a wide range of preservation and organizational development issues. Each booklet includes an introduction to the subject along with case studies and a resource section listing additional publications and organizations." The National Trust sells the *Information* booklets individually or as a complete set. The catalogue also lists back issues of its professional journal, *Historic Preservation Forum*.

Topics from the *Information Series* that may be of particular interest to NHL stewards include "Membership Development: A Guide for Nonprofit Preservation Organizations" (Order No. 2149), "Legal Considerations in

Establishing a Historic Preservation Organization" (Order No. 2114), and "Share Your Success: Fund Raising Ideas" (Order No. 2180). Most titles are \$6.00 each if ordered in amounts of 10 or less; discounts are available for larger orders. For ordering information, contact: Information Series, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036; Phone: 202-588-6296; FAX: 202-588-6223; Internet: <<http://www.InfoSeries.com>>.

The National Main Street Center *Catalog97* lists publications, videotapes, slide shows, and software products that assist with Main Street revitalization efforts. According to the catalogue, the Center "produces a comprehensive array of educational materials geared specifically to volunteer-driven nonprofit revitalization organizations in traditional commercial districts." However, the products also are useful to any historic preservation effort, including the preservation of National Historic Landmarks. The products include a videotape and user guide on "Speaking of Money: A Guide to Fund Raising for Nonprofit Board Members," the publication "Fundraising for Non-Profits: How to Build a Community Partnership," and a series of "Real Estate Development Briefs." Several of the products are available in Spanish, as well as English.

Prices for the National Main Street Center's products range from \$13 to \$210, depending on the item. Discounts are available to members of the National Main Street Network. For more information on the National Main Street Center's *Catalog97*, contact the National Main Street Center, National Trust for Historic

Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036; FAX: (202) 588-6050.

Antoinette J. Lee is Acting Chief, Preservation Initiatives Branch, Heritage Preservation Services, National Center for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, National Park Service.

FROM GRANTS, PAGE 1

drawings. All work would be required to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Matching share would be required—meaning that \$2.7 million will make available at least \$4.5 million to preserve National Historic Landmarks. Cost-sharing is important to ensure the involvement and commitment of the property owner to achieving the objectives of the project and to long-term preservation of the property. The National Park Service would directly administer these grants. Owners and stewards of National Historic Landmarks would be eligible recipients.

The President's proposal is now before Congress, which will decide whether the National Historic Landmarks grants program becomes a reality.

NHL BITS AND BYTES

LEGISLATION

Congress Commits to Reauthorize ISTE A

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which expired in 1997, has been a major source of funds for historic preservation. Certain provisions of ISTEA were extended to May 1998. Congress has committed to reauthorizing the bill before that date, but it is uncertain whether and to what extent the enhancement funding which has benefited preservation will remain in the bill. The Surface Transportation Policy Project is tracking the process to promote "the needs of people, rather than vehicles, in assuring access to jobs, services, and recreational opportunities." The purpose of the project is to ensure that the reauthorized act protects environmental and aesthetic qualities, promotes conservation of energy, strengthens the economy, promotes social equity, and makes communities more livable. The project promotes strong participation by communities in the highway planning process to protect community values. Their informative newsletter can be requested from the Surface Transportation Policy Project, 1100 17th St., NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20036, or by E-Mail at <stpp@transact.org>. They have an informative web site at <<http://www.istea.org>>.

Legislation Approved to Assist Open Space Preservation

On August 5, 1997, a modified version of the American Farm and Ranch Protection Act (Section 508 of the Taxpayer Relief Act) was signed into law. It provides for the

exclusion of 40 percent of the value of land subject to permanent conservation easement. The total amount which can be excluded under the provision is \$500,000, to be phased in over the next five years, or \$1 million for a husband and wife using a standard estate plan. When fully phased in, this could double federal estate tax savings for easement donors. For further information, contact your Congressional office.

INCENTIVES

Innovative Local Tax Incentives for Reuse of Historic Districts

The town of Winchester, Virginia, is making use of provisions in the state tax code which allow tax incentives for reuse of commercial districts as technology zones. The goal is to draw tenants into the area and encourage the use of upper stories of commercial buildings. The code allows incentives for up to ten years, and may include, among other provisions, "reduction of permit fees, reduction of user fees, and reductions of any type of gross receipts tax." Historic Districts in other states may wish to explore and promote similar provisions in their own tax codes.

MARKETING

National Historic Landmarks Guide Slated for 1998

The National Park Foundation has entered into a contract with John Wiley and Sons for the preparation and publication of a comprehensive guide to National Historic Landmarks. The National

Park Service National Historic Landmarks Survey staff is coordinating the project. The text for the publication should be finished later in 1998.

National Register Travel Itineraries on the Web

A number of National Historic Landmarks are included in the National Register of Historic Places' travel itinerary series. Itineraries for Chicago, Seattle, and Baltimore on the World Wide Web now all include National Historic Landmarks. An itinerary for Detroit is the newest in the series. National Historic Landmarks to be featured in Detroit include the Guardian Building, Pewabic Pottery, and the Fox Theater. To celebrate Black History Month, the National Register web site will have a new travel itinerary on sites associated with the Underground Railroad, some of which are National Historic Landmarks. Visit the National Register web site at <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr>>.

DESIGNATION

NR Bulletin on Preparing NHL Nominations Nears Completion

The final draft of the National Register Bulletin on preparing National Historic Landmark nominations is ready for review outside of the National Park Service. For further information and/or a copy to review, please contact Patty Henry of the NPS National Historic Landmarks Survey staff at 202-343-8163.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
Network

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services,
1849 C Street, NW, Room NC330, Washington, DC 20240

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