

AHLP MEETING 2014
Papers, Works-in-progress, Posters

Thursday, 22 May 2014

8:00 am Greetings/Announcements

8:15 am **Mayor Chris Coleman:** Welcome!

8:30 am **Jon Anfinson:** Intro to Twin Cities

9:15 am **Gregory Page:** Riverfront Corporation

9:45 am **Regine Kennedy:** Interpreting the Great River Passage (paper)

10:00 Coffee - Posters

10:30 am **Ron Williams:** The River Park Systems of Western Canadian Cities:
a long tradition of sustainability faces new challenges (paper)

11:00 am **Brenda Williams:** Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center:
a Minnesota Northern Border Lakes Fishing Resort (paper)

11:30 am **Candace Wheeler:** Managing the Changing Landscapes of Death (paper)

(12:00 Prepare for afternoon field trips)

ABSTRACTS (Thursday)

9:45 am

Regine Kennedy

Interpreting the Great River Passage (paper)

Sharing the stories of the Mississippi River is critical to educating people about its importance to both our past and our future. Bringing people together through these stories has the power to influence preservation of landscapes within the park corridor and adjacent properties.

The Great River Passage is envisioned as an enhanced river corridor that will improve the quality of life for Saint Paul residents and visitors from the region and far beyond by expanding recreational and open space opportunities. Creating a park that is more natural, more urban, and more connected requires interpretive planning. Saint Paul's 17-mile river valley includes vibrant neighborhoods, active commercial sites, important transportation corridors, and more than 20 public parks providing over 3,500 acres of public green space for outdoor recreation, special events, wildlife habitat, and scenic views.

Through a rigorous interpretive planning process, our team is continuing to work with the City, stakeholders, and community members to transform this valuable collection of parks, natural resources, cultural amenities, and community sites into a single park. The process is centered on theme topics that bring together groups of people who have shared interests. By connecting people from different areas along the park corridor who share a common interest in a specific topic, we seek to create synergies that preserve and enhance these special places. For example, one of the theme topics is food. By telling the story of food along the park corridor, we hope to make connections among local farmers at the farmers markets, fishing enthusiasts at fishing piers, Native Americans interested in restoring wild rice beds, and site managers or residents of historic farmsteads. Educating visitors about these food-focused sites has the potential to expand the influence of existing sites (e.g., through programming) as well as change how visitors experience these landscapes. This planning approach also brings together a broad range of people who may not typically interact with each other, but who, together, have the potential to manifest a unique vision; tell stories about a topic that are specific to a place; create connections along the length of this riverfront park; and encourage stewardship of important landscapes. As this is an on-going project, the results of this process are pending and questions on the efficacy of this approach will be examined during the planning process and upon its conclusion, which is anticipated for the fall of 2014.

10:30 am

Ron Williams

The River Park Systems of Western Canadian Cities:

a long tradition of sustainability faces new challenges (paper)

I propose to deliver a 20-25 minute paper that explores the extensive river park systems typical of such Western Canadian cities as Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Saskatoon and Winnipeg, all of which are located on major rivers. My examination of these cities will focus on the ways in which they have taken advantage of their river valleys to create large-scale open-space systems, providing recreational and esthetic resources and a means of limiting flood damage. The creation of these parks, carried out over many decades, has responded to catastrophic events, reform movements, and the birth of new attitudes to the environment.

Geographical and Cultural Context

The topography of the western Prairies is often “negative,” characterized by wide, glacier-cut valleys of the Saskatchewan River system, recessed into the horizontal plains and enclosed by steep, forested slopes. Historically, the great rivers that proceed along the floors of these valleys provided water and transportation to the major cities and towns of the West that were built astride them. As the cities expanded up above on the plateau, these valley spaces often became parks, due either to the difficulty of developing them or to the occurrence of a disastrous flood in the early years of settlement. In contrast, cities built on flood plains – Winnipeg at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, Calgary on the Bow River – were much more vulnerable to flooding. Yet even these cities have followed the same long-term physical pattern, through the gradual dedication of riverside land to park and public-use purposes.

Timeliness

The catastrophic floods that devastated Western Canadian towns and cities last June underline the importance of these riverside park networks. The parks prevented even greater damage from being sustained, yet failed to provide full protection, leading to serious discussions of how to modify their design to withstand future emergencies. This question is increasingly urgent, since current problems are occurring at a whole new scale and are caused by entirely new phenomena, including the long-term warming of the Arctic Ocean and the consequent melting of Arctic sea ice.

Questions for Discussion

The likelihood that such changes will continue in the future raises many questions. Entirely new strategies of landscape design and management will be required to deal with the new challenges these changes impose; we must discuss what these strategies might be, and how conflicting goals and preoccupations should be balanced against each other. Solutions currently proposed include extended river park systems, zoning changes, the building of dams and reservoirs for water retention and of diversion or “floodway” systems, and water flow management through “channel improvement.” These promising strategies, however, have the

potential to seriously diminish the esthetic and ecological qualities of the river systems, along with their recreational potential, bringing to mind the specter of the Los Angeles River as a worst case scenario. How to maintain the esthetic and recreational qualities of the river parks while responding to the quest for security from flooding will challenge our skills as landscape designers and managers.

11:00 am

Brenda Williams

***Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center:
a Minnesota Northern Border Lakes Fishing Resort*** (paper)

The Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center occupies a property that served as a Minnesota Northern Border Lakes fishing resort and canoe trip outfitter from ca. 1930 until 1980. Today, the property is within the Superior National Forest adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007 for local significance as a representative of “a unique historical pattern of fishing-resort outdoor recreation that flourished ...” from the 1920s to the 1960s.

The museum and nature center are housed in the former Chik-Wauk Lodge. Constructed in 1934, the rough-cut stone building was the centerpiece of the rustic resort complex that provided tourists with fishing excursions, and lodging in rustic-style cabins with a choice of American Plan accommodations (including meals in the lodge) or housekeeping cabins (where visitors cooked their own meals).

The cultural landscape at Chik-Wauk is a vernacular landscape that evolved through the use and activities related to a backwoods cabin resort. Unlike places that are built according to formal designs prepared to reflect a specific style, this landscape was designed by the people operating the resort, based on their day-to-day needs. Choices of locations for buildings, roads, docks, and service areas were made to capitalize on views of the surrounding lake for visitor-related facilities, and ease of use for service-related activities.

The Gunflint Trail is a remote location thinly populated by self-reliant individuals who take pride in their independence and grit. Homes are spread far apart, and the “trail” used to access them is a narrow route pocked with potholes. Efforts by residents to preserve and interpret the cultural and natural history of the Gunflint Trail have resulted in the establishment of an admirable facility at Chik-Wauk. They have also built a strong community network as members work together to run the museum and plan for future improvements.

A cultural landscape report was prepared to document the historic development of the property, evaluate integrity, and help determine appropriate locations for new facilities necessary to expand the programs offered by the Museum. The project involved careful coordination between the GTHS, Superior National Forest, and the Minnesota State Historical Society. Although the property included over thirty

buildings during its operation as a resort, all but two have been removed. The landscape is dramatically scenic and preservation of historic views is of great concern. Discussions regarding the scale, style and location of new facilities carefully weighed opportunities and constraints to develop a fitting master plan for the property.

Questions for discussion:

- When it is necessary to add new buildings into a historic landscape what factors should be considered?
- Do you know of other communities that have grown stronger through historic preservation efforts?
- It is often difficult to convince agencies that features contributing to vernacular landscapes are significant. As a result, preservation frequently focuses on one or two key structures. What approaches can be used to preserve features that seem ordinary?

11:30 am

Candace Wheeler

Managing the Changing Landscapes of Death (paper)

The presentation would address the fundamental nature of the relationship visitors/tourists have with the historic cemetery landscape, the importance of the landscape, and how one works towards preservation planning/design using the Comstock cemeteries as a model.

The Comstock, site of a major ore strike in 1859, is located in the vicinity of Virginia City in northern Nevada. It played a pivotal role in the mining settlement and technological development pattern of the American West. Within the Comstock are numerous cemeteries that have evolved in placement, design, and social function during the lifetime of the region up through today.

The presentation offers an understanding of the Comstock's social, regional, and physical environment as they have shaped the Silver Terrace cemeteries of Virginia City. While the cemeteries were created for the mourner, casual visitors have left no small mark. As the Silver Terrace complex came to be perceived as derelict, vandals and thieves frequently entered its gates. The formation of the cultural landscape began with the initial usage of the land by mourners, morphing into a landscape for the recreational, cultural, and heritage tourist. Today, the Silver Terrace cemeteries are the most visited tourist site on the Comstock.

An overview of the landscape issues and stages of preservation planning will be reviewed with field examples.

Friday, 23 May 2014

8:00 am Morning Announcements

8:15 am **Eric MacDonald** and **Elizabeth King**: Things Merge into One - Recent Eddies and Flows in the Theory and Practice of Historic Landscape Preservation and Ecological Restoration (paper)

8:45 am **David Driapsa**: Ober's Island, The Mallard (paper)

9:15 am **Betsy Anderson** (Student Scholarship Recipient): Deconstructing Hydrologies - Reviving the Memory of Water in Dumbarton Oaks Park (paper)

9.45 am Coffee - Posters

10:15 am **Gennie** and **Tim Keller**: Interpreting and Preserving the Cultural Landscape of the Amana Colonies (paper)

10:45 am **Heidi Hohman**: Brucemore Historic Landscape Report (HLR) Update: Assessing how Preservation Plans Change over Time (work-in-progress)

11:00 am **Barbara Wyatt**: The US National Register Landscape Initiative (work-in-progress)

11:15 am **Ron Williams**: *Landscape Architecture in Canada* (book update)

11:30 am **Debbie Smith**: NCPTT announcement

(11:45 Prepare for afternoon field trips)

ABSTRACTS (Friday)

8:15 am

Eric MacDonald and Elizabeth King

Things Merge into One - Recent Eddies and Flows in the Theory and Practice of Historic Landscape Preservation and Ecological Restoration (paper)

This paper reviews recent developments in the theory and practice of ecological restoration, and discusses their implications for the practice of cultural landscape conservation and stewardship. In many ways, the fields of ecological restoration and historic preservation have wrestled with different strains of the same questions: How do landscapes evolve through time, and what dynamics of natural and human systems converge in that evolution? When dealing with landscapes—ever-changing, self-organizing systems that continually alter their form and function, often in ways that confound and surprise us—is it possible to “restore” an environment to earlier, “historic” conditions? How do we know for certain what historic conditions were really like? Is a true or accurate restoration possible? And even if we can restore, *should we*? The two fields swim side by side in the same river, so to speak: practitioners of both ecological restoration and historic preservation engage in parallel and recurrent debates—eddies in a stream that circle backward, while inexorably moving forward.

Despite grappling with parallel, unremitting problems, the practices of conserving nature and culture in landscapes have frequently been portrayed as antagonistic. During the 1990s and early 2000s, in particular, the perceived divide between “natural resources” and “cultural resources” values was a prominent theme in the literature of cultural landscape studies and historic preservation. In recent years, however, numerous innovative and productive collaborations have emerged among ecologists and scholars in the human sciences and humanities who are working with local communities on behalf of eco-cultural landscape conservation. This trend has been supported by shifts in thinking within both fields. In restoration ecology, a growing number of theorists have called upon their colleagues to view their work as a cultural practice that must conscientiously engage the motivational power of ritual and aesthetics in human endeavors. This perspective also has fostered a view of ecological restoration as a fundamentally creative process that resonates with gardening or landscape design as much as it relies upon scientific inquiry. At the center of these shifts has been the development of the “novel ecosystems” concept as an alternative framework for thinking about the purposes and processes of ecological restoration.

The proposed paper will summarize the “novel ecosystems” concept and the debates in restoration ecology that have surrounded it, and speculate about how these developments may impact future efforts to conserve cultural landscapes. The paper will also advance the hypothesis that the novel ecosystems concept holds promise to advance collaborative working relationships among ecologists and historic preservationists. In keeping with the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation’s 2014 conference theme, the paper will explore these ideas in light of

the authors' recent interdisciplinary efforts to grapple with managing ecological and cultural systems within an urban watershed in the U.S. Our experiences aptly evoke the epigram penned by writer Norman Maclean: "Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it."

8:45 am

David Driapsa

Ober's Island, The Mallard (paper)

This paper presents Mallard Island, the historic island estate of one the founders of the Wilderness Society, Ernest Carl Oberholtzer.

After graduating from Harvard, Ober traveled the Minnesota-Ontario border region by canoe and made his epic journey into unmapped regions of Ontario. He settled permanently on Rainy and for half a century occupied the 1300-foot long, 1-1/2 acre granite island. It was a region of Native American villages, pioneer homesteads, wilderness recreational camps, and a wildcat timber industry.

In 1913, Ober moved to Rainy Lake permanently. He camped on islands that first summer and for years afterward lived on a houseboat. He entered a partnership to develop Deer Island as a tourist camp. Using his skills of landscape architecture, he master planned the island, opening the center for farming and preserving the wooded perimeter for campsites. When the partnership dissolved in 1922, he acquired ownership of Mallard Island and began a construction project using vernacular forms of building and natural materials.

In 1925, he discovered plans to dam the watershed for production of hydroelectric power. It would destroy the beautiful wilderness as rising water levels inundated islands and shores.

Ober opposed the project and soon was elected president of Quetico-Superior Council with the agenda of preserving the wilderness as an international park. He provided an alternative, proposing multiple-uses in which natural beauty would remain undisturbed, while allowing timber harvesting on sustained yield basis. He introduced "zoning" to preserve lakeshore and interior forests, while allowing roads and cabins on the outside for bases of wilderness recreation.

Ober authored the primary document used throughout the battle, which established the then novel idea of using federal lands solely as wilderness, free of economic exploitation. Ober pushed his plan through Congress foreshadowing the Wilderness Act of 1964, with Congress legislating that federal lands should be preserved as wilderness.

Sacred to the Rainy Lake Ojibwe people, Mallard Island has long been a spiritual retreat and place of solace for the myriad visitors who sojourn there, and so it continues today under guardianship of a foundation. Mallard Island, with its

gardens, floating docks, and historic buildings remain as Ober left it -- a salon in the wilderness, a gathering place of music, drama, storytelling, and a university of the wilderness. It remains a place of tranquility and beauty.

This paper presents the interpretative and measured drawings of the Mallard Island Historic American Landscapes Survey conducted between 2011 and 2013. Among the findings were Ober's student papers from the new graduate program of landscape architecture at Harvard. Ober studied under the tutelage of Fredrick Law Olmsted Jr. and James Sturgis Pray, and he expressed the lessons he learned in the cultural landscape of Mallard Island. One's first impression of the island is its wooded naturalness. Upon further inspection, one is impressed with the composition of structures as a village of articulated architectural spaces carefully placed as an organic outgrowth of the landscape. Ober's Mallard Island is a masterwork of landscape architecture not to be missed.

9:15 am

Betsy Anderson (Student Scholarship Recipient)

Deconstructing Hydrologies –

Reviving the Memory of Water in Dumbarton Oaks Park (paper)

My project strongly resonates with the conference focus on community engagement and adaptive preservation approaches in an urban context. My thesis challenges prevailing guidelines for the treatment of cultural landscapes and their inability to fully engage changing human and ecological systems. These issues are powerfully illustrated by Dumbarton Oaks Park, a unit of the National Park Service in Washington, DC that has experienced extensive degradation due to excessive stormwater runoff, encroachment by invasive species, and heavy public use. Originally designed as a naturalistic garden by Beatrix Farrand in the 1920s, the park encompasses a tributary of Rock Creek, including a series of eighteen constructed waterfalls and associated structures. Surrounding urbanization has dramatically altered the park's context and ecological performance, however, threatening the integrity of Farrand-era features and plantings. The park service has been effectively paralyzed in mitigating the damage due to the historical significance of the site and current treatment guidance that favors visual, object-oriented (i.e., static) metrics over dynamic, performance-based measures. This project suggests a new paradigm for cultural landscape preservation that privileges resilience and community interaction, that views stormwater and park users as contributing resources rather than threats, and that advocates the active role of the designer in continually reimagining our best-loved places.

10:15 am

Gennie and Tim Keller

Interpreting and Preserving the Cultural Landscape of the Amana Colonies

(paper)

This paper will address and explore questions related to societal and physical change in traditional cultural communities, changing patterns of tourism in historic landscapes, and landscape interpretation in light of rapidly changing technologies, travel patterns and modes, and the persistence of a preference for outdoor interpretive exhibits and overlooks. The presentation offers the perspective of landscape preservation professionals revisiting the site of a pioneering cultural landscape plan and their reflections on community engagement and continuing issues of change and continuity.

Our presentation considers a recent project for the Amana Colonies that is the first community-wide planning effort since the Amanas' precedent-setting 1978 master plan *Culture and Environment: A Challenge for the Amana Colonies*. Within the Midwest, the Amana Colonies are a traditional site of industry, innovation, tourism, and hospitality. The longest enduring of the nation's historic communitarian settlements, the Amanas still reflect the original design, layout, spatial organization, architecture and landscape qualities that the Society of True Inspiration first imposed upon this east-central Iowa River valley in 1854. The current plan is based on a community and design team desire to preserve and enhance the qualities that impart significance and integrity to the Amana Colonies cultural landscape.

Updating and building upon its decades-old plan, the result of this current visioning plan renews community commitment to this 26,000-acre National Historic Landmark, a notable and unique cultural landscape encompassing managed Iowa farmland and forest, an industrial manufacturer, and seven historic villages. The updated recommendations rely upon using external funds as leverage for implementing transportation corridor landscape enhancements. This comprehensive assessment and update captures the current vision of Amana's multi-aged, multi-cultural community of local residents and other stakeholders who worked with a multi-disciplinary team of landscape architects and planning professionals.

Concentrating on wayfinding, on-and off-road trail facilities, vegetation management in transportation rights of way, and traffic safety, the current effort reassesses, updates and re-envisions key aspects of community life, recreation, and placemaking through comprehensive assessments and a planning and design process based not only on local needs and desires but also on the realities of a historic community actively engaged in and economically dependent on tourism, industry, farming, and forestry. Development and refinement of the project's Colony-wide and Village Enhancements Concepts relied upon the team's comprehensive evaluation of community resources, values, and concerns that include resident and visitor transportation assessments, a visual quality assessment,

historical, cultural, and natural resource assessments, and contemporary land use. The design team addressed the need for vegetation management throughout the colonies not only for beautification and unification, but also for erosion control, storm-water and water-quality management, prevention of invasive species, habitat preservation, and improved safety. This plan includes a conceptual transportation enhancement plan with recommendations for alleviating such traffic issues as blind intersections and traffic congestion related to the Whirlpool shift changes, school starts and dismissal times, and special events; and also recommends options for walking and cycling including sidewalks, shared roadways, and off-road trails.

10:45 am

Heidi Hohman

Brucemore Historic Landscape Report (HLR) Update: Assessing how Preservation Plans Change over Time (work-in-progress)

Brucemore, located in Cedar Rapids, IA, is significant as an O.C. Simonds-designed landscape (1907-1925) and as a Midwestern manifestation of the country place typology. This work-in-progress is an update to the site's original Historic Landscape Report begun and completed almost twenty years ago, in 1994-1997. So far, the project has included additional historic research; an updated existing conditions survey, and, the impetus for the project, a detailed treatment plan. The treatment plan, which is now leading into the development of plans for capital projects (such as a pond rehabilitation) and a landscape maintenance plan, is an interesting case study of the way a planning process can help unify the sometimes disparate perspectives of long term grounds staff (who participated in the original HLR) and more recently-hired site administrators. We also hope the presentation will engender discussion about the benefits and problems of updating preservation plans done by earlier researchers and designers, something that will become increasingly common now that the historic landscape preservation movement is over forty years old. What can be gleaned in re-examining previous research efforts, especially now with the benefits of internet archives? How have the interests and goals of clients changed over time? Do we approach treatment differently now when our clients are educated in sustainability and LEED than we did so twenty years ago, and if so, how? Finally, how do we create a treatment plan that acknowledges that it, too, will be revised and updated by future site twenty or thirty years from now.

11:00 am

Barbara Wyatt

The US National Register Landscape Initiative (work-in-progress)

This work-in-progress paper will provide an explanation of the National Register Landscape Initiative (NRLI). The initiative was launched in 2013 by the National Register as a means of assessing the types of landscapes nominated, how they are described, challenges in evaluating and nominating various types of landscapes, and the effectiveness of the instructions provided in the National Register bulletins. The

initiative involves representatives from federal agencies, state historic preservation offices, tribal preservation offices, and various programs of the National Park Service. The National Register staff is working with a Core Group and a Review Group in evaluating information presented by speakers and, eventually, to develop recommendations for modifications and improvements to the National Register program. When the Alliance meets in May, the NRLI Core Group will be in the process of formulating proposals for review by the NRLI Review Group.

The intent of this paper is to alert Alliance meeting attenders of the NRLI and potential outcomes of the initiative. The work of the NRLI is significant because it has the potential to positively impact the nomination of cultural landscapes to the National Register. The initiative has been undertaken because of increasing interest in nominating landscapes to the National Register and evident confusion in some areas. Existing guidance was developed 20 or more years ago, and an examination of its effectiveness is due. Questions for discussion may concern presenter and audience perceptions of positive and problematic aspects of the existing program.

Saturday, 24 May 2014

8:15 am Morning Announcements

8:30 am **Patricia Glanville**: Landscape Intangibles – A Study of Intangibles in Cultural Landscapes and Places (paper)

9:00 am **Eduard Krakhmalnikov**: Cultural Landscape Preservation in the Age of Climate Change (paper)

9:30 am **Bill Marzella**: USDA People's Garden Master Plan - Balancing Agency Values, Historic Landscapes, and Design Review in the Nation's Capital (work-in-progress)

9:45 am **Carol Grove**: Between the Missouri River and the Kaw: Two Chapters in the “Town of Kansas” (work-in-progress)

10:00 Coffee - Posters

10:30 am **Benjamin Stinnett** and **Kimball Erdman**: Celebrating the Gypsy spirit: re-capturing the history and mystique of a treasured American landscape genre, the girls' summer camp (paper)

11:00 am **Susan Buggey**: ISCCLS World Heritage Landscapes Initiative

11:15 am **Dan Nadenicek**: 2015 Savannah conference promo

(11:30 am Prepare for afternoon field trips)

ABSTRACTS (Saturday)

8:30 am

Patricia Glanville

Landscape Intangibles –

A Study of Intangibles in Cultural Landscapes and Places

Perceptions within cultures express a common theme that landscapes and places convey “sense of place” or “genius loci”. This notion has been demonstrated in early cultures and described as a place between heaven and earth or the horizon that separates the two. The idea that places inherently possess characteristics that physically and emotionally move people can be interpreted through observation of their physical attributes, but also through their phenomenology. Measuring phenomenology by way of quantifying intangibles can be used as a tool for measuring the immaterial values people project onto places. The measurements can then be used to evaluate the assets within the cultural landscape or place, and as they change over time. It is timely to address the value of intangibles as many landscapes are not valued for their intangibles and are threatened due to development. Measuring the intangibles lends credibility to the notion that places contain values that are not visible.

Examining intangibles can be conducted by examining physical qualities that *may* elicit certain reactions. In landscapes this is different from buildings as landscapes can be more subtly described, often having less obvious or less intentional attributes. Buildings are generally designed to suit a purpose and often to elicit an intentional, intelligible message while landscapes, especially natural landscapes, which have existed for millennia, have characteristics that are subconsciously sensed. Here the landforms are simple, yet, the intangible feeling conjured can be described as palpable. Also within the natural landscape purpose-built landscapes can be found, witness the many solar constructs across northern Europe, while contrasted with, for example, the subtle appearance of the landforms. In each case, the effect on people could be either positive or negative, and can affect quality of life and well-being.

The author has conducted a study to measure peoples’ reactions to both built spaces which often included landscape elements. An instrument (self-perception tool) was derived which helped measure reactions of groups of people, each to seven sites in western Canada. The spaces were familiar and for spiritual use, which made it more likely to elicit an emotional response. Peoples’ reactions were then cross-referenced within variables to statistically determine what features and elements positively and negatively impacted the groups as a general whole. Therefore this same methodology can be applied study natural landscapes.

The paper discusses the places examined and the observations found regarding the intangible characteristics that describe “sense of place” and affect well-being. The

result of the research can be applied to help protect and conserve cultural places as valued, and as such, social and economic assets.

Questions for Discussion: Are there any examples where this type of research could have been applied that could have been useful in guiding a discussion regarding preservation of a landscape?

9:00 am

Eduard Krakhmalnikov

Cultural Landscape Preservation in the Age of Climate Change (paper)

The preservation of cultural landscapes in the age of climate change is an increasingly complex process. In recent decades, a progressive trend in preservation work has seen landscapes of worker housing and slave quarters deservedly garner greater attention. However, such landscapes tend to be in areas particularly prone to disruption from extreme weather events. Facing this new and unprecedented challenge, the cost of preservation work in these landscapes will increase.

An example of such costs can be seen in seaside landscapes, as expounded by Kate Orff, assistant professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, and founding principle of SCAPE, in a recent lecture. Along shores often battered by increasingly harsh storms, tall seawalls shield the property of those who can afford the protection. Nearby properties with smaller, or non-existent barriers may be abandoned after a single large storm. With a few abrupt disruptions, only the homes of the wealthy may remain.

In regards to preservation work, this example provides a study in the possible regressive tendencies that climate change may have on precariously sited cultural landscapes. While no landscape is unaffected by climate change, those placed near water bodies are especially threatened. Often sited in marginal locations such as swamp areas, floodplains, and other inundated zones, formerly overlooked sites may be the first to be impacted by increasingly severe flooding and rapid ecological change.

This new reality is openly evident in the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, called the *bdote* - meaning “where two rivers meet” in Dakota, part of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Pike Island, sacred in Mdewakanton Dakota mythology as the center of the world, sits at the junction of the rivers. Unlike nearby Fort Snelling, Minnesota’s first National Historic Landmark, and the Sibley House Historic Site, the island does not have the benefits of official protection and faces an uncertain future. Erosion of the island, the site of the Dakota internment camp after the 1862 US-Dakota War, will intensify with increasingly frequent and large-scale floods. Warmer temperatures, paired with longer periods of drought and the presence of new, aggressive invasive species will, without intervention, eradicate many of the plant species of both practical and

sacred use to the Dakota. The preservation of this culturally significant, yet oft-overlooked landscape necessitates an involved, ongoing discussion.

In the Editor's Page of the Fall 1975 issue of *Minnesota History*, Russel W. Fridley wrote that future preservation efforts may need to be narrowed to focus resources on sites of "the highest quality and potential." Now, in the future Fridley referenced, more frequent and less predictable storms increase the resources needed for ongoing maintenance, interpretation, and operation. Given the additional costs related to climate change, will Fridley's words again ring true? What sites, as Fridley asked nearly forty years ago, may become "simply too great a drain on resources" to deserve preservation? With the challenges of climate change in mind, it is time to revisit this question.

9:30 am

Bill Marzella

USDA People's Garden Master Plan - Balancing Agency Values, Historic Landscapes, and Design Review in the Nation's Capital (work-in-progress)

Following the release of the McMillan Plan in 1902, USDA set out to construct a headquarters on the National Mall. The design and siting of the building proved an important test—politically and architecturally—for the McMillan Plan. Constructed in two phases between 1904 and 1930, the building illustrated how an agency's needs could be successfully balanced with the plan's rigors. To complete the design and harmonize with the adjacent National Mall, USDA enlisted the help of the prominent Olmsted Brothers firm, then active in realizing the Plan's landscape elements, specifically the grading and planting of the Mall.

Current Project

USDA is currently designing a master plan for their headquarters landscape, expanding aspects of the People's Garden Initiative, which focuses on sustainability and community engagement. The plan has encountered numerous roadblocks throughout the DC's demanding design review process, particularly for certain elements of the People's Garden—native plants, agricultural crops, and a farmer's market—that have been found out of keeping with the dignity and formality of the National Mall.

One of the most effective tools for supporting the design and gaining consensus during agency review has been the proposed restoration of certain aspects of the Olmsted Brothers' design. Given the complexity historic documentation available, however, it is easy to place an undue emphasis on the influence of the Olmsted Brothers and to conflate their work—much of which was never implemented—with our own visions for the site.

The USDA People's Garden Master Plan, scheduled for adoption in fall 2014, brings up essential issues of appropriate contextual design and the responsible interpretation of historic documentation.

Questions for Discussion

1. What tools can planners and landscape architects use to leverage support for their designs in the face of rigorous design review processes?
2. How can USDA balance its agency mission with the need to respond to a larger landscape context?
3. What successful precedents can be used to aid designers and landscape architects in similar situations?
4. How much creative license can be given to the interpretation of historic documentation?

9:45 am

Carol Grove

Between the Missouri River and the Kaw: Two Chapters in the “Town of Kansas”
(work-in-progress)

This presentation provides two brief looks at Kansas City through the use of historic images. The first “chapter” illustrates the town that was settled near the confluence of the Missouri and Kaw Rivers in the 1840s. Civic boosters nicknamed this river and railroad transportation hub--and later, home to the country’s second largest stockyards--“Centropolis” for its location and potential as a great center of commerce. Soon its industry filled a low-lying wedge of land adjacent the rivers called the West Bottoms. This industrial landscape of railroad tracks and slaughter houses--and the attendant smoke, soot, and grease--was also home to the Union Depot. Visitors arriving by train were greeted by this eyesore and a billboard-strewn bluff—“an unfortunate introduction.”

The second “chapter” presents the results of a concerted effort made to refine the city’s cow town image and improve conditions through planning and civic beautification. Citizens and leaders alike believed a park and boulevard system was vital. A park board established in 1893, led by local industrialist August Meyer who worked with landscape architect George Kessler, created a progressive and ambitious plan. The result was a system that beautified the city and became the framework for ordered growth.

Discussion:

- Implementation of the 1893 Kansas City Parks and Boulevard Plan through 1913.
- The “City Beautiful” vs. the “City Practical.”
- The need for flexibility in a master plan.
- The role of the public in the 19th century “fight for parks.”
- Did the park and boulevard system serve all Kansas Citizens?

10:30 am

Benjamin Stinnett and Kimball Erdman

Celebrating the Gypsy spirit: re-capturing the history and mystique of a treasured American landscape genre, the girls' summer camp (paper)

The Gypsy Camp was the first of four prominent girls' camps established in Arkansas during the 1910s and 20s, mirroring a national trend promoting the value of outdoor health and education. The camp's dramatic landscape setting, nestled into a steep ravine under dramatic, overhanging bluffs along a wide bend in the Illinois River, reinforced the theatricality and romantic imagery conjured by the camp's theme. Youth camps remained popular in Arkansas until the 1960s and 70s, when many closed due to widespread cultural shifts, declining enrollment, and outside development pressures. The Gypsy Camp followed suit and closed its gates in 1978, being the last of the original four to do so. While very little infrastructure survives from the other former camps, the Gypsy Camp retains all of its architecture and much of its landscape character due largely to the fact that the camp remains the home of the former director who is a descendent of the founder and has lived on the site for the past 60 years. With the owner now in his 90s, the future of the former camp is uncertain. Beyond a tenuous National Register nomination, completed in the late 1980s, the site had been largely overlooked and forgotten. Over the past 8 years, however, interest in the preservation of the camp has become widespread, due in a large part to the concerns of multiple generations of former campers. In 2006 the camp was listed as one of Arkansas' Top Ten Most Endangered Places by the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas. This was followed in 2007 by the Gypsy Camp being listed by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects as the third most significant cultural landscape in the region needing documentation through the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS).

This paper presents recent efforts to both document this important representative landscape and explore possibilities to preserve the Gypsy Camp for future generations while accommodating current and future needs. The plan to breathe new life into the camp was developed as an independent student capstone design studio. Although hypothetical, the solution to rehabilitate the historic camp as an artist's retreat and establish a new nature center on a remote section of the property has garnered widespread support. The new camp, inspired by the unique layout of the Gypsy Camp, would among other objectives provide a base of operations for studying and remediating the severely contaminated Lake Frances, located less than a mile away. Following the completion of the studio, the now former student and faculty member teamed together to complete short-format HALS documentation of the site that placed third in the 2013 HALS Challenge. The documentation project coincided with both the first Gypsy Camp campers' reunion and the announcement of plans for the development of a multi-million dollar public recreation area on the Illinois River just upstream from the camp. Through this convergence of events and projects the Gypsy Camp returned to the consciousness of residents in the region and received national recognition as a significant cultural landscape worthy of preserving.

POSTERS

Carrie Gregory

By the Water's Edge: The Santa Fe Trail Mountain Route in Colorado

Facilitated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this project identified and nominated extant segments of the Santa Fe Trail Mountain Route to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), analyzed the viewsheds, and assessed the cultural landscape.

Long before we built cities on rivers, we used rivers to traverse the country. People along with pack and draft animals required water, so wagon trails followed watercourses or traveled between watering locales and springs. The Santa Fe Trail is one such American trail for which wagon trains were dependent on water sources and rarely strayed from them. Extending more than 900 miles from its point of departure in Franklin, Missouri, to its destination in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail followed the Arkansas River and Timpas Creek through southeastern Colorado.

The Santa Fe Trail served as the primary national trade and travel route between the eastern and western United States for almost 35 years (1846–1880), facilitated wartime troop and supply movements during the Mexican-American and Civil Wars, played an important role in opening the western territories to settlement, and provided an important link for the development of commerce and cultural exchange. The trail's landscape is important to our national history, retains archaeological values and historical associations, and reflects characteristics of the historic setting. Questions for discussion include:

- ☐ How should NRHP nomination boundaries include and encompass the landscape?
- ☐ How should near-pristine viewsheds from the trail be managed?

Allison Ostertag

Notable Specimens: Bringing Grumblethorpe's Characters and Collections to Light

Grumblethorpe House and Gardens in the Germantown section of Philadelphia is a lesser known feature in the historic fabric of the city. The garden, extends far back into the block behind "The Big House" and only a Saturday stroller, out to pick up some produce from the farmer's market might wander back behind the gate, into the shade of the enormous ginkgo and beech to witness the beauty of the garden. Here and there are plaques, suggesting what might have stood here in the past, an observatory where the Transit of Mercury was witnessed, a smoke house, a memorial rose garden, and you wonder who lived here and how it once looked. The paths and beds of the formal garden are laid out much as they were over 250 years ago, but much of the plants have changed with the whims of the owners and caretakers, the eccentric plants-people of the Wister family, the fallow years of degradation, and the later volunteers who restored it to life.

What remains is a framework with the ginkgo biloba at the center, holding the elements tethered to its roots. Thought to be the oldest fruiting ginkgo in the Americas, it rises up from the intersection of the paths, transitioning from the shade of the house and arbors to the walking paths leading out to the hoop house and farm. The ginkgo has remained a constant in the changing character of the garden, from the horticultural starts of John Wister who built the house in 1744, planting his sugar pear tree so that it was bearing fruit before John Bartram planted a seedling, to the wild collector's exhibition of Charles Wister and his son who sought rare species of ferns and orchids in the Wissahickon Gorge and returned them to the garden, along with swarms of bees and mineral collections. They made records of the stars and weather and kept meticulous notes of every variety of bulb and perennial they planted.

Suzanne Wister Eastwick collecting the family records and in 1963 published a garden guide which narrates a brief history that gives the beginnings of the story about the full life of Grumblethorpe's landscape and the people who designed and crafted it. Further inquiry led to the writings of Edwin C. Jellett who in 1906 described the garden in great detail for a series of publications for the Germantown Historical Society. The nonprofit who now manages the home, The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, has amassed files of diagrams of the gardens and family photographs dating back to the mid 1800's showing the Wister rain gauge in a box-lined bed and family members resting on a bench below the wisteria arbor.

These disparate elements, text, photographs, sketches and physical evidence will be merged in visual diagrams of the transition the gardens. Connections will be drawn from the owners who created features and the plants and elements they built, as well as the impact it had on the visitors and writers of their time. Graphic tracings of the lineage of the plants will demonstrate the long life of the trees and the ebb and flow of flowers and herbs, as well as the overarching beauty of the mixing of utilitarian farm, orchard, wild native species and flowering finds from far and wide.

Nicole Peterson

Adapting an ICON: Climate Change on Minnesota's North Shore

The Laurentian mixed forest province, one of Minnesota's most iconic landscapes, contains 23-million-acres of conifer dominated forests across northeastern Minnesota. The area supports 1,000 forestry and 18,000 tourism jobs, together paying nearly \$300 million in wages. The forest, however, is rapidly dying and transforming due to climate change.

Over the next 100 years, Minnesota's portion of the boreal forest will dwindle. Hardwoods will be unable to move north fast enough to fill in the boreal decline. Dead forests could degrade into brushlands as fast-moving species, possibly invasives such as buckthorn, become predominant. Areas with sandy soils may be subject to *savannafication*; the process by which a forest transitions into a grassland.

In the face of rapid ecological change, interventions could preserve both the aesthetic character and ecological integrity of the forest.

While climate change cannot be stopped, its effects can be mitigated. This poster centers around a framework which utilizes privately owned land to create an underplanted adaptive forest comprised of tree species projected to do well as the climate warms and precipitation patterns fluctuate. Working in tandem with ecological concepts, the framework aims to maintain the historical integrity of this great forest. The forest, instrumental in the history and culture of the Ojibwe and European Settlers, is truly a regional icon. With proper intervention, the life of Minnesota's boreal forest can be lengthened, providing future generations with the ability to experience an important part of the state's history, and the opportunity to create their own.

Zach Small, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Student Scholarship)
Continuing John Nolen's Vision: Public Waterfront Infrastructure in Madison, Wisconsin

This presentation focuses on the development of waterfront pedestrian and bike infrastructure in one of Madison, Wisconsin's most historic neighborhoods. The rich history of Madison's Mansion Hill and Langdon Neighborhoods parallels the Midwestern city's development from a rural college town to a regional urban center. Located in downtown Madison near the Wisconsin State Capitol, the University of Wisconsin campus, and on the shores of Lake Mendota, the eclectic architecture of the area is arguably Madison's richest. Despite listing as a district on the National Register of Historic Places, an intense struggle between new development and preservation exists in the neighborhood to this day. A growing market demand for luxury student housing and a movement toward greater density in Madison's central core now threatens the unique architectural and cultural resources of the area. Collaborating with the City of Madison Planning Department, the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and Our Historic Campus (a student preservation group), my proposal builds on the work of a thirty year plan for waterfront infrastructure developed by the City of Madison Planning Department. Madison, a city built on four freshwater lakes, has historically sought to enhance connections to its waterfront. John Nolen's 1911 *Madison: A Model City* proposed a model open space system that focused on connecting the city to its lakes. Over time, much of Nolen's plan has largely been implemented. In the last thirty years, a series of progressive public infrastructure proposals and the development of an impressive bicycle network have presented opportunities to continue Nolen's vision and create greater connections to the city's waterfront. My proposal presents a conceptual design for a mile long urban bicycle/pedestrian network through the existing neighborhood and along the lakeshore in Langdon and Mansion Hill. Central to my design is an approach that honors the city's historic cultural resources while enhancing recreational opportunities for Madison residents.

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