

of the nearly 65,000 listings in the National Register are part of multiple property submissions that, as Bob Grumet says in his introduction, eliminate the needless repetition of information. They also define in a clearly understandable way the kinds of characteristics a resource must have in order to be eligible for designation within a documented context. Right now, we plan for new NHL theme studies to follow this same model and for the multiple property documentation created for these new studies to be made widely available, so that others can use this research to identify additional properties not just for NHL designation but for National Register listing and determinations of eligibility as well. Popular publications will be another product. The National Historic Landmark Survey has several theme studies underway, including one on labor history in cooperation with the Newberry Library and a group of noted scholars, another on places related to the Underground Railroad, and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation-sponsored study on dams in the United States.

This year we will be considering what the National Park Service can do to facilitate the designation of National Historic Landmarks. Already, we know that we need to develop increasingly more effective guidance to assist those identifying, evaluating, and nominating resources as NHLs and to the National Register. We need to work with interested individuals and organizations to develop some consensus on priorities for studies

and make these known so that the public will support us. We must seek more partnerships with universities, professional organizations, federal agencies, State Historic Preservation Officers, Indian tribes, and others to get these studies done. To the greatest possible extent, outside experts should be used to do these studies, not NPS staff. How can we make better use of National Register listing documentation to minimize the need for additional work? How can we educate the public better about NHLs, some of our nation's premier historic places? **Teaching with Historic Places** lesson plans for use in the schools have been prepared for some of them. Some will be showcased in the new National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary series. We are planning a new book on National Historic Landmarks, similar to the recently published *African American Historic Places* volume.

What else should we be doing? How can we do this work cheaper and better? In the coming year, we will be looking to the preservation community for advice on how the NPS can make the NHL program more effective. Projects like the Historic Contact in the Northeast National Historic Landmark Theme Study are one way to achieve this goal. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

Carol D. Shull is Chief, National Historic Landmark Survey and Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

Lloyd N. Chapman

The Most Important Things We Can Do

The *Historic Contact in the Northeast National Historic Landmark Theme Study* was completed as government-wide re-invention directives called upon the National Park Service to re-examine the effectiveness of its programs. The NPS strategic plan lists the following objectives as the “most important things that we can do” to fulfill the agency’s mission to preserve and protect the nation’s cultural and natural heritage:

- Establish a scientific/scholarly basis for resource management decisions.
- Strengthen protection of park resources.

- Achieve sustainability in all park operations and development.
- Help people forge emotional, intellectual, and recreational ties with their natural and cultural heritage.
- Lead in a national initiative to strengthen the recognition and perpetuation of heritage resources and their public benefits.
- Become a more responsive, efficient, and accountable organization.
- Pursue maximum public benefits through contracts, cooperative agree-

ments, contributions, and other alternative approaches to support park operations.

Although some of these objectives apparently focus on park system units, all broadly represent the general goals and priorities of the NPS historic preservation programs. Collectively, they provide a systematic framework for assessing the effectiveness of the theme study project in identifying, evaluating, designating, and preserving the National Historic Landmarks described by the authors of the articles in this issue of *CRM*.

All of the authors show how National Historic Landmark designation helps establish a scientific/scholarly basis for resource management decisions. Robert Bradley, for example, indicates how NHL documentation can help Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation managers respond to erosion threatening site deposits at Pemaquid. Paul Huey shows how analysis of information preserved in the Fort Orange and Schuyler Flatts NHLs can contribute to more effective interpretation and management of other historic sites in New York. Melissa Fawcett eloquently demonstrates how ethnographic documentation of native oral traditions can help site managers and others appreciate the symbolic and spiritual significance of Shantok to the Mohegan people. And Mary Ellen Hodges and Randy Turner show how reassessment efforts recognizing previously undocumented Historic Contact components in the Camden NHL have contributed to the development of a five-year intensive survey of the Nanzattico community.

The high level of scholarship required for NHL designation provides the solid foundation essential for strengthening resource protection. The authors of the Norridgewock article show how systematic boundary survey required for NHL nomination contributed to the development of easements preserving archeological deposits at the Tracy Farm and Sandy River sites. Systematic research definitively demonstrating the national significance of Fort Orange archeological deposits played a major role in the decision to preserve surviving resources in place 17' below the interstate road-surface built above it.

Both Bradley's account of the history of preservation efforts at Pemaquid and Ralph Solecki's narrative tracing the more than 50-year-long struggle to rescue Fort Massapeag demonstrate how the NHL program can help sustain cultural resources in parks. Cowie, Petersen, and Bourque further show how interagency cooperation has supported development

of research plans that balance research needs with preservation imperatives at the Old Point site in the Norridgewock NHL.

Fawcett convincingly shows how appreciation of all aspects of a site's significance can help people forge emotional, intellectual, and recreational ties with their natural and cultural heritage. By participating in the celebration dedicating Shantok as a NHL, Mohegan leaders and tribespeople reaffirmed their emotional ties to the site while demonstrating the importance of those ties to state and federal participants in the ceremony.

Public dedication celebrations like those held at Shantok strengthen recognition and increase awareness of the benefits of preserving America's most significant sites for future generations. Publications, like the several scholarly articles using theme study nomination text materials and the forthcoming University of Oklahoma Press Historic Contact volume, further enhance appreciation of heritage resources. Hodges and Turner document how the response of Virginia's archeological and preservation communities to the theme study and related projects has helped implement the Nanzattico Archeological Project and provided other opportunities for public involvement and education on many levels. And increased awareness of the national significance of the Old Point, Tracy Farm, and Sandy River sites promises to enhance preservation efforts at the severely threatened Norridgewock NHL.

The designation of all of the properties nominated as NHLs through the Historic Contact theme study depended upon the responsiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the many agencies and individuals devoted to the preservation of the nation's cultural heritage. The tribal historians, public archeologists, and university scholars who have written the papers in this issue reflect only a small portion of the diversity represented in the growing partnerships that are emerging to preserve archeological and architectural sites and districts in a time of dwindling resources and diminishing government funding. Theme studies like the Historic Contact project can coordinate efforts across state lines and disciplinary boundaries. They can enlist voluntary support (each NHL nomination sponsor in the Historic Contact theme study was a volunteer who donated time from their own work plans), increase professional involvement (project product peer review was conducted through a cooperative agreement with the Society for American Archaeology and the Society for Historical Archaeology), and more efficiently use limited state and federal resources (project costs, almost entirely in the form of staff-time, were shared by several cooperating agen-

cies). Their accountability can be measured by their use in resource management decisions and their ongoing value as interpretive resources supporting public presentations. By these measures, projects like the partnership effort, involving the authors of the papers in this issue and the several hundred other people who worked together on the Historic Contact theme study, may be considered

among one of the most important things we can do.

Lloyd N. Chapman is NPS supervisory archeologist on the Resource Stewardship and Partnership Team in the Chesapeake and Allegheny System Support Offices, Northeast Field Area, in Philadelphia.

Veletta Canouts

The NHL Archeological Initiative

With the completion of the Historic Contact theme study to designate archeological properties as National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), the Archeological Assistance Program (AAP) has established the success of the NHL Archeological Initiative begun 10 years ago. The original initiative had two goals: (1) to develop nominations of new archeological properties, and (2) to increase professional and public awareness of the NHL program for long-term site protection.

Through the combined efforts of NPS regional AAP offices and the Archeological NHL Committee of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) and the Society for Historic Archaeology (SHA), the number of nominations and listings for archeology has increased by almost 50 since 1988. In FY 1987, the AAP workplan identified NHLs as an important component of the program, with the support of the Cultural Resources Associate Director, then Jerry L. Rogers. AAP regional offices began actively to promote and solicit NHL nominations; these offices developed nominations on their own and in cooperation with NPS units and other federal agencies, tribal, state, and local governments and with private landowners. Nominations flowed in for all types of sites—from rock art to monumental mound constructions—from as far north as Alaska and south to Mississippi.

The Archeological NHL Committee has been instrumental in providing expertise for the peer review of these nominations. Operating under a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperative Agreements with NPS, the SAA and SHA established formal review procedures. The first chair of that committee, Dr. David Brose, has since served on the Advisory Board for NHL designations.

The Archeological Assistance Program sponsored the preparation and publication of two tech-

nical briefs to promote archeology in the National Historic Landmarks program. The first brief, which described what NHLs are and how to nominate sites for NHL status, was published in 1988 (Technical Brief No. 3) and coincided with the AAP initiative to increase the number of archeological NHLs. Technical Brief No. 10, 1990, described how theme studies, which can integrate geographically or temporally dispersed sites, could be used for comprehensive planning. The author of the briefs, Dr. Robert Grumet, AAP staff member in the NPS Philadelphia office, demonstrated the applicability and efficacy of a thematic approach in the theme study highlighted in this issue of *CRM*.

Three National Park Service divisions, the Archeological NHL Committee, 17 State Historic Preservation Offices, several Native American tribes, and more than 200 professional and avocational archeologists and historians contributed to the study. Seventeen archeological properties representing 300 years of Indian, European, and African American interaction were added to the list of NHLs.

In 1992, this theme study and other successful NHL efforts were highlighted in a symposium, co-sponsored by NPS and SAA at the SAA national meetings in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The current "Earliest Americans National Historic Landmark Theme Study," a multi-year effort begun in 1994 to identify, evaluate, and designate archeological sites associated with the earliest sites of the nations first peoples, was similarly highlighted at this year's SAA meetings in Minneapolis at a workshop organized by AAP staff and SAA participants.

The goals of the NHL Archeological Initiative appear to be firmly grounded. The theme approach provides a context; the professional community is cooperating in promoting and reviewing NHL nominations; and the AAP is actively working