

Call for Papers

The Second National Forum on Historic Preservation Practice

Historic preservation is an ever-evolving interdisciplinary endeavor. In recent years, the number and range of disciplines active in the field has increased, each bringing with it a variety of new perceptions, approaches and methods. In an attempt to address these new approaches and investigate some of the core issues, in 1997 the National Council for Preservation Education, in partnership with the National Park Service and Goucher College, focused on the issue of historical significance. This second national forum, to be held March 12-13, 1999, again at Goucher College, will focus on the critical issue of historical integrity, in light of the new disciplines, approaches and methods being integrated.

What qualities of a historic property must remain in order for it to be recognized as having integrity? Different disciplines seem to hold varying concepts, and different resources seem to require various definitions. To an architectural historian, a structure, site, or district must retain a substantial amount of its original fabric in order to be seen as having integrity. It must look something like it did or be capable of being made to do so. To an archeologist, what a place looks like is far less important than how well preserved the information is that the place contains. To landscape historians, integrity may include the understanding of ecological processes as they affected human settlement, and the degree to which those processes function today. Understanding processes may be essential to assessing landscape integrity. Beyond these questions are major issues about integrity that have nothing to do with the physical characteristics at all. For example, with regard to traditional cultural properties, one important variable is the "integrity of relationship" between a place and the community that values it. This may also include the relationship to the surrounding landscape context. And in many cases the role the property plays in the ongoing social life of the community—its social integrity—is a very important factor.

In this, the second conference, the focus will be upon concepts of integrity as they have been, and as they might be, applied to historic preservation in public policy and professional practice. Because interdisciplinary work best occurs when there is common understanding to which all of the contributing disciplines can relate, the questions of integrity—how it is conceptualized, evolves through research, is applied in practice, and is translated into treatment—are of fundamental concern.

Among the topics to be included are:

- Who defines integrity?

- What are the differing views of integrity among various disciplines and the public?
- How much can a place change and still retain its integrity, when change is a critical measure?
- How does the view of integrity lead to differing mitigation or treatment strategies?
- Is integrity a static or dynamic concept; so what?
- Are there hidden criteria that determine integrity?
- How can we communicate the importance of integrity to other professionals and the public?

A major purpose of the conference is to bring together persons from a variety of backgrounds to exchange ideas. Anthropologists, archeologists (pre-historic and historic), architects, architectural historians, cultural historians, cultural and historical geographers, folklorists, historians of landscape and landscape architecture, historic preservationists, planners, social historians, and urban historians working in academic institutions, preservation offices, and private practice are among the groups to whom the conference is oriented.

Papers should be analytical rather than primarily descriptive in content, and should address issues, not simply present case studies. The paper should focus on new material that brings fresh information and/or insights to the field. Each paper should be 20 minutes (approximately 10 to 12 pages) in length. Abstracts should be between 300 and 500 words, submitted **no later than March 15, 1998**. Abstracts will be selected on the basis of topic, argument and organization. The selection committee reserves the right to request modifications to proposals. All persons submitting abstracts will be notified May 1, 1998. Papers are due in final form on September 7, 1998, and will be made available to conference attendees. Publication of the proceedings is anticipated in both electronic and printed format, so that submissions should include electronic copies on IBM compatible or Macintosh diskettes, with illustrations.

Academics and professionals working in the preservation field and in all disciplines related to it are invited to submit proposals. "Multiple Views; Multiple Meanings" is scheduled to take place on March 12-13, 1999 at Goucher College, in Towson, Maryland. Abstracts and any inquiries should be sent to: Michael A. Tomlan, Project Director, National Council for Preservation Education, 210 West Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853; 607-255-7261; FAX: 607-255-1971; email: <mat4@cornell.edu>.