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Heritage Matters- March 2006

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HERITAGE MATTERS

NEWS OF THE NATION'S DIVERSE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Historic Preservation in the Aftermath of Katrina

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Brian D. Joyner
National Park Service

Natural disasters take a heavy toll on a community. Human casualties and damage to property are the most obvious. The economic impact usually comes to mind afterward. The loss of buildings, sites, or districts due to the event seldom receives a great deal of consideration. However, in the case of the 2005 hurricane season, the impact on the southeast's cultural heritage was immense. With 26 storms and 13 hurricanes this season, the states along the Gulf Coast, which include Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, were battered repeatedly over the six-month period. Those

affected most, often diverse communities, are often the least able to afford it.

New Orleans, a city already 6 feet below sea level, was overrun by the category-5 Hurricane Katrina. Homes in low-lying, and primarily African American, neighborhoods such as historic the Lower Ninth Ward were caked in mud and received massive water damage. However, Biloxi, Mississippi, was nearly washed off of the map, losing landmarks such as the Pleasant Reed Home, the house of a prominent African American in Biloxi during the late 1800s through early 1900s, and Beauvoir, the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, where more than half of the property

was destroyed. Other Mississippi towns such as Pass Christian and Bay St. Louis were devastated, with homes moved off of their piers and supports damaged to the point of collapse. Add to it the cumulative damage inflicted by Rita, and the need for expertise on the best way to preserve and protect resources became apparent.

Many preservation-related agencies and organizations pooled their resources during the hurricane season to assist storm victims. The American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Environmental, Historic Preservation, and Cultural Resources Programs,

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Vann House, connected to the Cherokee Trail of Tears in Georgia, was recently listed in the National Register. See page 7.



This historic commercial building at the corner of Jackson Avenue and Magazine Street in the New Orleans Garden District illustrates the severe damage caused by both wind and water during Katrina. African American-owned properties were particularly hard hit throughout the Gulf Coast. Photo courtesy of Carlos Sanchez, Quinn Evans/Architects, Washington, DC.

HERITAGE
MATTERS
MARCH 2006

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Creole Focus: HABS Photographs in Natchitoches, Louisiana

Virginia Price
National Park Service

In the 1930s, the nascent Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) arrived in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and recorded examples of the parish's distinctive Creole architecture for what would become the HABS collection at the Library of Congress. The sites selected by HABS were located in town and along the Cane River. One of those places, Oakland, is now part of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park. Seventy years later,

HABS returned to Natchitoches at the behest of the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission to augment the documentation produced during the initial HABS effort.

In 2002 and 2004, HABS photographed public and private buildings used for religious, commercial, and domestic purposes. Many of these are Creole in character, proportionate to the sampling of architectural styles seen throughout the parish and to the numbers of extant structures associated with the Cane River Creole community. The Cane River Creoles are the descendants of the *gens de couleur libre* (free people of color) who shared a mix of French, Spanish, Native American, and African ancestry, and settled

primarily in Isle Brevelle in lower Natchitoches Parish by the end of the 18th century.

In Isle Brevelle, free people of color financed and built St. Augustine Catholic Church in 1803, although the current building dates to the 20th century. St. Charles Chapel, on the other hand, is notable for its role as a "chapel of ease" for area residents (a chapel of ease is a church built within the bounds of a parish for the attendance of those who cannot reach the parish church conveniently). As a mission of St. Augustine, the chapel was erected by people of color for a predominantly white congregation. St. Augustine Historical Society now owns the Badin Roque House, which briefly served as a Catholic school from 1857 to 1859. This house is a rare survivor of those buildings erected with *poteaux en terre* (posts in the ground) and

Roubieu-Jones House, also known as the Carroll Jones House for the man (a free person of color) who bought it in the 1860s, is the oldest extant, fully raised Creole house in Natchitoches. Courtesy of Jack E. Boucher, HABS.





(Left) St. Charles Chapel, in Natchez, Natchitoches Parish, sits just across from Beau Fort Plantation and served the Bermuda community after its dedication in 1910. Courtesy of James Rosenthal, HABS.



(Right) Stunning in its appearance, the Africa House at Melrose Plantation reflects the cultural continuity between enslaved African Americans and their West African antecedents. Courtesy of Jack E. Boucher, HABS.

bousillage (a mixture of moss and mud).

Secular places, along with the spiritual, weave a communal fabric through Isle Brevelle and beyond. Examples are the two juke joints photographed by HABS. Juke joints, such as Woods Hall and Bubba's, were places of leisure for the Creoles, offering music, games, racing, and gathering spots in a segregated era.

In recognition of the parish's predominantly agricultural character, the HABS photography assignment covered piece-sur-piece cabins, plantation stores, outbuildings, a cotton gin, the former slave and tenant farmer quarters at Magnolia Plantation, and Creole houses along the Cane River. The sample also included National Historic Landmarks such as Melrose, a plantation created by Louis Metoyer in the first half of the 19th century. Metoyer was a free person of color born to a Frenchman, Claude T.P. Metoyer, and an enslaved woman, Marie Therese.

Marie Therese is considered the matriarch of the Cane River Creoles

and her association with these places lends the architecturally significant structures a cultural credence. Research related to the property she owned between 1786 and 1816 is ongoing. Preservation work at Melrose continues as well. One building on the Melrose grounds is Africa House. This is a masonry and cypress structure remarkable for its appearance as well as the murals within that were painted by the folk artist Clementine Hunter over the course of 50 years, from the 1930s through the 1980s. The murals themselves record the rhythms of life in Cane River—ceremonies, entertainment, and cotton agriculture—whereas the image of Africa House, with its ties to West African building traditions, was quickly seized by those anxious to find evidence of Africanisms surviving slavery within the African Diaspora.

The significance attached to the form of Africa House is, in part, the legacy of the Louisiana Purchase, after which Anglo preferences infiltrated Natchitoches, and spilled over on the parish's vernacular architecture. One dwelling, a fully

raised Creole house, expresses this overlay of Anglo-American traditions through a large, central staircase leading up to the gallery. The location of the staircase suggests a central hall plan, common in British North America by the second quarter of the 18th century, rather than the Creole vernacular. Yet, at the top of the central stair, multiple portals of a traditional Creole house confront the visitor. Fully developed, national architectural trends did make their appearance in Natchitoches, but the Creole buildings are what provide a focus for photographers intent on capturing the essence of a culturally diverse place for the archive of American architecture.

For more information on HABS documentation work at Cane River, contact Virginia Price at virginia_price@nps.gov.



A 2005 CRDIP intern stands at a gravesite honoring William Anderson with her intern coordinator and Army officers at Fort Drum, NY. Courtesy of Laurie Rush.

Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program

Michèle Gates Moresi
National Park Service

During the summer of 2005, the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program cosponsored 13 interns who worked at National Park Service (NPS) park units and offices, state museums and historic preservation offices, and private nonprofit institutions across the country. All of the interns participated in the annual Career Workshop, held in Washington, DC, where they met one another, spoke with cultural resource managers, and met with former NPS Director, Robert Stanton, and current Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Janet Snyder Matthews. Also during the workshop, interns learned about careers in the field from professionals working with NPS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Smithsonian Institution.

The Diversity Internship Program is entering its 8th year of cosponsoring unique opportunities for students of diverse background to work in the field of cultural

resources and historic preservation. This is part of a larger effort by the National Park Service to diversify the cultural resources field. With the cooperation and generous support of partners, the program continues to grow and succeed in providing interns with rewarding experiences. The program will cosponsor 10 to 14 interns during the summer 2006 and 2 to 4 interns during the semesters 2006-2007.

For more information, visit the website <http://www.cr.nps.gov/crdip> and click "Internships."

NHL Designations

Recently, 19 new sites were designated National Historic Landmarks. Four of the sites have particular significance to diverse communities: the Granada and Tule Lake Relocation Centers, the Hitchcock House, and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. National Historic Landmarks are exceptional, nationally significant places designated by the Secretary of the Interior. Fewer than 2,500 historic places carry the title of National Historic Landmark.

- **The Granada Relocation Center**, also known as the Amache Relocation Camp, was the smallest of 10 camps that housed Japanese Americans relocated from the West Coast by the War Relocation Authority (WRA). Construction work on Amache began in June 1942. The internment camp was only half complete when the first evacuees began arriving from assembly centers in August 1942. Located near the town of Granada, Colorado, Amache housed 7,597 evacuees, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens.

- **Tule Lake** in Modoc County, California, was the largest and longest-lived of the 10 camps built by the War Relocation Authority to house the nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans relocated from the West Coast during World War II, pursuant to Executive Order 9066. In 1943, the facility was converted to a maximum security segregation center for evacuees deemed by the WRA to be "disloyal."
- **The Hitchcock House** is the home of the militant anti-slavery leader of the Congregational Church mission in western Iowa, Reverend George Hitchcock. He used his home to assist in the safe passage of fugitive slaves through southwestern Iowa on their way east and north to freedom during the mid-19th century. The Hitchcock House, a part of the NPS's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, illustrates the geographic reach of the Underground Railroad and its expansion westward.
- **Sixteenth Street Baptist Church** in Birmingham, Alabama, was the site of a Ku Klux Klan attack on September 15, 1963, that killed four African American girls. The bombing of the church shocked the nation and galvanized the civil rights movement. Nearly 8,000 black and white citizens of Birmingham attended the funeral. The public outcry in the days and weeks to follow was recognized as a catalyst to the eventual passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

For more information on the National Historic Landmark Survey Program and designation, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl>.

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

Presenting Race and Slavery at Historic Sites Research Project

Michèle Gates Moresi
National Park Service

Slavery and race relations are topics that must be addressed in numerous historic parks within the National Park System. In recent year, many historic places have expanded and improved their interpretive programs to incorporate current scholarship and convey to visitors the historic context of a park or historic site in all its complexity—economic and political issues, social relations, and community life. An important factor for parks to consider while they are planning and implementing new interpretive programs is how visitors perceive the information presented to them. Basic visitor surveys traditionally evaluate how the visitors enjoyed their experience at a park, the ease of locating and using facilities, and the quality of customer service at the park. But what about their learning experience?

To this end, a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Center for the Study of Public Culture and Public History of The George Washington University supports the research project, Presenting Race and Slavery at Historic Sites. It focuses on visitor and staff perceptions of the interpretation of slavery and race relations. Survey questions are designed to elicit basic information about what a visitor saw, heard, or read at the site; what visitors thought about the things they saw, heard, or read;

how the presented information compared to what they already understood about the topic; and allow people to express their opinions. The purpose of these surveys is to obtain substantive responses from visitors in order to learn about their expectations and reception to how slavery and race relations are presented at a particular site. The results of the surveys will provide valuable information for historians and historical interpreters who are studying the impact of this complex history. It will also present an opportunity for dialogue among NPS historians, cultural resources personnel, and George Washington University's James O. Horton and the research team on ways to enhance historical presentations.

The Presenting Race and Slavery project builds on previous independent surveys conducted by Professor Horton and a team of graduate students that revealed competing ideas about the content of interpretive material at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson; at Colonial Williamsburg; and at Gettysburg National Military Park. The team conducted surveys interviewing visitors and interpreters about the content of self-guided and guided tours.

The current project conducts surveys at three National Park Service sites. Surveys and reports have been completed at Arlington House (Robert E. Lee Memorial, George Washington Memorial Parkway) and Manassas National Battlefield Park. The third site is Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. A graduate student will conduct interviews with staff and visitors at Harpers Ferry during the spring of 2006 and a report

presenting the results of the survey will be completed by the fall.

The final reports will be available through the Social Science Program and the Cultural Resources Diversity Program, both of the National Park Service. Professor Horton will contribute an article to *CRM Journal* synthesizing the information gathered from all three surveys.

For more information, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/crdi/research.htm>

STATE INITIATIVES

National Register Nominations

Caridad de la Vega, Rustin Quaide
National Conference of State Historic
Preservation Officers

Rockefeller Park and Cleveland Cultural Gardens Historic District

The Rockefeller Park and Cleveland Cultural Gardens Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in the areas of entertainment and recreation, community planning and development, and ethnic heritage. Rockefeller Park, a

large urban park designed in the Victorian Picturesque style, is located in Cleveland, Ohio, and sits in a residential area located in the eastern section of the city. The park contains such resources as a lagoon, rock outcroppings, varying ornamental plantings, and concrete as well as masonry bridges. Part of the recreation and parks movement that swept the United States during the turn of the century, Rockefeller Park comprises part of an unbroken chain of parklands that span from Lake Erie to Shaker Heights, a suburban community located south of the park.

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens, located within the park,

is significant for reflecting the cultural diversity of Cleveland. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Cleveland attracted groups from central, southern, and eastern Europe. The city's cultural make-up is displayed through the garden's design elements as they represent the traditional arts and architecture of the culture being showcased. Sculptures by world-renowned sculptor Alexander Archipenko and Cleveland-born Czech-American sculptor Frank Jirouch ornament the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. The park's period of significance spans from 1894 to 1954, encompassing the City Beautiful Movement, era of the New Deal, as well as other themes and periods.

The Hungarian Garden is one of many resources found at the Rockefeller Park and Cultural Gardens located in Cleveland, Ohio. Courtesy of Roy Hampton.



University of Maryland Eastern Shore

In 1886, the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church established a school on Maryland's eastern shore to offer higher education to African American students. The Delaware Conference Academy, later known as the Princess Anne Academy, opened with an enrollment of 9 students, rising to 37 over the course of the year. In 1948, after changing from a junior college to a four-year school, it was renamed Maryland State College, and in 1970, became the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. During that time, the school served students throughout the Middle Atlantic region with a program in agricultural sciences.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with higher education and ethnic heritage.



(Top) J.T. Williams Hall, named for a former chief executive officer, serves as the main administration building for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Courtesy of the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office.

The Spring Place Historic District

The Spring Place Historic District in Murray County, Georgia, is a small crossroads community encompassing historic residential and commercial resources that developed around the holdings of James Vann, a Cherokee chief, and the establishment of a Moravian mission. Vann and the Cherokee had been trading in the area since the 1770s, and the Vann family became prosperous as a result. It was Chief Vann's concern for the educational and spiritual well-being of the area's Cherokees that prompted him to offer the Moravian missionaries a site in the area. Vann provided financial and logistical support for the mission upon its establishment in what is now Murray County, Georgia, around 1801. The Moravian Mission provided a school for the Cherokee in Murray County. The mission became known for its influence in Native American communities—

most Cherokee chiefs were educated by the Moravians and the chiefs consulted with the missionaries on critical matters.

Vann's son, Joseph, inherited the family home and plantation after Chief Vann's death in 1809. The Vann House hosted President James Monroe during his 1819 tour of the Southeast and the Cherokee Nation. The discovery of gold in the Northern Georgia Mountains led to an increase in European settlement and call for the removal of the Cherokee and other Native American groups from the area, culminating in the Trail of Tears.

Cameron School

Cameron School is located in Nashville, Tennessee, in a predominantly African American community known as Trimble Bottom, located approximately four miles southeast of the State Capitol. The school is significant for its

association with the community's African American heritage, and in the areas of social history and education. Cameron's period of significance spans from 1939, when segregated education in the United States was the norm, up to 1954. Built in a modified Late Gothic Revival style by the Public Works Administration (PWA) for African Americans in Nashville, the school provided a community gathering place, and offered neighborhood outreach programs.

The school is named after Nashville native Henry Alvin Cameron, a science teacher who taught at another local segregated school, known as the Pearl School, from 1897 until 1917, at which time he volunteered for World War I



(Above) The Renaga-Headley-Edgerton House located on Second Street, is one of 84 contributing resources to the Rio Grande City Downtown Historic District, Texas. Courtesy of Terri Myers.



(Left) Odd Fellows Hall once served as a meeting hall for the African American community, Blacksburg, Virginia, during the first half of the 19th century. Courtesy of Michael J. Pulice.



(Below) Cameron is one of two African American schools built in Nashville, Tennessee, as part of Roosevelt's New Deal Era programs. Courtesy of Carroll Van West.

and died in service to his country. It stands as one of the first schools in Nashville to honor of an African American and served as one of the central social institutions for the African American community.

Rio Grande City Downtown Historic District

Rio Grande City Downtown Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in the areas of architecture, community planning and development, and

ethnic heritage. Located in Rio Grande City, Texas, a town on the United States-Mexican border, the district consists of 84 contributing resources, a large majority of which are commercial and domestic structures.

The district's buildings are mainly examples of vernacular types particular to the region of South Texas from the latter part of the 19th century, showcasing architectural influences from Mexico, but also characteristics germane to the other ethnic groups that settled the area, notably

French, Spanish and Germans. Rio Grande City boasts one of the best concentrations of vernacular architecture in the South Texas corridor that extends from Laredo to Brownsville. Although the town was not officially platted until 1848 by founder Henry Clay Davis, the district's period of significance spans from 1840 to 1940, just prior to U.S. involvement in World War II.

Odd Fellows Hall

Odd Fellows Hall, located in the community of New Town, is situated in the southwest section of the downtown commercial area of Blacksburg, Virginia. The hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the community's African American ethnic heritage. Built of wooden construction, the hall is designed in a simple vernacular style. The hall's period of significance spans from 1905 to 1955, when it was used by the local African American community as a gathering place for social functions at a time in American history when public facilities were racially segregated. The first floor of the hall was utilized on a weekly basis for social gatherings, including church suppers, dances, and community meetings, while the second floor was reserved as meeting space for members of the society. Odd Fellows Hall stands as one of the few remaining structures in New Town, once the social center of the local African American community. Once desegregation took place throughout the South in the 1960s, the hall ceased to serve as a social and fraternal organization for the community.

TRIBAL INITIATIVES

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

As of November 28, 2005, the Native American tribes with officially recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Offices include:

- Absentee Shawnee Tribe (Oklahoma)
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (California)
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (California)
- Bishop Paiute Tribe (California)
- Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe of Indians (California)
- Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma (Oklahoma)
- Catawba Indian Nation (South Carolina)
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (South Dakota)
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation (Montana)
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Oklahoma)
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (Montana)
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Washington)
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation (Oregon)
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon (Oregon)
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (North Carolina)
- The Ho-Chunk Nation (Wisconsin)
- Hualapai Tribe (Arizona)
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (Michigan)
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin (Wisconsin)
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Wisconsin)
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Michigan)
- Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (Minnesota)
- Lummi Nation (Washington)
- Makah Tribe (Washington)
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (Wisconsin)
- Mescalero Apache Tribe (New Mexico)
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians (Minnesota)
- Narragansett Indian Tribe (Rhode Island)
- Navajo Nation (Arizona)
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe (Montana)
- Onieda Nation of Wisconsin (Wisconsin)
- Passamaquoddy Tribe (Maine)
- Penobscot Nation (Maine)
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians (Alabama)
- Pueblo of Zuni (New Mexico)
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas (Wisconsin)
- Seneca Nation of Indians (New York)
- Sisseton-Wahpenton Oyate (South Dakota)
- Skokomish Indian Tribe (Washington)
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians (Utah)
- Smith River Rancheria (California)
- Spokane Tribe of Indians (Washington)
- Squaxin Island Tribe (Washington)
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota)
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians (Wisconsin)
- Table Bluff Reservation-Wiyot Tribe (California)
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe (California)
- Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana (Louisiana)
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (North Dakota)
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Massachusetts)
- White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa (Minnesota)
- White Mountain Apache Tribe (Arizona)
- Yurok Tribe (California)

For more information on THPOs, contact James Bird at 202/354-1837, e-mail: james_bird@nps.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONFERENCES, AND EVENTS

Announcements

Supporting a Year of the Museum Resolution in Your Community

In conjunction with its centennial anniversary, the American Association of Museums (AAM) has declared 2006 the Year of the Museum. It is a time to celebrate the many ways museums enrich our lives and our communities. It represents the beginning of a major national effort to encourage all Americans to experience, celebrate, and support the museums in their communities. Communities can highlight these local efforts and participate by working with state and local officials to propose resolutions to recognize the Year of the Museum.

Year of the Museum resolutions are significant gestures by local officials to convey the importance of museums to the public. The resolutions were crafted to include a broad spectrum of museums of all disciplines and sizes. They should celebrate and make the case for museums—as places of discovery, community, and life-long learning.

For more information about the Year of the Museum, to register your museum, and to find resources for creating a resolution and getting it passed, visit www.aam-us.org/yom.

African American Architects Receive Prestigious Award for Excellence in Design

The Freelon Group Architects and RTKL partnership, which designed the newly opened Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, has won the “2005 Public Building of the Year Award” presented by the American

Institute of Architects/ Maryland state chapter (AIA Maryland). The prestigious award was presented at AIA Maryland’s Annual 2005 Design Awards program held September 28, 2005, at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland. Led by Phil Freelon and Gary Bowden, the partnership had previously received the 2001 Isosceles Award for architectural design excellence.

AIA Maryland celebrates the design accomplishment of architects in Maryland with this annual event. The competition is open to individual members and firms whose principals are members of AIA Maryland. The 2005 AIA Maryland Design Awards aim to encourage and recognize distinguished architectural achievement and focus public attention on the architect’s role in shaping the quality of life through design excellence.

To learn more about the Reginald F. Lewis Museum or to obtain visitor information, please visit the Museum’s website at <http://www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org> or call 443/263-1800.

Vernacular Architecture Forum Solicits Nominations for the Paul E. Buchanan Award for Excellence in Field Work and Interpretation

The Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) seeks nominations for the Paul E. Buchanan Award for 2006. Initiated by VAF in 1993, the award recognizes excellence in field work and interpretative projects that contribute significantly to our knowledge of vernacular architecture and landscape studies. Paul E. Buchanan served for over 30 years as the Director of Architectural Research at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, setting

the standard for architectural fieldwork in America.

Projects completed in 2004 and 2005 are eligible for consideration and may include, but are not limited to architectural recording projects (including HABS/HAER), historic structures reports, cultural resource surveys, historic designation studies, and preservation plans.

The award will be announced at the 2006 VAF Conference in New York City. Winner of the 2005 Buchanan Award was (The corporation for) Jefferson’s Poplar Forest, for its path-breaking research, restoration, and interpretation of Thomas Jefferson’s Villa Retreat, and associated field school.

For more information, please contact Mark Reinberger, University of Georgia, reinberg@uga.edu.

Conferences

March 2006 Museums and the Web 2006

Archives and Museums Infomatics will host “Museums and the Web 2006” on March 22-25, 2006, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference will address the social, cultural, design, technological, economic, and organizational issues of culture and heritage online. Taking an international perspective, senior speakers with extensive experience in Web development will review and analyze the issues and impacts of networked cultural and natural heritage.

MW2006 will feature plenary sessions, parallel sessions, museum project demonstrations, commercial exhibits, mini-workshops, professional fora, a usability lab, a design “Crit Room,” and the Best of the Web awards. Presentations will include “Linking Minority Communities Through the

Web” and “The Online and Onsite Holocaust Museum Exhibition as an Informational Resource.”

For more information, visit <http://www.archimuse.com/mw2006/index.html>.

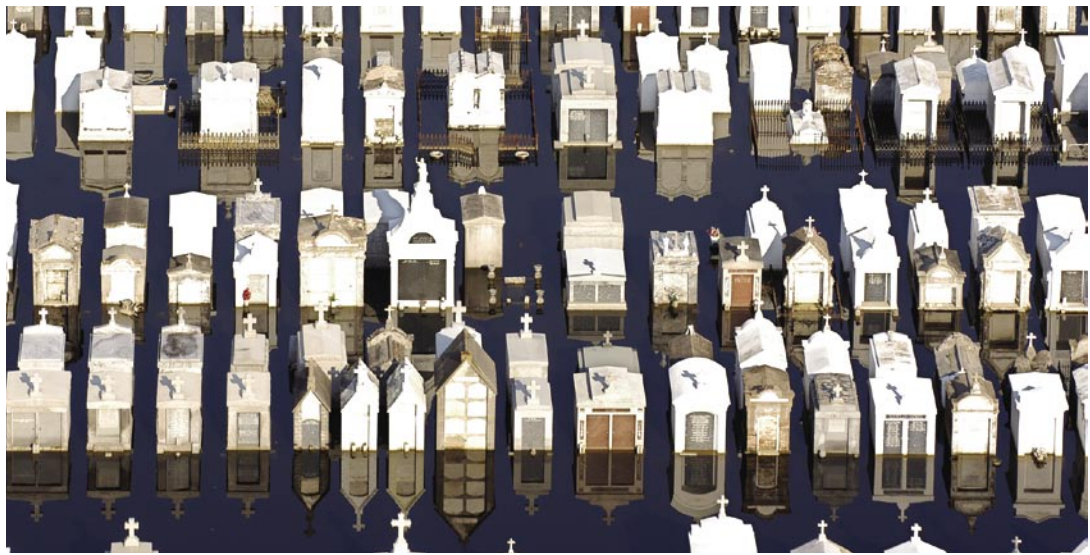
April 2006 OAH/NCPH Joint Conference

The 99th annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and the 28th annual Meeting of the National Council on Public History (NCPH) will be held jointly at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, DC, April 19-22, 2006. The program theme, “Our America/Nuestra América” is meant to explore the many meanings of “America” for people living in North America and beyond. Touching on the concept of Nuestra América as articulated by 19th-century Cuban poet and patriot José Martí, this year’s program committee has designed a meeting which expands the definition of “America” beyond borders and across bodies of water, and will engage us in debates about the place of the United States in the Western hemisphere and the world.

Events

Preservation-related Commemorations

- African American Heritage Month (February)
- Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May)
- Historic Preservation Month (May)
- 100th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (June 8)
- Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month (September 15–October 15)
- 40th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (October 15)
- American Indian Heritage Month (November)



An aerial view of the flooded historic St. Louis Cemetery one week after hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans. The post-hurricane flooding resulted from breaches in the levees surrounding the city. Courtesy of Chris Usher for TIME.

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and Gulf Coast states’ historic preservation offices (SHPOs), sent teams to assist in condition assessments, rehabilitation and restoration efforts, and the work of determining the viability of the remaining cultural and historic fabric. The American Association of Museums (AAM) created “First Reports” webpages to report on museums and cultural resources in the wake of both hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The National Park Service detailed professionals to other agencies to assist in the documentation process, as well as emergency stabilization of structures and protection of archeological sites.

FEMA provided much of the technical assistance in the aftermath of the hurricanes. Strategic planning with the SHPOs about historic preservation needs and hazard mitigation occupy much of its operations. The AIA Disaster Response and Recovery Program’s primary mission was assisting small property owners with condition assessments and member architects with support. In conjunction with the American Planning

Association, AIA presented the Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference in New Orleans on November 10-12, 2005, to address pressing needs and explore strategies needed to facilitate recovery efforts. The conference was cosponsored by other organizations, such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

Natural disasters affecting historic properties are not new nor are they limited to the Gulf Coast. Tornadoes rip through the Plains and Midwest annually and forest fires destroy acres of woodlands in the West, while ruining lives. FEMA deals with disasters regularly—on average 49 disasters a year since 1991—but nothing comparable to last hurricane season. As the estimates begin to come in, the cost to our nation’s cultural heritage, from grand buildings to vernacular neighborhoods, will be calculated not only in dollars, but in absences and memories.

For more information, visit http://www.aia.org/about_katrina_aid; <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/>; and <http://www.ncshpo.org>.



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Heritage Matters Editor



Hurricane Katrina's wreckage in Gulfport, Mississippi, illustrates the heavy toll on lives, property, heritage, and wildlife. See page 1. Photo courtesy of Chris Usher for Time.

HERITAGE MATTERS

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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service is dedicated to conserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and the values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Service also cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

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