

V I N E Y A R D

revealing the relationship between Americans and their land

AN OCCASIONAL RECORD OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE

VOLUME III, ISSUE 2 / 2001

Making Educated Decisions— Goes On-Line

Pam Daniel
Historic Landscape Initiative,
National Park Service
Washington, DC

The National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative is pleased to announce the 'Live' edition of Making Educated Decisions: A Landscape Preservation Bibliography (*MEDs*). With a surge in related publications and a commitment to providing timely updates, the Historic Landscape Initiative has expanded its *MEDs* database to a free online format located on the Internet at <<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/hli/meds/>>.

Perhaps the most exciting element of the new annotated bibliography is its interactive format, which allows users to customize their search using the built-in database search engine. Within seconds, the user can search the *MEDs* database to locate resources on general subjects, such as "battlefield landscapes"

and technical topics, such as "embedded aggregate treatment for pavements."

The guided menus assist users at all levels, providing both simple as well as advanced search options with as many as eight fields of selection criteria. Beyond the customary author, subject, geographic location and title index categories, a new feature of the web-based format is the keyword search, facilitating the location of terms within the abstract as well as the article citation. These enhanced search options provide quicker collection of resources, allowing the user to create personalized research lists and import bibliographic information directly into the user's documents.

Today more than ever, professionals undertaking project work in landscape architecture, historic preservation, archaeology, planning, geography, landscape management, maintenance and cultural landscape studies



Picnicking at Christmas Lake, c. 1940, see related article, page 9. Courtesy Mn/DOT.

have numerous resources for information. The *MEDs* collection is an annotated bibliography to

assist the user in making informed decisions when researching, planning, managing, interpreting, and undertaking cultural landscape project work, targeting scholarly-level publications that go a step beyond the issues by enhancing detailed research with critical analysis. An example of publications that have historically contributed a large percentage of articles include *George Wright Forum*, *Cultural Resource Management (CRM)*, and *APT Bulletin*. Thanks to a heightened focus on issues surrounding the treatment and management of cultural landscapes, several new publications have been added to our list research agenda including *Planning* magazine and the *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

continued on page 3



Save the Dates! April 5-6, 2002

Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture II, the follow-up to the 1995 Conference held at Wave Hill (which became a 1999 Spacemaker Press publication bearing the same title) will be held on Friday, April 5 and Saturday April 6, 2002. The conference will be co-sponsored by the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative, The CATALOG of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill, The New York Landmarks Conservancy and the Cultural Landscape Foundation. Speakers will be international in scope and will include leaders in historic preservation, landscape architecture, architecture and landscape history.

continued on page 3

In This Issue— Features

Making Educated Decisions	1
Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture Conference II	1

In The Field

Minnesota SHPO's Partnerships	3
Preserving Pittsburgh's Allegheny Commons	6

In Every Issue

Survey: Minnesota DOT's Historic Roadside Landscape Features	9
Treatment: Kentucky Streetscape Guidelines	12
Call for Papers: Historic Campus Grounds	15

The Last Word

Katherine H. Stevenson

*Associate Director, Cultural Resource
Stewardship and Partnerships*

de Teel Patterson Tiller

*Deputy Associate Director, Cultural Resource
Stewardship and Partnerships*

John Robbins

*Assistant Director, National Center for Cultural
Resources*

Sharon C. Park, FAIA

Chief, Technical Preservation Services

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA

*Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative
Editor, Vineyard*

Laurie E. Hempton

Design and Production, Vineyard

Pam Daniel

Intern, Historic Landscape Initiative

Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service is dedicated to conserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Service is also responsible for managing a great variety of national and international programs designed to help extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



HPS
Heritage
Preservation
Services

Welcome to **VINEYARD**

The Historic Landscape Initiative (HLI) is pleased to present this edition of *Vineyard*. With this fifth issue, we truly celebrate our partnership initiatives with our state partners (Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Kentucky Heritage Council) and regional stewards (Pittsburgh History and Landmarks, North Side Leadership Council, New York City Landmarks Commission, Wave Hill, University of Minnesota, University of Kentucky Landscape Architecture Department).

This edition also highlights two national conferences that the Historic Landscape Initiative is co-sponsoring in 2002: Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture II (for details see cover of this issue) and Preserving and Managing Historic Campus and University Grounds (see call for papers, page 15.)

We are also pleased to announce that the Historic Landscape Initiative, along with our project partners—the Library of American Landscape History, the Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill and the Cultural Landscape Foundation—were the recipients of a Merit Award in Communications from the American Society of Landscape Architects for our collaborative effort, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. In the November issue of *Landscape Architecture* magazine the jury noted that “*Pioneers* is providing the spark for better informed historic preservation.”

The *Pioneers* and HLI share a common goal for better informed historic preservation work, as illustrated by the projects featured in this *Vineyard*. From appropriate treatment recommendations for our Main Streets and streetscapes to documentation and evaluation strategies for our historic roads, the HLI chronicles and presents recent pioneering efforts in this final issue of 2001. The project partners at a state, local and university level are all to be applauded for these groundbreaking undertakings which will surely inspire other national efforts.

Finally, note that all editions of *Vineyard* along with the *Making Educated Decisions* database are available on line at www2.cr.nps.gov/hli.

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA
Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative

Mission of the Historic Landscape Initiative

The Historic Landscape Initiative develops preservation planning tools that respect and reveal the relationship between Americans and their land.

The Initiative provides essential guidance to accomplish sound preservation practice on a variety of landscapes, from parks and gardens to rural villages and agricultural landscapes.

The Historic Landscape Initiative is committed to ongoing preservation of cultural landscapes that can yield an improved quality of life for all, a sense of place, and identity for future generations.

Making Educated Decisions-- Goes On-Line

continued from cover

Continuing in the tradition of the previous two editions, *Making Educated Decisions: A Landscape Preservation Bibliography* reflects the National Park Service mission to promote, “a wise use of our land, (and) preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places.”

If you have an article for inclusion in this database, please forward a copy to *MEDs* Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative (NC 320), National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Save the Date!

continued from cover

The first day of the two day conference will be held at Wave Hill in the Bronx, New York and will aim to explore recent innovations and advancements in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Portugal regarding the planning, management and interpretation of post-war masterworks of landscape architecture. Day two, will be held in Manhattan and will aim to establish a historic context for dealing with this heritage and increase public support and appreciation. These papers will highlight the shapers of these often “invisible” landscapes by such masters as Hideo Sasaki, Robert Zion and M. Paul Friedberg. Speakers will include historians Marc Trieb and Richard Longstreth along with landscape architects M. Paul Friedberg, Stuart Dawson, Grant Jones and Laurie Olin among others.

If you received this *Vineyard* publication you will receive the conference mailing at the beginning of next year. In the interim, for immediate information contact the CATALOG at Wave Hill at 718.549.3200.

Cover image: *The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden at the Museum of Modern Art.*
Postcard image courtesy Charles Birnbaum.

Right image: *The Lake District of Minneapolis.*
Lake of the Isles, foreground; Lake Calhoun, center; Lake Harriet, in the distance.
Image from the book, *“Minneapolis Park System 1883-1944,”* by Theodore Wirth.

An Innovative and Evolving Partnership

Dennis Gimmestad
Government and Programs
Compliance Officer
Minnesota SHPO

Much of the work of a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) involves the review of work on historic properties—work proposed by agencies, reviewed through the Section 106 process; by developers, reviewed through tax act applications; by non-profits and cities, reviewed through grant proposals; and by a wide variety of constituents simply seeking technical advice on proper preservation practices.

In each review case, the primary focus usually centers on the project specifics and the drawings on the table, with the goal of achieving compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards*. A broader view also recognizes that each review case presents an opportunity for collaboration with others that may have a great deal of influence on many other historic properties in the future. So, in addition to resolving the design issues of a particular project proposal, the SHPO can often foster connections with expert technical resources that may engender good preservation work for years to come.

Over the past year, the Minnesota SHPO (MnSHPO) has taken this approach in addressing historic landscape issues in several review cases. Working with the Historic Landscape Initiative (HLI) at the National Park Service, several working sessions, on-site tours, public lectures and discussions have addressed landscape concerns at a variety of historic properties.



Tentative Study Plan for West Section of a Metropolitan Park System for the Twin Cities, 1935.
Image from the book, *“Minneapolis Park System 1883-1944,”* by Theodore Wirth.

The collaboration arose from a series of Section 106 reviews with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) for permits related to work in areas of the Minneapolis Park System. Linked by a network of parkways—the “Grand Rounds”—conceived by pioneer landscape gardener H.W.S. Cleveland (1814-1900), this park system had not been evaluated for National Register eligibility until a COE permit application for a water quality project proposed to convert a meadow area to

a wetland. The Grand Rounds system as a whole was deemed eligible for listing. However, the landscape changes brought about by the initial projects introduced significant alteration of key features that adversely affected the historic character of segments of the system.

continued on page 4

An Innovative and Evolving Partnership

continued from previous page 3

Mitigation measures were adopted, but avoidance of the adverse effects was not achieved.

A proposed project for the park at Lake of the Isles, however, brought new energy to the discussion. Areas of the historic designed landscape which had sunk since being filled in the early 20th century, and which had been subject to severe flooding in recent years, needed restoration. Local wetland regulators called for mitigating the loss of the flooded areas by creating new wetland areas within other portions of the historic landscape. Other changes, such as alterations of the vegetation at the water's edge, and reconfiguration of the path system, were proposed as well.

The plan met with a wide variety of responses from neighborhood residents. Many felt that, even though the purported purpose of the project was to restore the park, the end result would be further erosion of its historic character. Others were just anxious for some remedy to the tiresome flooded conditions.

The historical consultant for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



(MPRB), Charlene Roise of Hess, Roise and Company, saw the need for a more cogent discussion of historic landscape values of the parkway, and proposed a collaboration with the HLI to the MPRB and the MnSHPO. To date, a series of working sessions and field tours with MPRB staff, and a public lecture and discussion by the HLI Coordinator, have helped to clarify and define the crucial historic landscape issues. Still to be resolved are the conflicts between the need for preservation of these elements and the wetland mitigation requirements of the local watershed district.

Recognizing the broader implications of this discussion, the HLI-MnSHPO collaboration has also included discussions with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, which is currently working on rules revisions for the state Wetland Conservation Act. Building on one of the Board's planning principles that wetlands need to be addressed "as one resource issue among many", initial discussions involving HLI have introduced the concepts and issues of historic landscapes to agency staff responsible for administering wetland regulations.

Although the issues at Lake of the Isles sparked HLI involvement in Minnesota projects, the collaboration quickly expanded. Other consultations have included the following nationally significant landscapes - both designed and vernacular where project work is currently underway. These include:

Perimeter of Lake of the Isles represents 100 years of landscape architecture, including 1970s-era furnishings by Garrett Eckbo.

Photo Charles Birnbaum.

■ The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board have responsibility for a portion of the Ft. Snelling Historic District (a National Historic Landmark) that is used for recreational purposes. A central historic landscape in this district was the expansive parade grounds, focused on the Fort's clock tower building and flagpole. The landscape of these parade grounds was largely destroyed by the expansion of the fort's golf course in the mid-20th century. Today, as part of mitigation for an adjacent new development, the agencies have agreed to consider reintroducing major elements of this important space, either by moving or redesigning that portion of the golf course. The collaboration has involved discussions with the consulting golf course designer and others on how to interpret and apply the *Secretary of the Interior's Standard's for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* within this context.

■ The Minnesota Department of Transportation has completed a comprehensive survey and evaluation of its historic roadside developments, many dating from the depression period (For a related article, see the Survey feature: Minnesota Department of Transportation Evaluates Roadside



The Midtown Greenway trail system before and after landscape rehabilitation.

Photo Charles Birnbaum.

Development Structures, pages 9-11). The Department is now faced with prioritizing preservation needs and formulating treatment plans. Here, the treatment and management challenges are particularly complex. This is due to the fact that, often, a wayside's landscape features (walls, overlooks, stairs, picnic tables), while distinctive, may be essentially meaningless without equal attention paid to the setting and surrounds including the viewshed and visual relationships that gave rise to the wayside in the first place. The collaboration has focused on the evaluation of integrity and significance, understanding design intent, treatment, and management issues. Technical issues addressed as an integral part of this discussion include vegetation management, protection and stabilization of built features, and viewshed management at several wayside areas included in current highway projects.

■ The University of Minnesota's recent historic preservation plan devotes considerable attention to the landscape history of its campuses. The Northrup Mall (photo below), conceived as part of Cass Gilbert's plan, with landscape architecture by Morrell and Nichols (a partnership began in 1909) today still forms the core of the Minneapolis campus. Rehabilitation of several of the buildings lining the mall are currently underway or

planned; the landscape space between the buildings also needs consideration. The collaboration, along with the University of Minnesota and the Frederick R. Wiseman Museum has resulted in plans for a conference on landscape planning issues, with a special emphasis on the history and planning needs for this central campus space. (For a related conference announcement and the call for papers, see page 15).

■ Hennepin Community Works, an agency of Hennepin County, is spearheading development of the Midtown Greenway trail system along a rail corridor through south Minneapolis. The western end of corridor encompasses the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Grade Separation Project, a historically significant urban planning effort from 1912-1916, designed to provide a grade-separated transportation system within the city's expanding grid. A wide variety of recreational, transportation, neighborhood, arts, and urban design groups and agencies are stakeholders in the greenway project. The collaboration has worked at identifying essential character-defining features of this industrial corridor, with an eye toward the question of whether this character can be preserved while still meeting the broad range of needs of the various constituents.

■ A Minneapolis citizens group has recently begun to work for greater recognition of the historical importance of the Parks Superintendent's Residence, built by the Park Board for Superintendent Theodore Wirth in 1910. Wirth served as superintendent from 1906 to 1935, and oversaw landscape design



Thomas Wirth, Superintendent Emeritus, Minneapolis Park System, c. 1935. Image from the book, "Minneapolis Park System 1883-1944," by Theodore Wirth.

work for the parks in a workroom in the lower level of the house. Theodore's son Conrad played a key role in the administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps and served as the Director of the National Park Service from 1951 to 1963, when Mission 66 was implemented. Building on the recent initiation of a National Register nomination for the house, the collaboration has included initial discussions about how public education on the park system's history and landscape can best utilize the house and its particular story. Wirth's grandson, Theodore, a former president of the American Society of Landscape Architects was also present for this discussion.

Historic landscape planning, treatment and management issues prevail at a majority of Wisconsin's historic properties, either as a property's central element or as its physical context. The collaboration begun by the HLI and the MnSHPO is working both to resolve the historic landscape issues of current projects, and to build knowledge and capability for better approaches to historic landscape treatment in the future.

Dennis Gimmestad can be reached at 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102, phone 651-296-5462, or by e-mail at: dennis.gimmestad@mnhs.org

View from the Mall at the University of Minnesota, campus landscape architectural design by Morrell and Nichols. Courtesy Charles Birnbaum.

