

HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION (1984, 2000, 2001, R2019)



Policy Statement

The American Society of Landscape Architects believes in identifying and protecting historic sites and landscapes of international, national, regional, and local significance. Either natural or cultural factors can determine properties of significance. Heritage areas can have natural, vernacular, and designed components, and include parks and recreation, transportation, civic areas, neighborhoods, sacred land, archeological sites, and locations of significant events. ASLA recognizes that innovative design, planning, and management are critical to maintaining integrity, educating the public, and providing meaningful experiences. ASLA supports heritage practice and policies that stimulate community involvement, promote equity, improve economic and ecological health, and deepen our connections to places and to each other.

Rationale

Without critical understanding of site history, well-meaning but unstudied modifications often compromise integrity, function, and user satisfaction. Landscape architects are uniquely equipped to address the intersection of culture, ecology, material, and economy. Professional expertise has contributed to inventory/analysis methodologies and treatment standards that are widely used by property managers and designers.

Historic preservation has expanded in scope, scale and complexity. Both tangible heritage (physical places and objects) and intangible heritage (lifestyles, customs, crafts, celebrations, values, etc.) are vital to cultural identity and connection to place, as well as user satisfaction and function. Values-based approaches recognize that what the community deems significant is as important as what experts determine to be worthy of protection and interpretation.

Adaptive reuse of significant sites is an important component of smart growth, sustainability, and economic development. Historic cultural landscapes are seen as models for sustainability and natural systems education. Internationally, cultural landscapes are recognized as contributing to sustainable land use, enhancing awareness of natural values, and promoting biological diversity.

Management is an integral part of even the must be part of the earliest planning and design phases, as it greatly impacts preservation/conservation decisions, interpretation, and sustainability. Many cultural landscapes (such as traditional agriculture, open spaces, and gardens) require specific human use and management in order to maintain integrity.

Landscape architecture will continue to add to the research, theory, and practice of heritage preservation while protecting and building upon other human and natural systems.

Resources:

Operational Guidelines for The Implementation of The World Heritage Convention, (July 12, 2017), including Guidelines On the Inscription Of Specific Types Of Properties On The World Heritage List. whc.unesco.org/archive/opguide12-en.pdf

UNESCO World Heritage Centre



www.whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/

Preservation for People: A Vision for the Future. National Trust for Historic Preservation
www.savingplaces.org/stories/preservation-for-people-a-vision-for-the-future

United States National Park Service
www.nps.gov/subjects/culturallandscapes/preservation.htm

NPS Technical Preservation Services
www.nps.gov/tps/
www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/36-cultural-landscapes.htm

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Offices
www.ncshpo.org

The Cultural Landscape Foundation
www.tclf.org/places/about-cultural-landscapes

The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance
(revised 2013)
www.australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf

Resilient Systems and Cultural Landscape Management
www.nps.gov/subjects/culturallandscapes/resilientsystems_management.htm