WHAT IS A LANDSCAPE?

“an expanse of natural scenery seen by the eye in one view”
WHAT IS A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE?
A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE is a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

from Secretary of the Interior’s Standards with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes
LANDSCAPE GUIDANCE IS RECENT

- 1980s–90s - National Register Bulletins on landscapes
  - Rural Historic Landscapes – 30
  - Traditional Cultural Properties – 38
  - America’s Historic Battlefields – 40
  - Cemeteries and Burial Places – 41

- 1992 UNESCO recognition

- 1996 - Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes
the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used, and shaped the landscapes to serve human needs
LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Spatial Organization
- Land Patterns
- Natural Systems and Features
- Topography
- Vegetation
- Circulation
- Water Features
- Views and Vistas
- Cultural Traditions
- Cluster Arrangement
- Buildings and Structures
- Site Furnishings and Objects
- Small Scale Features
- Archaeological Sites
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Natural systems and features
- Topography
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Spatial organization
- Land patterns
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Water features
  - Natural
  - Man-made
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Views and vistas
  - Natural
  - Created/managed
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Vegetation

- Native
- Introduced
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Circulation
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Buildings and structures
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Cultural traditions
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Small scale features
CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Archeological sites
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

- Landscapes are eligible for National Register
  - list as site or historic district
  - individually eligible or contributing

- Criteria
  - Significance
  - Integrity

- Boundaries
DEFINING BOUNDARIES

- Historic or current legal boundaries
- Boundary demarcations
- Rights-of-way
- Natural features
DEFINING BOUNDARIES

- Long-standing vegetation
- Lines drawn along or between fixed points
- Changes in development or spatial organization
- Edges of new development
CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN SECTION 106

- Need for good documentation
  - To understand historic property
  - To evaluate adverse effects
  - To develop appropriate mitigation measures
CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN SECTION 106

- **Documented aspects**
  - Buildings, Structures
  - Archaeology
  - Remnants, such as ruts

- **Less documented – landscape-scale information**
  - Spatial Organization/Topography/Land Patterns
  - Circulation
  - Vegetation
  - Views

Register Cliffs WY
THE SECTION 106 PROCESS

1. INITIATE the process
   ▪ Determine undertaking
   ▪ Notify SHPO/THPO

2. IDENTIFY historic properties
   ▪ Determine APE
   ▪ Identify historic properties

3. ASSESS adverse effects
   ▪ Apply criteria of adverse effect

4. RESOLVE adverse effects
   ▪ Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects
   ▪ Notify ACHP

- Identify Tribes and Other Consulting Parties
- Plan to involve the public
- Determine undertaking
- Notify SHPO/THPO
- Plan to involve the public
- Consult with SHPO/THPO, Tribes, and Other Consulting Parties
- Involve the public
- Determine APE
- Identify historic properties
- Consult with SHPO/THPO, Tribes, and Other Consulting Parties
- Involve the public
- Apply criteria of adverse effect
- Consult with SHPO/THPO, Tribes, and Other Consulting Parties
- Involve the public
- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects
- Notify ACHP
- Consult with SHPO/THPO, Tribes, and Other Consulting Parties
- Involve the public

No undertaking/potential to cause effects?

No historic properties present/affected?

No historic properties adversely affected?

Agreement (MOA)/PA) or Council Comment
LANDSCAPES IN SECTION 106: POSITIVE EXAMPLES

Cave Rock, Nevada
ASSESSING EFFECTS

- Regs address:
  - Direct effects
  - Indirect effects
  - Cumulative effects

- What to do with:
  - Cultural effects?
  - Spiritual effects?
CREATIVE MITIGATION

- Site acquisition: New Fork River Historical Park
- Ken Burns-style video: Atlantic Rim Historic Trails
- Publications: context studies, illustrated site histories, web
- Educational materials: web, lesson plans, signage, displays,
- Funding stream for site preservation/interpretation
ACHP: TRADITIONAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INITIATIVE

Goals:

1. Promote recognition and protection of such landscapes within federal, state, and local governments and preservation community.
2. Address the challenges of considering traditional cultural landscapes in Section 106 review and NEPA.
ACHP: TRADITIONAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INITIATIVE

ACHP partnering with

- NPS
- NCSHPO
- NATHPO
- Individual tribes
- Cultural landscape professionals
ADDRESS CHALLENGES

ACHP should issue a policy statement and guidance:

- Need for early tribal and NHO consultation
- Consideration of landscapes in Section 106
- Role of tribes, THPOs, and NHOs
- How to determine effects on such properties
ADDRESS CHALLENGES

NPS could:

- Issue guidance on how to apply NR criteria to traditional cultural landscapes
- Define “traditional cultural landscape”
- Update NR Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties to clarify how it applies to properties of significance to Indian tribes/NHOs
- Add landscapes to NR property types
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

www.achp.gov

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