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Integration is the Key

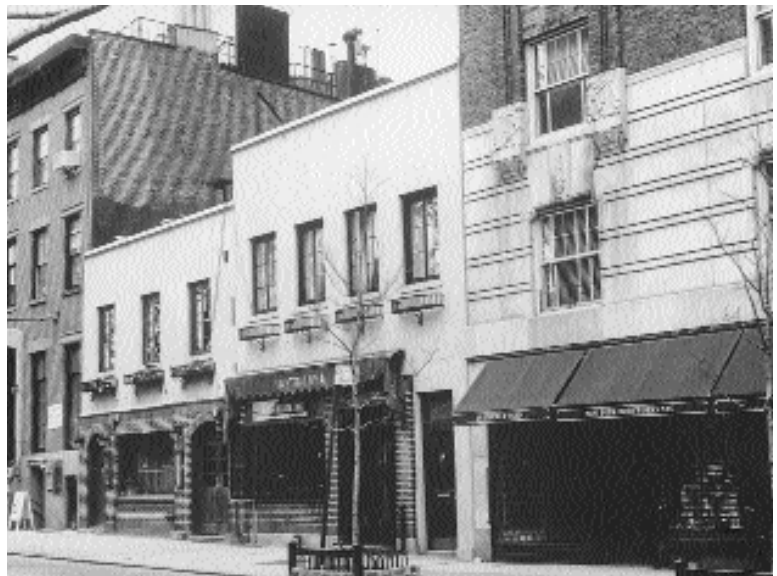
Program integration is the key to the continued success of the National Historic Landmark Survey and the National Register of Historic Places in recognizing the varied places where American history happened. Since 1996, the National Historic Landmarks Survey has operated under the National Register of Historic Places within the National Park Service's National Center for Cultural Resources in Washington, DC.¹ With this administrative reorganization, the National Park Service has acknowledged the value added by increased integration of these two historic recognition programs that share a similar mission and nomination requirements. At a basic level, the Register and the Survey have increased their level of integration in several areas: theme studies and guidance; nomination review; and public access and outreach.

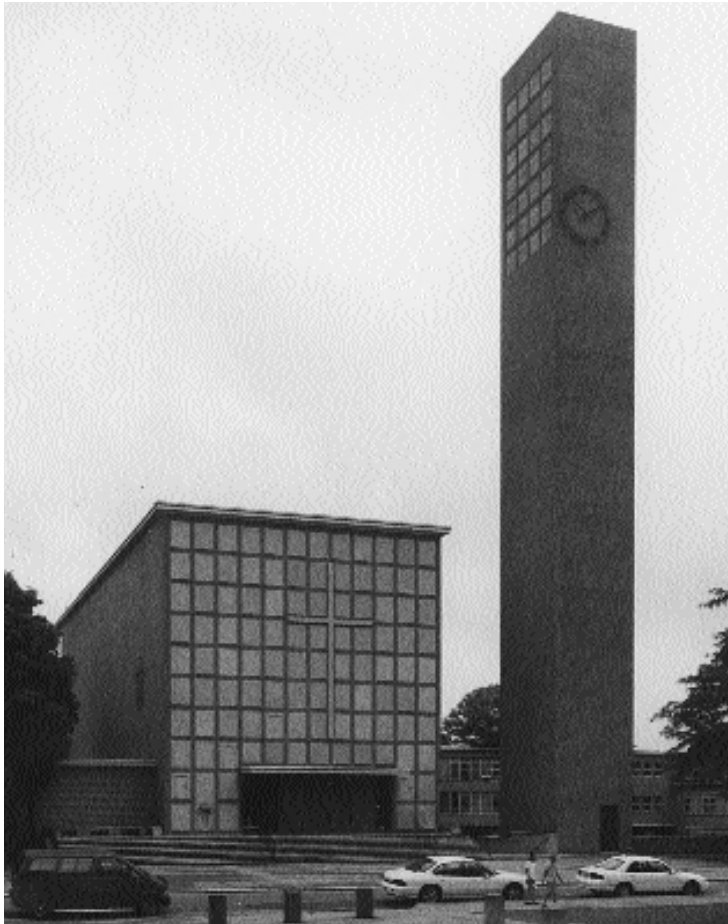
When funding is made available, the National Historic Landmarks Survey conducts theme studies on important historical topics, such as the recently completed national study on racial school desegregation.² These theme studies use the National Register's multiple property format to provide direction to persons interested in the recognition, documentation, and preservation of diverse property types.³ These theme studies not only provide the historical background for a particular avenue of history, but also establish registration requirements for both National Register and National Historic Landmark recognition. Two recent theme studies, on the Underground Railroad and racial desegregation in public schools, have used this format to assist the public in identifying important historical resources in their communities.

At the same time, the National Register sponsors research on current historical themes. One study, conducted in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, identified sites important in the history of public housing (see Lusignan article, p. 36). As a result of this study, the Survey has sponsored the study of two public housing units, in Philadelphia and Washington, DC, for consideration as Landmarks. In another study, the National Register is preparing guidance, as part of its popular National Register Bulletin series, on the evaluation and documentation of suburbs. From this work, the Survey has sponsored the nomination of two precedent-setting developments in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Crafted in 1983, the National Historic Landmarks Survey regulations (36 CFR Part 65) direct the National Park Service to consider sites listed in the National Register at the national level of significance when identifying individual properties potentially suitable for National Historic Landmark designation. The Survey uses the services of the National Register staff archeologist to review nominations of archeological properties and to work with an independent archeology committee on fostering the nomina-

The site of exceptionally significant events in the history of American civil rights, Stonewall, in New York City, comprised of the two 2-story sections in the center of the photo, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in May 1999. This well-crafted National Register nomination was used as the foundation for a National Historic Landmark nomination. The property was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on February 16, 2000. Photo by Andrew Scott Dolkart.





Designated as a National Historic Landmark on January 3, 2001, the First Christian Church, Columbus, Indiana, was designed by Eiel Saarinen in 1942. The site was nominated as part of a recent multiple property listing entitled "Moderism in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Art in Bartholomew County, [Indiana] 1942-1965." Photo by Marsh Davis, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc.

tion of additional sites. The Register and the Survey share staff in the archives as well as in public outreach endeavors, principally in web site development and maintenance. When academic interests or experience overlap, the Register and Survey staff frequently comment on nominations currently under review in both programs.

The Survey also works closely with state, federal, and tribal preservation offices across the country. These agencies are kept informed about ongoing theme studies and nominations through a variety of means. When funds are available, our tribal, federal, and state partners cooperate in preparing nominations for individual properties. In one recent example, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office was able to quickly conduct the fieldwork necessary to prepare a report on the proposed withdrawal of designation for a recently demolished Landmark.

Our preservation partners are also vital in the work of the Survey as they nominate new National Register properties. Newly listed properties, considered by nominating authorities to be

at the national level of significance, are reviewed by both Register and Survey staff for their potential to become National Historic Landmarks. If warranted, the Survey distributes the nomination to the appropriate NPS regional NHL team with the request to contact the preparer and the state historic preservation office to investigate the potential for elevating the recognition of the property.

Public outreach is an essential component to any historic preservation program. Landmarks are always highlighted in the National Register's travel itinerary series as well as in Teaching with Historic Places (TwHP) lesson plans. This year, the Survey, in cooperation with the College of William and Mary, successfully competed for a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities to develop a TwHP lesson plan on a newly designated Landmark that was identified through the school desegregation theme study.

National Historic Landmarks are among the most significant properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although governed by two different sets of regulations, the two programs share a common mission—the fullest recognition of American history through the preservation of historic places—as well as the same belief in the high educational value of place. Continuing efforts at integrating the two programs can only benefit the public's recognition, appreciation, and stewardship of our unique national heritage.

Notes

- 1 For an administrative history of the NHL program see: Barry Mackintosh, *The Historic Sites Survey and National Historic Landmarks Program: A History*, National Park Service, 1985.
- 2 *Racial Desegregation in Public Education in the United States*, National Park Service, 2000. Available at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nhl/school.htm>
- 3 Ongoing theme studies include a multi-year examination on American civil rights, as well as multiple property format documents on the Earliest Americans in the Eastern United States, American labor history, oyster fisheries, and Japanese Americans during World War II.

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