

Earliest Americans National Historic Landmarks Theme Study

Properties associated with America's earliest inhabitants represent some of the nation's most significant, and most threatened, groups of cultural resources. Responding to this challenge, the National Park Service (NPS) is working with its partners in the governmental, tribal, scholarly, avocational, and preservation communities to develop the *Earliest Americans National Historic Landmark Theme Study*. This project is a multi-year effort to recognize and protect nationally significant archeological and traditional cultural properties associated with America's first inhabitants.

The National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Archeology Committee of the Society for American Archaeology and the Society for Historical Archaeology, and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) throughout the nation are working with theme study staff to develop a nationwide archeological historic context capable of identifying, evaluating, and nominating Paleo-Indian sites and districts. Discussions are currently underway with the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) to coordinate preparation of a separate and distinct historic context utilizing traditional knowledge, concepts, and expertise to develop a framework for understanding the wide variety of Indian beliefs and properties associated with traditional origin sites identified with the initial peopling of America by native people.

Sites containing deposits associated with the continent's initial inhabitants became the subject of the first archeological National Historic Landmark theme study, entitled *Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers*, which was coordinated during the late-1950s by H. Marie Wormington. More than 70 sites dating from the Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods were considered. From recommendations made by Wormington and her colleagues, the Secretary of the Interior designated 19 of the 70 archeological sites as National Historic Landmarks on January 20, 1961. Eleven of these properties are Paleo-Indian resources. The Wormington theme study was the first, and thus far the only, coordinated nationwide effort to iden-

tify, evaluate, and designate cultural resources preserving evidence of Paleo-Indian life in the United States as National Historic Landmarks. Due to the efforts of federal agency and academic archeologists, an additional nine Paleo-Indian properties have been designated as NHLs since the Wormington study.

Partnership Project

Much of our understanding of America's earliest inhabitants has changed in the 35 years since the publication of Wormington's landmark theme study. New findings, techniques, and interpretive frameworks are continually altering our perceptions of Paleo-Indian cultures. Native origin traditions, for their part, are now assuming their appropriate place as crucial components in efforts to understand and appreciate the diversity of Native American cultures and the wide variety of their perspectives on the initial peopling of America.

The Earliest Americans NHL theme study project draws upon both types of data to develop historic contexts to identify, evaluate, and designate archeological resources of the Paleo-Indian period and traditional origin sites as National Historic Landmarks or as new listings in the National Register of Historic Places. Using the historic context planning approach set forth in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation, theme study personnel will, to the maximum extent possible, assemble and organize information. Negotiations are currently underway with the National Museum of the American Indian to establish a framework through which the NMAI can coordinate development of the traditional origin site historic context component of the theme study. Working together, National Park Service coordinators and NHL Archeology Committee members are developing the archeological historic context component in consultation with the widest possible range of interested individuals and organizations.

Both types of information will be organized within separate historic context frameworks. Native people desiring to share their knowledge will be asked to delineate thematic, chronological,

and geographic frameworks for traditional origin sites. Traditional origin stories and properties associated with the initial peopling of America will also be classified and interpreted from Native points of view. Information provided by traditional knowledge-holders will be regarded as authoritative. Only information regarded by Native people as suitable for public dissemination will be collected and organized by project personnel.

Work on the project's archeological component has already begun. On February 17, 1995, project personnel completed and distributed a survey of historic contexts and other Paleo-Indian planning information used by State Historic Preservation Offices. Information collected in this survey will be synthesized with data provided by other contributors to delineate time periods and geographic areas on national, regional, and state-wide scales. Property types will be identified, and known and expected distributions of properties and property types will be inventoried and mapped. Evaluation criteria for nominations of properties as National Historic Landmarks, National Register of Historic Places properties, and resources listed in State Registers of Historic Places will be developed. Research needs, goals, and priorities will be outlined. A bibliography containing key national, regional, state, site, and planning sources will be assembled.

Information bearing upon the significance of both archeological properties and traditional origin sites will be organized and evaluated within the newly developed NHL Thematic Framework. Application of this new flexible and culturally-oriented framework to both archeological and Native tradition origin properties represents a significant innovation. It will be critically important because properties nominated as NHLs will be evaluated on the basis of the ways they illustrate or contribute

information of national significance in one or more thematic areas. It will be innovative because it will be one of the first practical applications of the newly revised framework.

In the short-term, these actions should result in the development of a theme study that provides a systematic and comparative framework for understanding both archeological evidence and traditional origin beliefs associated with the Earliest Americans. In the long-term, theme study documentation should serve as a vehicle to identify, evaluate, and nominate those resources containing values associated with the Earliest Americans on federal lands or lands of consenting landowners as both NHLs and, as appropriate, to the National Register of Historic Places and state registers. Initially, it is anticipated that the archeological historic context component of the theme study document should result in the nomination or nomination data upgrade of a number of Paleo-Indian properties. Development of the traditional origin site historic context component will also provide Native communities with the opportunity to nominate traditional origin sites of their choosing as NHLs.

The organizational framework of the archeological historic context component of the theme study was developed during Fiscal Year 1994. The framework for the Native traditional origin site component is presently under development. Key partners in the archeological historic context component presently include the National Park Service Washington Office Archeological Assistance, Anthropology, and Interagency Resources divisions, the NHL Survey, the NHL Archeology Committee, its Paleo-Indian Sub-Committee and regional liaisons, NPS Regional Office Theme Study Coordinators, their Paleo-Indian Sub-committee regional liaisons, SHPO coordinators, and other partners.

Additional guidance in preparation of the archeological component also is being provided by representatives from the Native American community, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the academic and avocational communities, and other organizations and agencies. Contacts also will be sought with individuals and organizations in Canada and Mexico in order to maximally coordinate theme study activities with efforts in those countries.

General oversight for the project is the responsibility of NHL Survey staff historian Patty Henry. General assistance as needed and administrative liaison with the NHL Archeology Committee (which is supported through a cooperative agreement between the National Park

Dry Creek Archeological Site, Alaska. Photo by Charles Holmes, 1973. National Historic Landmark file.



Service and the Society for American Archaeology) is provided by the Archeological Assistance Division through NPS-AAD archeologist Richard Waldbauer. The Theme Study Coordinator is Robert Grumet, archeologist from the NPS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office.

The NPS regional office coordinators are Charles Holmes, archeologist of Alaska's Office of History and Archeology, who has been designated by the NPS Alaska Region to coordinate project activities in the state, Robert Grumet of the Mid-Atlantic Region, Mark Barnes of the Southeast Region, Steven DeVore and Bill Butler of the Rocky Mountain Region, and Wayne Prokopetz of the Pacific Northwest Region, who has been designated to coordinate project activities in the Western Region.

Activities associated with the archeological component of the Theme Study within each of the areas serviced by NPS regional NHL programs are

conducted through interactions with Regional NPS Theme Study Coordinators and with the advice and administrative assistance of the Paleo-Indian Theme Study Sub-Committee. This sub-committee of the NHL Archeology Committee chaired by Shereen Lerner is chaired by David Brose, Associate Director of the Royal Ontario Museum. Sub-committee regional liaisons are David Yesner for the Alaska Region, Kenneth Tankersley for the Mid-Atlantic Region, Stanley Ahler for the Rocky Mountain Region, Ian Brown for the Southeast Region, and Robson Bonnichsen for the Western Region.

Those interested in learning more about this initiative can contact Robert Grumet, Cultural Resource Planning Branch, Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS, U.S. Custom House, Room 251, Philadelphia, PA 19106; 215-597-0137 (voice); 215-597-6599 (FAX).

Noreen P. Mack

Limited-Residency Master of Arts in Historic Preservation

Center for Continuing Studies Goucher College

The Center for Continuing Studies, Goucher College, will implement the nation's first limited-residency Master of Arts in Historic Preservation program beginning in August 1995, on its Baltimore, Maryland campus. The program has been developed to address the educational needs of the working adult who finds it impractical for family or professional reasons to attend traditional campus-based graduate programs in historic preservation.

Goucher College currently also offers two other historic preservation programs: an undergraduate major in historic preservation through the Department of History and a post-baccalaureate Certificate in Historic Preservation through the

Center for Continuing Studies. The certificate program is in its third year on the Goucher campus and its first year in Washington, DC, in cooperation with the National Park Service.

Limited-residency programs offer a number of advantages to the working adult including flexibility in time and place of learning, with minimum disruption to professional and family life. In addition, students will have the opportunity to work with faculty selected from leading practitioners throughout the country.

The major difference between limited-residency and traditional on-campus education, non-contiguous communication between faculty and student, is overcome through the design of individual courses, short, on-campus residency require-