Happy 50th birthday to the National Historic Preservation Act! Also known as the NHPA, the Act was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966. In that same year, American soldiers were fighting in Vietnam, draft cards were being burned, and protests raged at home. The average price of a new home was $23,330, a gallon of gasoline sold for 32 cents, and Batman was the new show on television.

The year 1966 also saw the rise of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and the Black Panther Party. The National Farm Workers Association, led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, led by Larry Itliong, to create the United Farm Workers of America (UFW). It was a year in which Americans from all walks of life spoke up and took a stand for what mattered most to them, including the preservation of their collective heritage.

In establishing the National Historic Preservation Act, Congress found and declared that:

1) the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage;

2) the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people;

3) historic properties significant to the Nation’s heritage are being lost or substantially altered, often inadvertently, with increasing frequency;

4) the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans;

5) in the face of ever-increasing extensions of urban centers, highways, and residential,

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commercial, and industrial developments, the present governmental and nongovernmental historic preservation programs and activities are inadequate to insure future generations a genuine opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the rich heritage of our Nation;

6) the increased knowledge of our historic resources, the establishment of better means of identifying and administering them, and the encouragement of their preservation will improve the planning and execution of federal and federally assisted projects and will assist economic growth and development; and

7) although the major burdens of historic preservation have been borne and major efforts initiated by private agencies and individuals, and both should continue to play a vital role, it is nevertheless necessary and appropriate for the Federal Government to accelerate its historic preservation programs and activities, to give maximum encouragement to agencies and individuals undertaking preservation by private means, and to assist State and local governments and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States to expand and accelerate their historic preservation programs and activities.¹

Now, fifty years later, the goals set forth in the NHPA to provide technical and financial assistance, leadership in partnership with States, Indian Tribes, native Hawaiians and Local governments, and preserve federal resources and encourage the same for private resources, remain as important to our society as they were when the NHPA was created. We now have a known process for identifying and evaluating historic resources that include archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, buildings, districts, trails, monuments, and traditional cultural properties. Sites commemorate and illustrate a vast array of our American story from the nation’s beginnings to the recent past. The federal framework for compliance with the NHPA and programs such as the National Register of Historic Places have successfully preserved thousands of historic resources over the last fifty years.

¹ See text for continuation.
Enactment of the NHPA has also led to the creation of numerous state and local registers of historic places, ordinances, and covenants for the protection of resources.

The articles that follow reflect on the spirit and programs of the NHPA, and provide depth on many issues that face the preservation goals of the nation each day. Director of California State Parks Lisa Mangat eloquently details the important role and responsibility California State Parks plays as the steward of our state’s cultural and historic places. Milford Wayne Donaldson, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and former California State Historic Preservation Officer, shares his thoughts on what’s ahead for national preservation policy. There are articles by Office of Historic Preservation staff about local government (Lucinda Woodward), registration (Jay Correia) and archaeology (Anmarie Medin). State Historical Resource Commissioner Rick Moss outlines goals for a statewide African American Heritage Trail that builds on efforts already underway in the City of San Francisco. We are fortunate, as well, to have the reflections of Britanni Orona, a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and a voice of the youth who will carry the preservation movement forward in the years to come.

As the National Historic Preservation Act reaches the half-century mark in 2016, it seems fitting to take time to reflect on the path that has led us to this moment; to take stock of progress, celebrate our achievements, realize our gaps, and chart the course ahead for the next 50 years of historic preservation and beyond. It’s a bit like tacking a sailboat—accounting for the wind or lack thereof at times. Periodic adjustments may be necessary to achieve successful outcomes, and like sailing, we need skill, patience, brains, guts, and a little luck.

I believe historic preservation has come a long way from identifying and marking the places that demonstrate significance to telling the story of our American history. Ours are experiences of tragedy and resilience, of migration, expansion, and innovation. The multi-layered nature of our history only continues to expand as the country grows increasingly older—what I refer to as the stratigraphy of history. We have a moral responsibility to include the stories not yet told. We must also recognize sites that are strong in story, but may lack the physical integrity usually associated with the built (Continued on page 4)

View and download a copy of the text of the National Historic Preservation Act: [http://www.achp.gov/NHPA.pdf](http://www.achp.gov/NHPA.pdf)

Learn more about the 50th anniversary celebration at: [http://preservation50.org/](http://preservation50.org/)

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environment. We should strive to include intangible heritage and cultural practices that deepen our understanding of community. All of this is paramount to ensuring that the richness and complexity of our American history is complete. We must address climate change and its effect, not only on the natural environment but on historic resources, creating new tools to preserve and protect our historic resources. Finally, we must engage our youth, embrace technology, and pass the torch of historic preservation on to the next generation in ways that speak to them. I hope you enjoy, as I did, the articles in this special issue of *Preservation Matters*. May you be educated, enriched, and inspired to join the Office of Historic Preservation and our many partners, both in California and nationwide, as we celebrate our past and chart our way forward. I remain honored to be among you in these endeavors. I challenge us all to think often, think broadly, and think wildly!

**Julie**

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

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*Julianne Polanco was appointed by Governor Brown to the position of State Historic Preservation Officer in July 2015. Previously, Ms. Polanco served on the State Historical Resources Commission since 2005, the last three years as Commission Chair.*

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The California State Park System encompasses 280 park units, making it the largest state park system in the nation, and the trustee of an abundance of California’s natural, historical, and cultural resources. Lisa Mangat, Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, oversees the state park system. In the article below, Director Mangat reflects on California State Parks’ stewardship of our state’s treasured heritage.

The leadership and employees of the California State Park System are pleased to celebrate the National Historic Preservation Act’s (NHPA) 50th birthday in 2016. After fifty years, the NHPA remains a cornerstone of historic preservation. It was built on the vision that government plays an important role in protecting places that embody our cultural heritage. California State Parks shares that vision, and it is expressed through our stewardship of California’s special cultural and historic places.

Our state parks include some of California’s most significant natural, cultural, and historic resources. When thinking of our state park system, beautiful coastal vistas and iconic redwood forests may come to mind, but we also protect and preserve some of the state’s most significant cultural and historic places.

Sometimes historic preservation involves celebrating events, people, places, and ideas that we are proud of; other times it involves recognizing moments in our history that can be painful or uncomfortable to remember. Through these historic places, we reach a greater understanding of ourselves.

At California State Parks, we recognize that we are ideally situated to bring our state’s rich history to life and to tell the story of the people who were here before us through the many historic and cultural places we protect and preserve.

The past is preserved and very much present in the buildings of Bodie State Historic Park.

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For instance, we can experience the close living quarters of the Chinese immigrants who lived on Angel Island and we can read their poetry etched on the walls. We can walk through Bodie State Historic Park and imagine busy streets of carriages and horses. When we visit Sutter’s Fort, people dressed in period costumes demonstrate how the fort served as a place of respite for travelers from across the country. Through these parks, these special historic places, we engage in discussions about ourselves, our rich history, and our culture today.

While we in State Parks are proud of our stewardship today, we realize that the important work of preservation must be instilled in younger generations. We think a lot about the engagement of young people and how to make connections with them. One of the ways that we connect with them is through our Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students Program (PORTS). This program bridges the socio-economic gap in California’s educational system by providing meaningful interactions—regardless of race, economic status or location—to students in K-12 via live videoconferencing technology from nine state parks across the state, including Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument and Angel Island State Park. Through PORTS, children learn about topics such as immigration, climate change, and the importance of protecting natural and cultural resources.

Since 1864, California State Parks has been conserving and preserving the state’s natural, cultural and historic resources, and connecting the people of California with their parks. Last year, a special Parks Forward Commission made recommendations to Governor Jerry Brown’s administration on how to better improve California’s state park system. The administration, in turn, established the Transformation Team, which is working with the department to develop and implement a series of initiatives supporting strategic goals to strengthen the state park system and better serve visitors. As we design these initiatives, we must keep the important work of preservation a priority and identify ways to amplify the state’s efforts. We invite you to be part of the process and help us further preserve California’s rich and diverse natural and cultural history for current and future generations.

Lisa Mangat was appointed Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation in May 2015, having served as Acting Director since July 2014.
Within the past generation, historic preservation has evolved from a limited and somewhat insular pursuit into a broad-based popular movement with wide support. Some desire a tangible sense of permanence and community, while others wish to know about and embrace America’s tangible and intangible heritage in a direct and personally meaningful way. Many see the preservation of historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects as enhancing their quality of life, adding variety and texture to the cultural landscape in which they live and work. Largely because of such highly personal responses, public support for historic preservation has flowed from the bottom up, making it in the truest sense a grassroots movement.

Congress made the Federal Government a full partner and leader in historic preservation. While Congress recognized that national goals for historic preservation could best be achieved by supporting local citizens and communities, it understood that the federal government must set an example through enlightened policies and practices. Indeed, an underlying motivation in passage of the Act was to transform the Federal Government from an agent of indifference, frequently responsible for needless loss of historic resources, to an agent of thoughtful change, and a responsible steward for future generations.

To achieve this transformation, the NHPA and related legislation sought a partnership among the Federal Government and the States that would capitalize on the strengths of each. The

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Federal Government, led by the National Park Service (NPS) as the agency with the most extensive experience in managing and using historic resources, would provide funding assistance, basic technical knowledge and tools, and a broad national perspective on America’s heritage. The States, through State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), would provide matching funds, a designated State office, and a statewide preservation program tailored to State and local preservation needs and priorities.

The drafters of the National Historic Preservation Act, however, also appreciated that transforming the role of the Federal Government would require a new ethic throughout all levels and agencies of the Federal Government. The Act authorized the creation of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the first and only Federal entity created solely to address historic preservation issues. Established as a cabinet-level body of Presidentially-appointed citizens, experts in the field, and Federal, State, and local government representatives, the ACHP ensures that private citizens, local communities, and other concerned parties have a forum for influencing Federal policy and decisions as they impact historic properties.

Over the past 50 years, the national historic preservation program has continued to rely upon and benefit from the partnership between the ACHP, NPS, and SHPOs. It has expanded to embrace Certified Local Governments, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Federal agencies operating through their own Federal Preservation Officers and associated programs.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is engaged in reviewing federal preservation policy and the national historic preservation program as part of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. There are many challenges that relate to current and future preservation practice. Paramount among such issues are fulfilling preservation’s potential contributions to the economy, social well-being, and community quality of life; empowering and engaging people in preservation who come from a wide range of cultures, traditions, and experiences; and recognizing and including all aspects of the American story and America’s heritage in the fabric of society.

A few years ago the ACHP determined it should take a leadership role in

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developing recommendations for future preservation policy in the context of the NHPA and the national historic preservation program. This is fitting for the ACHP, given its statutory charge to advise the President and the Congress on historic preservation matters. To that end, and as part of our efforts to commemorate the NHPA’s 50th anniversary, ACHP members were asked to consider preservation as a national priority, identifying impediments to more widespread support, and elements of the NHPA that might be especially helpful for developing such support.

We took these ideas and created a statement for public review and comment, “The NHPA at 50: Challenges and Opportunities.” We noted future challenges in a wide variety of areas, including economics, changing demographics, pressures on communities, regions, and government property managers from climate change and infrastructure needs, and federal government “freeze the footprint” policies.

From a policy perspective some of the challenges calling for priority attention over the coming years include such basic foundational elements as:

- Developing public and political support.
- Obtaining adequate and sustainable financial support.
- Providing leadership and expertise.
- Recognizing the full range of the nation’s heritage.
- Improving preservation processes and programs.
- Respecting the cultures, views and concerns of indigenous people—

Strengthen protections for sacred sites and burials.
- Encouraging public engagement, and furthering collaboration and partnership.
- Enhancing appreciation for heritage through formal and informal education.

Some over-arching themes are also emerging, including, among others:

- Giving more thoughtful consideration to modern historic preservation as a place-based effort, not solely focused on the built-environment but also incorporating concepts of intangible heritage and non-traditional resources, such as
cultural landscapes, traditional cultural properties, archaeological sites, and sites sacred to native peoples.

- Promoting inclusiveness while also considering the consequences, including social and environmental justice. The heritage of the many diverse groups that will increasingly comprise the American public, as well as gender and generational differences, needs to be better reflected within the sphere of historic preservation values.
- Confronting parts of our history we would rather not see. The preservation world should be a place where people are paying attention not just to the heroic and the beautiful, but also to places with painful and difficult histories.
- Improving how public views and concerns are integrated into planning and decision-making, and the evaluation of historic significance. Complexity and over-reliance on professional expertise sometimes impede public engagement and the preservation of what citizens really value.
- Addressing federal agencies’ historic preservation responsibilities so that they are more responsive to local priorities and better integrated into agency missions.

Through the end of 2016, the ACHP will be developing and considering specific policy responses to these and other preservation issues that may be pursued through the next Administration and Congress, and well into the next fifty years of historic preservation.

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, was appointed Chairman of the ACHP in 2010 by President Barack Obama. Prior to that, Mr. Donaldson served as California State Historic Preservation Officer from 2004-2012.

Guard tower at Manzanar National Monument. Places with painful and difficult histories should also be a part of our preserved heritage. (Photo courtesy of Carol Highsmith Collection, Library of Congress)

To learn more about the work of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, visit the ACHP website: [http://achp.gov/](http://achp.gov/).

Information about *The NHPA at 50: Challenges and Opportunities*, can be found at: [http://www.achp.gov/docs/50-opportunities-challenges.pdf](http://www.achp.gov/docs/50-opportunities-challenges.pdf)
Amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act included the creation of the Certified Local Government Program (CLG), which promotes the direct participation of local governments in the preservation of historic properties. In her article, Lucinda Woodward of our Local Government and Environmental Compliance Unit takes a look at the purpose and spirit of the program and how it has benefitted communities and preservation in California.

Certified Local Government Program: The Civic Face of Preservation
By Lucinda Woodward, Historian, Office of Historic Preservation

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) was born in the political climate of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Great Society, which supported the belief that federal experts and programs could provide the necessary leadership to solve social ills at all levels of society and governance. A decade later, however, the optimism began to fade and both Presidents Nixon and Carter questioned the top-down approach of some federal aid programs. Responsibilities for many programs began to be delegated to the local and state levels.

In 2016 the City of Redlands became California’s 67th, and most recent, Certified Local Government. (Photo courtesy of City of Redlands/Downtown Redlands)
On December 12, 1980 President Carter signed H.R. 5496 into law which significantly amended the NHPA. A blueprint was established for the nation’s historic preservation program, with roles, responsibilities, and authorities identified at the federal, state, and local levels of government. In his Statement on Signing, President Carter made clear the role that local governments would have going forward: “Local governments will be included in the process of reviewing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and will be eligible to receive grant money from the Historic Preservation Fund.” Thus, the Certified Local Government (CLG) program was created.

The CLG program is a commonsense approach to preservation based on five principles:

- Establish a qualified historic preservation commission.
- Enforce appropriate State or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties. In most cases this is done in the form of a local ordinance.
- Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of local historic resources.
- Facilitate public participation in local preservation, including public participation in the National Register listing process.
- Follow additional requirements outlined in the State’s CLG Procedures.

All local governments are encouraged to follow the CLG framework even if they do not wish to pursue a certification agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Office of Historic Preservation.

For the City of Pasadena, a CLG grant provided the funding needed to survey and identify the community’s wide range of architecture and historic resources. (Photo courtesy of Matt Webb, [http://www.destinationmainstreets.com/california/pasadena.php](http://www.destinationmainstreets.com/california/pasadena.php))

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Preservation (OHP). In California, approximately 12 percent of the state’s 482 cities and 58 counties combined are CLGs. The City of Redlands became the 67th and most recent Certified Local Government in April 2016. California ranks ninth in the nation in the number of CLGs.

The timing of the creation of the Certified Local Government program was fortuitous, following on the patriotic fervor of the nation’s 1976 bicentennial celebration. No doubt, the new local preservation program helped channel some of that civic energy into local government bodies. The historic preservation movement expanded from museums and historical societies into city halls and board of supervisors’ chambers. While some communities had embraced preservation programs earlier, the 1980 amendments to the NHPA legitimized historic preservation as one of the functions of local government in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS) and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Nationwide, the first local government was certified in 1985. In September 1986, under the tenure of newly appointed California SHPO Kathryn Gualtieri, the cities of Pasadena and San Diego became California’s first CLGs. Former SHPO Gualtieri recently reminisced, “From the beginning, the Office of Historic Preservation’s participation in the federal Local Government grant program focused on providing the best technical and monetary assistance to participating CLG cities and counties throughout California. After 30 years of existence, the CLG program has met that early OHP goal.”

Although the grants program is only one benefit of the CLG program, it is probably the most visible. Grants are a way for CLGs to carry out the preservation needs specific to their communities. Each state is required to disburse a minimum of 10 percent of its annual share of the Historic Preservation Fund to Certified Local Governments. In California, the grants are awarded competitively and are limited to preservation planning activities. In 1988 the Office of Historic Preservation awarded a total of $64,250 to eight CLGs; in 2015, a total of $167,000 was awarded to five CLGs. Beginning in 2014, the OHP raised the individual award limit from $25,000 to $40,000. The trend over time has been to offer fewer grants, but in larger amounts, responding to increases in actual costs. Since 2000, the OHP has awarded just over $2.5 million.

Funding for surveys has been a popular grant request from the beginning of the program. In the early years, it was not an uncommon practice in preservation for surveyors to cherry pick properties with a minimum of evaluative methodology.

CLG-funded contexts can prove to be a useful tool in protecting the integrity of historic properties. (Photo courtesy of the City and County of San Francisco)
Many focused on architecture and architectural styles, with few addressing neighborhood and community development. By the mid-2000s the concept of historic context as the basis of evaluations became more common place. In recent years, CLGs responding to a more inclusive approach to historic preservation have requested funding for ethnic and community-based context statements, including Jewish community, LGBT, Chinese American, and Latino contexts in Los Angeles; an LGBTQ context in San Diego; and Japanese American and Chinese American contexts in Riverside.

Pasadena used CLG grants to flesh out its historic property inventory by identifying the full range of architecture in the city. Although Pasadena is widely known for its early twentieth-century collection of incredible bungalows and Craftsman architecture, less was known about other property types, specifically those that came before and after the Craftsman period. With CLG grants the city successfully completed historic contexts and surveys of both its mid-twentieth century history and architectural resources, and pre-Craftsman-era residential development.

Some grants also have been used to respond to local issues, in some cases almost presciently. The October 5, 1989, issue of the OHP newsletter reported that the cities of Alameda and San Francisco were awarded CLG grants for preservation planning for unreinforced masonry buildings in anticipation of future seismic activity. Little did they know that two weeks later, on October 17, the Loma Prieta earthquake would devastate the Bay Area. In recounting that event, former SHPO Gualtieri stated, “I can’t think of a better use for a grant program than to have it assist in developing methods to protect Californians and preserve the state’s valuable historical commercial and residential buildings.”

More recently, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors enacted a mandatory seismic retrofit program for soft-story buildings. In response to the program, the city used CLG grants to develop a
Neighborhood Storefront Historic Context Statement and to survey historic storefront buildings to protect them from insensitive alteration and to provide valuable information upfront for owners or tenants of buildings subject to the upgrades.

The City of Los Angeles is close to completing its citywide survey known as SurveyLA. This effort includes over 880,000 legal parcels within almost 500 square miles. Los Angeles became a CLG in 2007 and immediately began successfully applying for grants to carry out important education and public outreach groundwork prior to the fieldwork that would begin three years later. Although modest in monetary terms, the CLG grants proved their value in the partnership that was forged between the local government and the OHP in this massive undertaking.

Beyond the obvious benefits of the grants program, local governments in California have benefited from the credibility the CLG program bestows on their historic preservation programs, the technical assistance provided by the OHP, including access to California’s CLG listserv, and the streamlining and clarity the program brings to identification and assessment efforts under the California Environmental Quality Act. In this 50th year of the National Historic Preservation Act, there is every reason to believe that the number of Certified Local Governments will continue to grow as more communities engage in preserving their unique part of California’s heritage.

Lucinda Woodward, State Historian III, is supervisor of the OHP’s Local Government and Environmental Compliance Unit.

Visit our Certified Local Government webpage to learn more about this important program for local communities: www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/clg

3 Ibid.
When I first began my career in cultural resources management, my goal was to become a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for a California Indian tribe. I am a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe in far northern California and have, since I could remember, been invested in preservation of my tribal culture through both policy development and cultural revitalization. The intersections between culture and policy (federal and state) interact at the THPO level. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office program was established in 1992 as a result of amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that allowed federally-recognized Indian Tribes to take on “more formal responsibility for the preservation of significant historic properties on tribal lands.” A tribe, by establishing and appointing a THPO, takes on the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for tribal lands. The adoption of a THPO generally means that federal agencies consult in lieu of the SHPO for projects that occur on, or affect historic properties on, tribal lands.

In California, there are currently 35 THPOs represented in a state that has 109 federally-recognized tribes. The responsibilities of a THPO vary from tribe to tribe. Many THPO tribes take on responsibilities such as:

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as planning and compliance activities related to road, school, housing, and economic development construction, technical assistance for Native language conservation and rejuvenation, cultural and heritage tourism, and educational outreach programs for school children. THPOs also can assume the responsibilities and oversight for repatriation requests per the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and related matters. For example, Patricia Garcia, THPO of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, sits on the Cahuilla Inter-Tribal Repatriation Committee. This committee collaborates between several Cahuilla tribes in southern California to repatriate objects from museums and institutions back to their communities.

THPOs also work with federal and state agencies related to issues surrounding tribal cemeteries, cultural training, historic structure rehabilitation, historic site surveys, and oral history. THPOs may have a wide variety of duties outside of the traditional Section 106 duties found at the SHPO. It is important to note that each THPO is distinct; the duties of one THPO might be different from the duties of another. This distinction is also found in staff levels. Where one tribe might have a staff of five another may have a staff of one. Despite these distinctions, all THPOs are eligible for grants funded through the National Park Service (NPS). NPS currently administers the THPO program by providing two grants from the Historic Preservation Fund: Tribal Historic Preservation Office grants and Tribal Heritage grants. Funds for these grants are provided annually to tribes that have signed agreements with the National Park Service to establish THPOs. These funds help assist THPOs in developing their historic preservation program and activities.

In addition to grant funding opportunities, there are organizations that help THPOs collaborate between state, federal, local, and tribal governments for common goals. The National Association for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) is a non-profit organization that oversees the THPO program. NATHPO was founded in 1998 and helps to support the “preservation, maintenance and revitalization of the culture and traditions of Native peoples of the United States.” NATHPO activities include monitoring the U.S. Congress, state activities, and insuring that federally mandated compliance reviews include Tribal Historic Properties.

“Tribal cultural heritage is inherent in everything we do as California Indian people. I do not stop being an Indian when I leave my reservation or go to my job.”
The importance of tribal cultural heritage is inherent in everything we do as California Indian people. I do not stop being an Indian when I leave my reservation or go to my job. The values that have been set forth my entire life from the indigenous perspective inform much of what I do day to day. Although my dreams of becoming a THPO have not been fulfilled (yet) I find myself working, in my current capacity, with many California THPOs. The dedication and drive to ensure the protection of California tribal cultural resources is apparent in the interactions that I and my colleagues have with THPOs and the tribes they represent; the importance of the THPO program cannot be underestimated.

Personally, I have continuously been inspired by the work that California THPOs have advocated for regarding cultural revitalization, and it has driven my interest in pursuing a career in both cultural resources and environmental policy. One such example is the development of the Karuk Tribal Eco-Cultural Resources Management Plan in 2010. The plan was developed in conjunction with the Karuk Department of Natural Resources and was meant to serve as a long term adaptive management strategy for the protection and utilization of cultural/natural resources. Many non-Native people do not understand that natural resources are often considered to also be cultural resources by Native American communities. The plan was developed as a means to protect natural resources with a lens toward cultural resources management. For example, controlled burns were used traditionally in the Karuk Tribe (and many other tribes) as a means to tend the land through activating distribution, abundance, composition, and structure of certain plant species used for both physical sustenance and cultural practices. The plan is an innovative way to integrate both natural resources protection and promote cultural resources management outside of the norms of museum, archives, and historic preservation methodologies.

In California, THPO tribes have been involved in the annual THPO/SHPO Summit. This summit provides opportunities to discuss topics and issues of concern related to historic...
preservation in California. Topics of prior SHPO/THPO Summits have included: Assembly Bill 52, California Historical Resources Information System Tribal Access Policy, California Environmental Quality Act, and emergency preparedness plans. The focus of the summit shifts yearly, but for California THPOs it is an excellent opportunity to conduct outreach with other THPOs and interface with the California SHPO staff.

In the two decades since its inception, the THPO program has helped to bridge policy, culture, and revitalization within tribal communities of California and throughout the nation. As former NPS American Indian Liaison Office Director Patricia L. Parker has observed, “Tribes seek to preserve their cultural heritage as a living part of contemporary life ... Indian tribes are living cultures, fundamentally different in character from other components of American society, that can continue and be strengthened only through the perpetuation of their traditions.”

My hope for the next generation of California THPOs is to increase meaningful collaboration between California Indian tribes and state, federal, and local agencies. I hope that THPOs will play a larger role in cultural revitalization work with support and outreach from outside entities including federal and state partners. The importance of supporting Native American cultural revitalization is not only for the benefit of California Indians but for generations of Californians to come. To understand our history is to understand ourselves, and California Indian cultural history must be included in our understanding of California identity.

Brittani Orona is a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and an Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Specialist working at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

1 Mission Statement, National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers: http://nathpo.org/wp/
2 Dr. Patricia L. Parker, Ph.D., Chief, National Park Service American Indian Liaison Office, April 1943-December 2014.
The National Register of Historic Places is arguably one of the more well-known programs to come out of the National Historic Preservation Act. In the following two articles, OHP staff takes a look at the spirit and substance of the National Register. Anmarie Medin of our Archaeology and Environmental Review Unit addresses the flexibility of criteria with regard to culturally significant sites that may not fit the traditional mold of historic properties. Jay Corriea, of our Registration Unit, offers a photo essay highlighting the rich variety of California resources that have earned a place on the National Register.

Criteria for the Cultural Intangibles of Heritage

By Anmarie Medin, Archaeologist, Office of Historic Preservation

When first enacted into law in 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was hailed as crucial to protecting our nation’s history for future generations. Advocates quickly got high-visibility properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and soon it was jokingly referred to as a list of places important to “dead white guys.” No one would argue that places such as Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello are not important and do not

Chaco Canyon was one of the early identified archaeological sites. (Photo courtesy of C.M. Sauer/Creative commons)
deserve to be listed. Those listings from the 1960s and 1970s recognized properties that were obviously important to our nation’s history. Even then, however, there were discussions of relative importance. Was the NRHP a list of “George Washington slept here” or a list that recognized broadly important aspects of our history? What does “our history” mean in a multicultural society?

The NHRP identifies four criteria for listing; archaeologists have focused on Criterion D, which requires that a property eligible for listing have information potential and that the information be important. Early listings of archaeological sites such as Chaco Canyon or Mesa Verde focused on the ways those sites could help archaeologists learn more about how people lived in the past. Rarely would those archaeologists ask about what those sites meant to modern day descendants, or what they would like to learn about their ancestors.

As the profession of archaeology has evolved, questions archaeologists ask have become more detailed and sophisticated. Technology has improved, and the increase in data available has permitted more refined analyses. As a result, what constitutes important information has evolved over time. Archaeologists continue to study the effects of human actions on the landscape, but quite often are only talking with other archaeologists. It is time to expand our understanding of what it means to be important, and engage with descendant communities about how alternative narratives can advance our understanding of the past.

The past 30-plus years have gradually seen archaeologists doing exactly that. Good scholarship requires utilizing multiple lines of evidence to arrive at a richer understanding of the past. Contemporary Native American communities as well as other descendant communities bring their own histories that contribute to those multiple lines that can bring archaeology beyond “D” in an effort to capture all the reasons a specific location might be important.

Today there is much talk about changing the criteria for listing on the NRHP due to perceptions that it does not accommodate the diversity of things we value or hold important to who we are. Perhaps we shouldn’t be so hasty. There is flexibility within the existing structure to recognize the things that are important.
important to a wide variety of people.

Since the passage of the NHPA and creation of the National Register of Historic Places, society’s world view has changed and what is important to understanding our nation’s history has appropriately broadened. Rather than change NRHP criteria to accommodate those broadened perspectives, practitioners can simply optimize the flexibility inherent in the law and implementing regulations to embrace those perspectives.

The NRHP states explicitly that “these criteria are worded in a manner to provide a wide diversity of resources.” Over time, the National Park Service (NPS) has issued bulletins to help practitioners analyze how properties might meet those four criteria. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, there is growing discussion about expanding the NRHP to recognize the “intangible” aspects of culture such as language, song, food, and dance.

While the current structure does not specifically capture those values, that shouldn’t limit us from creatively applying the four NRHP criteria to the places associated with these “intangible” values that communities hold dear. The creative practitioner should strive to find a way to fit those intangibles into the existing NRHP construct. The dance may be important, but the location where the dance is taught may be the “place” that meets Criterion A.

This flexibility may be particularly helpful when in a regulatory setting. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings upon historic properties. A broader approach to identifying historic properties would get us beyond the scientific values of an archaeological site to recognizing the cultural values that also are important.

A more inclusive approach requires recognizing that communities may ascribe value to things that do not conveniently fall within a western definition of property.”
definition of property. Environment is an important aspect, as recognized by the NRHP with integrity criteria such as location, setting, and feeling. We struggle, however, to place boundaries around interconnected resources. It might be fruitful in these cases to think of such locations as a “main street” of a different place. Following this mindset, an ethnographic village’s significance is comprised of more than just the discrete archaeological deposit identified; it includes nearby plant gathering places, water sources, and natural features that are part of a tribe’s spiritual life. How is this different from a modern Californian thinking of their “village” as their home, work, favorite shopping locations, school, church, etc.? An ethnographic village continues to be the discretely identified archaeological site, but the analysis under Section 106 or under all NRHP values expands to the neighborhood level (District in NRHP language) to capture the interconnectedness of the various parts.

Whether 10,000 or 100 years ago, the people who lived at the locations that we now identify as archaeological sites did not exist in isolation. A broader approach to applying the spirit and letter of the National Historic Preservation Act can help us all recognize that fact and improve how we share those stories.

Anmarie Medin is supervisor of our Archaeology and Environmental Compliance Unit, and formerly served on the State Historical Resources Commission.

Visit our Archaeology webpage to learn more about current activity and thinking in the area of archaeology and preservation: www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/archaeology

Ancestral landscapes embody the intangible and tangible aspects of cultural heritage. (Photo courtesy of Doug McCulloh, 2011, all rights reserved)
The staff of the California Office of Historic Preservation Registration Unit takes seriously the statement that the “National Register is the nation’s inventory of historic places and the national repository of documentation on the variety [emphasis added] of historic property types, significance, abundance, condition, ownership, needs, and other information.” The National Register of Historic Places is more than just pretty buildings. While we all appreciate and even love the grand Queen Anne mansion, the stately courthouse, the dignified city hall, or the fantastic movie palace, current thinking recognizes the significance of properties that may not, at first glance, appear to be important. Some of these properties are not “beautiful” in the conventional sense, and others are not buildings at all. Many are associated with groups underrepresented in the National Register.

We are fortunate to live in a state as diverse as California, which makes it possible for the Registration Unit to send a wide variety of properties to the Keeper of the National Register. As Dr. Paul Lusignan, California’s reviewer at the National Register, recently observed, “California continues to submit excellent, diverse and often ‘intriguing’ nominations.”

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)—the federal legislation that created the National Register of Historic Places—the Registration Unit is pleased to share the following photo essay that reflects the variety of California nominations to the National Register we have had the privilege of shepherding in recent years. Also reflected in these nominations is the broadening understanding of significance, and the importance of diversity, that has developed over the first 50 years of the NHPA and which will carry forward into the next half-century. As rightly stated on the National Park Service website, “Americans now and in the future deserve to see themselves—however they describe themselves—in the story of America. As we learn about the contributions of fellow Americans, we learn to appreciate and value our diversity and each other.”

Jay Correia, State Historian III, is supervisor of our Registration Programs and Environmental Compliance Unit.

2 Paul Lusignan to Amy Crain; Email communication, January 18, 2015.
3 “Heritage Initiatives”; NPS website: https://www.nps.gov/heritageinitiatives/.
Chicano Park  
San Diego, San Diego County  
National Register of Historic Places listing:  
January 23, 2013

Chicano Park is located in San Diego’s Barrio Logan neighborhood, beneath the east-west approach ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. The park contains a unique assemblage of original murals painted on the support pillars and abutments beneath the ramps. The property is significant for its association with the April 22, 1970, takeover of the area by Barrio Logan residents responding to news that a Highway Patrol substation was under construction on the site, which was previously proposed as a neighborhood park. The community succeeded in acquiring the site as a park. Artists throughout the western United States, including masters of the Chicano Art Movement, came to the park to create the colorful murals.

(JPhoto courtesy of Todd Stands)

Judson and Brown Ditch  
Redlands, San Bernardino County  
National Register of Historic Places Listing:  
September 29, 2015

The Judson and Brown Ditch, including the Santa Ana Tunnel, was built in 1881 and is significant for its role in the development of the City of Redlands. The irrigation ditch, the first example of a paved ditch in southern California, provided a crucial link from the Santa Ana River to the valley below, which once was thought to be “undevelopable.” The ditch is also significant for its association with builders Edward Judson and Frank Brown, two young college graduates who envisioned an agricultural town in the warm San Bernardino Valley and ultimately became the founders of Redlands.

(Photo courtesy of Tamara Serrao-Levia)
Pond Farm Pottery Historic District
Guerneville vicinity, Sonoma County
National Register of Historic Places listing: June 17, 2014

Pond Farm Pottery is a 35-acre rural property in the hills above the Russian River in Austin Creek State Recreation Area and is significant for its association with the Studio Pottery Movement and renowned ceramist Marguerite Wildenhain. American ceramists of the 1940s and 1950s were in the early stages of a ceramics revolution that included the emergence of the Studio Pottery Movement. Wildenhain was one of the pioneering women in ceramics, and her school at Pond Farm Pottery played a central role in the recognition of ceramics as an important art form. Wildenhain lived and worked at Pond Farm from 1942 until her death in 1985.

Rockhaven Sanitarium Historic District
Glendale, Los Angeles County
National Register of Historic Places listing: June 9, 2016

Rockhaven Sanitarium Historic District is significant as an early twentieth century mental institution, and one of the first woman-owned, women-serving sanitariums in California. Established by Agnes Richards, R.N., in 1923, Rockhaven’s buildings are set within a lushly landscaped garden. The garden design of Rockhaven was inspired by the Cottage Plan for mental institutions, which supported the theory that environment, including architecture and landscaping, shapes behavior. Rockhaven also reflects the vision and work of Agnes Richards who sought to improve the conditions of mentally ill women by housing them in smaller, more homelike facilities.
Fender’s Radio Service  
Fullerton, Orange County  
National Register of Historic Places listing: June 23, 2013

Located in downtown Fullerton this unassuming building housed Fender’s Radio Service from 1944 to 1951. It was at this location that Leo Fender designed his first solid-body electric guitars and started the manufacturing and marketing processes that served him throughout his career. Fender’s Telecaster design was so successful it is still manufactured virtually unchanged six decades later. In 1951 Fender invented the electric bass guitar, considered by historians to be his most important contribution to music. Fender’s musical instruments altered the look, sound, and personality of American music, and in large part made the electric guitar the most popular instrument in the world.

New Helvetia Historic District  
Sacramento, Sacramento County  
National Register of Historic Places listing: April 4, 2014

The New Helvetia Historic District is a housing complex comprised of 62 contributing buildings of wood framing with gabled roofs, clipped eaves, brick cladding, clinker brick, and metal framed windows. Built in the 1940s initially as low income housing, New Helvetia was converted to military housing. The complex later came to represent an important local attempt to improve housing opportunities for African Americans, and is associated with Nathaniel Colley, Sacramento’s first African American attorney. Colley had a significant and successful role in the effort to implement fair housing practices, including at New Helvetia.
As the National Historic Preservation Act heads into its next half-century, we thought it would be good to conclude this issue with a look at one of the upcoming efforts taking place in California preservation. We share here an open letter from Rick Moss, Commissioner-Ethnic History, State Historical Resources Commission, about the opportunity to participate in an exciting cultural heritage initiative.

The California African American Heritage Trail

An Open Letter from Rick Moss, Commissioner, State Historical Resources Commission

In my capacities as Chief Curator at the African American Museum and Library at Oakland, Commissioner for Ethnic History on the State Historical Resources Commission, and co-chair of the Commission’s Cultural Diversity Committee, I have given a lot of thought to an initiative for the creation of a statewide California African American Heritage Trail. My determination to do so was buoyed by the recent success of a similar endeavor in San Francisco, spearheaded by historian John Templeton. The documented evidence presented by Templeton, the soundness of his argument, and his perseverance, helped to convince the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to recognize and endorse the San Francisco African American Freedom Trail. Also influencing the Board’s decision may have been the release of San Francisco Heritage’s policy paper, *Sustaining San Francisco’s Living History: Strategies for Conserving Heritage Assets*, which drew from case studies of conservation and preservation initiatives around the country, and presented local, incentive-based solutions to protect cultural heritage assets.

The San Francisco African American Freedom Trail extends from Fort Mason to Visitation Valley and includes 400 points of interest that highlight the historic and cultural contributions of African Americans to San Francisco. The trail is the first of its kind in the west, and has garnered positive attention from residents and visitors alike.

Anything that happens in San Francisco always attracts a lot of attention, but the history of the African American community in Oakland is no less compelling. To that end I am proposing to begin work on the establishment of a...

(Continued on page 29)
sites related to those populations’ history even more imperative. Even when African American citizenry was at its peak, the record of their longevity and activities in these cities and other California towns was obscured. A recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle told the story of the town of Coloma: birthplace of the Gold Rush, and by 1849, home to 10,000 people. The article’s author writes about the James Marshall Monument that stands on a hilltop overlooking the town, and the Monroe Ridge Trail, noting that the trail “ends at the Monroe Orchard which allowed the Monroe family to eventually own most of Coloma by selling their abundance of fruit and produce to hungry miners in the region.” However, what the writer failed to mention is that the Monroe family—descendants of Peter and Nancy Gooch—were African Americans.

The contributions of these pioneers and others like them are too significant to be ignored or forgotten. It is difficult to appreciate a group of people, or what they have accomplished, when you know nothing about them, or what you do know is culturally biased. How much richer our understanding of a town such as Coloma would be if we knew that by 1853 there were at least two thriving Black-owned barbershops, and by the late 1850s, 20 percent of the town’s African American residents were involved in similar commercial activities. The Gooch-Monroe family of Coloma, California. (Photo courtesy of the California State Library)
Sustainable Preservation: California’s Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2013-2017, specifically addresses the issue of cultural diversity, stating that “when everyone has the opportunity to be heard, and recognized for their contributions to the American experience, there is a greater potential for a true consensus for preservation.” Furthermore, Goal Four of the plan states that to foster a preservation ethic it is necessary to “cultivate a sense of stewardship for historical and cultural resources, and the belief that these resources, and the stories they can tell, enrich our lives and communities.” Among the objectives listed to help achieve the goal is Objective C: “Develop and promote heritage tourism as a vehicle for economic development.”

The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines heritage tourism as, “traveling to experience the place and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past.” Establishing a California African American Heritage Trail clearly answers the intent of such goals and objectives by expanding and enriching the narrative of California for all who seek to better understand our state’s history.

Here is where you can help. Knowing that a shared public understanding of the value of California’s historic and cultural resources helps to better protect those resources, I am reaching out to local, regional and statewide residents and organizations to join me in this heritage trail initiative. I invite any who are interested, to help form committees to set goals for the California African American Heritage Trail, adopt a model, develop themes, and identify the most compelling stories about your region or county. I welcome your thoughts, comments, and participation!

Rick Moss
State Historical Resources Commission

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The mission of the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the State Historical Resources Commission is to provide leadership and promote the preservation of California’s irreplaceable and diverse cultural heritage.

To fulfill our mission we:

- Partner with local, state, federal, and tribal agencies, non-profit organizations, and the general public to help ensure cultural resources are appreciated and maintained as a matter of public interest and community pride;
- Carry out mandated responsibilities and administer programs under federal and state historic preservation laws;
- Promote a comprehensive preservation planning approach and urge the integration of historic preservation with broader land use planning efforts and decisions;
- Offer technical assistance and preservation training in order to create a better understanding of the programs OHP administers;
- Support sustainability and adaptive reuse of historic resources in ways that preserve historic character and provide economic benefits;
- Maintain the statewide Historical Resources Inventory and make available information about the state’s historical and archaeological resources, and
- Encourage recognition of the vital legacy of cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic, economic, social, and environmental benefits of historic preservation for the enrichment of present and future generations.

Preservation Matters is the newsletter of the California Office of Historic Preservation. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the OHP. All text and photographic content is the property of the OHP unless otherwise noted. If you have questions or comments about the newsletter, please contact: Diane Barclay, Editor, at diane.barclay@parks.ca.gov, or 916-445-7026. This publication is available in alternate format upon request.