

National Park System Advisory Board



Citizen advisors chartered by Congress to help the National Park Service care for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Appendix C

Cultural Resources Subcommittee Report

National Park System Advisory Board

Planning Committee

November 2012

**National Park System Advisory Board
Planning Committee Report
Contributions from the Cultural Resources Subcommittee
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The Challenge

In 1989, Ed Chappell wrote of history museums in the United States

At their worst, they make evil in the past seem romantic and inequality in the present seem inevitable. At their best, museums help people to understand the rifts that separate us from one another. The time has come to stop adjusting the furniture and begin reforming our essential presentations of the past.¹

Today, this challenge still resonates not only for museums but also for custodians of historic sites like the National Park Service. As a steward of historic places, the NPS has opportunities to help the American public engage in critical thinking about the past and about how the past shapes the present and future. For many engaged in historic preservation, telling more honest, inclusive, stories is a beginning. The real prize is making historic places major sites where Americans can meet for conversations about where we, as a society, a nation and communities, can and should go from here. Historic sites can help visitors attempt the leap of imagination toward understanding the historical experiences of people whose lives have been different from their own. In an era when commercial messages occupy so much public and private space, parks and other protected areas can be important places for promoting more informed, tolerant, respectful and humane dialogue among American citizens. The “rifts” that Ed Chappell noted will never disappear, but understanding history can help us try to talk across those gulfs.

Parks can foster civic engagement and civil dialogue. Thus, NPS seeks to build a National Park System that reflects not only the voices of the disfranchised and disadvantaged, but also the historic development of fundamental structures of our society and economy. In the recent past, NPS has made strides in developing more variety and diversity in its range of historic and archeological sites and the interpretation of those sites. Still, the Service has enormous untapped potential for promoting and facilitating critical and contextual thinking about the past and its implications for civic engagement-- nationwide and in local communities.

Let’s start by acknowledging some of the obstacles to, and opportunities for, reaching that potential in planning for a twenty-first century National Park System.

¹ Edward A. Chappell, “Social Responsibility and the American History Museum,” *Winterthur Portfolio* 24 (1989): 265.

- For decades, as a basis for National Park System planning for history and archeology, NPS used a taxonomic thematic framework that emphasized politics, military history, and architecture as high-style design. It also stressed the notion of “westward expansion” in interpreting European-American colonization and U.S. nation-building— in ways that excluded honest perspectives on colonialism, the dispossession of Native Americans, and the institution of slavery. The result was a park system skewed toward elites and singular political events; the system lacked comparable representation of some fundamental cultural, social, and economic underpinnings of the nation and of the experiences of its many peoples. In 1994, the NPS adopted a new thematic framework designed to reflect trends in the best of current historical and anthropological scholarship. [See it at www.nps.gov/history/history/categrs/thematic.pdf.] This new framework focuses on eight fundamental processes, from “peopling places” to “developing the American economy.” It embraces broad contexts for thinking about society, culture, politics, the environment and the economy. The old taxonomic framework shaped the National Park System for many years, and the new one has yet to be exploited fully for National Park System planning and for interpretation and education within existing NPS units. NPS has the opportunity to use this new thematic framework as a tool for more comprehensive, contextual thinking about building a representative National Park System. This tool can also serve to help existing parks re-interpret their histories using new scholarship and broader contexts.
- Some NPS managers and staff lack some of the skills and training to take advantage of this new thematic framework’s possibilities and to incorporate current scholarship into NPS cultural-resources and interpretive programs. Many are understandably concerned about engaging “controversial” and painful topics. For some, history is a recitation of a single uncontested and unchanging narrative, rather than a critical and dynamic investigation of the past from multiple points of view. There is a need to promote understanding within NPS that history is a process in which we constantly explore new and familiar evidence, and that our understanding of the meanings of that evidence changes over time. Opportunities exist for helping NPS employees build not only skills that will help them take advantage of current scholarship, but also partnerships to engage elders, scholars, and nearby communities in this work. Development of NPS-specific training “academies” is underway. NPS should also do more to encourage NPS employees to further their educations at colleges and universities. A recent report by the Organization of American Historians, *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service*, [www.oah.org/programs/nps/imperiled_promise.html] outlines proposals for history that may also be useful in NPS programs for archeology and ethnography.
- NPS manages important programs—the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks Program—that position NPS centrally within a national network for recognition of historic places outside the National Park System. Some in

NPS do not fully embrace those “external” programs, despite widespread recognition that NPS has a critical role to play as a focal point in a national system of protected areas. There is, though, long-time and growing awareness within the NPS that the National Park System alone is not an adequate tool for representing this nation’s cultural and natural diversity, and that National Park System units today need the public support that can be fostered by broad systems for recognition of resources, conservation and preservation. Respect and protection for biodiversity and cultural diversity depend upon expansive public understanding and advocacy. Because the National Register is built around a local-state-tribal-federal partnership that is the source of Register nominations, the National Register and NHL programs also provide a framework for advocacy, by local communities and national organizations, for conservation and preservation, including new NPS units and a range of other partnerships.

- NPS has tended to “stovepipe” its research, operations, and staffing in ways that divide cultural and natural resources into mutually exclusive categories. However, within NPS there has been increasing recognition that cultural and natural values often attach to the same resources. Increasing sophistication within NPS about the concept and implementation of programs for cultural landscapes and ethnographic resources, in particular, offers bridges across the outmoded natural-cultural divide.
- In the past, NPS people have tended to view and interpret individual units of the National Park System in isolation. There are opportunities for parks to band together and build interpretive programming around major themes and contexts that they share. For example, since the late 1990s, the superintendents of Civil War battlefields, in recognition of common issues that they face, have sponsored meetings and developed strategic goals in order to move all NPS Civil War battlefields forward. Efforts to build similar park clusters on other topics could be expanded, in the service of exploring “so what?” questions about the many meanings of park resources. While place-specific stories are a major and joyous aspect of visiting parks, many visitors also appreciate and want broader perspectives and fresh insights that illuminate shared concerns that face us all today.

Findings and Recommendations:

A. Gaps

NPS already has some excellent tools for identifying gaps in the National Park System. For example, the National Register and National Historic Landmarks programs reach far beyond the universe of properties that might feasibly be managed within the National Park System. Those programs already tap a wide range of stakeholders in a national system for recognition of historic properties. The National Register is founded upon nominations that arise from the expertise and enthusiasm of individuals, communities, local governments, State Historic Preservation Officers and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. NHLs are a pool of resources

already found to meet criteria of “national significance” requisite for inclusion in the National Park System. Emphasizing those programs, this report focuses on some sources and methods for identifying gaps in the System, rather than naming individual properties that could be studied as potential new units of the NPS.

As suggested above, the current NPS thematic framework provides a broad conceptual umbrella that can guide this effort. The originators of the thematic framework in 1994 emphasized that race and ethnicity, class and gender are not only fundamental to understanding each of the eight broad process-oriented themes they identified, but also are foundational, cross-cutting threads integral to the fabric of each theme. The thematic framework is also intended to encourage cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary thinking and analysis.

In an effort to help initiate a longer conversation about the uses of the thematic framework, this subcommittee proposes a few preliminary thoughts:

THEME 1: Peopling Places. Here, and also related to theme eight, NPS could look harder at the history of immigration and federal immigration policy. While NPS includes Ellis Island, the Lowell National Historical Park, and a range of sites related to European-American colonization, NPS has done comparatively little with other, more recent histories of migration and mobility within the U.S. These might include the 20th-century “great migration” of African Americans northward, or the movements of New England farmers to the west and Midwest before that, as well as the multi-faceted histories of Hispanic immigration and mobility. Certainly, the history of changing norms in family structures is rich, and NPS should think about the kinds of sites that shed light on that.

THEME 2: Creating Social Institutions and Movements. There has been good work in the NHL program on various civil rights movements. Ed Linenthal, a historian and editor of the *Journal of American History*, might emphasize that the history of churches, synagogues, and mosques is too often neglected in the preservation world. San Antonio Missions is a place where NPS is navigating those waters. The Mary McLeod Bethune site reminds us that the histories of professional organizations, fraternal orders and women’s organizations are a field that could be explored further, too.

THEME 3: Expressing Cultural Values. Here, NPS could think about the history of education, from the growth of public schools and the increased importance of the high-school diploma, to the development of our much-valued systems of higher education. What should the American public understand about the history of education opportunity in this country?

THEME 4: Shaping the Political Landscape. Especially since the NHL program has looked at voting rights, there is an opportunity to explore further the history of who votes and who

doesn't, and who becomes a citizen and who doesn't. It could also be productive to think about the history of political campaigning (especially the intersections of media and money) in America.

THEME 5: Developing the American Economy. Industrialization and de-industrialization, unionization and de-unionization, are hugely influential and important. NPS has a significant number of early industrial sites like Saugus and Hopewell Furnaces, and some sites like the Homestead national monument, where industry and agriculture are framed in relatively bucolic settings. NPS could look harder at the rise and decline of heavy industry like big steel, and the rise of big "industrialized" agriculture. NPS has already done work on steel plants in the Pittsburgh area. Also neglected and important is the history of extraction of natural resources—mines, oil, lumbering, and natural gas.

THEME 6: Expanding Science and Technology. Telecommunications and the development of the computer loom large in this area. It may be too early for NPS to look at the history of the Internet, but NPS could help illuminate the historic, technological contexts for the beginnings of the current communications explosion.

THEME 7: Transforming the Environment. There's some overlap here with the extractive-industry and big-agriculture histories NPS might consider. Of course, the histories of land conservation and environmental awareness merit more attention. This is an opportunity for NPS to examine its own contributions in critical, contextual ways.

THEME 8: Changing Role of the U.S. in the World Community. Besides immigration as mentioned above, this topic involves questions surrounding the history of when and how the U.S. decides to go to war, and when and how the U.S. has supported the notion of a standing army. It seems that there's relatively little space in the national parks right now where NPS addresses the history of American diplomacy.

With the thematic framework in mind, NPS can also employ a number of other existing programs to address gaps in the System's representations of U.S. history. For example, this subcommittee recommends that NPS also consider and analyze the following:

- Listings of National Register properties, NHLs and National Park System areas that classify those historic properties according to the "areas of significance" categories developed for the National Register. The National Register list, in particular, can help NPS identify and understand trends in NR listings over time to illuminate SHPO and THPO priorities and how they may shift and develop.
- State Historic Preservation Plans
- Tribal Historic Preservation Officers' nominations to the National Register.

To address further questions such as gaps in the representation of sites of importance to minority populations, NPS should reach out to leading scholars in those fields of study, engage them in sustained

conversations, and make available to them the lists of relevant resources that are already represented in the National Register, National Park System, and National Historic Landmarks program. Existing relationships with groups such as the Organization of American Historians will be helpful in making contacts and building advisory groups.

B. Integrity; standard and practice

In thinking about institutional obstacles to broader recognition and better representation of American history and culture, this subcommittee has discussed application of NR and NHL standards for integrity of historic properties, standards that are part of the system for evaluating historical significance. Based upon his experiences working with sites connected with Cesar Chavez, Ray Rast has joined others in identifying as a problem the rigid interpretation of the criterion of “integrity” in evaluating the significance of properties for National Register and NHL eligibility. He says “The emphasis that the National Register, NHL Program, and NPS Management Policies place on integrity privileges bricks and mortar over historical meaning and social value.”² Integrity in the NR and NHL programs generally means “the ability of a property to convey its significance” and “the authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s prehistoric or historic period.” Properties connected with social movements, painful events, and non-elite lives often have been at a disadvantage in garnering official, private and local attention and protections that would lead to the kinds of initial and long-term formal preservation efforts that take into account official notions of “integrity.” As a result, such properties may also start at a disadvantage in the search for NR and NHL recognition. This can have the unintended consequence of discouraging the kind of local and “grassroots” activity that is crucial if the NR and NHL programs are to be tools for community empowerment and strengthening community identities. As Dr. Rast has said of stakeholders in the Cesar Chavez study,

When they realized, in some cases, that their efforts to modify buildings in order to perpetuate their use actually compromised the integrity of those buildings, they expressed deep frustration with an agency that seemed to “punish” them for maintaining their buildings in the manner their needs and resources allowed. In other cases, they pointed out that certain properties were modified because they were *not* under their control. Ultimately they expressed disappointment in an agency that asked for their support but seemed disinclined to acknowledge, respect, and serve their needs.³

It is also true that the protection and treatment of physical fabric is a cornerstone of the responsibilities of federal agencies under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The section 106 process requires of federal agencies certain types of review and planning that many federal officials might consider onerous if applied to sites where no historic fabric remains.

² Ray Rast, “Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Notes on Integrity” (draft paper presented to the National Park System Advisory Board, August 14, 2012), 14.

³ *Ibid.*, 6.

This subcommittee makes the following recommendations about this question:

- National Register and NHL managers should review existing guidance on evaluation of integrity. Current managers note that integrity standards require flexibility in their application, taking into account the nature of the property and property type, and its rarity or representativeness. They note that there has been progress in this area, and acknowledge that judging integrity is a subjective process, though it must be based on good precedents and best practices. An open, inclusive review of guidelines on integrity could make that flexibility explicitly clear, while also outlining principles that will prevent this aspect of the process from seeming arbitrary and capricious.
- A related term of art in the NR and NHL programs is “period of significance.” This requires a sophisticated analysis of what should be considered the time when a given property achieved its significance for NR and NHL purposes. This subcommittee suggests that NR and NHL managers place renewed emphasis, since historic properties do change over time, on recognition that layers of changes may deserve consideration in establishing a period of significance that is thoughtful, informed by good scholarship, responsible and inclusive. Many recognize that a continuum of use may indeed be historically significant, compared to one moment in time or the date of initial construction. This recognition can and should be expanded and more institutionalized.
- NPS should also continue its efforts to coordinate National Environmental Policy Act reviews with Section 106 processes, in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Some preservationists, including some SHPOs, see NEPA as a tool more flexible than Section 106 for embracing a range of issues and values in the human environment, including “intangible” aspects of cultural expression and sacred sites.
- NPS should continue to use and develop tools and methods for identifying, evaluating and protecting cultural landscapes and ethnographic resources. Those resource types provide opportunities and sophisticated models for evaluating change over time (and thus integrity questions) as well as the relationships of tangible and intangible resource values and stories.

C. Interpretation, Education, Outreach

Ray Rast’s points about integrity raise the larger question: how best can specific sites and “brick and mortar” venues be linked to larger stories and fundamental social, cultural, and economic themes? This subcommittee recommends, as suggested above, that NPS further pursue opportunities to enhance and diversify stories told at existing NPS units. Models for this include not only the initiative of the Civil War battlefield superintendents, but also NPS participation in the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience by the Northeast Region of the NPS. The thematic framework lists contexts that can help individual parks review their current interpretive plans and operations. Among the types of programs that could be further developed and supported, to help NPS in this area, are the site-visit program sponsored by the Organization of American Historians, academic field schools in parks, scholars-in-residence, and less formal connections

with cultural organizations and academic institutions who might conduct research in parks, sponsor lectures and other events, or participate in the training of seasonal interpreters.

Finally, this subcommittee recommends that NPS exploit emerging interpretive and educational media and partnerships that have enormous potential to address the challenge that Dr. Rast has posed about “historical meaning and social value.” For a variety of reasons, some important stories do not neatly fit within NPS’ traditional systems for recognition of historic properties that meet NR and NHL criteria. The reasons for this may include losses of historic places and fabric, and the fact that some stories involve intangible more than built, physical aspects of human experiences, aspirations, and endeavors. NPS already assists partners with interpretive planning through some existing programs such as the American Battlefield Protection Program, and National Heritage Areas. Some parks, like the Keweenaw National Historical Park in its listings of Keweenaw Heritage Sites, have reached out to neighboring historic places that interpret history related to the park’s stories.

NPS already manages programs, as well as parks, that illuminate major stories of broad geographical sweep, such as the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. One interpretive possibility is development of more interactive, electronic, broad-based mapping of some major historical themes and trends. New interpretive technologies might make it more feasible to present to the public mapping of important stories such as early 20th-century migrations of African Americans north and west, or World War II migration of blacks to the West Coast, or the routes of Latino migrant workers as they harvested crops from Texas to Washington and back. “Follow the trail” approaches might even be applied to “movements” as varied as the march of individual states to ratify women’s suffrage before 1920, or the expansion of national networks including railroads, telephones, television and radio, electricity and interstate highways. The subcommittee recommends that NPS look at the possibilities of new interpretive media to link sites connected with such broad themes.

We also recommend that NPS cultivate local allies to help tell these stories, such as libraries, museums, colleges and universities, and historical societies. “Virtual” mapping could be appealing to organizations that are on or near mapped routes. Such institutions could advise on development of interpretive media, and also help distribute literature, and information about NPS educational materials and other educational resources such as the website www.blackpast.org. Not all such local institutions would embrace this role or accept the themes pursued, but NPS could ally with those who do.

The NPS is justly proud of its preservation/conservation mission and its responsibilities as a key part of a national network of protected places. That mission and those responsibilities are for NPS to serve and guard staunchly. NPS also has opportunities to participate in partnerships for interpretive and educational programs. The voices of those involved in commemorative aspects of cultural heritage programs, and new-media possibilities for interpretive programs, deserve more NPS attention.

NHL's by Significance Topic Categories in the National Register Data Base

The following list was developed by John Byrne, National Register Database Manager. It reflects an inquiry of the data base for areas of significance for National Historic Landmarks. The results do not reflect a complete contemporary analysis of all the significance topics that might be represented by existing NHL's: many of the entries are decades old, and a given NHL can have multiple areas of significance, so the totals exceed the actual number of NHL's.

AGRICULTURE	64
ARCHITECTURE	1096
ART	136
ASIAN	10
BLACK	92
COMMERCE	233
COMMUNICATIONS	43
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	53
CONSERVATION	68
ECONOMICS	21
EDUCATION	150
ENGINEERING	167
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION	88
EUROPEAN	21
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	213
HEALTH/MEDICINE	34
HISPANIC	8
HISTORIC - ABORIGINAL	77
HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL	67
INDUSTRY	178
INVENTION	54
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	116
LAW	33
LITERATURE	108
MARITIME HISTORY	75
MILITARY	374
NATIVE AMERICAN	51
OTHER	21
OTHER-ETHNIC	1
PACIFIC-ISLANDER	7
PERFORMING ARTS	48
PHILOSOPHY	7
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	448
PREHISTORIC	162
RELIGION	94
SCIENCE	132
SOCIAL HISTORY	304
TRANSPORTATION	190

Total 5044
(reflects counting some NHL's for more than one topic)

**Parks listed by Historical Themes As They Appear on the NPS Park History Website
Compiled by Warren Brown, February, 2012**

Notes:

- the first 6 themes include a list of subthemes, but then subtheme listings stop.
- the lists include a mix of NPS units along with some heritage areas, affiliated areas, and trails.
- the parks listed under “government-constitution” and “government-foreign relations” are the same. This appears to be an error as the list under foreign relations does not match the narrative.
- the link to the maritime theme goes to the NPS maritime history program that lists both NHL’s and units by state. The NPS units have been extracted from that list for this summary.
- the link to military-civil war goes to the civil war 150 website, and does not seem to provide a list of parks.
- the number of sites listed under individual themes range from just one: Independence NHP under Economics to 69 under Ethnic Heritage- Native American..
- this list of parks by theme was reported to have been compiled around 1999, but has been periodically updated to reflect new authorizations.

•Agriculture (6)

- A.Era of Adaptation, 1607-1763
- B.Plantation Agriculture, 1607-1860
- C.Era of Subsistence Agriculture, 1763-1820
- D.The Plantation Breaks up, Sharecropping, and Tenant Farming, 1860-
- E.Mechanical Agriculture as Business Enterprise Beyond Self-Sufficiency, 1820-
- F.Farming on the East Coast for Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, and Vegetables)

- Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
- Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site
- Green Springs Historic District*
- Homestead National Monument of America
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
- Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve: Kingsley Plantation

•Architecture (36)

- A. Colonial (1600-1730)
- B. Georgian (1730-1780)
- C. Federal (1780-1820)

D. Greek Revival (1820-1840)
 E. Gothic Revival (1830-1915)
 F. Romanesque Revival (1840-1900)
 G. Renaissance Revival (1810-1920)
 H. Exotic Revivals (1830-1860)
 I. Second Empire (1850-1890)
 J. Stick Style (1860-1890)
 K. Queen Anne-Eastlake (1880-1900)
 L. Shingle Style
 M. Period Revivals (1870-1940)
 N. Commercial (1890-1915)
 O. Sullivanesque (1890-1915)
 P. Prairie (1890-1915)
 Q. Bungalow (1890-1940)
 R. Craftsman (1890-1915)
 S. Wrightian (1887-present)
 T. Moderne-Art Deco (1920-1945)
 U. International (1915-1945)
 V. Historic District (multiple styles and dates)
 W. Regional and Urban Planning
 X. Vernacular Architecture
 Y. Rustic Architecture

- Adams National Historic Park
- Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial
- Bandelier National Monument
- Boston National Historical Park
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Christiansted National Historic Site
- Colonial National Historical Park
- Crater Lake National Park
- Federal Hall National Memorial
- Glacier National Park
- Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site*
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Green Springs Historic District*
- Hampton National Historic Site
- Hot Springs National Park
- Independence National Historical Park
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Longfellow National Historic Site
- Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
- Mesa Verde National Park
- Morristown National Historical Park

- Mount Rainier National Park
- Oregon Caves National Monument
- Petrified Forest National Park
- Salem Maritime National Historic Site
- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Touro Synagogue National Historic Site*
- Tumacacori National Historical Park
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Washington Monument
- White House
- Yellowstone National Park
- Yosemite National Park

•Art (7)

- A. Early American Provincial Painting, 1676-1726
- B. Baroque in America, 1720-1776
- C. Neoclassicism, 1780-1820
- D. Romanticism
- E. European Influences, 1876-1920
- F. Realism, 1850-1926
- G. Historical Painting and Sculpture: Memory and Dreams, 1876-1908
- H. The 20th Century, 1900-1930
- I. The Second Generation, 1920-
- J. World War II to the Present, 1939-
- K. Supporting Institutions

- Gettysburg National Military Park
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- National Capital Parks- Central
- Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
- Statue of Liberty National Monument
- Vicksburg National Military Park
- Weir Farm National Historic Site

•Commemoration (13)

- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site
- Boston National Historical Park
- Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
- General Grant National Memorial
- Gettysburg National Military Park
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- National Capital Parks- Central
- Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial

- Statue of Liberty National Monument
- Vicksburg National Military Park
- Washington Monument

•Commerce (12)

- A. Extractive or Mining Industries
- B. Manufacturing Organizations
- C. Construction and Housing
- D. Trade
- E. Finance and Banking
- F. Insurance
- G. Service Industry
- H. Power and Lighting
- I. Accounting
- J. Defense
- K. Business Organization
- L. Shipping and Transportation
- M. Supporting Institutions

- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
- Chicago Portage National Historic Site*
- Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site
- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
- Grand Portage National Monument
- Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- Keweenaw National Historical Park
- McLoughlin House National Historic Site
- Salem Maritime National Historic Site
- San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- Santa Fe National Historic Trail

•Communications (4)

- A. Written Word (Newspapers and Periodicals)
- B. Mail Service (Overland, Water, and Air Routes)
- C. Telegraph and Telephone
- D. Radio
- E. Television
- F. Post World War II Electronic
- G. Spoken Word (Oratory and Public Speaking)

- Cape Cod National Seashore
- Pipe Spring National Monument
- Pony Express National Historic Trail
- Scotts Bluff National Monument

•Community (14)

- A. Slavery and Plantation Life
- B. Farming Communities
- C. Industrial Towns
- D. Urban Life
- E. Ethnic Communities (including the Immigration Phenomenon)
- F. Industrial Wealth of the Last Half of 19th Century
- G. Consumer Society of the 20th Century
- H. Suburban Life
- I. Domesticity and Family Life
- J. Occupational and Economic Classes

- Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor*
- Boston African American National Historic Site
- Boston National Historical Park
- Cane River Creole National Historical Park
- Colonial National Historical Park
- Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
- Kalaupapa National Historical Park
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- Lowell National Historical Park
- Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
- Manzanar National Historic Site
- Natchez National Historical Park
- Nicodemus National Historic Site
- Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park

•Economics (1)

- Independence National Historical Park

•Education (4)

- Booker T. Washington National Monument
- Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
- Harpers Ferry National Historic Park
- Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site

•Entertainment/Performing Arts (4)

- Castle Clinton National Monument
- Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
- New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park
- Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts

•Environmental Conservation: Historic Preservation (5)

- Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
- Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
- Colonial National Historical Park
- Independence National Historical Park
- Lincoln Home National Historic Site

•Environmental Conservation: Natural Conservation (11)

- Acadia National Park
- Denali National Park and Preserve
- Everglades National Park
- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- John Muir National Historic Site
- Marsh-Billings National Historical Park
- Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
- Shenandoah National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- Yosemite National Park

•Ethnic Heritage: African American (28)

- Booker T. Washington National Monument
- Boston African American National Historic Site
- Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
- Cane River Creole National Historical Park
- Colonial National Historical Park
- Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- Fort Davis National Historic Site
- Fort Scott National Historic Site
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
- George Washington Carver National Monument
- Hampton National Historic Site
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
- Lincoln Memorial
- Little Rock Central High School
- Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
- Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site
- New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park
- Nicodemus National Historic Site
- Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial
- Petersburg National Battlefield
- Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial
- Richmond National Battlefield Park

- Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail
- Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve
- Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
- Virgin Islands National Park

•Ethnic Heritage: Alaska Native (5)

- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Katmai National Park and Preserve
- Northwest Alaska Areas
- Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
- Sitka National Historical Park

•Ethnic Heritage: American Indian (70)

- Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
- Aztec Ruins National Monument
- Bandelier National Monument
- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Big Cypress National Preserve
- Big Hole National Battlefield
- Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
- Canyon de Chelly National Monument
- Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
- Chaco Culture National Historical Park
- Colonial National Historical Park
- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Effigy Mounds National Monument
- El Malpais National Monument
- Everglades National Park
- Fort Bowie National Historic Site
- Fort Laramie National Historic Site
- Fort Larned National Historic Site
- Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
- Fort Scott National Historic Site
- Fort Smith National Historic Site
- Fort Stanwix National Monument
- Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site
- Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
- Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
- Grand Portage National Monument
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Hohokam Pima National Monument

- Hopewell Culture National Historical Park
- Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
- Hovenweep National Monument
- Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
- Katmai National Park and Preserve
- Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
- Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
- Lava Beds National Monument
- Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
- Mesa Verde National Park
- Montezuma Castle National Monument>
- Natchez Trace Parkway
- Navajo National Monument
- Nez Perce National Historical Park
- Northwest Alaska Areas
- Ocmulgee National Monument
- Pea Ridge National Military Park
- Pecos National Historical Park
- Petroglyph National Monument
- Pipestone National Monument
- Piscataway Park
- Poverty Point National Monument
- Russell Cave National Monument
- Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument
- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
- Shiloh National Military Park
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve
- Tonto National Monument
- Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
- Tumacacori National Historical Park
- Tuzigoot National Monument
- Walnut Canyon National Monument
- Washita Battlefield National Historic Site
- Whitman Mission National Historic Site
- Wupatki National Monument
- Yosemite National Park
- Yucca House National Monument

•Ethnic Heritage: Asian American (3)

- Golden Spike National Historic Site
- Manzanar National Historic Site

- Minidoka Internment National Historic Site

•Ethnic Heritage: European (25)

- Arkansas Post National Memorial
- Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor*
- Castle Clinton National Monument
- Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park
- Christiansted National Historic Site
- Colonial National Historical Park
- Father Marquette National Memorial*
- Fort Caroline National Memorial
- Fort Frederica National Monument
- Fort Necessity National Battlefield
- Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
- Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site*
- Grand Portage National Monument
- Jamestown National Historic Site*
- Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
- Keweenaw National Historical Park
- Lowell National Historical Park
- Natchez National Historical Park
- Roger Williams National Memorial
- Saint Croix Island International Historic Site
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Statue of Liberty National Monument
- Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve
- Virgin Islands National Park
- Voyageurs National Park

•Ethnic Heritage: Hispanic (20)

- Cabrillo National Monument
- Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
- Chamizal National Memorial
- Coronado National Memorial
- DeSoto National Memorial
- Dry Tortugas National Park
- El Morro National Monument
- Fort Matanzas National Monument
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- Padre Island National Seashore
- Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site

- Pecos National Historical Park
- Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument
- Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- San Juan National Historic Site
- Santa Fe National Historic Trail
- Tumacacori National Historical Park

•Ethnic Heritage: Pacific Islander (6)

- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
- Kalaupapa National Historical Park
- Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park
- Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park
- Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site
- War in the Pacific National Historical Park

•Exploration (15)

- Cabrillo National Monument
- Chicago Portage National Historic Site
- Coronado National Memorial
- Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
- DeSoto National Memorial
- El Morro National Monument
- Father Marquette National Memorial
- Fort Clatsop National Memorial
- Fort Smith National Historic Site
- Grand Portage National Monument
- Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- Nez Perce National Historical Park
- Pipe Spring National Monument
- Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve

•Government (7)

- Federal Hall National Memorial
- Friendship Hill National Historic Site
- Homestead National Monument of America
- Independence National Historical Park
- National Capital Parks- Central
- Red Hill Patrick Henry National Memorial
- Thomas Stone National Historic Site

•Government: Constitution (7)

- Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
- Charles Pinckney National Historic Site
- Fire Island National Seashore
- Hamilton Grange National Memorial
- Independence National Historical Park
- Manzanar National Historic Site
- William Howard Taft

•Government: Foreign Relations (same list as constitution appears on website) ????

- Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
- Charles Pinckney National Historic Site
- Fire Island National Seashore
- Hamilton Grange National Memorial
- Independence National Historical Park
- Manzanar National Historic Site
- William Howard Taft National Historic Site

•Government: Law (4)

- Boston National Historical Park
- Fort Smith National Historic Site
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Independence National Historical Park

•Government: Politics (7)

- Benjamin Franklin National Memorial
- Boston National Historical Park
- Charles Pinckney National Historic Site
- Fort Scott National Historic Site
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
- Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site*
- Women's Rights National Historical Park

•Government: Presidents (35)

- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site
- Adams National Historic Site
- Andrew Johnson National Historic Site
- Eisenhower National Historic Site

- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Ford's Theatre National Historic Site
- First Ladies National Historic Site
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial
- General Grant National Memorial
- George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- Harry S. Truman National Historic Site
- Herbert Hoover National Historic Site
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- James A. Garfield National Historic Site
- Jimmy Carter National Historic Site
- John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site
- Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
- Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- Lincoln Memorial
- Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
- Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac
- Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- Roosevelt Campobello International Park*
- Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
- Shenandoah National Park: Camp Hoover
- Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site
- Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site
- Theodore Roosevelt Island
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park: Elkhorn Ranch
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site
- Washington Monument
- White House
- William Howard Taft National Historic Site

•Health/Medicine (3)

- Clara Barton National Historic Site
- Hot Springs National Park
- Kalaupapa National Historical Park

•Immigration (3)

- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Castle Clinton National Monument
- Statue of Liberty National Monument

•Industry (12)

- Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor*

- Boston National Historical Park
- Edison National Historic Site
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site
- Keweenaw National Historical Park
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- Lowell National Historical Park
- New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
- Springfield Armory National Historic Site
- Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve

•Intellectual Philosophy (2)

- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Independence National Historical Park

•Labor (4)

- Keweenaw National Historical Park
- Lowell National Historical Park
- Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
- Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

•Landscape Architecture (12)

- Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor
- Acadia National Park
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
- George Washington Memorial Parkway
- Glacier National Park
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Mount Rainier National Park
- National Capital Parks- Central
- National Mall
- Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

•Literature (9)

- Adams National Historic Site
- Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site
- Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site
- Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
- John Muir National Historic Site
- Longfellow National Historic Site

- Minute Man National Historical Park
- Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
- Maritime** (62) (website links to Maritime History program and a list of NHL's along with units by state- NHL's deleted from the list that follows)
 - Aleutian World War II National Historic Area
 - Cabrillo National Monument
 - Channel Islands National Park
 - Fort Point National Historic Site
 - Golden Gate National Recreation Area
 - Point Reyes National Seashore
 - Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial
 - San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park
 - Biscayne National Park
 - Canaveral National Seashore
 - Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
 - De Soto National Memorial
 - Dry Tortugas National Park
 - Fort Caroline National Memorial
 - Cumberland Island National Seashore
 - Fort Frederica National Monument
 - Fort Pulaski National Monument
 - War in the Pacific National Memorial
 - Kalaupapa National Historical Park
 - USS Arizona Memorial
 - Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor
 - Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
 - Acadia National Park
 - St. Croix Island International Historic Site
 - Assateague Island National Seashore
 - Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
 - Fort Washington Park (National Capital Parks - East)
 - Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area
 - Boston National Historic Park
 - Charlestown Navy Yard
 - Cape Cod National Seashore
 - Essex National Heritage Area
 - New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
 - Salem Maritime National Historic Site
 - Isle Royale National Park
 - Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
 - Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
 - Vicksburg National Military Park
 - Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park - Potomac River, DC, MD, WV
 - Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network - Chesapeake Bay Watershed, DC, MD, NY, PA, VA, WV
 - Gulf Islands National Seashore - FL & MS

Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route
Castle Clinton National Monument
Fire Island National Seashore
Gateway National Recreation Area, Staten Island Unit
Statue of Liberty National Monument
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Cape Lookout National Seashore
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial
San Juan National Historic Site
Fort Moultrie National Monument
Fort Sumter National Monument
Fort Donelson National Battlefield
Padre Island National Seashore
Christiansted National Historic Site
Assateague Island National Seashore
Colonial National Historical Park
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

•**Military (17)**

- Boston National Historical Park
- Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
- Castle Clinton National Monument
- Dry Tortugas National Park
- Fort Laramie National Historic Site
- Fort Smith National Historic Site
- Fort Point National Historic Site
- Fort Union National Monument
- Fort Washington Park
- Gateway National Recreation Area
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Minuteman Missile NHS (web page under construction)
- San Juan Island National Historical Park
- San Juan National Historic Site
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Springfield Armory National Historic Site

•**Military: Civil War** (links to Civil War 150 website, not a list, but (53) appear on NPS website under Civil War)

•**Military: Colonial Wars (4)**

- Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
- Fort Frederica National Monument
- Fort Matanzas National Monument
- Fort Necessity National Battlefield

•**Military: Korean War (2)**

- Harry S. Truman National Historic Site
- Korean War Veterans Memorial

•**Military: Mexican War (1)**

- Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site

•**Military: Military-Indian Conflicts (11)**

- Big Hole National Battlefield
- Fort Bowie National Historic Site
- Fort Davis National Historic Site
- Fort Laramie National Historic Site
- Fort Larned National Historic Site
- Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
- Lava Beds National Monument
- Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
- Nez Perce National Historic Trail*
- Nez Perce National Historical Park
- Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

•**Military: Revolutionary War (20)**

- Adams National Historic Site
- Boston National Historical Park
- Colonial National Historical Park: Yorktown
- Cowpens National Battlefield
- Fort Stanwix National Monument
- Historic Camden*
- George Rogers Clark National Historical Park
- Guilford Courthouse National Military Park
- Independence National Historical Park
- Kings Mountain National Military Park
- Longfellow National Historic Site
- Minute Man National Historical Park
- Moores Creek National Battlefield
- Morristown National Historical Park
- Ninety Six National Historic Site
- Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail*

- Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site
- Saratoga National Historical Park
- Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial
- Valley Forge National Historical Park

•Military: Vietnam War (2)

- Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Military: War of 1812 (4)

- Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
- Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
- Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
- Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial

•Military: World War II (17)

- Aleutian World War II National Historic Area
- American Memorial Park
- Boston National Historical Park
- Eisenhower National Historic Site
- Fort Moultrie National Monument
- Fort Point National Historic Site
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Harry S. Truman National Historic Site
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Manzanar National Historic Site
- Minidoka Internment National Monument
- Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial
- Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park
- Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
- USS Arizona Memorial
- War in the Pacific National Historical Park

•Recreation (6)

- Acadia National Park
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Hot Springs National Park
- John Muir National Historic Site
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area
- Mount Rainier National Park: Paradise Inn

•Religion (14)

- Boston African American National Historic Site
- Father Marquette National Memorial
- Independence National Historical Park
- Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail*
- Ocmulgee National Monument
- Pecos National Historical Park
- Pipe Spring National Monument
- Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site
- Roger Williams National Memorial
- Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument
- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- Touro Synagogue National Historic Site*
- Tumacacori National Historical Park
- Whitman Mission National Historic Site

•Science (5)

- Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
- Dinosaur National Monument
- Edison National Historic Site
- Independence National Historical Park
- John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

•Settlement/Migration (46)

- Arkansas Post National Memorial
- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
- California National Historic Trail*
- Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
- Chimney Rock National Historic Site*
- Christiansted National Historic Site
- City of Rocks National Reserve
- Colonial National Historical Park
- Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
- Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
- Fort Caroline National Memorial
- Fort Davis National Historic Site
- Fort Frederica National Monument
- Fort Laramie National Historic Site
- Fort Larned National Historic Site
- Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
- Fort Scott National Historic Site

- Fort Smith National Historic Site
- Fort Union National Monument
- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site
- Homestead National Monument of America
- Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor*
- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- Jamestown National Historic Site
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- McLoughlin House National Historic Site
- Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail*
- Nicodemus National Historic Site
- Oregon National Historic Trail*
- Pecos National Historical Park
- Pipe Spring National Monument
- Roger Williams National Memorial
- Saint Croix Island International Historic Site
- Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument
- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- San Juan Island National Historical Park
- Scotts Bluff National Monument
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
- Tumacacori National Historical Park
- Voyageurs National Park
- Whitman Mission National Historic Site

•Social and Humanitarian Movements (11)

- Boston National Historical Park
- Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
- Clara Barton National Historic Site
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Johnstown Flood National Memorial
- Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site
- Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site
- Women's Rights National Historical Park

•Technology and Engineering (18)

- Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
- Benjamin Franklin National Memorial
- Boston National Historical Park
- Cape Cod National Seashore
- Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- Edison National Historic Site
- Gateway National Recreation Area
- George Washington Memorial Parkway
- Golden Spike National Historic Site
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
- Keweenaw National Historical Park
- Lowell National Historical Park
- Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
- Springfield Armory National Historic Site
- Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
- Wright Brothers National Memorial

•**Tourism (5)**

- Glacier National Park
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Hot Springs National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- Yosemite National Park

•**Transportation (17)**

- Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site
- Boston National Historical Park
- Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park
- Chicago Portage National Historic Site*
- Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area*
- Fort Necessity National Battlefield
- Golden Spike National Historic Site
- Grand Portage National Monument
- Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor*
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- Salem Maritime National Historic Site
- San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- Steamtown National Historic Site

- Wright Brothers National Memorial

- Women (10)**

- Clara Barton National Historic Site
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Johnstown Flood National Memorial
- Lowell National Historical Park
- Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site
- Pipe Spring National Memorial
- Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site
- Whitman Mission National Historic Site
- Women's Rights National Historical Park