Council Joins Feds at Washington Conference

Cherry blossom time in Washington, D.C.—the season of folk festivals, parades down Pennsylvania Avenue, and the meeting of scholarly minds at the annual conference, April 24-26. The conference, sponsored jointly by NCPH and the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG), is an opportunity for two groups with much in common to explore their mutual concern for the wider use of history in public institutions. There is no better chance for professors to meet practitioners, archivists to understand patrons, consultants to make contacts, or students to enter the world of public history through experiences of those who live it day-to-day.

The program will reflect the diversity and increasing sophistication of historical work in the public sector. Sessions will examine strategies for success in scholarly and commercial publishing, advances in archival science, the criteria for identifying landmarks in American women’s history, historical approaches to cultural resource management, government history as policy analysis, how to bring ideas to life in museum exhibits, the interpretation of sites in national parks, and the federal perspective on writing organizational history from inside the organization. Other topics include Eleanor Roosevelt’s favorite settlement homestead, Arthurdale, West Virginia, and the exhibition of public works.

See WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, p. 5
History program reveals public policy’s “universal process,” interweaving political, economic and social elements.

by Daniel Greer

At tempted to understand the present through lessons of the past is an advantage gained in the study of history. That understanding can be applied to policy science when the use and misuse of analogies, trend analysis, and the context of momentous decisions are investigated.

Historical scholarship and public policy come together at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in a unique new undergraduate program founded by Robert Kelley, the man who launched the public history movement at the masters’ level a decade ago. Through the history of public policy major, now in its third year, thirty UC Santa Barbara undergraduates are the first in the nation to study public policy by looking at pivotal debates in Europe, America, and third world countries from antiquity to present.

Great Issues in the History of Public Policy, a requirement for freshman, is a team-taught course that looks at a different policy issue each week. It begins with a review of the Athenian decision to launch a military expedition against Syracuse 2500 years ago, on the island of Sicily. Thucydides provides source material that debates the issue on both sides, then students argue implementa-

A guest historian, in this case one who specializes in ancient Greece, provides a lecture explaining the final decision. Subsequent weeks are filled with similar exercises. The second century, B.C., Roman land policy controversy that erupted in civil war, the Magna Carta, Protestant Reformation, and controversy in Elizabethan England are some of the policy issues that are reworked by students. A modern controversy over water management in California—flood control in the Sacramento Valley—provides the finale.

Kelley explains that the idea is to highlight for the students that public policy is something that has been made in many different places and situations throughout time. Students gain an understanding of the public policy process by this method of comparative analysis.

The history of public policy has its own philosophic base, according to Kelley. “We believe that by teaching people the history of public policy…they will come to a better understanding of the making of [it] than if they studied political science—where all they would do is study how they make public policy in the Office of Management and Budget, in the President’s office in Washington, or how laws are made in Congress, or something of that nature.”

Historians, according to Kelley, “are pluralistic; we are eclectic; we are much more holistic than the other fields. Besides which, we’re time oriented and we show how public policy and the process of making public policy have evolved over time. Therefore, students who study it and then go out into journalism or politics or law or government, or into academic or public history, understand the process better than if they had studied public policy in the political science department.”

Fateful Policy Decision—Johnson Escalates the War in Vietnam


Lyndon Johnson received almost unanimous advice from everyone else to plunge ahead. Vietnam, he was convinced, was connected with everything else in the world. He later explained:

“If we ran out on Southeast Asia, I could see trouble ahead in every part of the globe—not just in Asia but in the Middle East and in Europe, in Africa and Latin America. I was convinced that our retreat from this challenge would open the path to World War III…A divisive debate over ‘who lost Vietnam’ would…inevitably increase isolationist pressures from the right and from the left and cause a pulling back from our commitment in Europe and the Middle East as well as in Asia.”

On July 28, 1965, President Johnson agreed to Westmoreland’s plan. As he later observed, “Now we were committed to major combat in Vietnam.” The “nation-building” policies of John Kennedy were doomed. They had relied on working with the villages and had stressed the need to avoid the massive destructiveness of all-out conventional military operations. There were few supporters for this policy left in the government. Indeed, the American public at large was in no mood to accept defeat, as in 1963 appeared possible at any moment. Lyndon Johnson was determined not to become “the first American president to lose a war.”

South Vietnam, therefore, was inundated with American troops (from 21,000 at the beginning of 1965 to over 550,000 in 1968). aircraft, immense American military bases, and torrents of American money. By 1969, total expenditures on the Vietnam war would rise to over $100 billion.
OAH Round Table
By Barbara J. Howe, Executive Secretary

Plans are underway for a "Second annual" NCPH luncheon at the April meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Philadelphia. Check the forthcoming OAH program booklet for details. If you do not receive the program but would like to attend the luncheon, please let me know. We would especially like to see our Philadelphia area members at this event. As "usual," if twice can become "usual," this will be a round table discussion format so that we can meet informally, get acquainted, and share our ideas.

Send me your NCPH files. We will sort and forward these files to the Council's archives at the University of Colorado, our new repository. Help us keep these records as complete as possible. When someone down the road writes the our 100th anniversary history, all of you who were "here in the beginning" will get due credit! We'll appreciate your help with this matter, and please call me if you have any questions.

West Virginia University's agreement with NCPH to house the secretariat expires this spring. Both WVU and NCPH may want to review the agreement and decide how to proceed. It there is an institution that is interested in submitting a proposal to house the secretariat—either instead of WVU or in competition with WVU's proposal—please talk to me or Mike Scardaville.

Council Submits Proposal to NEH
by Michael C. Scardaville, Chair

The National Council recently has embarked on an effort to secure grant monies to support its mission and meet the needs of its diverse membership. Arnita Jones, the Vice-chair, is making plans to submit a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund the preparation of a research guide to corporate archives. She intends to meet with interested historians and archivists at the annual conference in Washington to discuss the organization and implementation of this valuable project.

In a related action, the Council submitted a NEH proposal last fall. This $14,867 grant will enable the NCPH to plan a series of workshops focusing on the integration of historical scholarship and methodology into the public policy process. The workshops will be held in conjunction with conferences of major professional organizations that plan an active role in policy formulation. The proposed workshop format will consist of presentations and discussions led by historical scholars experienced in the field of public policy and in relevant historical subject areas. NEH planning funds will allow for the further refinement of administrative and logistical details, including the identification of cooperating professional organizations and the selection of historians willing to participate in the workshops. The Council intends to submit an implementation grant proposal to NEH upon completion of the grant period in August 1987.

A distinguished group of historians experienced in both historical and policy circles have agreed to serve on the planning grant committee: Martin Melosi, Project Director (University of Houston-University Park), William Barnes (National League of Cities), Roy Logan (Newark, Delaware, Planning Department), Anna Nelson (American University), Howard Rosen (Public Works Historical Society), and Joel Tarr (Carnegie-Mellon University). We should know by the annual meeting if the proposal has been approved.

This project emerged from the long-range planning study undertaken by the Council several years ago. The self-assessment concluded that the NCPH should sponsor activities and programs designed to promote the broader application of history. One possibility suggested was to extend beyond the historical community to sponsor workshops on the ways in which history and the historical method are valuable in a variety of settings, including the policy formulation process. The Council recognizes the limitations of meeting with essentially the same audience at historical gatherings. We must reach outside the normal professional channels to raise public awareness of the utility of history and improve the use of the discipline throughout society.
Illinois’ Historic Canal

by Jane Hood

On August 24, 1984 President Reagan signed legislation Designating the Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal a National Heritage Corridor. The law set out a new concept of mixed land use by creating a multifunctional park accommodating recreational, commercial and cultural uses in 120 miles of waterways. If the planners’ visions are realized, historic neighborhoods and scenic parks will be restored; interpretive displays will explore the canal’s history through the present day; and new recreational opportunities will be created in the system of land- and water-based trails.

The designation capped the important first phase of a thoughtful strategy for the development of the I&M Canal Corridor which began with a 1980 grant from the Illinois Humanities Council to the Illinois and Michigan (I&M) National Heritage Corridor. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the state historic preservation offices which coordinate the work of the state and federal historic preservation programs. The designation capped the important first phase of a thoughtful strategy for conservation and recreation. This initial project, which undertook a preliminary survey of materials on six selected canal towns and then presented the results through a series of public forums, established the formula for future success: a combination of public education and careful, interdisciplinary scholarship.

Both elements were necessary. Although physical and architectural remains of the canal and the settlements that flourished on its banks are still readily visible, there was little public awareness of the rich heritage represented by the Canal. Completed in 1848, the I&M joined Chicago to the Illinois Historic Canal

Software Revolution for Archives

Historians and archivists inundated by the proliferation of twentieth century documentation can look forward to computer assistance for their research and management needs thanks to recent developments in archival software. Searches according to subject, source, record series, document type or date can be conducted separately or in combination using software created by Informative Design Group, Inc. (2201 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Suite 390, Wash. D.C. 20007). The results of such searches can be known in a matter of seconds.

The software can handle all archival management functions, including record entries, and 576 characters per entry for a narrative description. A link between the data entry fields and a master index enhances accuracy and consistency.

AIRS, Inc. (335 Paint Branch Dr., College Park, MD 20742) also produces software with archival applications. Marcon II, a product featuring power and flexibility, has shown great promise for historians and archivists, even those with limited computer training. Records scheduling, descriptions, guides, subject retrieval and various searches can be performed by the program after the data has been entered.
The meeting program will be preceded by a day-long workshop on April 23. Entitled "Varieties of History in the Federal Government," it is designed for faculty and students in public history, government historians, archivists, consultants, contractors and other professionals who desire broader exposure to the federal history process. Dr. Richard Baker, Senate Historian, will provide an overview of the federal government's historical programs and activities. Hands-on sessions are planned for the Senate Historical Office, the Office of Air Force History, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Smithsonian Institution, and history programs at NASA, the Department of Energy, and the Department of the Interior. Dr. Marty Reuss of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will do the session wrap-up, followed by a reception which will be open to conference registrants as well as workshop participants. For more information, contact Jack Holl, workshop chair, at (202) 252-5235. The workshop fee is $75.00.

Several sessions will be held at off-site locations in Washington, including the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History and National Portrait Gallery. More informal round-table discussions will consider research opportunities provided by uses of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act. Laurie A. Cadigan from Kraft, Inc., will chair a session on the management of corporate archives, a growing concern of historical consultants. Park Service historians will show a film on the subject of "Certified Local Governments." Twenty-seven sessions will involve more than 125 participants. NCPH and SHFG members will receive programs in late January. For more information, contact NCPH conference co-chairs Pat Harahan, at (703) 569-9684, or Janelle Warren-Findley, at (703) 323-2546.

A joint meeting with the Society for History in the Federal Government gives NCPH members a chance to appreciate the varied uses of the past in federal agencies. Founded at Washington, D.C. in 1979, the Society now has over 550 members nationwide.

The program is full, the city exciting. We look forward to meeting you in Washington in April.

D C Book Display

Bring your publications to the joint meeting of NCPH/SHFG for a special display on Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Books and other publications, up to five years old, that represent work done for federal, state or local agencies by members of either organization are solicited. This will be a good opportunity to review the work of your colleagues and share your own contributions. You must reserve space for your material before March 15, by contacting Sheila Convis (301) 353-5431, or David Pember-ton (301) 763-7936.
JOBS / FELLOWSHIPS

• A Records Projects Administrator is needed by the American Association of State and Local History to direct NICLOG (National Information Center for Local Government Records). The two-year position starts between $2,000 and $2,500 per month plus benefits, and involves national travel. At least three years as a records manager or archivist are required. Application and resume should address Gerald George, American Association for State and Local History, 172 Second Ave. North, Suite 102, Nashville, TN 37201.

• The Secretary of the Navy's Research Chair in Naval History has been established as a competitive position to pay approximately $50,000 per year for up to three years for research and writing a major monograph concerning the history of the U.S. Navy since 1945. Application deadline is March 1. Write to Ronald H. Spector, Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0571.

• The Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center has three fellowships available for the coming academic year. One is for predoctoral candidates in the amount of $7,500 to research and write a dissertation relating to U.S. Naval history. Successful candidate must be ABD by next September. Deadline for application is March 1. Two postdoctoral awards for up to $2,500 each are also for research and writing in regard to U.S. Naval history. The deadline is April 1. For application forms write to Ronald H. Spector, Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0571.

• Short-term fellowships (one to three months) at the Newberry Library may be applied for until March 1 for postdoctoral research. Contact the Committee on Awards, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610.

• The National Historical Publication and Records Commission requests grant applications from local governments, museums and archives by February 1. Proposals should be sent to the NHPRC, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408.

• Individual fellowships in archival administration may be applied for by scholars with three years archival experience and two semesters of graduate study. Application deadline is May 15. National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408.

• The Social Science Research Council awards and administers eleven grant programs with stipends ranging from $1,500 to $30,000. For more information write to the Office of Fellowships and Grants, ACLS, 228 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

AWARDS

• The Society of Architectural Historians established the Antoinette Forrester Downing Award this fall to recognize and encourage excellence in published architectural surveys. The deadline for nominations is January 31. For details contact Professor Michael A. Tomlan, Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, College of Architecture, Art and Planning, 214 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

• A $500 prize will go to the author of a published essay in mass communication history when the Cathy Covert Award in Mass Communication is presented. Nominations, including one copy of the article or chapter, should be sent by February 27 to Professor James L. Baughman, Chair, Covert Award Committee, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin—Madison, 821 University Ave., Madison, WI 53706.

• Colonel Herbert M. Hart (USMC, retired) was honored recently by the Department of the Interior in recognition of his efforts and achievements to preserve the many historic coastal fortifications of the U.S. Col. Hart, a member of The Society for History in the Federal Government, was granted the Conservation Service Award.
MEETINGS

- NCPH and the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) will hold a joint meeting April 24-26. Don’t miss this big event! For registration information contact the NCPH Secretariat, History Department, West Virginia University, WV 26506 (304) 293-2421.

- The International Conference on Computers and the Humanities will hold its annual meeting April 9-11. For information contact Dr. Robert Oakman, ICCH87, Department of Computer Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 2908.

- February 1 is the deadline call for papers to be presented at the Midwestern Regional Journalism and History Conference April 10-11. Information can be obtained from John C. Nerone, Institute of Communications Research, University of Illinois, 222B Armory Bldg., 505 E. Armory, Champaign, IL 61820.

- The Planning History Group will hold its sixth annual luncheon in conjunction with the OAH April 4 at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia. Pre-registration is encouraged. Contact Blaine A. Brownell, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294 (205) 934-5643.

- The 7th Berkshire conference on the History of Women will be held June 19-21 in Massachusetts at Wellesley College. For registration and further information contact Ms. Jean Proctor, Berkshire Conference, Women’s Studies Program, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181 (617) 235-0320.

- The National Social Science Association will conduct its second annual meeting February 12-15 at the Seattle Marriott Airport Hotel. For information contact the NSSA Program Committee, 2020 Hills Lake Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 448-4709.

- “History and the Public” is the topic of a March 11 conference featuring Michael Wallace, Stephen Nissenbaum and Gerald Herman as speakers. Further information may be obtained from David Glassberg, Department of History, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

- The Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents will hold its annual meeting June 15-26 in Madison, Wisconsin. M.A. required. Apply through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), Room 300, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408 (202) 523-3092.

- The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the GSA training center will conduct a dozen two-day workshops on federal projects and historic preservation between early January and August, 1987. Washington, Fort Worth, Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans, San Francisco, New York, Albuquerque, Kansas City, Denver and Seattle are training locations. For information call the GSA Training Center at (703) 557-0986, or ACHP’s Shauna Holmes at (202) 786-0503.

- The National Archives Education Branch will conduct a seminar for Community, Technical and Junior College Instructors next July 8-17 in Washington, D.C. For information and details contact Linda Simmons, National Archives Education Branch, Pennsylvania Ave. at 7th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20408 (202) 523-3347.

CANADA

- The Canadian Historical Association will host discussions on public history curriculum and work experiences at its June meeting in Hamilton, Ontario. Contact Ken McLaughlin at St. Jerome’s College, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1 (519) 884-8110, ext. 43.

PROGRAMS

- A theme of Humanities Scholarship and Instruction for Nontraditional Students will be offered August 3-9 for 25 teams of three scholars, teachers and administrators selected through a competitive application process. Travel and lodging will be provided. Information and application materials can be obtained by contacting NEH Institute Project Director, Department of Independent Study, University of Minnesota, 45 West Brook Hall, 77 Pleasant Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 624-2896.

- “Creative Use of Microcomputers in the History Classroom” and “Integrating Public History into the Curriculum” are two-day programs from Organization of American Historians’ FIPSE Project Workshop. The “Integrating Public History” workshop will be held February 27-28 at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. For other times and locations, or more information, contact Dr. William H.A. Williams, Director, OAH/FIPSE Project, 112 N. Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47401 (812) 335-7312.
The University of Waterloo graduate program offers a two-year public history option. Contact Professor Heather MacDougall, Department of History, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1 (519) 885-1211, ext. 903.

NOTES

"Guardians of the Public Record" is the title of a new brochure and a ten-minute slide-tape program that describes the essentials of a records management system and discusses how to get started. Produced by the National Information Center for Local Government Records (NICLOG), the program is also available in videotape format. For information about purchasing or borrowing the program, contact Jack Summerville, Resources Coordinator, American Association for State and Local History, 172 Second Ave. North, Suite 102, Nashville, TN 37201.

More than one-hundred years of soda production by the Syracuse Works has been donated to the Solvay Public Library by the Allied Chemical Company. Over 800 chemistry and chemical engineering reports, 300 book volumes, 14 periodical titles, maps, drawings, photographs, pamphlets and much more are contained in the Solvay Process Company/Allied Chemical archives, Solvay Public Library, 615 Woods Rd., Solvay, NY 13209 (315) 468-2441.

"Women Doctors in the 19th Century," an exhibit produced by a former NYU graduate history student, is being shown in several cities this academic year. For information please contact New York University, History Department, 19 University Place, 5th floor, New York, NY 10003.

Curriculum Resources

Public History Education in America: A Guide
A comprehensive review of course offerings, internships, and degree requirements. Available for $7.50 to members, $9 to non-members.

History Goes Public
A slide-tape presentation showing opportunities in public history—ideal for classroom and seminar use. $35 rental, $100 purchase.

Send inquiries and checks payable to NCPH; attn: Barbara Howe, Executive Secretary, History Department, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26505 (303) 293-2421.

The Jimmy Carter Library is now open for research in Atlanta, Georgia. More than one and one-half million photographs, 600 hours of videotape, 300 hours of audiotape and 27 million pages of material from the Carter administration are preserved there.

The Department of Defense, charged by Congressional directive with demolition of all World War II temporary buildings, seeks input from individuals and organizations about any such buildings believed to have special architectural or historic qualities. Some of those properties may be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Input was requested by January 16, but our publication date could not accommodate that request. Army and Army Reserve installation properties should be called to the attention of the Chief, Facility Engineering Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: DAEN-ZCF, Washington, D.C. 20314-1000 (202) 272-0867. Properties on Navy installations should address the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Code 20Y, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-2300 (202) 325-7353.

Information about sites and buildings associated with women's history is sought by a historian writing a dissertation about preservation and interpretation of them. Sites in Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles are of particular interest, as well as any works discussing walking tours or guides to the landmarks. Forward your information to Gail Dubrow, Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of California Los Angeles, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213) 837-3063.

The University of Vermont has produced a 27-minute video program and a teacher's manual entitled Public History in Vermont. The videotape and manual are available for a very nominal cost of $30, including postage and handling. Orders may be placed through IDC Media, Pomeroy Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405.
I have just read, with a mounting sense of concern and irritation, Stanley Hordes' recent comment in the fall 1985 issue of this publication. This is the same invidious dichotomy.

We, who constitute those agreeing with Dr. Hordes, are the good guys in white hats dedicated to preserving the environment; on the other hand, however, "they" are the mindless bureaucrats who enjoy nothing more than a day of rape and pillage of historic buildings, archeological sites, and important cultural objects. Come on, Stan. As a responsible member of the preservation community, you have an obligation to move the debate on to substantive issues. Tightening of the classification standards for historians in federal service and effective enforcement of the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS would, I believe, contribute to better agency compliance with the regulations and should at least be discussed. Rather than hitting agency officials over the head, Stan, it would be much better to suggest a process of working with them to develop management strategies and techniques. While Congress enacts the regulatory legislation, it does not always follow that they will provide the requisite funding to carry out that function.

I am surprised that you, as a former federal worker, have forgotten this important fact. And by the way, when was the last time that the regulations protected any cultural resources. What really annoys me, Stan, is this artificial separation of process and people; more of us are trying to do a good job and do not appreciate these gratuitous remarks.—My views have not been endorsed nor reviewed by the Department of the Interior. They represent my own perspective on this issue—Michael Schene

The Old Post Office, Washington headquarters of the Advisor Council on History Preservation. Photo by Floyd Parks, DOI

Historical Consultants Join Corporate Elite

History Associates Incorporated of Rockville, Maryland recently joined the ranks of America’s 500 fastest growing private companies, according to Inc. 500. Sales have increased more than 700 percent since historians Phillip Cantelon and Richard Hewlett went corporate in 1981. “Alex Haley proved you could make money with personal history,” the magazine reports. “Herman Wouk did it with world history. Now comes Philip Cantelon who has figured out a way to turn a profit on institutional history.”

Commemorative books, corporate histories, legal research, and archival services are the associates' stock in trade. In 1985 the company won a $424,000 contract to study one of the largest and most controversial projects in modern times, the 232 mile Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Boston consultant Jeffrey Stine is directing the research.

It is no coincidence that History Associates and the National Council on Public History incorporated in the same year, 1981. Both responded to the need for historical analysis outside of academe. Futurepast of Spokane, PHR Associates of Santa Barbara, HMS Associates of New Mexico, and the History Group of Atlanta have all found a market for historical research.

The Public Historian is calling for manuscripts.

Send issue and analysis essays and public history research papers to Lindsey Reed, Associate Editor, History Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.


local parks, parkways, college campuses, cities, and planned communities, there will undoubtedly be a renewed effort to gain passage of this bill in the next Congress. Senator Bumpers (D-AR), a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has expressed interest in shepherding the legislation through the Senate.

The National Legislation through the Congress. A member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has expressed interest in shepherding the legislation through the Senate.

Thematic Framework for the National Historic Landmark Program—The National Park Service is currently undertaking a revision of the thematic framework used in the National Historic Landmark Program. The thematic outline is particularly important because it is used to provide a comprehensive framework for assessing the cultural resources which best reflect the Nation's past and thus qualify for designation as National Historic Landmarks. In conversations which Joan Hoff-Wilson and I had with the NPS concerning the Women's History Landmark project, we learned about the current revision of the thematic framework. In an effort to encourage stronger ties between the NPS and the academic community, we have offered to have experts in the field of American history review the draft outline and offer suggestions and comments.

Monitor Impact of Tax Act on Historic Preservation—Thanks very much to Preservation Action and the work of its President, Nellie Longsworth, preservation credits are among the few business tax incentives to be included in the tax reform act. The new tax law on rehabilitation credits reduces to 20% the deductions for certified rehabilitation of historic buildings and 10% for rehabilitation of non-historic buildings built before 1936. Since many tax shelters are being eliminated there may be increased use of the historic preservation credits. On the other hand the "passive loss" provision could limit the usefulness of the credits.

"Reclaiming Our Past: Landmark Sites of Women's History," a three-year project initiated by the OAH, the Park Service, and NCC, will review sites in the light of recent historical scholarship. Sites on the National Register of Historic Places will be slated for reinterpretation. Pictured: Hartford Female Seminary, circa 1827, taken from the school's diploma.

The Council's Directory of Public History Programs suggests the vitality of our field. Texas appears to be a leader in historical training outside the university. The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas, for example, offers workshops on various curatorial topics for museum professionals and museology students while the Winedale Historic Center in Austin offers an eleven-day seminar open to museum professionals and students in the southeast. The committee has observed the same general trend in other sectors of public history.

We hope the forthcoming guide to continuing education opportunities will serve as a directory for professional growth that can strengthen the bridge between academics and practitioners.

The initial project funded by the Illinois Humanities Council was so successful in suggesting the range of available historical resources that an organizational affiliate of Open Lands was established in 1982 with a primary purpose of preserving and promoting the heritage of the I&M Canal. Headed by Gerald Adelmann, the Upper Illinois Valley Association, now its own not-for-profit corporation, has conscientiously sought to integrate scholarship with public commitment to preservation.

In surveying the importance of humanities scholars working with the public, Adelmann noted: "Their interdisciplinary viewpoint helped set the stage for the Corridor designation, and has since helped area industrialists, community leaders, and businessmen understand the cultural history of their environment."

For additional information about the National Heritage Corridor, write to: The Upper Illinois Valley Association, 53 West Jackson Blvd., Room 552, Chicago, IL 60604.

By Michael G. Wade

The Committee on Curriculum and Training has been developing a list of organizations which offer advanced training in some aspect of public history. To date, we have compiled mailing lists of museums, oral history, public policy, historical interpretation, cultural resource management, and historic preservation. We expect to receive materials on historical editing and archives in the near future. Send us information on programs to Mike Wade, Department of History, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608.

> NCPH Professional Development Directory

Register your institution with the NCPH Directory of Public History Programs
Public Historians Gain Acceptance as Resource Planners

by Shelley Bookspan

There seems to be some good news these days both for consulting historians and for historic resources. At long last developers and land speculators seem to be accepting, rather than resisting, the environmental review process, and this increasingly means involving the historian in the initial planning stages of a building project. Developers are finding that early identification of cultural resources enables them to incorporate mitigation measures into their original set of plans; this forward-looking approach is, of course, much more efficient (and less likely to become adversarial) than first commissioning plans without regard to the possibility of intervening resources and then contorting those paid-for plans to fit subsequent restrictions; or, worse, then spending valuable time and money fighting the restrictions. As a recent article in Planning points out, “By and large, protecting archeological sites has simply become part of doing business.” (October 1986, p. 21). In states, counties, and cities where historians have successfully claimed their place in the environmental review process, the same can be said for historic sites, too.

Early discovery and documentation of historic resources can, in fact, provide creative developers with an aesthetic to build into their plans. One California developer, for example, is planning to restore the not-historically-significant site of a nineteenth century wayfarer’s cabin because the remaining eucalyptus grove can enhance the subdivision with attractive parkland. Historic findings can also provide thematic inspiration for planners, as happened to another West Coast developer whose consulting historians told him that the land he was subdividing had once been a private playing field. In the subdivision’s club house, this developer is now hoping to create a small sport museum from the photographs and other memorabilia left on the property.

Private planning firms and architects whose business it is to help developers navigate the local permit process are the main sources of this sort of up-front resource work for consulting historians. Many such firms, however, do not know that historians are available, and they welcome conflict. This change in attitude, I believe, is an opportunity for us historians to continue to shed the Don Quixote image we bear and gain a more cooperative and progressive reputation by working whenever possible as liaison between resources and developers.

Renew your membership.

Members receive Public History News. The Public Historian, conference programs, council mailings, voting privileges, and more. Send $25 payable to University of California Press, attn: Ellie Young, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 04720. Institutional membership $33. Students $15 (enclose proof of current registration). Interested in becoming a sponsor or patron? Contact Executive Secretary Barbara Howe, History Department, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26505 (304) 293-3421.

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DON’T
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