

structures reports, supporting the restoration of about twenty historic buildings at Fort Davis National Historic Site, Texas; in voluminous and detailed studies, produced by a continuing program dating from 1950, that have served as the principal tool for the authentic restoration of Independence Hall in Philadelphia; and in historical base maps for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia, the Lincoln Boyhood Home National Historic Site, Indiana, and the Lava Beds National Monument, California, that will guide important interpretive and development programs at these areas.

Nationwide survey and preservation programs

Under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the National Park Service conducts the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings and the Historic American Buildings Survey. The former identifies historic sites and buildings of national historical significance; the latter records by photograph, measured drawing, and other techniques significant examples of the Nation's architectural heritage. Both have proved major forces in stimulating and guiding historic preservation efforts in both the public and private sectors.

Over the past decade, the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings has included studies of about 3,000 historic sites and buildings in 22 broad themes. These have led to the identification of nearly 800 properties as possessing national significance. The findings are made available to the public by means of a publication program, and by designating, as Registered National Historic Landmarks, all sites whose owners make application. (The Park Service does not administer any.) National Landmarks are recognized by the award of a certificate and bronze plaque.

In a little over three decades, the Historic American Buildings Survey has recorded by photograph or measured drawing about 12,000 significant examples of American architecture throughout the Nation. HABS records are deposited in the Library of Congress where they are among the most frequently consulted of the Library's many collections. Through a publication program, HABS also makes available to the general public catalogs of its accomplishments.

These two programs provide preservation and planning groups, as well as concerned citizens everywhere, with authoritative guides to a large segment of the Nation's heritage that should be preserved for posterity. By focusing public attention on sites and buildings so recognized, the National Survey and the HABS have significantly aided local preservation groups in protecting important symbols of the Nation's heritage. In some instances, this Federal recognition has been a decisive factor in saving a threatened site or building.

Expanded survey and preservation programs

Both the National Survey and the HABS take on added importance with the authority provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to expand the National Historic Landmark Registry into a National Register of properties of national, regional, State, and local significance meriting preservation. The Act provides certain legal safeguards to registered properties that will make their preservation contingent on more than simple agreement to preserve. The additional surveys to be undertaken under the new legislation will center on districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of regional, State, and local significance. They will be accomplished by or under State authority, according to Federal criteria and standards, and with funds derived in part from matching Federal grants.

The prehistory and history of our Country encompass three phases of development: Prehistoric, Historic Indian, and Historic European. The first deals primarily with the Indian cultures of ancient America; evidence of these bygone cultures is entirely archeological. The second, that of the living Indian tribes, is usually ethnological (the study of living people and their culture). The third phase, the European period, is well documented in written historical records. In recent years, archeology has expanded into the realm of ethnology and history, and has proven itself essential to both.

During the past two decades, historians have found that archeology is essential to the full, and proper interpretation of colonial villages, the Revolutionary War and the later battles, and frontier settlements. Here are a few examples: (1) archeologists determined the exact location and size of George Washington's Fort Mifflin, built during the French and Indian War, in southwestern Pennsylvania; (2) archeological studies recently located the base of the flagpole from which the Star-Spangled Banner flew during the bombardment of