Congress Begins Hearings on Funding; Conservatives Lobby to Cut Public Lands, Parks and Historic Preservation.

By

Loretta Neumann and Stephanie R. Haller

The 104th Congress is now well underway. As the new Republican majority embarks on their goal of reducing the federal budget, it has become clear that no program is safe, not even those that protect our national parks, forests, public lands and cultural institutions.

As described below, many conservative organizations are lobbying for cuts in a number of programs. The President’s budget for fiscal 1996, which was submitted to Congress on February 6, is a mixed blessing with regard to cultural resources and historic preservation.

For example, it provides an increase in funds for cultural resources in the Bureau of Land Management ($12.6 million, an increase of nearly $400,000) and a sharp decrease in the National Park Service ($18.5 million, down $700,000). The Historic Preservation Fund is slated to increase over $1.5 million to $43 million, with the increases earmarked for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, historically black colleges, Indian tribes, and states and territories.

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee began its hearings...

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ACRA: American Cultural Resources Association

*A Business and Professional Organization*

With the moral and financial support of over 60 cultural resource consulting firms, the steering committee of ACRA met on February 3 and 4, 1995, in Denver, to start the formal organization process. Members of this committee included Donald Durst, Jeanne Harris, David Heisler, David D. Ketz, Thomas J. Lennon, Loretta Neumann, Charles Niquette, Mike Polk, Duane Peter, Dan Roberts, Brit Storey, Alan Steenhusen, and Tom Wheaton.

The first goal of this meeting was the selection of a name for the association. This task proved to be more difficult than most imagined, but after much discussion “American Cultural Resources Association,” or ACRA, was selected as expressing the national and multidisciplinary aspects of the association and also because it was relatively short and easy to remember.

Next on the agenda was a mission statement. The following statement was unanimously approved by the committee:

The mission of the association is to promote the professional, ethical, and commercial practices of cultural resources management, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association.

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Congress

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in mid-January, and these will continue into April. On February 15, the Secretary of the Interior is scheduled to testify on his Department’s budget. He may also address controversial plans brought up by conservative think tanks in an effort to reduce federal spending. The heads of the National Park Service and the Forest Service will testify on March 15 and 22, respectively. Public witnesses will testify on April 4. Any citizen can request to testify in person or send written testimony to the Chairman of the Interior Subcommittee. The address is B308 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington D.C., 20515. For more information call (202) 225-3081.

In January, during two hours of testimony before the Interior subcommittee, a panel representing fiscally conservative organizations attacked many key programs. Recommendations included eliminating the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and privatizing virtually all federal lands, including national parks. Among the conservative groups that testified were the Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute, Citizens Against Government Waste, and Citizens for a Sound Economy. Scott Hodge from the Heritage Foundation introduced a strategy for land and resource management programs that would consolidate the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and USDA Forest Service into a single natural resource agency over a five- to seven-year time span. He further advocated a limited federal role in parks.

“It’s time that land and resource management move in the same direction this nation is moving on welfare reform,” Hodge stated. “This means consolidating dozens of programs into a single block grant and giving broad responsibility for running and managing the programs to the states.” He acknowledged, however, that Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks, as well as a few other “Crown Jewels” deemed of national significance, should be kept under the control of the federal government.

In addition, the Heritage Foundation testified that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation should be abolished because it is “redundant.” The National Historic Preservation Act established the Advisory Council to provide advice to the President and the Congress on preservation matters and to serve as the public forum for reviewing the impact of federal undertakings. “Historic preservation, including the development of appropriate policies, should be a local responsibility and activity,” Hodge said, “except where the landmark is of national significance. These latter cases are handled quite satisfactorily by the U.S. National Park Service.”

Hodge’s testimony was followed by action from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Preservation Action, the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, and the Society for Historical Archeology. Presidents from these organizations sent a letter to Chairman Regula of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies.

In an effort to “set the record straight” the joint letter stated: “The review carried out by the States and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation insures that federal projects do not inadvertently destroy historic buildings and archeological sites that are important to citizens in their own communities.” Moreover, although the Council’s role is only advisory, it serves a useful function not undertaken by any other agency. It is clear that abolishing the Council would sever this advisory purpose and limit the capacity for historic preservation.

Adding fuel to the fire, Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO) continued the debate in a January 24, Washington Post, editorial asking: “Do we need all these parks?” Rep. Hefley asserts that the Congressional “habit of haphazardly creating more national parks than it is willing or able to support” has led to mismanagement of funds and the designation of park sites without national merit.

Earlier in the month, Representative Hefley introduced the National Park System Reform Act of 1995 (H.R. 260) which ordered the preparation of a National Park System Plan within one year. Specifically, NPS would be required to review its holdings, evaluate its historical and natural significance, and offer alternative forms of management for those parks that don’t meet its mission. Although Hefley insists his legislation is not an attempt to take an ax to NPS, it places a substantial burden upon the National Park Service which may have a profound impact on the fate of national parks. Hearings on Hefley’s bill were set for February 23 in the National Parks, Forests and Lands Subcommittee. For information call the subcommittee office at (202) 226-7736.
ACRA  

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A draft of the by-laws was reviewed and suggested changes were made to be incorporated later by the association lawyer. A draft of the association's ethics statement was distributed for later discussion by mail. Incorporation papers were reviewed, and it was agreed that Loretta Neumann of CEHP would file the papers in Washington, D.C. once selection of a board of directors was completed.

The selection of the Board of Directors was next on the agenda. Much effort was put into formulating a board that represents the wide variation of disciplines, geography, and company size involved in cultural resources consulting. Most of the steering committee members will be included on the first board of directors, and additional board members will be invited over the next few weeks to bring the total up to 19.

A set of goals to guide the association's activities over the next few years were also decided upon.

The goals of the American Cultural Resource Association are to:

1) Promote and support the business needs of cultural resource practitioners
   - Group insurance and benefits
   - Networking for business and employment opportunities
   - Group discounts
   - Membership directory and networking

2) Promote professionalism of the cultural resource industry
   - Ethics statement and standards of conduct
   - Procurement and contracting practices

3) Promote and provide education and training opportunities for the cultural resource industry
   - Business workshops
   - Professional seminars
   - Printed and audiovisual media
   - Contacts with academia and other associations
   - Internships

4) Promote and influence public policy
   - Legislation and regulation
   - Public funding for cultural resources
   - Consistent application of laws and regulation
   - Grassroots awareness and advocacy

Finally, the structure of the board of directors, membership classifications, and dues levels were ironed out to allow for representation of all sizes of companies while apportioning costs in an equitable manner.

Over the next several weeks, those companies and individuals who submitted questionnaires and a $50 donation will be given a chance to review the bylaws and ethics statement prior to the first board meeting in April. The board will officially adopt bylaws and the ethics statement at that time. Members will then be actively sought and the $50 donation will be counted towards dues for the first year.

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Workshop

NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT: IMPLICATIONS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Dates: March 16-18, 1995  Natchitoches, Louisiana
      March 30 - April 1, 1995  Juneau, Alaska

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
      (9 a.m. to noon on last day)

Fee: $350.00

[Reprinted from the brochure] The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) legislation has brought to light the long-burning question of ownership of Native American human remains and cultural items. The impact of the law reaches federal land managers, tribal and museum officials, as well as any agency that holds a collection and receives federal funds. The time limits imposed for compliance with summary lists and inventories of collections have created an immediate need for a working knowledge of the law. There are numerous issues and questions that have been raised as to how to apply the law, what items are covered and the process of compliance.

This course is designed to help those affected by the law to comply in a timely and meaningful manner. The course is also focused on an understanding and recognition of potential problem areas in order to allow for prospective planning and avoidance of court intervention. The instructors will discuss practical methods of compiling summaries and inventories, as well as consultation methods for tribes and institutions. They will also discuss the regulations and the decisions of the Review Committee and look at the future ramifications of decisions and any court actions. The course will consist of lectures, case studies, and participant involvement in discussions.

Registration/Information—To register for the workshops call the University of Nevada, Reno, Division of Continuing Education at (800) 233-8928, or (702) 784-4062/4046. On-site check-in will begin one-half hour prior to the start of each course.

Registration Deadline is One Month Prior To The Start Of Each Course. If you would like to participate in the Natchitoches course, please call to register no later than Thursday, 2/16! Tribes and institutions who submitted a NAGPRA grant application or who are interested in doing so for FY 1995 are encouraged to attend.
Call for Papers

First Historic Archaeology Conference of the Upper Midwest

A Call For Papers for the First Historical Archaeology Conference of the Upper Midwest (and Upper Mississippi Valley) has been issued. This is a new regional forum for the presentation, discussion, and dissemination of historic archaeological research.

The conference will consist of panels of 20-minute papers, each followed by a 5-minute discussion period. A keynote address and other activities are being planned. The conference will be held at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Redwing, MN, August 25-26, 1995.

Proposals for papers addressing any aspect of historical archaeology in the region are sought. Presenters must agree to submit their papers in written form by the date of the conference so that they can be assembled into a proceedings volume. Revision following the conference will be permitted, but it will be necessary to strictly adhere to the publication schedule in order to meet the goal of timely dissemination of the papers.

Please submit abstracts of 100-200 words in hard copy and electronic form on 3.5 inch disk (IBM or Mac) along with a cover letter committing to participation in the conference and proceedings volume.

Send proposal to: Historical Archaeology Conference of the Upper Midwest, c/o John P. McCarthy, Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, 3300 University Avenue, S.E. Suite 202, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Deadline: April 15, 1995.

Society of Architectural Historians
Isaiah Rogers/Ohio River Valley Chapter

Annual Colloquium

Research papers are being sought for presentation and discussion at this spring’s regional architectural historians’ colloquium. In addition to topics of regional or local interest, we would welcome papers on any aspect of architectural history, interpretation, criticism, or theory. Abstracts one page in length should be submitted by the deadline listed below; paper presentations should not exceed 22 minutes. We welcome submissions by students, as well as teachers, scholars, preservationists, or amateur enthusiasts. The Annual Colloquium will be held April 1, 1995, on the University of Cincinnati Campus (Room 600 Alms). The program will run from 9:00 am to about 3:00 pm, and will include discussions and a short tour of the new architectural and planning efforts on the campus, including the work by Peter Eisenman and Michael Graves. We hope for one theme-topic session and one open session. Please send an abstract of your paper before February 28, 1995, to: Professor John E. Hancock, 2327 Muriel Court, Cincinnati, OH 45219. Authors will be notified promptly following the review of abstracts, and the meeting program will be announced on March 9, 1995.

1995 Eastern States Archeological Federation

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation will be held October 26-29, 1995, at the Radison Hotel, Wilmington, Delaware. Individuals or groups wishing to make presentations should submit symposium proposals with disk abstracts and/or paper abstracts to the Program Chair by June 1, 1995. Send proposals (typed or on WordPerfect 5.2 or 6.0 disk) including abstracts as well as names, addresses, and phone numbers of individual presenters. Suggested symposia topics include but are not limited to: State Society or Local Chapter Site Surveys & Excavations; Special Field and Analytical Methods (e.g., use of Geomorphology, Experimental Lithic Studies); Military Sites Archeology; Coastal Sites. Individual papers are also desired for Open Sessions. Send program information to: Program Chair Faye L. Stocum, Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, #15 The Green, Dover, DE 19901, 302-739-5685, fax 302-739-5660.
Conferece Calendar

March 9-12, 1995 - Central States Anthropological Society - will hold its 72nd annual meeting in Indianapolis, IN. Contact Larry Breitborde, Department of Anthropology, Beloit College, Beloit, WI 53511; 608-363-2500.

March 11, 1995 - Ohio Valley Urban and Historic Archaeology Annual Symposium will be held at the St. Clair Memorial Hall in Greenville, OH. Contact: Kit Wesler 502-335-3681.

March 30-April 1, 1995 - Preserving the Recent Past - The immense preservation challenges of evaluating, maintaining, and reusing historic resources from the 20th century will be the subject of an in-depth, three-day conference at Chicago's historic Palmer House Hotel. Developed for architects, preservation officials, architectural conservators, historians, planners, engineers, landscape architects, and cultural resources managers, the conference is the first of its kind to focus on preserving the recent past. More than 80 leading experts from the US and abroad will examine the difficult philosophical and practical issues associated with identifying and maintaining buildings, structures, and landscapes designed between 1920 and 1960.

A single $265 will cover all educational sessions, a comprehensive handbook, and a festive opening reception. "Preserving the Recent Past" will provide an unprecedented opportunity to learn about the challenges facing 20th century historic resources and to obtain essential information on the most recent practices and technology to ensure their long-term preservation.

For additional information on conference registration, contact: 217-244-7659. For more information on conference agenda, contact 202-343-6011.

April 22-23, 1995 - Pathways to American Culture—A Conference on Transportation Community and Settlement Patterns - A national conference on transportation choices, community, and settlement patterns will examine structures: turnpikes, railroads, waterways, modern highways, and commuter trains; events: the building of the Cumberland Road and the Pittsburgh Railroad complex during the century, the evolution of the Navajo Trail into a highway to Los Angeles, the technical and ecological impact of channeling a Louisiana delta river, and the impact on a Maryland town of the demise of the B & O; and issues: the losses and gains from the internal improvements movement, the constructive and destructive effects of transportation changes on a rural Illinois community, and the fate of rational planning in the face of private economic and local interests.

These key areas of transportation history will be approached from the fields of social history, political and economic history, the history of technology, environmental history, and national and local policy studies. Pathways will conclude with a panel on the use of history by national parks, heritage corridors, and projects documenting historic engineering structures. The Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology at West Virginia University is sponsoring this two-day conference. Speakers include John Mack Faragher of Yale University, John Lauritz Larson of Purdue University, Arthur Gomez of the National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Billy Joe Peyton and Michal McMahon of West Virginia University, Todd Shallat of Boise State, Richard Love of the University of Virginia, Mark Sambro of Carnegie-Mellon University, and Alan Comp of America's Industrial Heritage Project, Johnstown, PA. Pathways is being held in Wheeling, WV, terminus of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Cumberland Road, and site of such historic structures as the Ellet-Roebing suspension bridge. For information, contact Michal McMahon, Department of History, West Virginia University, Woodburn Hall 202, Morgantown, WV 26506-6303. Ph. (304) 293-2421, ext. 5242; E-mail: MMCMHAO@WVNVM.WVNEDU

April 21-23, 1995 - Missouri's 10th Annual Preservation Conference will be held at the St. Louis County Government Center, Clayton, MO. This year's theme is "Signs of the Times: Current Issues in Historic Preservation." For further information, call 314-751-7959.

May 11-14, 1995 - Society for Industrial Archaeology will hold its annual meeting in Baltimore, MD. For general conference information, contact Dennis Zembala 410-727-4808, FAX 410-547-6838.

June 2-3, 1995 - Mining History Association will hold its annual meeting in Nevada City, CA. For further information, contact William H. Mulligan, Jr., 502-762-6571 or 502-762-2231.

June 2-4, 1995 - Mid-South Archaeological Conference will be held in Jackson, Mississippi. For further information, contact Sam Brooks, 601-965-5518 or Evan Peacock, 601-285-3264.

If you have a meeting you would like to include on our calendar, The Grapevine will be glad to list it for you. Please remember to submit your listing by the tenth of each month.
Job Announcements

Underwater Archaeologist

The Serranilla Banks Project is seeking an underwater archaeologist with an M.A. in hand to work during the month of March in the Caribbean. The project is co-sponsored by the Center for Spanish Colonial Archaeology and the Pacific Geographic Society and is working with the Colombian government.

The project is trying to locate the sites of the four galleons that sank off the Serranillas during a hurricane. The galleons were part of the 1605 Terra Firme fleet, sailing from Cartagena to Spain.

Please send all resumes, vitae, etc. to Anita Cohen-Williams at the address below. If you know of anyone who is not on the Net, please feel free to spread the word, or forward this announcement wherever.

If you have any questions about the project, please let me know. We are currently preparing a report on the preliminary reconnaissance that took place in 1994.

Anita Cohen-Williams; Reference Services, Hayden Library, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-1006
PHONE: (602) 965-4579
FAX: (602) 965-9169
INTERNET: IACAGC@ASUVM.INRE.ASU.EDU
Owner: HISTARCH

Ship's Curator

Deadline for applications Feb 15, 1995

Responsible for implementation of a comprehensive collection management and interpretive program for the Battleship TEXAS State Historical Park, La Porte (Houston), Texas. Responsibilities include management, training and supervision of interpretative and curatorial staff and programs, coordinating volunteer activities and programs, providing visitor services and public relations activities, assist in preparation of ship's budget and coordinate ship's preservation and restoration activities between ship's staff, regional office and headquarters staff.

Selection Criteria include skill in personnel and program management; knowledge of principles and practices of museum administration; skill in photography, A/V equipment, personal computers; communicate effectively both orally and written; ability to plan, organize and supervise; knowledge of historical preservation and restoration techniques, working knowledge of naval history, operations and terminology.

Requires MA (or BA plus year for year experience, may substitute plus 4 years experience); 2 years curatorial work, experience in program management, administration and coordination of volunteer programs. Salary $2095/month plus state benefits.

Submit applications by Feb 15, 1995 to Charles Davenport, Ship's Manager, Battleship TEXAS SHP, 3523 Hwy 134, La Porte, TX 77571. A TPWD application form is required; if interested, call or send a message to have one mailed or faxed to you. Send request to: Joanne Avant, Chief Curator (512) 389-4885 czbb133@access.texas.gov

The Bishop Museum is looking to fill the following two positions. Please feel free to re-post this ad on other list-servers.

Research Archaeologist Specializing in Lithics

Bishop Museum, the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History, invites applications for a full-time archaeologist specializing in lithics analysis to work with materials from previous, on-going, and future Museum projects in Hawaii'i and the Pacific.

Minimum requirements include a Ph.D. in anthropology or related field, experience with lithic analysis, and a demonstrated publication record. Additional requirements include a creative, problem-oriented and quantitative approach to lithics and an interest in current methodological issues surrounding lithic analysis. Desired geographical focus is on the Pacific Basin or other coastal regions. Experience with lithics from a historic context a plus.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, vita, and names of three references by February 28, 1995 to: Bishop Museum, Personnel Department, 105 Paki Hall, 1525 Bernice Street, P.O. Box 19000A, Honolulu, HI 96817-0916, (808)848-4146.

Assistant Laboratory Director

Assistant Laboratory Director of Archaeology. Position requires M.A. or equivalent, 2+ years laboratory supervisory experience, 1+ years lab artifact analysis and 1+ years field experience, and general computer skills. Preference given to candidates with specialty or 1+ years experience in any of the following fields: sediments, lithics, faunal and/or floral, or report analysis figure (e.g., SYMAP) and table production. Supervisory duties will include overseeing lab staff responsible for prehistoric and historic artifact inventorying, processing, and analysis; data entry (dBase, Quattro Pro, SPSS); and data table preparation. Duties may also include assisting in field project supervision and report preparation. Competitive salary and benefits. Equal Opportunity Employer. Send vita to Carol Higa, Personnel Dept., Bishop Museum, P.O. Box 19000A, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu, HI 96817-0916.
Supervising Draftsperson

Hunter Research, Inc., an archaeological and historical consulting firm, has an opening for a Supervising Draftsperson specializing in CAD. The position entails implementation of computer-assisted drafting in our Trenton office (using AutoCAD Release 13 for Windows); developing standards and conventions for company graphics; developing and maintaining proper storage and retrieval procedures; and training other employees in AutoCAD.

Implementation of AutoCAD forms part of the company’s overall data integration program, and the successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the development of all aspects of the company’s data acquisition and retrieval needs. The position will start at the Senior Archaeologist or Principal Investigator level with opportunity for advancement.

Minimum requirements: B.A. in either Geography, Cartography, Archaeology, Anthropology, landscape Architecture, or Architectural Engineering with 1 to 2 years AutoCAD experience. Other data management experience, such as GIS or digital data collection is helpful, as is previous archeological experience. Initial 6 month to 1 year contract, starting January 1, 1995, or as soon as possible thereafter. Salary negotiable, based on experience. Benefit package available.

Mail or fax resume to: Hunter Research, Inc., 714 S. Clinton Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08611. FAX # 609-695-0147.

Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape

Carl Lounsbury’s latest release defines over 1,500 terms that architects, carpenters, builders, planters, and laymen used to describe the built environment of the South from settlement to about 1830. The book is the culmination of a prodigious effort: over a decade of research, writing, and grantsmanship at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation’s architectural Research Department went into its production, and a large number of people both within and outside the Foundation assisted the project. Each entry offers a definition, with most including historic quotations. Many are illustrated with drawings, photographs, or period illustrations. [Taken in part from a book review by William J. MacIntire.]


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