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Historic Resources Committee

PRESERVATION ARCHITECT



MARCH 2015 ISSUE

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Letter from the Chair

By Ashley R. Wilson, AIA | AIA 2015 Historic Resources Committee Chair

Dear Historic Resources Committee Members:

On March 6, 2015, the Advisory Group met in Washington, D.C., at the AIA headquarters for our annual meetings for HRC members and partner agencies and organizations. This year we decided to use this opportunity to work with HABS, the Historic American Building Survey to envision a healthy and bright future. The Tripartite Agreement between the AIA, the National Park Service and the Library of Congress was first signed in 1933 and was re-signed in 1993.

[Read more.](#)



LAUREN PINNEY BURGE, AIA SELECTED TO JOIN AIA HRC ADVISORY GROUP

By Wendy Hillis, AIA | Historic Resources Committee Advisory Group

The AIA Historic Resources Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Lauren Pinney Burge, AIA as the newest member of its advisory group. Lauren is a principal of Chambers, Murphy and Burge Restoration Architects Ltd., based in Akron, Ohio. She received her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Kent State University and has been a registered architect since 1988. [Read more.](#)



HRC SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

By James J. Malanaphy, AIA | 2015 Chair, HRC Development Subcommittee

RECENT DISCUSSIONS

March 25, 2015

We are undertaking facade restoration in a 1926 apartment building in Washington, DC. There are two window openings with original Hope's metal casement windows. [Read more.](#)

The deadline is approaching FAST. Complete the Sponsorship Commitment form and send your financial contribution by March 31st to guarantee recognition as a 2015 Sponsor of HRC Programs ([View 2014 HRC Programs and Sponsorship Levels](#)), and attend special events during the AIA Convention in Atlanta., APT Conference in Kansas City, and the National Trust conference in Washington, DC. Your contribution will help fund:

AIA HRC/ACSA Preservation as Provocation Ideas Competition

March 21, 2015

Thank you so much for asking your Member of Congress to support funding for historic preservation earlier this week. As a result of your efforts 102 Representatives signed onto the Appropriations Committee letter. [Read more.](#)

- Charles E. Peterson Student Competition for Measured Drawings
- AIA/NPS/LOC HABS Coordinating Committee
- HRC/HABS Student Internship Program
- HRC/Clemson University/ College of Charleston Pioneers in Preservation Oral History program
- DESIGN + HISTORY AIA HRC/Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Colloquium at Taliesin West
- HRC fellowship events and educational programs at the annual conferences of the AIA, APT and NTHP.

March 9, 2015

We have a project which involves the repair of a bird cage elevator, c. 1926, in a co-operative apartment in Washington, DC. The owners have told us that local Otis service was not able to help. [Read more.](#)

[\(Become a Sponsor- Contribute Today!\)](#)

HRC EVENTS DURING THE 2015 AIA CONVENTION - ATLANTA

Wednesday, May 13 – Thursday, May 14, 2015 | Atlanta GA

We hope to see you at the AIA Convention in Atlanta. HRC will feature the following events and it's not too late to register!

WE202: Historic Resources Committee Pre-Convention Workshop **|Exploring Preservation and Design at Historic Georgia Tech**

Wednesday, May 13 | 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM | Study the design and planning of Georgia Institute of Technology's twelve historic buildings to gain new tools and insight that will help you establish the scope and approach to preservation that allow you to design in a historic context through thoughtful and creative design solutions that combine the significance of the past and the needs and aspirations of the future, while managing the design process within the regulatory environment of preservation.

[Learn More.](#)

EV110: Historic Resources Committee Happy Hour

Wednesday, May 13 | 5:00 - 8:00 PM | The HRC Happy Hour will take place at Georgia Institute of Technology's College of Architecture, Stubbins Gallery, 245 Fourth Street NW, immediately following the Pre-Convention Workshop.

[Learn More.](#)

EV204: Historic Resources Committee Luncheon

Thursday, May 14 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM | The AIA Historic Resources Committee Luncheon is located at the Georgia World Congress Center, Room B305. The speaker is Frank White, FAIA, the Alabama SHPO, and previously of the Georgia Trust.

[Learn More.](#)

[Register for AIA Convention and These Individual Events Now](#)

HABS AND THE AIA: MAKING A GOOD RELATIONSHIP

EVEN BETTER

By Warren Williams, AIA | AIA Philadelphia

HABS, for those who don't know, stands for the Historic American Building Survey, a project started in the 1930's to document buildings around the United States. Documentation includes photographs and narrative and sometimes measured drawings. Its achievements are a bit staggering – it has about 557,000 documents (most of which are online) describing over 38,500 buildings and sites. From the beginning HABS documentation methodology has always been to the highest standards. [Read More.](#)

HABS REVISITS THE USE OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY

By Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief | Historic American Building Survey, National Park Service

HABS recently revisited photogrammetry, and discovered that it has come a long way since the 1990s. No more large cumbersome cameras or special roll film. No more tracing photogrammetric images to create models in two-dimensions. Today, photogrammetry allows for direct transfer from digital photographs to mapping in three-dimensions providing easier workflow and greater time savings. Photogrammetry works where laser scanners fall short, recording small detailed subjects quickly and accurately. [Read More.](#)

AIA-HABS COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2015

By Michael J. Mills, FAIA

[Read more.](#)

2015 HRC PARTNERS AND ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS LIAISON REPORTS

Reports from HRC Partners and Allied Organizations Coordination Meeting

March 6, 2015 | AIA Headquarters | Washington, DC

By James Malanaphy, AIA | 2006 Chair, AIA Historic Resources Committee

Following the HABS Coordinating Committee meeting on March 6th, HRC's Partner And Allied Organizations representatives gathered to share information and discuss strategies to promote and support the cultural heritage documentation programs of the National Park Service and Library of Congress. The contents of the liaison reports below are very informative. They outline present challenges and emerging opportunities for HRC members to participate in efforts to promote conservation of our cultural heritage, natural and built environment. Please take a moment to review the opportunities described within the following reports and take action, be involved.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation | Ron Anzalone, Special Initiatives ([View Report](#))

American Architectural Foundation | Thom Minner, Director, Center for Design & Cultural Heritage ([View Report](#))

Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation | Nancy J. Brown, ASLA, Member Board of Directors ([View Report](#))

Getty Conservation Institute | Susan MacDonald, Head of Field Projects ([View Report](#))

Center for Historic Buildings, U.S. General Services Administration | Caroline Alderson, Policy & Reporting ([View Report](#))

National Building Museum | Martin Moeller, Senior Curator ([View Report](#))

National Council for Preservation Education | Robert A. Young, Chair ([View Report](#))

NPS, Historic American Building Survey | Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief ([View Report](#))

NPS, National Center for Preservation Training and Technology | Kirk Cordell, Executive Director ([View Report](#))

NPS, Technical Preservation Service | Brian Goeken, Chief ([View Report](#))

National Preservation Institute | Jere Gibber, Executive Director ([View Report](#))

HRC MEMBERS ELEVATED TO FELLOWSHIP IN 2015

By Kwendeché, AIA | From the American Institute of Architects

The following AIA Historic Resources Committee members will be elevated to the AIA College of Fellows during a ceremony at the 2015 annual convention in Atlanta, GA. Congratulations to you all and thank you for your leadership.

John R. Bowie, FAIA: John Bowie Associates, AIA Philadelphia

Donald R. Horn, FAIA: U.S. General Services Administration, AIA Seattle

Thomas E. Johnson, FAIA: Martinez + Johnson Architecture PC, AIA DC

Stephen J. Kelley, FAIA: Wiss Janney Elstner Associates, Inc., AIA Chicago

Judith M. Kunoff, FAIA: MTA New York City Transit, AIA New York

Arnie Lerner, FAIA: Lerner+Associates Architects, AIA San Francisco

Daniel K. McCoubry, FAIA: VSBA, LLC, AIA Philadelphia

James MacDonald, FAIA: A&E Architects PC, AIA Montana

Scott Newman, FAIA: Cooper & Robertson Partners, AIA New York

Ann Kolman Smith, FAIA: Lominack Kolman Smith Architects, AIA Savannah

Jonathan C. Spodek, FAIA: Ball State University, AIA Indiana

Steven Land Tillotson, FAIA: Munoz & Company, AIA San Antonio

Elissa Winzelberg, FAIA: Common Ground, AIA New York

LANDMARKS ILLINOIS HONOR WALKER AND CAROLYN JOHNSON

By James Malanaphy, AIA | From Illinois Landmarks

Distinguished AIA Historic Resources Committee members, Walker and Carolyn Johnson were presented with the **Joseph Antunovich Award for Leadership** by Landmarks Illinois at a Special Ceremony held November 1, 2014 at the InterContinental Hotel in Chicago, IL.



[Read More.](#)

PRESERVATION ACTION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Click [here](#) for the most recent Update.

2015 BOSTON TRADITIONAL BUILDING CONFERENCE

By Peter Miller, Hon. AIA | Traditional Building Conference Series

Produced in collaboration with the National Park Service, the 2015 Traditional Building Conference Series is scheduled to kick off in Boston, on April 28-29,

with the third annual Windows Conference. Additional 2015 Traditional Building Conference dates and locations are: Princeton NJ, July 21-22; Denver, October 6-7 and Raleigh-Durham NC, December 1-2. For the conference program and online registration [click here](#).

RESOURCES FOR YOU TO USE | MARCH 2015 UPDATE

US General Services Administration, Historic Buildings Preservation Technical Resources

By James J. Malanaphy, AIA

The **US General Services Administration, Historic Buildings Preservation Technical Resources** web site provides technical specifications, guidance, and resource information for planning and executing historic building projects. The GSA database includes many specifications developed for GSA buildings and projects, as well as National Park Service Preservation Briefs, Tech Notes, and industry standards for the care of traditional building materials. [Learn more.](#)

The **HABS Guide to Field Documentation** offers step-by-step instructions about how to observe, take field measurements, and create field notes and a short-form report about a historic site or structure to HABS standards. [Learn more.](#)

Clem Labine's Traditional Building Magazine provides useful information on materials, products and services of interest to preservation architects. Clem Labine's Traditional Building magazine provides a complimentary one year subscription to HRC members. [Learn more.](#)



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1735 New York Avenue, NW
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Letter from the 2015 HRC Chair

By Ashley R. Wilson, AIA | AIA 2015 Historic Resources Committee Chair

On March 6, 2015, the Advisory Group met in Washington, D.C., at the AIA headquarters for our annual meetings for HRC members and partner agencies and organizations. This year we decided to use this opportunity to work with HABS, the Historic American Building Survey to envision a healthy and bright future. The Tripartite Agreement between the AIA, the National Park Service and the Library of Congress was first signed in 1933 and was re-signed in 1993. The goal of the partnership is to document America’s historic structures (and landscapes and engineering works) to create a lasting archive of our designed environment. The online presence of the HABS/HAER/HALS which includes measured drawings, history pages, and photos, is the most heavily used in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. While architects use it to find base drawings and information for current projects, anyone searching the built past uses these resources. The HABS collection is free and publically accessible.

These heritage documentation programs are adapting to changing circumstances including financial and organizational structuring as well as the ever-evolving technological changes of recordation. Our group convened to brainstorm how to create public/private/non-profit partnerships to bolster the work already done and to insure a healthy future.

In one very busy day, the annual HABS coordinating committee met in the morning and the brainstorming session took place in the afternoon. We broke out into the following sessions: Allied Partners, Marketing, Outreach, Fundraising and Partnership. The notes from that meeting, the list of our allied preservation and conservation partners and their missions, and a call for next steps with a list of volunteer opportunities are published in this issue of Preservation Architect.

We owe much gratitude to James Malanaphy for coordinating the invitations, Karl Stumpf and RTKL for sponsoring the coffee and lunch and to Susan Parrish, our AG liaison with the AIA.

Those who attended the March meeting included:

- Sue Ann Pemberton, FAIA, HABS Committee Chair
- Michael Mills, FAIA, Mills Schwoering Architects, HABS Committee Member
- Carolyn Andrews, Assoc. AIA, Johnson Lasky Architects, HABS Committee Member
- Ursula McClure, AIA, LSU, HABS Committee Member
- Lesley Gilmore, AIA, CTA Architects, HABS Committee Member
- Catherine Lavoie, HABS/NPS
- Paul Dolinsky, HALS/NPS
- Paul Davidson, HABS/NPS
- Daniel De Sousa, HABS/NPS
- Robert Azola, HABS/NPS
- Richard O’Connor, HABS/HAER/HALS/NPS
- John Burns, NPS



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Title:
HRC Preservation Architect March 2015:
Letter from the Chair

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Isabella Rosse

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Last Viewed:

- Kit Arrington, Library of Congress/P&P
- Ford Peatross, Library of Congress (via phone)
- Robert Young, University of Utah, NCPE Board
- Warren Williams, AIA, Southeastern PA Transit
- Sharon Fleming, Texas Historical Commission
- Karl Stumpf, AG HRC AIA
- Ron Anzalone: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Andrew Goldberg: AIA Government and Community Relations
- Ian McTiernan, AIA Federal Relations
- Cindy Schwartz, AIA Advocacy
- Nancy Brown, Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation
- Thomas Minner, American Architectural Foundation
- Carl Elefante, AIA Council
- Bob Loversidge, AECOM, HRC
- Eryl Wentworth: American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works
- Gretchen Pfahler: Association for Preservation Technology International
- Bruce Lavery: Athenaeum of Philadelphia
- Caroline Alderson: GSA PBS – Center for Historic Preservation
- Jere Gibber: National Preservation Institute
- Ashley Wilson (HRC Chair) and Rie Yamakawa (architect intern): National Trust for Historic Preservation

We hope to see you at the AIA Convention in Atlanta. We have the following events and it's not too late to register. The HRC reception needs no registration.

Wednesday there is an all-day pre-convention workshop organized by previous HRC chair Jack Pyburn, FAIA called *Exploring Preservation and Design at Historic Georgia Tech* held at the architecture school at Georgia Tech. It will be immediately followed (5:00-7:30) by the HRC reception at the same location.

Thursday is the HRC luncheon. It's located a short walk from the convention center on the 72nd floor of the Westin Peachtree Plaza. Our speaker is Frank White, FAIA, the Alabama SHPO and previously of the Georgia Trust.

Throughout the conference look for the many talks, sessions, and awards that are given by and to HRC members.

The HRC welcomes two new advisors in 2015, Lauren Burge, AIA from Ohio and Jeffrey Smith, AIA from Louisiana. Both new Advisors have a long record of service to the AIA and the preservation/adaptive use of buildings. We also want to sincerely thank Peyton Hall, FAIA the outgoing Chair for a year well-served. Please contact me, or any Advisor, to participate in one of the Subcommittees, including the HABS initiatives, listed on our webpage. We need your help and have many opportunities to get involved.

Ashley Robbins Wilson, AIA
2015 Historic Resource Committee Chair

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Economics			Governmental Resources		
Member Groups & Communities	Training & Resources				
AIArchitect	Support				
Insight for Architects	Reference Material				



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Lauren Pinney Burge, AIA Selected to Join AIA HRC Advisory Group
Wendy Hillis, AIA |Historic Resources Committee Advisory Group

The AIA Historic Resources Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Lauren Pinney Burge, AIA as the newest member of its advisory group. Lauren is a principal of Chambers, Murphy and Burge Restoration Architects Ltd., based in Akron, Ohio. She received her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Kent State University and has been a registered architect since 1988.

Lauren's areas of expertise include architectural design, restoration and adaptive re-use, materials restoration, historic streetscape restoration, interior space planning, interior design, and optical microscopy. Working with Icon Architecture (Boston), Chambers, Murphy & Burge was responsible for the Historic Resources Inventory in the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor Management Plan. This plan included work by Ms. Burge to define the parameters by which historic resources in the 108 mile Canal Corridor be recognized, advising the municipalities on the economic development potential of these resources. This management plan was a response to the federal mandate for guidelines to develop the corridor and dispense the ten million dollars in federal grants.

Because of her experience with developing Cyclical Maintenance Plans, Ms. Burge was asked by the National Park Service to assist in the preparation of a Preservation Brief on Cyclical Maintenance for Historic Structures. She was Principal-in-Charge of the restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Westcott House in Springfield, Ohio, a project that has received numerous honors.

Ms. Burge has been an active member of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Akron, and has served on the Board of Trustees. She has served often on the non-profit organization's planning committee for their annual Historic District Tours. She has been a frequent speaker on local architectural history. Other experience in preservation includes Historic American Buildings Survey drawings of the Chapman-Hill House, an 1877 structure in Twin Lakes, Ohio, and acknowledged contributions to the publication "Geneva, Revitalization Through Preservation" for the City of Geneva, Ohio.



Margin Comments

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HRC Preservation Architect March 2015:
Lauren Pinney Burge, AIA Selected to Join AIA
HRC Advisory Group

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Statement of Commitment to Sponsor the 2015 Programs of the Historic Resources Committee of the American Institute of Architects

On behalf of _____, my signature below indicates our commitment to provide \$_____ in financial support for the 2015 Programs of the Historic Resources Committee of the American Institute of Architects (HRC). (Please check below ONLY IF there is a preference of program(s) you wish to support.)

- ☐ *Pioneers in Preservation Oral History Series at Clemson University/Charleston College*
- ☐ *Pre-Convention Symposium/Workshop during the AIA National Convention*
- ☐ *HRC Luncheon during the AIA National Convention*
- ☐ *HRC Reception during the AIA National Convention*
- ☐ *Annual Meeting(s) of the Historic American Building Survey Coordinating Committee*
- ☐ *Annual Charles Peterson Prize Student Competition and Awards Ceremony*
- ☐ *HRC/ACSA/Ludowici Tile Preservation as Provocation Student Design Competition*
- ☐ *HRC Luncheon during the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference*
- ☐ *HRC Reception during the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference*
- ☐ *HRC Reception during the Association for Preservation Technology Conference*
- ☐ *HRC/Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Colloquium at Taliesin West*

This level of sponsorship is at the following level: (Please check corresponding level of support.)

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- ☐ *Bronze Level (\$500 - \$999)*

I understand that funding for 2015 HRC Programs must be received by the HRC Program Manager at AIA before March 31, 2015 in order to receive 2015 HRC sponsorship benefits.

Signature Date Printed Name

Title

Please mail, email or fax completed form to:

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American Institute of Architects, Historic Resources Committee
1735 New York Ave NW
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Phone: (202) 626-7332
FAX: (202) 626-8052
Email: sparrish@aia.org

Please make checks payable to "AIA HRC" and forward by mail to the attention of Melissa Wackerle at the address noted above.



HABS and the AIA: Making a Good Relationship Even Better

By Warren Williams, AIA | AIA Philadelphia

HABS, for those who don't know, stands for the Historic American Building Survey, a project started in the 1930's to document buildings around the United States. Documentation includes photographs and narrative and sometimes measured drawings. Its achievements are a bit staggering – it has about 557,000 documents (most of which are online) describing over 38,500 buildings and sites.

From the beginning HABS documentation methodology has always been to the highest standards; first ink on linen, then Mylar drawings, and large format photographs, processed to archival standards. In recognition of HABS' unique achievement and standards, the National Park Service, where HABS is located, the Library of Congress who archives HABS documents, and the AIA, have signed several agreements pledging each entities' support for the program.

While keeping its commitment to archival standards, HABS, like the profession, has embraced CAD and advanced image capture techniques such as site laser scanning and photogrammetry. HABS continues to explore software, hardware, and protocols to better capture the buildings it wishes to document.

This activity puts HABS in a unique position of being an independent voice to evaluate digital capture and archiving technology. HABS is an ideal resource to help architects, and others in the building industry, establish protocols for documenting existing conditions more accurately and efficiently. The AIA should continue to encourage and support the HABS team in evaluating software & hardware and identifying "best practices" for existing condition documentation. Even though the average building project may not require museum quality documentation, the technologies and approaches developed in HABS projects can be readily adapted to a broader variety of needs.

Another potential benefit of the HABS collections being housed in the Library of Congress is that the LOC has been studying the problems of archiving digital works for years. They could be an excellent source of information to help architects archive their own digital records.

Over the next year I would like the AIA and HABS to help each other by:

- Sharing the periodically updated best practices protocols for documentation and records archiving created by HABS.
- Helping market in new exciting ways, the HABS summer projects involving students and their often innovative approaches to data capture. Assuring that the areas of documentation - writing, drawings and photographs - are represented by experienced staff professionals who have the knowledge and field experience to not only document buildings but set standards and protocols for documenting buildings. Currently, in a regrettable turn of circumstances, HABS has been unable to fill its staff photographer's position due to staff cutbacks.

HABS must continue to document America's buildings and keep them in formats that will be available tomorrow and a hundred years from now. Additionally though, it is uniquely positioned to help all architects in the time consuming tasks of existing condition documentation and records archiving. Let's make the relationship the American Institute of Architects has with the Historic American Building Survey and the Library of Congress benefit the profession and let's make our knowledge and perspective carry HABS into the future.

By Warren Williams, AIA
AIA Philadelphia



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Title:
HRC Preservation Architect March 2015: HABS and the AIA: Making a Good Relationship Even Better

Location:

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Isabella Rosse

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Warren Williams, AIA, has worked for the past 20 years as an architect in the public transportation field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has been involved in a wide variety of projects involving new facilities and the renovation of existing structures throughout the Philadelphia region. In his spare time he leads architectural walking tours of Philadelphia.

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HABS Revisits the Use of Photogrammetry

By Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief | Historic American Building Survey

A recent request from the National Capital Region (NCR) of the National Park Service (NPS) to use laser scanning to record a damaged inscription panel on a significant local memorial led to renewed investigations into the use photogrammetry. Photogrammetry combines principles of photography and geometry to produce scalable photographic images taken from known points that could be used to produce measured drawings. This recording method was used by HABS beginning in the 1950s and most extensively in the 1990s to record both fragile and large-scale structures. It was ultimately replaced by what was viewed as more effective laser scanning. Over the past decade, the use of laser scanning in combination with hand measuring has become standard operating procedure for HABS. However, the medium to long-range scanner needed for the recording of most sites and structures was not conducive to smaller subjects, architectural details in particular. So when NCR asked that HABS apply its laser scanner to the detailed text panel on the African American Civil War Memorial so that it could be recreated, there was great trepidation. Realizing that another equally accurate digital method was needed we found ourselves experimenting once again with photogrammetry.

HABS first ventured into the use of photogrammetry in the 1950s and 1960s, under the direction of Ohio State University professor of architecture Perry Borchers. Working in conjunction with HABS, Borchers engaged his students in the process of experimenting with the use of stereo-photogrammetry, and then used the data to produce drawings for the HABS collection. Taking measurements from scaled photographs that could enable the exact position of surface points proved a useful tool in recording building elevations in difficult recording environments as well as large-scale cultural landscapes. Borchers and his students documented such challenging sites as the Native American pueblos and Spanish-American villages of the southwest. His work eventually resulted in the publications Photogrammetric Recording of Cultural Resources (1977) and Recording a Vanishing Legacy: The Historic American Buildings Survey in New Mexico, 1933 to Today (2001). In the following decades, HABS continued to encourage the use of photogrammetry for recording endangered buildings with the idea that the data could be captured quickly and easily and stored until some later date when drawings could be prepared. Although drawings were produced less frequently then hoped, the photographic images were large- or medium-format black-and-white (or glass plates) and so they met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for archival documentation and could be transmitted to the Library of Congress as HABS records. Extensive stereo photogrammetric recording of Independence Hall was undertaken, both for the maintenance of this highly significant structure and as a precaution against catastrophic loss. The glass plates revealed irregularities in its construction and were used to produce detailed measured drawings, underscoring the potential value of photogrammetric images for both monitoring and recording historic resources.

Convergent photogrammetry was introduced in the 1980s, using metric film cameras and proprietary software to extract three-dimensional measurements from overlapping or convergent photographs. HABS first experimented with this new technology using a medium-format (6 x 6cm) metric camera to record national historic landmarks in Yellowstone National Park as a precautionary measure following the wildfires in 1988, and to document earthquake- damaged buildings in the San Francisco Bay area following the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989. HABS subsequently used convergent photogrammetry vigorously in the 1990s as a means for recording large-scale structures after purchasing two Linhof Metrica cameras with fixed distortion-free high-resolution lenses. These were first applied to the documentation of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials on the National Mall. The images were also found helpful in recording the high level of ornamental architectural details because the high-resolution, medium-format (4" x 5") photographs could be easily enlarged for tracing details. While photogrammetry proved accurate and



Margin Comments



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HRC Preservation Architect March 2015: HABS Revisits the Use of Photogrammetry

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effective, it was cumbersome. For example, while the software could correct for distortion, the images were most accurate if captured at close-range and at a straight-on elevation, requiring many photographs and necessitating lift equipment to achieve the range and perspective needed for crisp photographs. The film based photographs had to be manually traced using a digitizing mouse and light table, and Photo-CAD software. The tracings could be migrated directly into Auto-CAD to produce measured drawings. The cameras also required special roll film that had to be cut and rolled by hand in the darkroom. HABS finally discontinued use of that technology about 2000, once the company stopped upgrading the software and processing the film became too difficult.

About five years later, HABS adopted laser scanning, purchasing a mid-range scanner for capturing large-scale sites and structures and those too difficult or dangerous to hand measure. It has been over a decade now and HABS never looked back; that is until recently. Always struggling with the use of the mid-range laser scanner (accurate to 5mm resolution) when recording architectural details, HABS was finally pushed into searching for an easier and more effective means for recording detailed subjects when asked to record the African-American Civil War Monument. The monument includes both complex statuary and a dense text panel inscribed with the names of those who had lost their lives in the line of duty. The metal text panel had become warped, and the original design documents used to create it no longer existed. The monuments stewards, the National Capital Region of NPS, were anxious to capture the data in a manner through which the panel could be re-crafted.

Revisiting photogrammetry, HABS discovered that it has come a long way since last used in the 1990s. No more large cumbersome cameras or special roll film. More importantly, while the old method required tracing the photogrammetric images to create models in two-dimensions, today's photogrammetry allows for direct transfer from digital photographs and for mapping in three-dimensions. The seamless transfer of data from point clouds to mesh models also makes for an easier workflow and greater time savings. It works where our laser scanner falls short, recording small detailed subjects quickly and accurately. It should be said that HABS uses a mid-range scanner, which is applicable to most sites and structures, but is not effective in capturing the details since data from this class of machines is only accurate to 5mm. Smaller, detailed subjects require a higher-resolution, short-range scanner. HABS determined that rather than investing in an entire arsenal of scanners, combining laser scanning (and hand measuring) for large scale sites and structures with digital photogrammetry for close-range details is an easier option, and far cheaper. For small- to medium-sized objects, the resulting perspective-corrected orthoimage is much clearer and easier to interpret than laser scans. Small details and defects such as cracks that might otherwise lack the appropriate density or fall into shadows in a laser scan can be more easily read in the orthoimage. In certain cases, photogrammetry can even be used effectively on larger structures when captured on a flat plane, such as a wall elevation, but requires too many images to obtain the same results as a laser scanner. Also a drawback to photogrammetry is that it is more susceptible to lighting conditions.



Photogrammetric Model - Keystone- Main Hospital Building - Ellis Island | Courtesy HABS

The photogrammetric process has also been greatly simplified since the earlier days. It can now be undertaken using almost any digital camera. Although the best images obviously result from a high quality/resolution camera and lens (and when compensation is made for

lens distortion), the cost is fairly minimal when compared to that of a close-range laser scanner. HABS uses a full-frame DSLR camera with a wide-angle prime lens.



Photogrammetric Model - Wall Elevation Ortho Image - Fort Jefferson | Courtesy HABS

There are numerous software packages that can be used to calibrate and migrate data, but HABS uses Agisoft Photoscan. It effectively aligns the photographs, builds the geometry and scales the model, as well as provides the necessary camera calibrations to achieve the highest level of accuracy. The data can then be output as a point cloud or mesh model where it can be used to produce a two- or three-dimension drawing for the HABS collection. In the meantime, the 3-D model with its photographic overlay provides a very compelling image that can be used in online interpretation and for virtual tourism, something NPS and other HABS project sponsors have grown to appreciate. If you want to check it out for yourself, the HABS 3-D model of the African American Civil War Memorial can be seen at: <https://sketchfab.com/models/58c9682bcca443ef94d977bd2c0d846e>.

Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief | Historic American Building Survey

Special thanks to HABS architects Paul Davidson, Daniel DeSousa and Mark Schara; and to HALS Chief Paul Dolinsky and former HABS/HAER Division Chief John Burns, for their first-hand expertise with HABS photogrammetry past and present.

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AIA-HABS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Friday, March 6, 2015
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

By Michael J. Mills, FAIA

Committee Members

Sue Ann Pemberton, FAIA | San Antonio, TX
Michael Mills, FAIA | Princeton, NJ
Aimee Woodall | Washington, DC
Carolyn Andrews, Assoc. AIA | Chicago, IL
Lesley Gilmore, AIA | Bozeman, MT
Ursala McClure, AIA | New Orleans, LA
Ashley-Robbins-Wilson, AIA | Washington, DC

Attendees

All committee members except Aimee.(excused); Robert Young, U of Utah; Warren Williams, SEPTA, Philidelphia; Paul Dolinsky, HALS/NPS; Sharon Fleming, Texas Hist. Commission; John Burns, NPS; Catherine Levoie, HABS/NPS; Paul Davidson, HABS/NPS; Richard O'Conner, HABS/HAER/HALS; David DeSousa, HABS; Kit Arrington, Lib of Congress; Ric Yamakawa, NTHP; Karl Stumpf, RTKL; Bruce Laverty, Athenaeum of Philadelphia

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

Because Sue Ann's plane was delayed, Mills chaired the meeting until she arrived at 11 am. Meeting began at 10 am. Mills welcomed the attendees and each person introduced themselves, their affiliation, and their connection to HABS. Ford Peatross of the Library of Congress joined us by telephone and we started with the report on the Library of Congress activities. Mills introduced Kit Arrington of the Library.

2. Report on the Activities of the Library of Congress

Paul Dolinsky and Ford began by describing a recent meeting with Christina Finkelhofer of AIA, Roxanne Blackwell and others. The idea emerged that it is important to have regular meetings of the Tripartite parties to discuss strategic issues. All signatories have responsibilities under the Tripartite Agreement which need ongoing coordination. It was suggested that small, advisory meetings occur once a year: with the highest level representation possible of the AIA, ASLA, Library of Congress, and NPS. The intent is to keep the Agreement healthy and strong and address any issues and threats to effective documentation of historic resources. The Library backs the approach completely. Helena Dinkham from the Library will represent their interests along with Ford. One key issue is that HABS has lost an engineering historian and a HABS photographer. The parties have not met as yet, but Paul felt that a meeting would occur within the next two months and issues like that may be addressed. It was moved and seconded that the AIA-HABS Committee support this annual meeting. After additional discussion, the motion was passed.

With changing technology, the Library recommends that standards for archival photographs be continually studied and updated as necessary. Committee discussion ensued around that point, with the conclusion that it is important to have a qualified archival photographer on the HABS staff to set standards, defend them, and review submitted documentation for conformance to requirements.

Ford and Kit announced that Ford is retiring. Ford was thanked for his monumental contributions to our field, and encouraged to continue as an advisor. The new Curator



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of Architecture at the Library of Congress will be Mari Nakahara, former AIA archivist, who has extensive credentials and knowledge.

Mills introduced Catherine Levoie who had arrived with a delegation from HABS.

3. Report on HABS Activities

Catherine Levoie thanked Jonathan Spodek for all that he has done to promote HABS, including the publishing of: "HABS and its Relevance to Architectural Practice Today." She thanked Bill Barlow, Walker Johnson, and Karl Stumpf for their service. She welcomed new Chair Sue Ann Pemberton and new members: Carolyn, Lesley, Ursula.

Catherine presented a written report which is attached. Ellis Island was the biggest undertaking this year. HABS did laser scanning and documentation of south side of the island, and recorded the houses on Liberty Island. They also did work on the mile long Sitka Totem Pole Trail, which is very hard to access. Other projects included a Veteran Affairs project with four NHL's, a project for the American Battlefield Monuments commission, the Flanders Field WW1 cemetery, Decatur House Kitchen, and the Commons of Maclean, a mid-century landmark. They participated in Cy Ark documentation symposium. Student outreach and training occurred at: College of Charleston, Bergen Co HS (NY), Preservation Institute of Nantucket, and Latino Initiative.

On the bureaucratic side, issues continue with erosion of staff positions and attrition. HABS does not have a staff photographer, which is an important issue because there is no one establishing digital standards as technology evolves and no one to check on the quality of archival photographic work submitted to the collection. Also, the submission of mitigation documentation to HABS and the Library of Congress has suffered. The administration is unwilling to move forward with filling the position, and would prefer to have this function "done differently" (presumably with contracted expertise). In this case, there would be no one to review what is done and whether it conforms to HABS archival standards. The Committee feels that AIA-HRC needs to strongly recommend that resources be allocated to this position. It was further discussed and recommended that we should advocate for the development of digital standards that meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards.

A lot of mitigation from the regions and the States is not making it to HABS and to the Library of Congress because it is not submitted by the States. This is mostly related to photography and "HABS-like" documentation, or Level 2 documentation.

Sue Ann pointed out that the tri-partite partners should express their views on Congressional and program funding, permanent positions funded, term employment, professional standards, and other matters. Also, HABS is able to receive donations and funding for documentation projects from individuals and non-profit groups.

Catherine said that there is a need to catch up with documentation of modern structures, which HABS is seeking to address. It was suggested that the various chapters of DOCOMOMO could be a resource for identifying significant buildings that should be documented.

4. Peterson Prize

a. Summary of 2014 Peterson Prize - This is given in the 2014 HABS Report

b. Funding Discussion

Unico has been the sponsor for student travel and the ceremony in the past, but will probably not be in the future. Sponsorship by member firms of the HRC may be explored as a possibility as well as other related firms and interests like Autodesk. This is being studied by HRC.

c. Plans for Awards Ceremony 2015

Peterson Prize judging and the awards ceremony both occurred at AIA Headquarters this year. Mark Scharra and Ashley have discussed how and when to do Peterson prize ceremony in 2015. One possibility being explored is the Fall Annual Meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The local AIA contingent could coordinate a ceremony or program around the Prize at the same time as the Trust conference.

5. Leicester Holland Award

Robert Arzola coordinates the prize. There were seven submissions last year and the winner was an architect in Fort Worth, Paul Dennehy, for the Broadview Park Pavilion.

The prize is entering its 5th year: open to architects, landscape architects, and engineers. The only problem has been in getting the word out. The original idea was to encourage professionals to submit samplings of work. It was suggested to send notices to regions of AIA, who would publicize the prize to the firms in the region. AIAS (student chapter) could publicize it to students through their network. Ashley mentioned that National Trust has a lot of buildings that are not documented and they could assist with publicity.

6. NPS Centennial & NHPA Semi-Centennial 2016

Up to now, there has not been a lot of energy devoted to these two events. It was felt by all that it would be a missed opportunity not to celebrate the NHPA semi-centennial and the NPS centennial. Paul Dolinski suggested: Could chapters of AIA look at two dozen examples of documented buildings in the regions? HRC members thought that was very doable. NPS might provide a template for entering these images into a database and web-site. HABS will look into developing a template and lists of demolished buildings by region. Mills suggested that some positive examples of documentation used to promote preservation should be included.

7. Discussion about Friends Group

Mills reviewed his discussions with Richard Hayes of AIA and the attorney who set up and managed the prior HABB/HAER/HALS Foundation, which was intentionally allowed to expire in October of 2008. It was felt that starting a new 501c3 would be something of a challenge. It would also require time, resources, and someone “on the ground” in the District to coordinate it going forward. Instead, it was concluded that it may be possible to utilize an existing non-profit organization related to AIA to support HABS rather than set up a new one. The two possibilities are: The American Architectural Foundation, and the AIA Foundation. James Malanaphy has approached George Miller of the AIA Foundation to gauge interest and will follow up and report.

8. Other Business

It was suggested that a HABS photography prize be established for the best documentary photograph of the year. There was considerable enthusiasm for and discussion about this idea, and it will be further considered with more specific proposals developed in the future.

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