

STUDY OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN TEXAS: AN INQUIRY
FOR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

by

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ABSTRACT

A STUDY OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN TEXAS: AN INQUIRY
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The object of this thesis is to understand the status of preservation of Texas cultural landscapes and encourage policy recommendations. To do this, the thesis examines the procedure for nominating cultural landscapes in Texas for the National Register of Historic Places (NR), a program administered by the National Park Service (NPS) through state-level agencies. In Texas, the Texas Historical Society (THS) administers NR programs under supervision of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

In the 1950s, the term cultural landscape rarely appeared in print. However, beginning with the work of J.B. Jackson, an independent writer and landscape scholar, cultural landscape studies have come to inspire design professions and preservationists developing a new admiration for the vernacular landscape and its significance (Wilson 2003).

By 1981, cultural landscapes had become recognized by the National Park Service (NPS) as a specific resource type (Longstreth 2008). This meant that cultural landscapes were identified as tangible items reflecting multigenerational connections to

the land. As a result, cultural landscapes became a validated category on the National Register of Historic Places, extending the recognition of these cultural places into the professional and public realms (Longstreth 2008).

The Texas Historical Commission (THC), in coordination with the national register, recognizes cultural landscapes within the state of Texas under the category of historic properties. Promoting the documentation of these resources within the state and nominating their listings on the National Register are both a goal and an issue, according to the THC's 2020 Preservation Vision (THC 2013). This means that, although cultural landscapes have become an important application within the field of preservation, they are still a largely undeveloped classification and their status undefined (THC 2013).

Currently, the THC uses criteria developed for the consideration of buildings and structures to examine its cultural landscapes. Historical significance and the integrity of a site determine the ability of a "historic" property to be listed on the NR (THC 2013).

This thesis appraises three case studies within the state of Texas, identifying within those studies how a landscape's significance and integrity is determined according to current preservation standards and what their place is within the preservation movement. Concentrating on cultural landscapes acknowledged by the national register, the sites selected include: Heritage Park Plaza, an existing historic property on the National Registry; the Old Spanish Highway, a draft nomination for the registry; and Bonham State Park, an unlisted cultural landscape, examined as a potential site for the registry. Because each of these cases falls within a different part of the nomination process, they lend a perspective of all stages of the historic property registration procedure. The sites were chosen based on the thoroughness of their reports, their

recognition as significance parts of Texas' history, and their ability to represent a range of cultural landscapes. Examination of these sites lends answers to: what is the status of cultural landscapes in Texas within the preservation movement, what the process for nomination is, and what future recommendations for cultural landscapes in Texas are.

Among the issues identified was a need for a common language to help describe cultural landscapes. Recommendations included an increased leadership role of landscape architects, who have been trained to read the landscape, in identifying cultural landscapes. As well as incentives such as tax credits to promote the recognition of cultural landscapes, similar to the ones provided to buildings recognized on the national register.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xi
Chapter	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Background of the Study.....	2
1.3 Research Objective.....	4
1.4 Research Questions	4
1.5 Definition of Terms.....	4
1.6 Summary.....	8
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 History of the Cultural Landscape Idea.....	10
2.2.1 The Origins of Cultural Landscapes	10
2.2.2 The Influence of J.B. Jackson on Cultural Landscapes	11
2.3 Cultural landscapes within the World of Preservation	13
2.3.1 The National Register of Historic Places	14
2.3.2 Defining a Cultural Landscape.....	16

2.3.3 Nominating a Property for the National Register in Texas.....	19
2.4 Issues with Cultural Landscapes in Historic Preservation	22
2.5 Summary.....	23
3. RESEARCH MEHODS	24
3.1 Introduction	24
3.2 Approaches to Obtaining Reliable Data.....	25
3.3 Selecting Case Studies.....	27
3.4 Data Gathering and Analysis Techniques	32
3.5 Interview Questions	33
3.6 Interview Protocol an Participants	34
3.7 Challenges and Limitations to Research	34
3.8 Significance to Landscape Architecture.....	35
3.9 Summary.....	36
4. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS.....	38
4.1 Introduction	38
4.2 Recruiting Results.....	38
4.3 Case Study Date Collection	40
4.4 Themes from the Data	41
4.4.1 Nomination Categories for the Case Studies	58
4.4.2 Determining Historic Significance within the Property	59
4.4.3 Overall Impressions of Integrity	62

4.4.4 The Role of the Landscape in each Property	64
4.4.5 Significance and Uniqueness of Each Property	65
4.5 Interviews	67
4.6 Recruiting Results	67
4.7 Interview Analysis	68
4.8 Additional Themes from the Data	68
4.8.1 Creating a Language for Cultural Landscapes	69
4.8.2 Cultural Landscapes not identified in Texas	70
4.8.3 Policies to Encourage Nomination of Cultural Landscapes	71
4.9 Summary	71
4.9.1 Nominating Cultural Landscapes	72
4.9.2 Meeting the Required Criteria of the Nation Register with a Cultural Landscape	72
4.9.3 Policy Recommendations	73
5. CONCLUSION	74
5.1 Introduction	74
5.2 The Status of Cultural Landscapes in Texas	74
5.3 Discussion	79
5.4 Relevance to the Field of Landscape Architecture	80
5.5 Recommendations for Further Study	81
5.6 Summary	81
APPENDIX	
A. INTERVIEW QUESTIONS	83

B. SAMPLE EMAIL-PHONE RECRUITMENT SCRIPT	85
C. IRB Letter of Approval	87
REFERENCES.....	89
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.....	94

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure	Page
2.1 A 1930s Hamburger Stand	12
2.2 The role of cultural landscapes in preservation	14
2.3 The process that led up to the creation of The National Register of Historic Places	15
2.4 Multiple types of cultural landscapes within one site	18
2.5 An overview of the nomination process for the national register.....	21
3.1 An image of Heritage Park Plaza.....	28
3.2 An image of the Old Spanish Trail in 2012	30
3.3 An image of the boat house in Bonham State Park.....	31
4.1 An image of the three case studies and their location within The state of Texas	40
4.2 An aerial view of Heritage Park Plaza.....	42
4.3 Halprin's original drawings for the design of Heritage Park Plaza.....	43
4.4 A hand-drawn master plan of Heritage Park Plaza by Halprin	43
4.5 Drawing by Halprin depicting his design of Heritage Park Plaza.....	44
4.6 A view from inside Heritage Park Plaza.....	45
4.7 A view of the plantings and design of Heritage Park Plaza	45
4.8 An aerial view of the Old Spanish Trail.....	46
4.9 A newspaper clipping about the Old Spanish Trail	46
4.10 An earlier image of the Old Spanish Trail	47

4.11 A current image of the Old Spanish Trail.....	47
4.12 An aerial view of Bonham State Park	48
4.13 An aerial view of Bonham State Park showing the relationships Between structures, trails, and the landscape	48
4.14 The original building plans for the bath house at Bonham State Park.....	49
4.15 A current image of the original bath house at Bonham State Park.....	49
4.16 The original wall constructed by the CCC.....	50
4.17 Image of the constructed all during a dry period.....	50
4.18 An image of the lake with the constructed wall removed.....	51
4.19 Bonham State Park's picnic table in the woods.....	51
4.21 Bonham's picnic table in the woods, 2012.....	52
4.22 Bonham's lake side trail	52
4.23 An excel sheet created for the cross examination of the case studies	54
4.24 A fountain in Heritage Park Plaza	59
4.25 An image of the Old Spanish Trail	60
4.26 An image of Bonham State Park's lake	61
4.27 An image of the foot bridge in Bonham State Park.....	64

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study is to understand the position of cultural landscapes within the preservation movement in Texas and to identify the qualities of these landscapes that permit them to be listed on the national register. Also, it makes recommendations for the future identification process of how cultural landscapes are identified. While the body of knowledge on cultural landscapes has grown within the last 35 years, the ability to recognize and categorize these resources is limited. Case studies of existing, nominated, and unidentified cultural landscapes within Texas are the main research instruments used to gain a greater understanding of how cultural landscapes are determined for recognition on the National Register of Historic Places within Texas. Additionally, the Texas Historic Commission's (THC) statewide preservation plan and the National Park Service's (NPS) guidelines for cultural landscapes provide a base for interview questions, a secondary tool used in the research.

Case studies, as defined by Francis (1999), were used to produce an organized examination of the existing process and decision-making involved with the national register's identification procedure carried out by the THC for cultural landscapes of Texas. Case studies included a cultural landscape recently listed on the national register, a nomination for the national register, and an unidentified cultural landscape. Interview questions were used to gain input from experts in the field of historic preservation in Texas who specialized in cultural landscapes and national register nominations. Data were compared and evaluated using Francis' case study method and

Taylor and Bogdan's grounded theory approach (1998). Results gave insight into the procedures used to identify and nominate cultural landscapes and what adjustments should be made to acknowledge more of these resources.

1.2 Background of the Study

During the early twentieth century, American geographer Charles Sauer began endorsing the idea of cultural landscapes. As a geographer, Sauer was determined to illustrate the role of culture groups on shaping visible features on the earth's surface (James 1981). His definition of a cultural landscape – any natural landscape shaped by a culture group – has been the catalyst for further developing ideas about cultural landscapes (Sauer 1925).

In the 1930s, landscape scholar J.B. Jackson discovered Sauer's description of cultural landscapes and took the idea beyond the field of human geography. Jackson identified cultural landscapes not as a special type of landscape, but as a way of seeing all landscapes, emphasizing the interaction between social and ecological spaces in time. For him, all landscapes were inherently cultural and played a crucial role in shaping human life. Over his career, Jackson broadened the scope of cultural landscapes and wrote vigorously about his concepts. His first articles were published in his magazine, *Landscape*, which he started in the 1950s. Eventually, his inquiries were responsible for introducing the concept of cultural landscapes to design professions and eventually to the profession of preservation (Longstreth 2008). Since that time, his writings have been referenced in the cultural resource guidelines of the National Park Service and he has acquired the title of the father of cultural landscapes (NPS 1998).

Since the work of Jackson, the National Park Service has taken the leading role in promoting cultural landscapes. In 1981, the NPS introduced cultural landscapes as a category eligible for preservation under its care. Subsequently, the NPS put several programs into place to address cultural landscapes, but it was the National Register of Historic Places that has had the biggest role in providing specific guidance on how to nominate cultural landscapes to the national register (Goetcheus 2006). Maturing over the past 35 years, the national register has been able to incorporate and recognize cultural landscapes more comprehensively within nominations for the national register, but its cultural landscape nominations are still significantly fewer than that of buildings, structures, and objects (Goetcheus 2006).

The Texas Historic Commission, originally created in 1953 to preserve the heritage of Texas, represents the national register process in Texas. Accordingly, it, too, has recognized the absence of cultural landscapes and has made it an initiative of its 2020 Statewide Preservation Plan to better distinguish these valuable resources (Truett 2010). According to the THC, problematic areas that should be explored when addressing cultural landscapes in Texas include: how privately owned lands that make up a majority of the state can be explored for preservation; how the state's large size affects documentation; a low level of awareness of the cultural landscape viewpoint; and the lack of an initiative that provides assistance (THC 2010).

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are twofold: first, to understand the position of cultural landscapes within the preservation movement in Texas and to identify the qualities of these landscapes that permit them to be listed on the national register. Information is obtained primarily through case studies and interviews with experts as a means to research the process of how to successfully identify a cultural landscape in Texas for historic preservation. Second, the information compiled in this research establishes policy recommendations that further support the documentation process of cultural landscapes. By systematically examining three case studies and conducting interviews with experts, the data obtained reveals existing problems and solutions within the established framework set up to identify and preserve cultural landscapes in Texas.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What is the status of the preservation of cultural landscapes in Texas?
2. What requirements are needed for cultural landscapes to become nominated on the National Register of Historic Places?
3. Are changes in policies needed to better address the needs of cultural landscapes?
4. What are policy recommendations?

1.5 Definition of Terms

Case study: Is a well-documented and organized analysis of the procedure, decision-making and results of a project that is inspected to inform the future policy, practice, and education of a profession (Francis 1999).

Contributing resource: Is a building, structure, object, or property that enhances historic links, architectural qualities, or values for which the historic area is significant. Typically this resource should maintain high integrity, or enough of the physical historic features that allow it to express its significance as part of the historic property (THC 2013).

Noncontributing resource: Are when the historic associations of a site, object, structure, or building are not significant. This could be the result of a property being less than fifty years old, one that has been altered, or is not closely associated with the historic period of the area (THC 2013).

Cultural landscape: Are the ecological spaces that help define human groups and their activities (Wilson 2003). Examples include: urban parks, cemeteries, highways, and ranches.

Historic rural landscape: Is a geographical area that has been historically used by people or shaped and modified by human movement, occupancy, or involvement and possesses a significant link, or continuity of areas through land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, road and waterways and natural features" (McClelland, et al., 1987, p.1-2).

Historic vernacular landscape: Are landscapes where cultural features reveal the traditions and everyday transactions of human development (Birnbaum 1996).

Vernacular landscape: Is the everyday landscape that contains the common features of roads, houses, yards, and towns (Horowitz 1998).

Human landscape: It reflects a human's story on the land, exposing the tastes, values, aspirations, and even fears of a group of people in a tangible, visible form as perceived from the land (Peirce 1979).

Integrity: A term used in preservation to measure how closely the historic fabric of a site or how its qualities maintain a resemblance with the period of historical significance (Longstreth 2008). Often, it is associated with a material thing. For example, the site has a strong integrity of materials and design.

Significance: (Within the realm of preservation) Is the ability of a historic building, object, structure, or site to contribute to the broad patterns of history. Being of importance to America's heritage is a central part of significance, having historical, architectural, archeological, engineering, or cultural value (NPS 1995).

Authenticity: Survival of physical characteristics reflecting a property's historic identity (National Register of Historic Places).

Culture: A set of beliefs and practices that are developed to understand our world and manage the everyday efforts of survival. Culture is rooted in place" (Gilbert 1995).

Character-defining feature: A prominent or distinguishing piece, quality or characteristic of a cultural landscape that adds significantly to the physical character of the landscape. Land use patterns, vegetation, furnishings, decorative details and materials may be such features (Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural landscapes 1998).

Cultural context: The general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape based on its historical development and cultural origins. Examples are broad settlement patterns, land use, demography, significant events and historical themes (Gilbert 1995).

Ethnographic landscape: A landscape that contains a variety of cultural and natural resources that people associated with the landscape define as heritage resources (Birbaum 1996).

Historic designed landscape: A landscape that was intentionally designed or laid out by a professional such as a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, engineer, or horticulturist according to design principals, or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition. The landscape may be associated with a significant person, trend, or event in landscape architecture; or illustrate an important development in the theory and practice of landscape architecture (Birnbaum 1994).

Historic site: A landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity or person (Birnbaum 1996).

Landscape: An assemblage of all the living species and non-living material with and upon the land, both natural and human made (Marsh 1991).

National Park Service (NPS): A United States Department of the Interior agency; accountable for the national parks and other federal reservations, such as historic sites, national battlefields, national rivers, national recreation areas, national seashores, and others.

National Register of Historic Places: Is the honor role of historic sites worthy of preservation in the nation. It was authorized by the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, which coordinated a national program to support the private and public efforts to evaluate, identify, and protect archeological and historic resources in America.

Texas Historical Commission: Is a state agency that promotes historic preservation. Its motto is saving places that tell real stories of Texas for the use of education, enjoyment, and economic benefit for the present and future (THC 2013).

State Board of Review: Is a committee of expert citizens in the fields of Texas architecture, history, archeology, and related disciplines...The board assesses nominations to the National Register (THC 2013).

1.6 Summary

Cultural landscapes are an under represented historical resource both nationally and within the state of Texas. In which case the object of this study is to understand how cultural landscapes are accounted for on the national register in order to make recommendations that further support the documentation process of cultural landscapes. Therefore, this thesis includes an analysis and discussion of how Texas cultural landscapes are successfully nominated for the National Register of Historic Places and what their status is within historic preservation.

Based on the case studies of Heritage Park Plaza, the Old Spanish Trail, and Bonham State Park, an understanding of the status of preservation of Texas cultural landscapes is gained. Expert interviews round out the research by providing recommendations for including more landscapes on the national register.

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The literature review covers the critical points of current knowledge within the study of cultural landscapes and their position in historic preservation. This section also looks at the role of the Texas Historic Commission (THC) and its ability to promote cultural landscapes within the state. The study of cultural landscapes began in the academic field of geography in 1925 and expanded to landscape architecture, later finding its way into historic preservation. Literature on the topic has thus been steadily growing since the early twentieth century.

Since endorsements by key organizations, such as The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the National Park Service (NPS), and The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the topic of cultural landscapes has been found in an assortment different forums and professions. Included are landscape architecture, architecture, historic preservation, and its origin, geography. Because of its acceptance within different professions, a range of writings on cultural landscapes are available, but only a small body of work concentrates on cultural landscapes and preservation (Longstreth 2008). The idea of protecting a landscape as a historic place is relatively new despite the view of the landscape as a resource of historical data having been identified earlier. The discussion on what qualifies as a cultural landscape worthy of preservation, and what its treatment method should be, continues to evolve.

2.2 History of the Cultural Landscape Idea

2.2.1 The Origins of Cultural Landscapes

The phrase “cultural landscape” was first developed by geographer Charles Sauer in 1925 (Longstreth 2008). His school of thought was that people had as much effect on the land as it had on them. Sauer’s definition, centered in geography, was that a landscape was “an area made up of distinct association of forms, both physical and cultural,” and that a cultural landscape was “fashioned from a natural landscape by a culture group. Population, for example, would be an observable feature within a cultural landscape along with houses, lawns, and roads. Culture is the agent; the natural area is the medium” (Longstreth 2008, p. 307). This created a shift in thinking about landscapes as a visual image to a knowledgeable material thing. Sauer used the concepts of morphology to study cultural landscapes and began the thinking about what was in the landscape from a human influence.

Eventually, the concept of reading the landscape like a book evolved out of Sauer’s original school of thought on cultural landscapes as well as a clearer understanding of the human landscape. Those two concepts would enable the landscape to reflect “our tastes, our values, our aspirations, and even our fears in tangible, visible form[s]” (Lewis 1979, p.12). From these advancements in thought, the importance of the landscape within the context of preservation began to emerge. A landscape that could reflect the values and tastes of the people who lived there would become a key part of cultural landscapes (Peirce 1979). Most of these concepts remained within the context of geography until around 1960 due to the work of J.B. Jackson.

2.2.2 *The Influence of J.B. Jackson on Cultural Landscapes*

It was J.B. Jackson who spread the idea of cultural landscapes to the design professions through his magazine, *Landscape*, in the 1950s (Wilson 2003). Jackson saw the interaction of past and present on the landscape as a premier quality and believed that the ideal landscape would not be static, but would reflect a balance between permanence and change (Rottle 2012). He maintained that the appreciation for historic landscapes stemmed from their durability and continuous change as a living and central part of the human experience (Longstreth 2008)

As Jackson explored the topic of cultural landscapes he developed an affinity for commonplace and overlooked landscapes. He became interested in the experiences of everyday users in these disregarded spaces and saw an important, yet overlooked, story being told that was otherwise regarded as boring, unpleasant, deteriorating, or useless. For Jackson, important social functions took place in these landscapes that contained the built environment and the meaning that they held needed to be recognized and studied not to be mistaken with preserving it.

For example, while the interest in American roadsides has risen to an all-time high, Jackson was one of the earliest and most expressive observers to defend the roadside landscape of the mid-20th century (Wilson 2003). Typical condemnations of these highway landscapes consisted of comments such as, “nauseating vulgarity of structural riff-raff” and “the panoramic hodge-podge of hot-dog dispensaries, barbecues, and so-called refreshment stands that unfold in offensive, jazzy patterns along countless miles of our American highways” (Wilson 2003, p. 63). For Jackson however, instead of

doing away with or sterilizing these landscapes he sought to understand their important social, political, and personal functions and to appreciate them for what they have been, are, and will be.



Figure 2.1: A 1930s hamburger stand. This photo was taken by Jackson depicting typical roadside architecture along the American highway (Source: UNM Collections).

This early premise, held by Jackson, has been muddled in the current context of historic preservation. It has been stated that, within the world of preservation, the cultural landscape could be either a new broadening approach to preservation or a slippery slope, if management and treatment are not closely monitored and studied (Longstreth 2008). For Jackson, the beauty of the cultural landscape was how it reflected human populations, their trends and changes over time, and how they were everywhere. For

preservation, Jackson's broad concepts about cultural landscapes could do one or two things. One, they could either expand existing notions in preservation allowing sites to capture more than just a building or a structure but also the story of the land. Or two, Jackson's broad concepts could make the defining process and the common procedures of preservation an impossible unending task.

2.3 Cultural Landscapes within the World of Preservation

The concepts about cultural landscapes are still comparatively new to historic preservation. They have been identified as areas that recognize our evolving relationship with the natural world. Cultural landscapes have been credited with expanding the scope of historic preservation beyond buildings, bridges, and other designed objects. Some scholars indicate that cultural landscapes allow for a more multidimensional form of preservation than has conventionally been present (Longstreth 2008).

New approaches consider landscape features that have been generally overlooked or considered unimportant as significant pieces of history, such as fence posts, walls, entry ways, pathways, and highways. Cultural landscapes create a holistic view that helps knit together the buildings, structures, and objects of traditional historic preservation (CLF 2013). Before adding cultural landscapes to the list of properties for consideration, it was common practice for the NPS to nominate a historic home and disregard the role of the lawn, trees, fences, and garden plots that defined the context of that home (NPS 2013). Now, these elements are considered contributing resources. Seen as irreplaceable legacies, the NPS states that cultural landscapes are spaces of opportunity that should be protected and preserved.



Figure 2.2 The role of cultural landscapes. This images shows how accounting for the landscape provides a context for a historic building and site. Allowing for a better understanding of how spaces were used in history.

The NPS has become the leading proponent, since the 1980s, in the development of a pro-landscape approach, considering the property and landscape around structures and even landscapes without structures for the national register. Following in Jackson's footsteps, the NPS has allowed the definition of cultural landscapes to evolve and remain broad. The NPS began the process of including vernacular landscapes by first focusing on agricultural settings which quickly expanded to parks and gardens (Longstreth 2008). Beyond that, the NPS began to capture vistas and lookout points and then came the push for the preservation of cultural landscapes and their recognition on the National Register of Historic Places.

2.3.1 The National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places has been the honor roll of historic properties in the United States since the 1935 Historic Sites Act. The 1935 act developed legal mechanisms and provided direction for the conservation of historic buildings and archeological resources of national significance (Goetcheus 2006). The Secretary of the Interior established the professional standards and provided guidance on the

preservation of cultural resources for this list. In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act expanded the rights and recognition of the 1935 act to include properties of local and state importance in the matter of American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture (Goetcheus 2006). The national register is a list of those recognized places of significance.



Figure 2.2 The process that lead up to the creation of the National Register of Historic Places

By the early 1980s, the national register expanded its scope and began to adjust its practices to include cultural landscapes on the register. In 1984, *Cultural Landscapes; Rural Historic Districts in the National Park System* was published, stressing the importance of addressing the larger landscape separately from structures (NPS 2013). Elements such as landform, plant material, and location of structures were identified as observable features that should be encompassed in the assessment of cultural

landscapes. Ten years later, the NPS expanded the Cultural Resources Management Guidelines to include guidance for the management of cultural landscapes within the NPS (NPS 2013). Additionally, the national register began to issue bulletins on how to nominate various cultural landscapes.

2.3.2 Defining a Cultural Landscape

The NPS has been the leading organization in expanding the conversation and philosophy of cultural landscapes since Jackson's first exploration of the topic. Taking the lead in developing and defining the standards for Cultural Resource Management, the NPS defined a cultural landscape as "a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values" (NPS 1997).

Four general types of cultural landscapes have been identified by the NPS, none of which are exclusive, but include: historic sites, historic designed landscape, historic vernacular landscape, and ethnographic landscapes.

Historic sites are significant landscapes because they show a land's connection to a historic event, activities, or persons. Prominent examples include battlefields and presidential homes. On these properties, existing features and conditions are primarily defined and interpreted in terms of a specific time in the past and what had happened there (Goetcheus 2006).

Historic designed landscapes are significant as a design or work of art. They have been consciously designed or laid out according to design principals by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, or horticulturist, or by an owner or other amateur

according to a recognized style of tradition. Some examples included: Central Park, the White House, and many city and county parks that echo to famous design styles.

Historic vernacular landscapes are landscapes that have evolved due to their use by people who, in effect, shaped the land because of their activities that took place there. Their construction or physical layout reflects common traditions, customs, beliefs, or values that have been manifested in materials, physical features, and their interrelationships, such as patterns, land use, circulation, spatial organization, structures, objects, and vegetation (Goetcheus 2006). The everyday lives of people and their customs are found in these landscapes. Vernacular landscapes are usually found in rural areas, suburban and urban districts including homesteads, highways, fishing villages, and harvesting districts.

An ethnographic landscape contains an array of natural or cultural resources that can be defined as heritage resources (NPS 1966). They are significant because of their value and continued use in traditional ways by contemporary groups. For example, "in the expansive Alaska parks, Native Alaskans hunt, fish, trap, and gather and imbue features with spiritual meanings (Goetcheus 2006).

As stated earlier, these four categories of landscapes are not exclusive. Cultural landscapes are often defined predominately by one of the four categories but then also are associated with other subordinate cultural landscapes. An example of this would be a presidential homestead (historic site) that consists of 250 acres, that also has a two acre formally designed garden (designed landscape), and the entire property is located on original lands that were used by a Native American group (ethnographic landscape).



Figure 2.3 Multiple types of cultural landscapes within one site.
(Source: www.seniormomentsineugene.com)

Four treatment plans were also identified by the NPS for the management of cultural landscapes which include:

- Preservation is trying to sustain and stabilize the existing form, integrity, and materials of the site (NPS 1966).
- Rehabilitation is the process of preserving portions that convey a property's cultural value and trying to make a compatible use for the property through repair, alterations, and additions (NPS 1966).
- Restoration is accurately depicting the features of a property as they appeared in a particular time by means of removal, rebuilding, and restoration (NPS 1966).

- Reconstruction is using new construction to depict form, features, and details of a site that have not survived (NPS 1966).

Treatment plans are sometimes combined to address the dynamic attributes of cultural landscapes. Professor Goetcheus, from the landscape architecture department at Clemson University, calls cultural landscapes a “tapestry upon which other cultural resources, such as historic buildings or archeological sites reside...made up of layers of information that all overlap; natural factors such as topography, hydrology, etc. are mixed with human factors such as past land uses...The goal in understanding a cultural landscape is to tease out each layer of information and see what it reveals” (2006, p. 1).

2.3.3 Nominating a Property for the National Register in Texas

The national register is part of the NPS’ national program to manage and support public and private efforts to recognize, assess, and protect America’s historic and archeological properties (NPS 2013). State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) perform a critical role in carrying out that process by evaluating and nominating significant properties. To determine if a historic resource meets the criteria of the national register within the state of Texas, the process begins with the Texas Historic Commission (THC).

The procedure for nominating a property (cultural landscape) in Texas originates with the THC’s preliminary determination of eligibility. Since all projects submitted for the national register are provided by an outside public or private entity, the following materials are required to begin:

- Current photographs of the property

- Date of construction and other significant dates (such as dates of alterations)
- Overview of the property's history
- Biographies of significant persons, if applicable
- Current and historic maps and plans
- Copies of historic photos

If it is determined by the THC staff that the property is eligible, the applicant will receive official forms and further instructions.

In order for a property to be listed it must meet the national criteria for evaluation by examining the property's age, integrity, and significance. Generally most properties need to meet the minimum age requirement of 50 years to be considered historic. Although there are several example of exemplary properties on the national register less than 50 years old. One such example is, Heritage Park Plaza in Fort Worth of which, construction began in the 1970s yet just this past year it was listed on the national register.

Integrity measures the ability of the property to resemble the way it looked in the past. There are seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (NPS 1995). Integrity is the ability of a property to express its significance.

Significance is shown by meeting one or more of the following criteria: possessing an association to events or a person, having design and/or construction value or having an informational value (NPS 1995). Having a clear understanding of the historic context of a property allows it to correctly evaluated for significance and integrity. This makes it very important to consider the property within its historic framework.

The final steps for a national register nomination are for it to be reviewed by the THC's preservation staff who approve the final documents and then schedule the nomination to be reviewed by the State Board of Review (SBR). At one of their three annual meetings the SBR reviews the nomination for consideration on the national register. This review offers an opportunity for public statements and is required by federal law. The SBR can accept, reject or postpone a nomination. Accepted nominations are put through a final edit and submitted to the national register of the NPS.

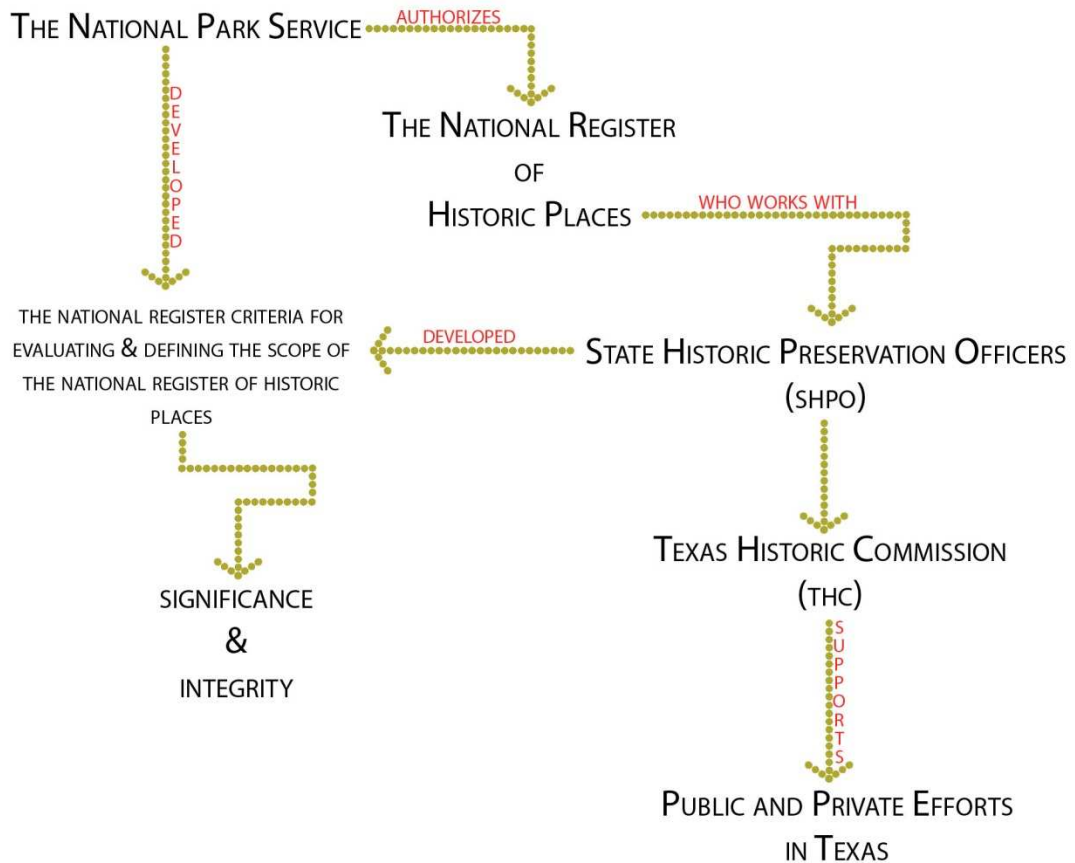


Figure 2.4 An overview of the nomination process for the national register.

2.4 Issues with Cultural Landscapes in Historic Preservation

The national register has progressively developed, over the last 30 years, its ability to provide support to more comprehensively incorporate cultural landscape data into national register nominations. However, landscapes have unique features that frequently complicate the assessment of integrity (Goetcheus 2006). Within the existing framework and language provided by the national register, it can be challenging to classify all of a cultural landscape's contributing resources.

For example, the spatial organization or vegetation of a landscape cannot be considered as an independent cultural resource, like say a building, within the current national register nomination process. This limits the ability of those landscape features to be identified, which may be the most critical parts of a landscape, as contributing features (Goetcheus 2006).

Some critics also caution the reliance on the codification of the national register criteria as applied to cultural landscapes stating that they "negate the very individual landscape qualities" that outline a cultural landscape (Alanen and Melnick 2000, p.17). Classification is needed to organize national register nominations, but it needs to be balanced with the ability to nominate all importance resources.

Additionally, integrity, a main qualifier for a historic property, within the confines of the national register means no change. This makes identifying and treating cultural landscapes a point of confusion for some. J.B. Jackson believed that the most successful cultural landscapes could be seen as an evolving stream of time, so for the NPS to allow for the identification and preservation of a cultural landscape that is supposed to be continuously changing seems like an oxymoron to some (Wilson 2003).

Even the NPS states that their management treatments are still being developed. Because of the complexity of cultural landscapes and identifying their cultural resources, the NPS has trained Historical Landscape Architects to provide a baseline of information about cultural landscapes. Within the THC, experts are also typically sought out to write the final drafts of reports to be submitted for the national register in an attempt to offset some of the limitations of the criteria. These steps have been helpful but do not always address the large issues.

2.5 Summary

This chapter discusses the impacts, challenges, and responses to cultural landscapes within the realm of historic preservation. The challenges of nominating cultural landscapes are seen as opportunities, according to the opinions of most at the Historic National Convention, and it has been recognized that a leap must be made from just simply thinking about cultural landscapes to actual questions about managing and implementing landscape preservation measures (Longstreth 2008). And that is where this study begins, trying to understand the limitations that have taken place in Texas and the state's ability or inability to recognize its cultural landscapes on the national register.

Chapter 3

RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Introduction

The study focuses on three case studies involving cultural landscapes in Texas already identified or set up to be identified on the national register: Heritage Park Plaza; The Old Spanish Trail; and Bonham State Park. Diverse conditions of the selected case studies include dates of establishment, classification of type of cultural landscape, recognition on the national register and proximity to the Dallas-Fort Worth region. This chapter includes the method for attaining reliable data, the approach to selecting case studies, the recruitment process for interviews, interview questions, challenges and limitations to the study, predictable outcomes and a summary of the methodology for this research.

The basis for this study emerged from the researcher's experience in both history as an undergraduate and landscape architecture at the masters level. The national register has over 80,000-plus sites to account for on its list; however, fewer than 2,500 of them assert any significant landscape design (Birnbaum 2013). The recognition of the role of outdoor spaces, designed or not, and cultural landscapes has been steadily growing in the last 35 years; however, they have neither been equally represented within the field of preservation nor on the national register as places to protect. This lack of identification and acknowledgement encouraged the interest and development of this study.

3.2 Approaches to Obtaining Reliable Data

The case study method was the primary research tool for this study. An adapted form of Francis' "full case study" method was applied to each case study through a systematic process to produce reliable and comparable results (1999, p.20). Because Francis' method was primarily developed for designed landscapes not all of the questions listed by Francis for a full case study were applicable, such as:

- Landscape architect(s)
- Client
- Consultants
- Design, development and decision making process
- Role of landscape architects

In order to conduct case studies that focused on the issues concerned in this study, additional categories were also added. The following technique and organization was used to conduct the research successfully:

- Select the cases and determine data gathering and analysis techniques
- Prepare to collect the data
- Collect data
- Evaluate and analyze the data

Additional in-depth interviewing was another technique used to supplement the case study method in order to understand some of the more complex decision making processes involved with identifying cultural landscapes (Francis 1999). Combined, the case study method and interviews provided exposure to a range of conditions and

cultural landscape issues that would have been otherwise missed as time constraints limited the ability to observe more case studies. Interviews with open-ended questions allowed for the participants to express “their...experiences, or situations...in their own words: (Taylor and Bogdan 1998 p. 88). Unlike structured interviews, in-depth interviewing allowed for the conversation to be flexible and dynamic, encompassing a more balanced understanding of all the issues surrounding cultural landscape identification. Both private and public interests were represented by the research participants (and case studies). Their level of experience and exposure to current practices provided expert opinions on the topic of cultural landscape preservation. While the case studies helped provide a deeper understanding of how the nomination process worked and what features were crucial to a successful nomination.

While analyzing potential and selected case studies, the researcher became familiar with the terms, conditions, and industry language and jargon which lead to an enhanced rapport with interview subjects and a higher degree of understanding for the national register’s nomination process (Taylor and Bogdan 1998). The review of case studies, through a process of emergent analysis, revealed significant similarities that were logged as possible discussion points for interviews and research findings.

Using a designed case study method, as defined by Francis, allowed for an organized examination of the national register’s identification procedure for cultural landscapes of Texas. During the review of case studies and literature, interesting regulations and points needing further clarification were noted for upcoming dialogue during the interviews.

3.3 Selecting Case Studies

While designing the case study, the researcher determined what approaches would be used to select a single or multiple real-life cases. At the outset of the design phase, three case studies were determined for investigation. Three studies were selected in order to provide an array of different types of cultural landscapes and to allow the research to be completed in a timely manner. A consultant for the THC was then contacted in order to select three well-documented examples of cultural landscapes in Texas for the national register.

What qualifies a cultural landscape for inclusion on the national registry, its significance and integrity, had to be identified and proven to exist in each site. Each case study needed to also be a well-researched and documented cultural landscape, either listed on the national register or having the potential to be listed on the national register of historic places.

The case studies selected were not limited to a specific type of cultural landscape, for example, designed landscapes such as plazas, because national register nominations of similar sites can be repetitive and the scope of work would not cover the larger issue of cultural landscapes in Texas. Instead, the three sites needed to represent not only different types of cultural landscapes but also different phase of the nomination process. The three case studies were chosen due to the following features:

Heritage Park Plaza (HPP):

Designed by Lawrence Halprin, Heritage Park opened in 1976, and is of national significance as the precursor design of the FDR Memorial in Washington, D.C. This

nationally registered site serves as a case study based on its ability to become a recognized historic place while being less than 50 years old. For a building, this feat is not unheard of, but for cultural landscapes it is quite a rare accomplishment. It is under the category of designed landscape.

Heritage Park Plaza was selected because:

- It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- It is one of only a few sites on the national register under 50 years of age
- It represents a designed cultural landscape
- It has a notably thorough nomination packet



Figure 3.1 An image of Heritage Park Plaza. (Source: www.fortwortharchitecture.com)

The Old Spanish Trail (OST):

The Old Spanish Trail is a narrow strip of concrete and asphalt road that served as the main automobile route between Houston and San Antonio. Located near Columbus, Texas, in Colorado County, the road was built in 1920-21 as part of a transcontinental highway connecting St. Augustine, Florida, with San Diego, California (Cultural 2013). The significance of this case study has been its current position as a registry draft nominee. The site has successfully moved through the nomination process and provides an up-to-date example of what qualities are needed to become part of the National Registry. Its category is designed landscape.

The Old Spanish Trail was selected because:

- It has been nominated for the national registry but has not yet been approved
- It was nominated as a structure but represents a cultural landscape
- It incorporates several different forms of integrity within its nomination



Figure 3.2 An image of the Old Spanish Trail in 2012. (Source:SBR DRAFT Columbus_OST_NR)

Bonham State Park (BSP):

Designed by Joe C. Lair and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, Bonham State Park is an unidentified Texas historic site on the national registry (Taylor 2004). Its CCC structures, trails, and manmade lake are over 70 years-old and should qualify the 261-acre park as a potential draft nominee. Going through the historic properties nomination process with Bonham gives insight into the important features and roadblocks that current cultural landscapes face. It also provides insight into missing

qualifiers recognized by the national register and lends answers to policy recommendations. Bonham State Park is a designed/vernacular landscape.

Bonham State Park was selected because:

- It is a cultural landscape that has not been nominated for the national registry
- It has been thoroughly documented and researched
- It represents a major part of Texas history due to its connections with the CCC and state parks.



Figure 3.3 An image of the boat house in Bonham State Park. (Source: SBR DRAFT
Columbus_OST_NR 2012)

3.4 Data Gathering and Analysis Techniques

Each case study was a “well-documented and systematic examination” according to Francis (1999, p. 9). Multiple sources of data were considered for the case studies. National register nomination packets, websites, site visits, photos, management documents, and magazine articles were all employed as sources of data for the case studies. Each case was treated as a single case and their results compared to conclude the findings. Open-ended interviews were also conducted with key persons involved in the preservation of historic properties in Texas. A list of interview questions was created so that uniformity and consistency could be assured in the data collection.

The investigation began with a review of the history of each site. Site visits were also made to support evidence included in the nominations. Due to the different ages of the reports, and the availability of access to the different sites, visits were not completed for each case study. In these instances, photographs less than a year old, maps, and documentation that were still up-to-date were relied on. The following questions were applied to each case study:

- Under what category was the nomination submitted?
- What type of cultural landscape is the site?
- What has been identified as having integrity within the site?
- What has been identified as having significance within the site?
- How is the landscape itself accounted for?
- What is the role of the landscape?
- What are some of the major problems?

The answers to these questions were written out and then condensed and placed into an excel spread sheet. This allowed for the three studies to be compared and cross examine and themes from that data to be pulled out.

3.5 Interview Questions

Open-ended interviews were also conducted with key persons involved in the preservation of historic properties in Texas. A list of interview questions was created so that uniformity and consistency could be assured in the data collection. After reviewing the national register's requirements and guidelines, the THC'S 2020 preservation plan, and the selected case studies, practices and regulations were noted. The following interview questions were then developed to gain a deeper understanding of the process of nominating cultural landscapes to the national register and how different policies affect that process.

- Does Texas have distinct cultural landscapes that make them different than those of other states?
- Is it easier to identify a historic building versus a cultural landscape?
- Can you give an example of a Texas cultural landscape that is not recognized that you think should be?
- Are their policies or regulations in Texas that you think have particular influence on the process of cultural landscapes recognition?

3.6 Interview Protocol and Participants

Interview participants were recruited primarily through e-mails sent to select authors of national register nominations, or were recommended by previously interviewed participants, using the “snowball technique as described by Taylor and Bogdan (1998). The sample interview questions were submitted and approved by the International Review Board (IRB) before any interviews were conducted. An interview consent form was also required and approved by the IRB to be signed by each participant.

With participant permission, a Sony digital voice recorder documented all interviews, allowing the entirety of the interview to be captured while full participation was given in conversation. Following the interviews, the digital interviews were transcribed using a professional transcription service into Microsoft Word documents. Once transcribed, all digital voice recordings were destroyed to protect the anonymity and identity of the participants. The identities of interviewees remained unidentified during the course of the transcription and analysis process.

No personal data were sent to the interviewees after their sessions. All participants were provided with copies of the research document to review for accuracy if requested.

3.7 Challenges and Limitations to Research

Among the challenges to this research was capturing the large topic of cultural landscapes. Representing the main issues in Texas with only a limited number of case studies was another challenge of the study. Therefore a diverse selection of case studies were chosen to cover the expansive range of cultural landscape issues. Broad interview

questions were formed to allow interview participants to express their opinions about current guidelines, issues, and successes overall.

Delimitations of the study included narrowing the expanse of cultural landscapes in Texas to focus on three case studies and conduct limited interviews with experts. The three case studies were chosen due to their ability to represent the nomination process for the national register and significant types of cultural landscapes in Texas.

Limitations to the study include time constraints to complete multiple site visits for the case studies. Also, the lack of nominations on the national register limited the representation of the study. For example, designed landscapes represent the majority of cultural landscapes listed on the national register where as examples of vernacular landscapes are more obscure and harder to identify on the national register list.

3.8 Significance to Landscape Architecture

This study provides an understanding of the qualities of Texas cultural landscapes that allow them to become nationally registered sites within the state of Texas. By understanding the role of cultural landscapes in preservation, action can be taken to better implement policy and assist historians, preservationists, landscape architects, and citizens in protecting and managing the landscape heritage of Texas.

Interpreting everyday surroundings can provide valuable evidence of social life and cultural values (Wilson 2003). By creating a catalog of landscapes listed on the national register, a vocabulary emerges for describing landscapes that benefits cultural landscape preservationists and landscape architects who attempt to explain the

parameters of their work to other professions beyond the spaces next to buildings, structures, and objects.

3.9 Summary

The objectives of this study are twofold: first to understand the position of cultural landscapes within the preservation movement in Texas and to identify the qualities of these landscapes that permit them to be listed on the national register. Information is obtained primarily through case studies and interviews with experts as a means to research the process of how to successfully identify a cultural landscape in Texas for historic preservation. Second, the information compiled in this research establishes policy recommendations that further support the documentation process of cultural landscapes. Case studies are looked at with an eye for generalizable principals that can advance knowledge and an understanding of the research and detail that must be identified in national register nominations (Francis 1999).

The case studies in this project provided evidence of how significance and integrity are recognized in the landscape. The studies were based on their status within the national register process, their ability to represent cultural landscapes in Texas, and the thoroughness of their documentation. Only three case studies were chosen due to time limitations and in order to focus the scope of work which include: Heritage Park Plaza, The Old Spanish Trail, and Bonham State Park.

Additional in-depth interviews helped provide an overall picture of the position of cultural landscapes in Texas and within historic preservation. Open-ended questions enabled participants to express their own experiences and ideas on the topic. The

participants of this study were assembled based on their expertise at nominating landscapes and properties in Texas for the national register.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

Three case studies were identified in chapter three of this study as being cultural landscapes of Texas. In this chapter, those case studies are used to explain and evaluate the process of identifying cultural landscapes in Texas (Francis 1999). The studies were chosen based on their direct ties to the national register or having been recognized as a potential nominee. Data from the case studies were analyzed according to Francis' case study method (1999). The data collected showed that similar identifiers were found in each of the case studies and, although the sites were considerably different, the identification process as set up by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Texas Historic Commission (THC) was able to address the needs of all of them.

4.2 Recruiting Results

Case studies were decided upon and evaluated using a similar and systematic process for each site. The first step was to identify cultural landscapes of Texas associated with the national register. Initially Heritage Park Plaza, The Old Spanish Trail, and The Fort Worth Botanic Gardens were selected. However, because Historic Park Plaza and the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens were both located in Fort Worth and are examples of designed landscapes while the Old Spanish Trail was not, the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens case study was reassigned to Bonham State Park. Eliminating the botanic gardens avoided unbalanced results by having two designed landscapes both

listed on the national register verse one vernacular landscape located in south central Texas and not yet on the register.

The selection of Bonham State Park as a case study benefited the study in multiple ways. It conformed to the existing requirements of the case studies as mentioned in chapter three, and it also presented a unique opportunity. Because Bonham was a cultural landscape neither listed on the national register nor nominated as a draft, it allowed the researcher to go through the nomination process as outlined by the national register and evaluate the procedure. Bonham was nominated as a historic site associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). An effective examination of the site's significance and integrity was possible in the given time frame due to a thorough report on the park filed by the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), CCC reports compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife, and a site visit (Taylor 1992).

Information for the case studies was gathered in a variety of different ways, depending on which were available for each study, according to an adapted case study method originally developed by Francis (1999). Site visits, historical analysis, web searches, archival material, and documentation review were the different means for gathering information (Francis 1999).

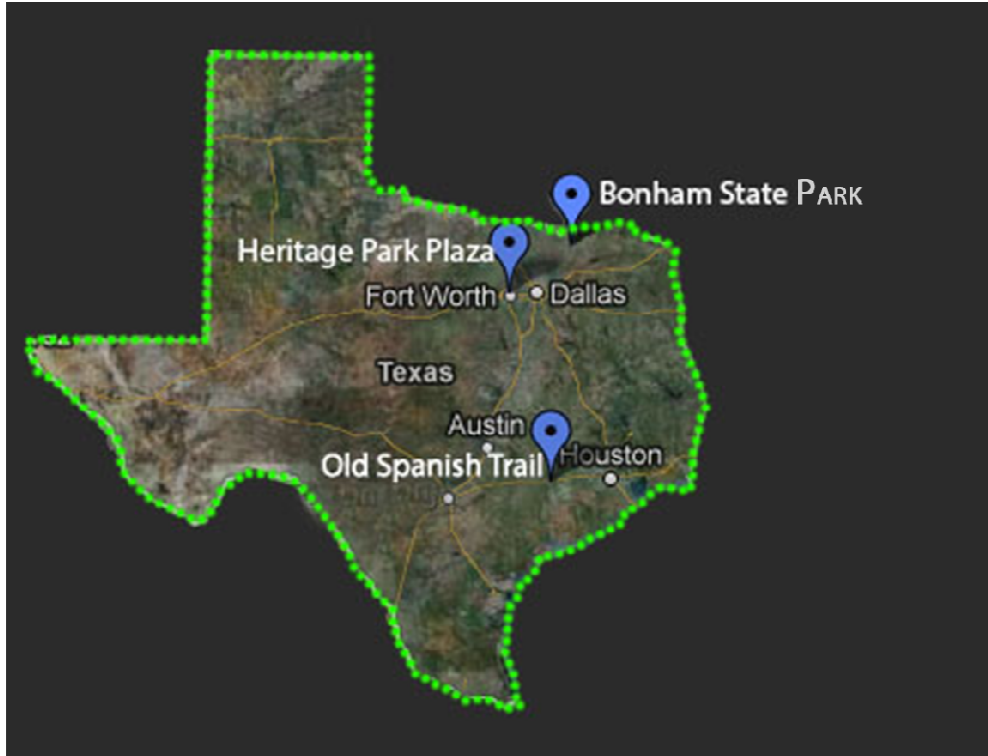


Figure 4.1: An image of the three case studies and their location within the state of Texas (Source: maps.google.com)

4.3 Case Study Data Collection

An adapted form of Francis' case study method was used to analyze how the three different nominations met the national register criteria. To begin, the National Register of Historic Places registration forms and reports for Heritage Park Plaza and the Old Spanish Trail were downloaded from the internet. The Bonham State Park report that assisted in assessing its significance and integrity was borrowed from UTA to begin the study (Taylor 2006). The data collected were then analyzed using the modified case study method and questions. Implications and recommendations came from the evaluation and analysis of that data (Francis 1996).

An evaluation of the national register nomination process and potential solutions were derived at by using multiple exemplary projects and applying a systematic line of questioning to each case. The researcher first examined each site's written documentation and photographs to identify patterns within the data. Then, detailed case study write-ups for each were prepared and formatted into a single excel sheet categorizing the case study questions and their corresponding answers for similarities and differences.

Cross case analysis followed. The categorizing of similarities and differences for each case study was examined. Then the ability of each site to meet the criteria of the national register was determined. As patterns began to emerge, certain evidence stood out and was focused on. From these patterns, answers to the research questions began to emerge.

4.4 Themes from Data

For a property to qualify for the national register it has to meet one of the National Register's Criteria for Evaluation by being associated with an important historic context. Additionally, the property's features that convey its historical significance must retain an acceptable level of historical integrity (National Register 1995).

Written descriptions are required of each of the nominations explaining how the properties meet the criteria of the national register. Maps and photos are also included at the end of nomination reports to provided visual evidence of significance and integrity. Photographs of both past and present conditions within a property account for the site's ability to maintain integrity as well as display the different categories of integrity. The

following images are the pictures used in each of the national registry nomination documents to help support the written descriptions and claims.

Heritage Park Plaza (a successful national register nomination):



Figure 4.2 An aerial view of Heritage Park Plaza. This image is included in the original documentation submitted to the THC to nominate the property as a national register site. The image gives an idea of location and a general view of the site. (Source: http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly_features/2010/HeritageParkPlaza.pdf)

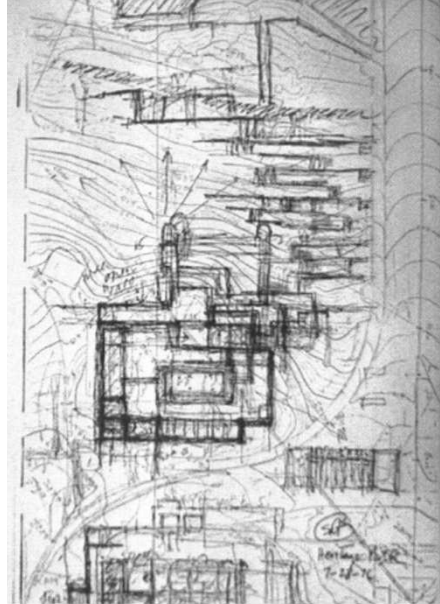


Figure 4.3 Halprin's original drawings for the design of Heritage Park Plaza. These images were included to support the claim that the plaza was the work of a master (Source: http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly_features/2010/HeritageParkPlaza.pdf)



Figure 4.4 A hand-drawn master plan of Heritage Park Plaza by Halprin (Source: http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly_features/2010/HeritageParkPlaza.pdf)

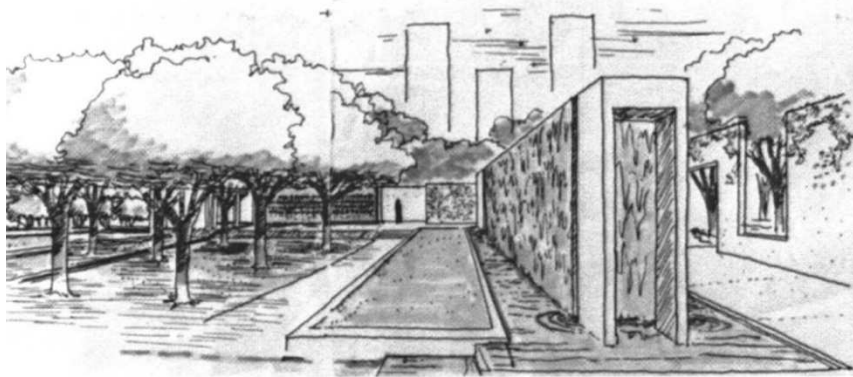


Figure 4.5 Drawings by Halprin depicting his design of Heritage Park Plaza
(Source: http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly_features/2010/HeritageParkPlaza.pdf)



Figure 4.6 A view from inside Heritage Park Plaza. This image shows the plaza's relationship to surrounding buildings and other objects in the landscape. (Source: http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly_features/2010/HeritageParkPlaza.pdf)



Figure 4.7 A view of the plantings and design of Heritage Park Plaza. This images shows how plantings were used in the original designs and how their integrity is still intact. (Source: http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly_features/2010/HeritageParkPlaza.pdf)

The Old Spanish Trail (a national register draft nomination):



Figure 4.8 An aerial view of the Old Spanish Trail. The image above was included in the draft nomination for the Old Spanish Trail. A final decision has not been made as to whether or not the property will be included on the national register. (Source: http://www.thc.state.tx.us/public/upload/preserve/national_register/final/Columbus%20OST%20NR.pdf)



Figure 4.9 A newspaper clipping about the Old Spanish Trail. This newspaper clipping was included in the national register nomination form alluding to the historic significance of that particular section of road. (Source: http://www.thc.state.tx.us/public/upload/preserve/national_register/final/Columbus%20OST%20NR.pdf)



Figure 4.10 An earlier image of the Old Spanish Trail road. In this image the grass right-of-ways, tight curves, and lack of shoulders are evident. (Source: http://www.thc.state.tx.us/public/upload/preserve/national_register/final/Columbus%20OST%20NR.pdf)



Figure 4.11 A current image of the Old Spanish Trail. This picture was taken in 2012 and shows how the road has maintained its character and surrounding landscape qualities. (Source: http://www.thc.state.tx.us/public/upload/preserve/national_register/final/Columbus%20OST%20NR.pdf)

Bonham State Park (A nomination prepared by the researcher):



Figure 4.12 An aerial view of Bonham State Park. The park boundaries are outline in red. (Source: Google maps)

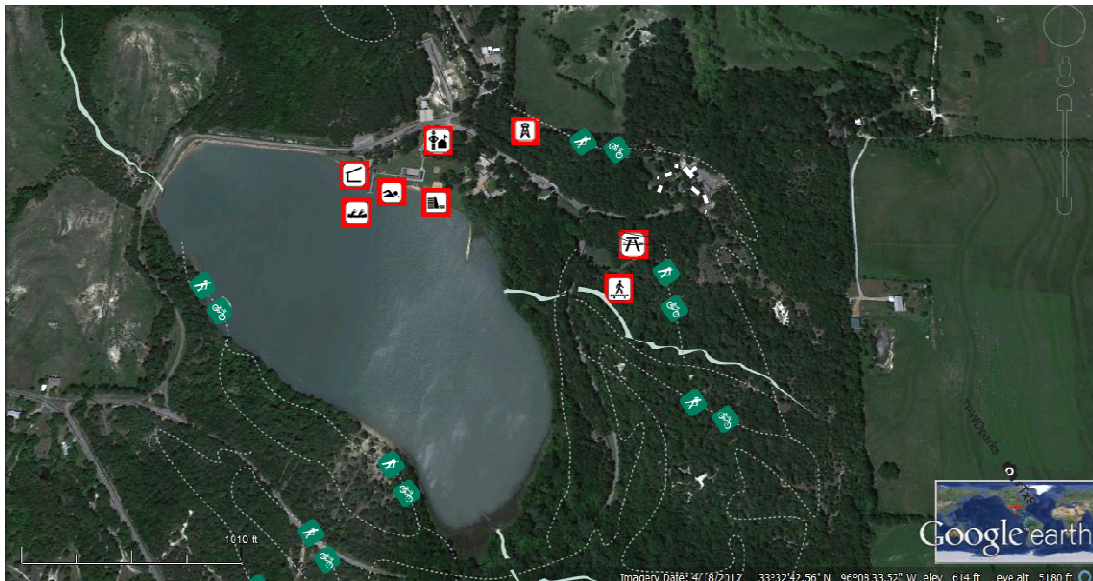


Figure 4.13 An aerial view of Bonham State Park showing the relationships between structures, trails, and the landscape. (Source: Google maps)

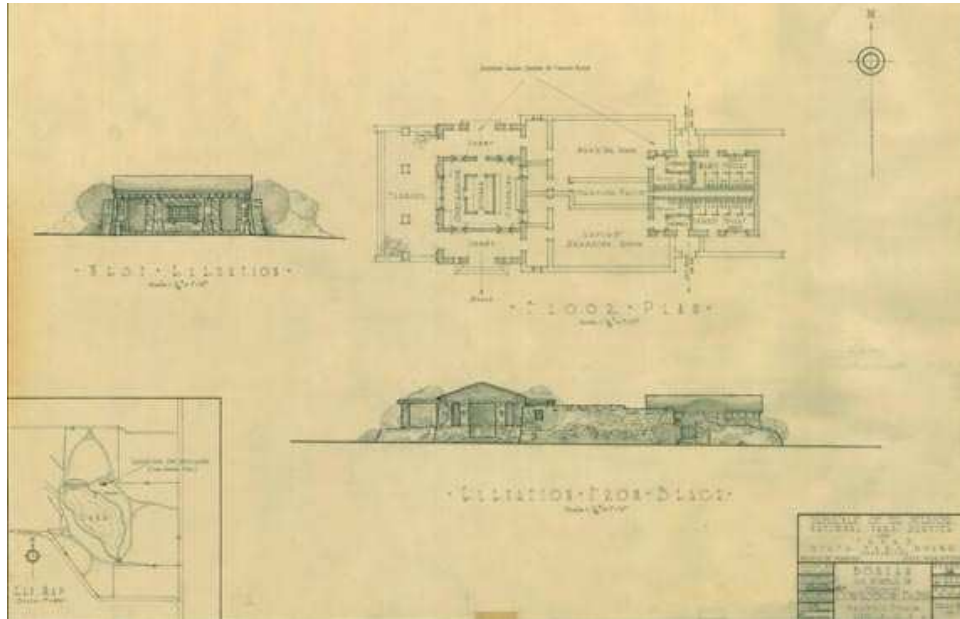


Figure 4.14 The original building plans for the bath house at Bonham State Park. This image is evidence of the design style used to establish the BSP. (Source: <http://texascccparks.org/parks/bonham/>)



Figure 4.15 A current image of the original bath house at Bonham State Park. Today the old bath house functions as the Ranger station and original materials used on the inside have been removed.



Figure 4.16 The original wall constructed by the CCC. This wall was constructed to prevent erosion and to maintain the lake's shore lines (Source: Dr. Pat Taylor @ UTA)



Figure 4.17 Image of the constructed wall during a dry period (Source: Dr. Pat Taylor @ UTA)



Figure 4.18 An image of the lake with the constructed wall removed. A more recent image of Bonham show that the wall has been removed and worn away diminishing that aspect of the landscapes' integrity. (Source: Dr. Pat Taylor @ UTA)



Figure 4.19 Bonham State Park's picnic table in the woods (Source: Dr. Pat Taylor @ UTA)



Figure 4.21 Bonham's picnic table in the woods. This recent image of Bonham shows how the landscape surrounding secluded picnic areas has over grown its original design.



Figure 4.22 Bonham's lake side trail. This image shows how the vegetation along trails and the lake has matured and changed over time complicating the integrity of the landscape.

The above images in each case study helped support the written claims made in each of the national register nomination forms. For Heritage Park Plaza (HPP), it was considered historically significant because it was designed by a master. Therefore, the sketches drawn by Halprin were valuable visual accounts of his design process and work. Additionally, up-to-date photographs showed how the original design had maintained its integrity over time. Walls and paths remained in place along with view sheds and the majority of planted trees. Smaller plantings were missing and unmaintained. However, that did not affect the overall ability of the site to retain its integrity. The pictures also showed spatial relationships and how objects related to one another.

The Old Spanish Trail (OST) was nominated as a structure. Its significance was its construction value and because it was a rare drivable section of early Texas highway. The newspaper clippings helped show the road's significance historically. Poured concrete on a gravel base was not a typical road construction practice during that time and that section of the OST became a prototype for future Texas roads. The photographs for the OST showed how the road materials, surfaces, and size had not changed. Also, the images showed how the landscape remained similarly intact as well. Grass right-of-ways and a rural setting, in addition to the road, are reminiscent of an earlier time in highway travel. The recent photographs of the OST help show how the road has retained integrity and also the landscape.

Bonham State Park held significance as a historic district and because of its association with the Civilian Conservation Core (CCC). Several structures within the state park were readily identifiable and determined as having historical significance and integrity. However, providing a fuller account of the landscape and how its integrity had

held up over time was slightly more difficult. Although the placement of the manmade lake remained, the same features such as docks and the stone retaining wall along the north side of the lake were missing. Additionally, the vegetation surrounding secluded picnic areas and trails has matured, been invaded by other species and changed the function and look of the spaces and the original design intent. These changes made determining the integrity of the landscape more difficult than it had been for structures.

Project Name:	Heritage Park Plaza	Old Spanish Trail	Bohman State Park
Location	West Bluff Street at Main Street in Fort Worth, TX	County Road 268 between U.S. 90 and the north access road of I-10	Located near Bonham, Texas in Fannin County northeast of Dallas
What is the age of the site?	1976-1980	1921-1939	1933-1936
Size	one-half acre	1.4 mile section of state highway	261 acres
Managed by	City of Fort Worth	Texas Department of Transportation	Texas Parks and Wildlife
Designed by	Lawrence Halprin		
What is the category of the property?	SITE	STRUCTURE	SITE
Level of Significance	National	State	State
What type of cultural landscape is the site?	Designed Landscape	Vernacular Landscape	Historic Site
What has been identified as having historic significance within the property?	Significance Work of a master: designed by internationally acclaimed landscape architect Lawrence Halprin. Heritage Park Plaza was his only work to present a historical narrative. This project was his first experiment with a sequence of outdoor rooms to construct a narrative. And was an early example of a modernist urban water garden. Heritage Park Plaza became a pivotal point in his mature design vocabulary.	A rare drivable section of early TX highway in its original rural setting. Serves as a remarkably intact example of state highway design built by the county. Part of the Texas Good Roads Association/Private highway associations. It is the southernmost of transcontinental auto highway. And caused the establishment of the "southern national highway". In 1919 the first 38 state highways were formally designated, included OST. The OST was a rare early example of concrete highway construction in Texas. Served as an example to other TX counties. Exemplifies and early cooperation of local, state, and federal highway governments in addressing need for improved roads.	Epitomizes the CCC park formula. The foundations of the state park system enjoyed by Texans today were laid in the 1930s. FDR's New Deal elevated conservation and public recreation and immediately the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was proposed. 25 Parks exhibit distinctive buildings, structures and facilities built by CCC 1933-1942. This site has four great examples of CCC primary structures: The boathouse, dance pavilion, concession building, and water tower. This property is also a good example of the CCC's strategy of claiming sub-marginal agricultural land for recreational use. Captures uses of the past within the park such as dancing.
What is the overall impression of integrity?	Planting remain in place. Trees and shrubs that define its volumetric space remain as originally designed and executed (exception One Red Oak). One Weeping Willow never planted as intended. 2 Plants not maintained. One planting still intact but in need of care. Lighting inoperable (maintenance issue is reversible) Water pump inactive (reversible) - Straining, lifting of pavers, exposed rebar - result of neglect and uneven maintenance. Retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, design, materials, association, and feeling.	Few modern intrusions along the roadbed mean high integrity. Evolves the era of interstate auto travel in the early 20th century. Original 1916 wide roadbed. Concrete sections built to withstand flooding are in good condition, but numerous cracks have been patched with asphalt. Repairs have had minimal effect of the road's over all integrity.	Four dominate structures remain: Boat house, dance pavilion, concession building and the water tower. In addition original park infrastructure is still reasonably intact, including main road system, entry portal, culverts, picnic units, bridges, retaining walls and things such as lighting fixtures, hardware, wood and stone work.
Aspects of integrity within the property?	Association Modernist Landscape Architecture movement Location Original. Site of original military fort in fort worth. Setting The property is located on th bluff near trinity river and is a highpoint along the river. High views and vistas look out toward the river still remain.	Transcontinental highway, archetype of road building Original, Between San Antonio and Houston Rural road through open landscape intersects with railroad crossing near river prone to flooding. Grass right-of-ways are examples of the traditional roadside setting in the 1920s.	CCC (built by troop 694) recreation Original, near the city of Bonham Part of the CCC's strategy of claiming marginal agricultural land for recreational use. Rural settings next to farmland. The low spot of rolling terrain intersected by and underlined water source.

Figure 4.23 An excel sheet created for cross examination of the case studies. This image only accounts for half of the original excel sheet.

Data from written accounts for each of the case studies were also collected and formatted into the above excel sheet. Afterwards, a cross-examination of each of the case studies was performed. The following abbreviated questions and answers have been pulled from the excel sheet and written below. The responses were put in the order

of Heritage Park Plaza (HPP), Old Spanish Trail (OST), and Bonham State Park (BSP), as to how each property met national register's criteria:

- What was the property's category for nomination:
 - (HPP) Site
 - (OST) Structure
 - (BSP) Site
- Determinants for being identified as having historic significance within the property:
 - (HPP) Work of a master
 - (OST) A rare drivable section of early Texas highway in its original form
 - (BSP) Epitomized the CCC park formula
- Integrity of features:
 - (HPP) Overall plantings and design remained in place, altered or inoperable aspects are easily reversible
 - (OST) There were few modern intrusions and the original concrete still intact
 - (BSP) Three dominate structures remain largely intact; forth structure (water tower) could be easily repaired –Vegetation and trails were difficult to determine as original
- Aspects of integrity within the property
 - Location:
 - Site of original military fort in the city;
 - On the original transcendental route from Florida to California

- Near the city of Bonham in its original location
- Setting
 - Located on Bluff near trinity river; High views and vistas remain
 - Located in a rural setting near Colorado river in close proximity to railroad crossings
 - Located in a rural area surrounded by farmland; Contains a low spot in an area of rolling terrain
- Workmanship
 - Highly sophisticated; well-crafted interconnected rooms defined by walls and organic matter; took advantage of the location and setting
 - Highly sophisticated; built to withstand flooding; use concrete a material not yet adopted in road construction; addressed the proximity to the river
 - Highly sophisticated; construction of lake; rustic style buildings and structures have an unobtrusive relationship with the naturally occurring landscapes; original plantings were missing
- Materials
 - Original reinforced concrete walls and hardscape; ornamental plantings; concrete stepping stones, water features, lighting, hardware
 - Original 16' wide concrete road, no improved shoulders, grass right-of-ways

- Original on-site quarried stone and native limestone, timber, lighting fixtures, and hardware
 - Feeling
 - Gridded trees and walls evoke buildings once there, built space contrast with surrounding wilderness
 - Original tightly-curved approaches allows today's motorist to experience the pace of interstate travel in the 1920s
 - Leisure and recreation forms still exist that would have been experienced in the time period it was built for
 - Design
 - Made for a sequential experience through a series of concrete walks activated by moving water; Rooms were meant to contrast a civilized space vs. wilderness
 - The narrowness of tightly-curved approaches indicated the lower speeds used in the 1920.
 - A "rustic style" was used to harmonize structures with the landscapes to make structure look like they belong; Well-utilized space within the landscape provided for a variety of intimate and group spaces
- How is the landscape accounted for?
 - The landscape played an important role in developing the design. A contrast was made via the designed spaces and wild spaces, and the

view sheds were critical for the overall design. The design helped turn the city towards the riverfront. And the relationship of structures and plantings in the landscape creates the experience.

- The rural landscape and grass right-of-ways reflected of the roads original state. The flooding of the river determined the material of the design.
- The landscape played a big role in the original site selection. Due to the soil types and rolling terrain, it was utilized by the CCC. Materials that came from the landscape helped integrate structures with the landscapes.

4.4.1 Nomination Categories for the Case Studies

The list for category of property does not include a classification for cultural landscapes. However, that did not affect the ability of the case studies, which are cultural landscapes of Texas, to become eligible properties for the national register. The Old Spanish Trail, which was listed under structure, was an excellent example of how to include a cultural landscape on the national register. Meaning that, although the category for property allows only for buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects, cultural landscapes are still included, nominated, and are an encouraged part of the national register.

4.4.2 Determining Historic Significance within the Property

The results on how each of the case study properties had historic significance are as follows:

Heritage Park Plaza was considered the work of a master and was found to have significance even though it had not yet met the age required of most national register nominations. There are two main reasons Heritage Park Plaza became a young nominee (less than fifty years-old): First, Lawrence Halprin became an internationally-acclaimed landscape architect and master of design. Second, his design of Heritage Park Plaza was considered to be one of his first modernist landscape designs and a pivotal point in his design vocabulary.



Figure 4.24: A fountain in Heritage Park Plaza, downtown Fort Worth. (Source: www.clf.com)

The Old Spanish Trail (OST) served as an extraordinary, intact example of a Texas state highway that was designed and built by the county. The road was part of the Texas Good Roads Association and was the southernmost transcontinental highway in the nation. As a result of the OST, the Southern National Highway was established and, in 1919, the OST was one of the first 38 state highways formally designated. The road exemplified an early example of needs for improved roads being met.



Figure 4.25: An image of the Old Spanish Trail (Source: Old Spanish Trail Draft nomination submitted by the THC 2012)

Bonham State Park's significance was determined due to the extensive influence of the CCC and the work constructed there. Bonham epitomizes the CCC park method. The New Deal, conceived by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 to recover from the Great Depression, included the creation of the CCC to elevate the conservation and

public recreation movement. As a result, 29 Texas parks were built exhibiting CCC design and buildings. And, in the case of Bonham, every part of the park's development represented the goals and standards of the CCC, making it an outstanding example of historic design. The site was part of the CCC's strategy of claiming marginal agricultural lands for recreation, materials used in construction were gathered onsite and a strong array of structures served as an excellent portfolio of the CCC's span of work within one property.



Figure 4.26: An image of Bonham State Park's lake (Source: <http://texascccparcs.org/archive/bonham-dam-799/> 2013)

A variety of answers were possible for proving historic significance for the national register in the case of Bonham and the other case studies. Properties that are original or prototypes for a category of American history provide excellent evidence for significance.

4.4.3 Overall Impressions of Integrity

In order for a property to retain high integrity, not only must the site have original historic features, but they must also be in good condition with few alterations. For the case studies included in this research, each property, overall, maintained high integrity. All three properties met the register's standards for integrity in both similar and unique ways. The association, location, setting, workmanship, material, feeling, and design were all largely intact for each site and allowed for an experience that would have been similar to that of the original time period of the design.

None of the sites, however, were fully intact, and adjustments were made for each. Heritage Park Plaza had missing plantings, stone pavers had been lifted, and rebar exposed. Lighting and water features were also inoperable. However, all of these features were considered easily reversible. The percentage of the site in good original condition was higher than the percentage of the site in need of repairs.

The assessment for the nomination of the Old Spanish Trail employed a different method for approaching the issue of overall integrity by limiting the section of road selected. Much of the larger road did not have a meaningful percentage of original and high-integrity materials, which is why only a 1.4 mile section was included for the nomination. For the nominated section of the OST, the majority of the materials were

original and repairs that had been made to the road were marginal and did not compromise its overall integrity.

Bonham state park was dealt with similarly to the OST. Overall, the entire park retained much of its original form, layout and structures. However, features of the parks that are no longer detectable, such as the lake's retaining walls, a few picnic tables, and culverts, were not considered to have integrity. Trails were also hard to identify within the park. Original design intent, viewsheds, and the pathways themselves were obscured due to maturing vegetation and misuse. Original CCC plants were also unaccounted for due to their removal at some point. This did not affect the ability of the site to become nominated or those aspects of the landscape to be talked about. The four large structures and the original layout were enough to qualify it and the remaining structures were simply not argued to have integrity. However, it did limit the ability of the landscape to be accounted for and possibly even protected. The landscape on its own would have had a harder time meeting the requirements of integrity due to change through maturation and certain elements no longer existing, such as plantings.



Figure 4.5: An image of the foot bridge in Bonham State Park. This bridge is one of the four structures that maintain high integrity from the CCC era. (Source: <http://www.texascccparcs.org/>)

4.4.4 The Role of the Landscape in Each Property

In each case study, the landscape was documented and accounted for, allowing for each of the submissions to be model examples of well-documented cultural landscapes in Texas. The landscape was recognized in each of the nominations as having affected the original shape of each property's design and provided contextual information about the site and the adjacent areas. The surrounding landscape was also attributed in each nomination as bolstering the quality of the property's design.

Heritage Park Plaza's nomination gave extensive detail about how the landscape's high elevations and view sheds were captured and are still accounted for today. Spatial relationships between objects and adjacent properties were mentioned in each of the case studies and provided stronger evidence for how each site met the nomination criteria. For example, with the OST, the grass right-of-ways in the original

design are kept clear of other types of vegetation both historically and at the time of the property's nomination adding to the integrity of the setting and design.

The inclusion of landscape in each of the nominations was evident. The landscape provided context, elements of design, and were examples of integrity. The role of the landscape was evident when searching for it, but its integrity was not as easily accessed in some cases.

For Bonham, changes to trails, open space, forested areas, the lake, and plantings were not as easy to identify and categorize. The vegetation along most trails had matured and developed into a new type of bionetwork making it difficult to know what the original intent of the path was. Some features were additionally so obscure it was hard to determine if they were natural or the result of use. For example, areas that looked as though they were originally fields and prairies were being reforested by invasive species such as junipers. New cut through trails formed by users wanting to find shorter routes merged with original trails. Although these changes reflected the use of the land and were important, accessing their integrity and what the original experience of the landscape was supposed to be was challenging. Due to the lack of evidence, explanation of changes and an inability to describe some of the landscape's boundaries and functions not all parts of the park's landscape were able to be included. Additionally changes to the landscape resulted in a loss of integrity.

4.4.5 Significance and Uniqueness of Each Property

A major theme produced from the case studies was that each property was a prototype of an era in American history that met and exceeded the nomination criteria

required by the national register. The evaluation of each property provided a unique response to each of the criteria and no two answers were the same.

Heritage Park Plaza was categorized as a one-half acre site that was the work of a master. The plaza maintained high integrity of design in need of only moderate updates that could be easily repaired. The significance of this nomination was its ability to represent a designed cultural landscape and become nominated on the national register as a property less than 50 years-old. The thorough documentation of the report for the national register proved to be an excellent example of the a cultural landscape on the national register

The Old Spanish Trail was nominated as a 1.4 mile structure to the national register. Its significance was its ability to transport users of the road back to a 1920's-era of state highway automobile travel. It also represented a major transition in roach design and construction. Due to the structure maintaining original materials of the road, and also the rural landscape setting, this nomination become an excellent example of how to nominate a vernacular landscape to the national register.

Bonham State Park was a 261-acre site whose national register nomination forms were produced by the researcher for this thesis. The park maintained integrity of site layout and built structures. The ability of the site to represent a variety of different CCC structures and traditional practices in development, such as the strategy of claiming marginal agricultural land for recreation, provided the historic significance of this property. Producing the report allowed the researcher to gain a deeper understanding of the process of nominating a cultural landscape for the national register and how to disseminate between, and find points of, significance and integrity for the report.

4.5 Interviews

Interviews were to be conducted with experts and participants of the historic preservation and parks department and firms that provide policy and nominations for Texas historic properties as described in chapter three. These individuals were selected because of their direct experience with nominations of cultural landscapes to the national register and expertise with historic preservation. Data from the interviews were transcribed and analyzed in accordance to Taylor and Bogdan's grounded theory approach (1998). The data collected in addition to the case studies showed that there were similar views about the policies surrounding cultural landscapes.

4.6 Recruiting Results

The method for recruiting interview participants involved two approaches: email or phone recruitment, and the snowball technique (Taylor and Bogdan 1998). Interviews with participants who have worked for the Texas Historic Commission and nominated landscapes to the national register were sought to provide information on the policies surrounding cultural landscape preservation in Texas. Throughout this study, respondents who have nominated cultural landscapes to the national register were referred to as N. Participants from the historic preservation departments were referred to as HP, and participants from the Parks department were referred as PD.

The number of respondents recruited totaled three. The snowball technique was the most successful. The low numbers in recruitment were a result of the inability of

participants and the interviewer to meet for face to face interviews and a deviation in the IRB approval.

Only face-to-face interviews were specified in the original International Review Board (IRB) submission form. Due to several of the participants requiring over the phone interviews a request for modification was issued with the IRB. The modification delayed the interview process and a previous interview conducted over the phone was nullified. Out of the six participants contacted, five responded but only three were available for interviews. One respondent not interviewed was unavailable to participate due to time restrictions. The other respondent not interviewed became unavailable after the waiting period for the IRB modification.

4.7 Interview Analysis

Interviews were conducted face to face and over the phone after the IRB modification. With the consent of the participant, interviews were recorded with a Sony digital voice recorder and then transcribed by a professional transcription company. After the interviews were transcribed, the data were to be analyzed using the grounded theory approach. However, because of the low number of respondents, the data were instead used to supplement the case studies according to the case study method (Francis 1996).

4.8 Additional Themes from the Data

Open-ended interviews with experts lead to opinions and unexpected insights not yet previously identified by the review of documents, photographs, and site visits. Interviews provided a better understand of some of the more complex decision making

processes, and supplemented original evidence arrived at while conducting the case studies. Through the analysis of the data from the interviews, additional emergent themes were developed in coordination with information gathered originally from the case studies. These themes included:

- Creating a language for the nomination of cultural landscapes
 - There is a lack of terminology to describe landscapes
 - Most people are uncomfortable trying to read or describe a landscape
 - The current vocabulary used in the national register revolves around buildings and structures
- Types of landscapes to be recognized by the national register
 - Farm land/ranches
 - Levees
 - The confluence of the Trinity River in Fort Worth
 - Vernacular (non-mainstream) landscapes
- Policies that encourage nomination of cultural landscapes
 - State Historic Preservation Office
 - Creating a Language for Cultural Landscapes
 - Bulletins

4.8.1 Creating a Language for Cultural Landscapes

Respondents identified an inability to communicate about landscapes confidently. Respondent HP 1 commented that, when discussing the difference between nominating a building versus a landscape, “It takes a lot more specialized knowledge in order to

evaluate [cultural landscapes]”. The interviews revealed that most landscape nominations are typically talked about in reference to buildings or structures and that a vocabulary for landscape has not yet been developed. Respondent HP1 commented “for people like me and the people who work in this field, we are better attuned to it...even though we are not yet fully equipped to [recognize cultural landscapes]”. Overall, the data communicated that cultural landscapes were recognized as having an important role in telling the history of place, but there was also a distinct inability to talk about them comfortably and descriptively, as is needed in the nomination process.

4.8.2 Cultural Landscapes Not Identified in Texas

Interviews revealed several examples of cultural landscapes that could be recognized in the state of Texas that are not. General recommendations included oil fields, river levees, ranches/farms, and open space. A specific resource identified by N1 was the confluence of the Trinity River in Fort Worth, an area that holds great significance for the city of Fort Worth but has remained unidentified. That particular part of the river has been up for discussion as a place for redevelopment, a process that could dismantle the significance of the landscape. Respondent N1 mentioned that a lack of consideration in that area might be a bad oversight.

The portion of the interviews that discussed possible cultural landscapes to be nominated made up a strong category of landscapes that shape Texas. Oil fields, ranches, and levees (or other adjustments to water ways) have all left their mark on Texas' history and could therefore become nominated on the level of state significance.

4.8.3 Policies to Encourage Nomination of Cultural Landscapes

Interviews indicated that the national register process and the forms for nomination are building oriented. In order to offset that imbalance the NPS has developed bulletins and guidelines to help with the identification of landscapes and other resource types. The effects of those efforts have been seen and it is possible to nominate a cultural landscape, although, as one respondent discussed, it is not necessarily easy. Finding a way to work with the limitations of the form and finding a way that is acceptable to the park service are the keys to successful cultural landscape nominations. State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO), such as the THC, also assist in supporting such nominations of landscapes.

4.9 Summary

This chapter included the analysis and findings in regards to the process of nominating a cultural landscape to the national register. Case studies were chosen, designed, and analyzed according to an adapted form of Francis' case study method (1999). Because the case study method developed by Francis was applied to documents and nominated sites for the national register, not all questions and methods were applicable. The priorities of each case study, whether it was nominated as a site or a structure, varied among the case studies but all were excellent representations of how cultural landscapes can be nominated for the national register. The following summaries were derived from the analysis of the case studies.

4.9.1 Nominating Cultural Landscapes

The primary determinant for nominating a cultural landscape to the national register is the ability of the person nominating and preparing the national register form to conduct thorough research on the historic property at hand and communicate it to the THC and the State Board of Review. The ability to successfully communicate the conditions of the site, according to the listed criteria, is easier for people familiar with the process and vocabulary. The criteria forms developed by the national register were intended for building nominations, but the NPS has tried to offset that fact by producing guidelines and bulletins applying the nomination process to a broader scope of resources such as landscapes. SHPOs have been set up within each state to help distribute the NPS and the national register guidelines to public and private nomination identities and to assist the nomination process.

4.9.2 Meeting the Required Criteria of the National Register with a Cultural Landscape

Each of the three case studies were excellent examples of cultural landscapes that have been nominated for the national register. Although none of the properties were officially identified as cultural landscapes, they still serve as great examples of ways to nominate landscapes to a program that was developed for buildings.

After a careful review of the case study documents how each site met the required criteria was identified. Three categories measuring the integrity of the property allowed for the role of the landscape to be accounted for the easiest. Within each of the three case studies, the landscape was mentioned in the categories of setting, feeling, and

design. Landscape also played an important role in each case study when the overall impression of integrity was defined for each.

4.9.3 Policy Recommendations

A process for understanding the significance of cultural landscapes has not yet been laid out and identified. Landscapes within the historic nomination process are still often afterthoughts in property submissions. There is a need and a want to make it easier, for the public in general and professionals in the field, to give cultural landscapes the attention they deserve, but how to go about that was still largely unknown.

Each of the case studies conducted for this thesis met the requirements needed to be nominated for the national register. Additionally, each case study was an example of cultural landscape in Texas. This means that the lack of cultural landscapes identified in Texas has not solely been due to an inability to nominate cultural landscapes to the national register. A lack of motivation to nominate these properties also exists.

There are two main reasons that a site gets nominated for the national register, one is to receive public recognition; two is to receive funding and tax incentives. However, the latter reason is only applicable to building nominations. Monetary incentives are not available for cultural landscapes at this point. So other possible solutions for increasing the nominations of cultural landscapes are: encouraging professional support, tax incentives for cultural landscape preservation, and a higher profile for vernacular landscapes.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter covers a discussion of the findings, which originated from the case studies and in-depth interviews regarding the status of cultural landscapes in Texas and policy recommendations. It also reports on how the findings in chapter four apply to the research questions:

1. What is the status of the preservation of cultural landscapes in Texas?
2. What determines the ability of cultural landscapes to become nominated on the National Register of Historic Places?
3. Are changes in policies needed to better address the needs of cultural landscapes?
4. What are policy recommendations?

This chapter also discusses the relevance of the study to the profession of landscape architecture. Chapter 5 concludes with recommendations for further study.

5.2 The Status of Cultural Landscapes in Texas

During analysis of the case studies and interviews themes regarding the status of preservation of cultural landscapes in Texas began to accumulate. This section discusses the conclusions that were drawn from those themes and their association with the research questions. While results were similar, case studies and interviews placed varying emphasis on how the status of cultural landscapes in Texas, as applied to preservation, has been evident.

What is the status of the preservation of cultural landscapes in Texas?

All three case studies in this project were determined to have the ability to be successfully document cultural landscapes listed on the national register. Even though the significance of the landscape in each case study was not recognized on its own, but in conjunction and association to other structures and buildings, increasingly the inclusions of landscape descriptions for nomination reports are seen. Cultural landscapes are considered a growing form of preservation in Texas.

One respondent recalled that nominations for the national register use to ignore the landscape altogether. For example, the nomination of a farm would ignore the landscape and only nominate the farm buildings. However, based off the three case studies conducted for this project, one could detect in each nomination significant details about the role of the landscape and its importance. The inclusion of grass right-of-ways and trail systems revealed a growing awareness of the significance of the landscape in historic preservation and its ability to develop deeper historic ties to significance.

Similarly it was suggested that cultural landscapes were a significant evolving resource in historic preservation. Respondents from the interviews mentioned a desire to be more qualified to determine the significance of a cultural landscape. When asked to suggest cultural landscapes not yet recognized, each respondent was able to quickly think of one or two responses. Quick responses revealed not only that the participant understood what a cultural landscape was but had also arrived at ascribing some level of importance in believing they should be on the national register. Meaning that, within the

field of preservation, cultural landscapes are a growing, recognizable area of historic significance.

What determines the ability of cultural landscapes to become nominated on the National Register of Historic Places?

A theme that emerged from the case studies and interviews that would affect the ability of a cultural landscape to be nominated was the language used to nominate a site. The ability to successfully describe a landscape plays a large role in the nominations. National register reports are submitted in a descriptive essay format, so an inability to capture the significance of a landscape through writing and language cripples the nomination.

From the interview data, it was evident that a language for describing cultural landscapes was not available. Respondents mentioned a feeling of discomfort when discussing and trying to talk about a cultural landscape that is felt by themselves and the general public. Respondent HP 1 commented that landscapes require “a lot more specialized knowledge [in order] to evaluate [them]”.

Cultural landscapes can be – and have been – submitted to the national register, but they have to conform to the register’s criteria that were developed for buildings. Proving significance and integrity are the main determinants of the ability of a historic property to be nominated. As revealed in the case studies, thorough research was the strongest means to nominate a cultural landscape. After reviewing the case studies, it was clear that, in order to nominate a landscape, the question that should be asked when

responding to the criteria is not, “how to nominate this cultural landscape,” but, instead, “why nominate this cultural landscape” based on historical evidence.

For example, Heritage Park Plaza was nominated as a cultural landscape to the national register at an age of less than 50 years-old. Becoming listed on the national register has always been difficult of any type historic property under the age of 50. The success of the Heritage Park Plaza nomination was clear descriptive responses to the national register requirements. Descriptions explained why the plaza was the work of a master, a criterion that is difficult for most cultural landscapes to meet, and why it retained high integrity and so forth, because of Halprin. In order to nominate a cultural landscape the individual needs to have an eye for the landscape. This was evident in data collected from both the case studies and interviews.

Are changes in policies needed to better address the needs of cultural landscapes?

The common practice responsible for historic preservation nominations has been to look at the buildings and structures on a given property. Nomination criteria for the national register were similarly developed for buildings. Therefore when it comes to the national register and nominating cultural landscapes it means working within a frame work that was not created to support defining cultural landscapes. Case study and interview data revealed that changes in policy would be helpful and received. Steps that have been taken by the NPS to bolster cultural landscapes include, the creation of bulletins and guidelines that help define cultural landscapes and provide some language to describe them, such as a vernacular or historic designed landscape.

One of the reasons that Historic Park Plaza was such a successful nomination was because it was designed like a series of rooms with walls and floors. Accessing a vernacular landscape would present more issues. One respondent mentioned, while discussing a ranch, do you just include the whole acreage or do you try to break it down into the sub pieces, such as the garden, holding pens, and grazing land? This alludes to the issue that, when addressing cultural landscape nominations, it is still a very vague process in need of support.

What are policy recommendations?

Interview data revealed the number one recommendation for change would be creating a common language to be used for the discussion of landscapes. A vocabulary would eliminate some of the hesitation to include aspects of the landscape within nominations and provide ways for the public to better recognize the role of landscape within their nominations and quantify it.

In adopting its current standard/vocabulary, the national register has tried to not limit or exclude nominations. In fact, much of the language leaves it up to the person writing the report as to whether or not their site would be successfully nominated. The national register has allowed the nomination process to have flexibility and be applicable to a number of resources, keeping in mind that it was building-centric. This was designed to allow for all types of nominations of resources to be made, which today includes cultural landscapes. The national register wants its listings to be in a frame work, but how a nomination meets that frame work is largely up to the person nominating the resource. Other policies include tax incentives similar to those received by building nominations.

5.3 Discussion

By analyzing the case studies and interviews and presenting the themes, several positions about concerns, practices and suggestions for the future can be projected regarding the status of cultural landscapes within the preservation movement in Texas.

Data supported the idea that cultural landscapes are a misunderstood historic resource and that there are limitations for the ability to recognize and talk about the historic role of the landscape. When asked about unidentified cultural landscapes, respondents answered quickly, showing a high level of awareness of cultural landscapes and a familiarity with identifying their importance.

Regarding practices in place to address cultural landscapes little exists for addressing the broad scope of cultural landscapes within the national register. However, due to the original design of the national register criteria and forms, there is a flexibility and way to nominate landscapes. The NPS also created guidelines and bulletins to support the identification and the use of landscapes for the national register. Nonprofits such as TCLF have also pushed for certain types of cultural landscapes to be nominated, such as Heritage Park Plaza. However, TCLF ignores other less popular cultural landscapes such as the OST and BSP compounding the issue of recognizing cultural landscapes.

Suggestions for policy are to develop a common language that can be used for identifying cultural landscapes and new forms of adaptive management. The vocabulary would include a designed landscape vocabulary and a vernacular landscapes

vocabulary. Specialized training was also mentioned as a way to gain landscape nominations and support.

Another recommendation for the inclusion of cultural landscape nomination would be to provide incentives to the public to nominate these resources that would, overtime, allow a language to evolve. Outside incentives include tax breaks, grants, and special funding provided for the preservation of significant cultural landscapes.

5.4 Relevance to the Field of Landscape Architecture

National Register listings are not all equal. The ability to read a site and then translate its meaning has a major impact on the fate of nominated sites for historic preservation. If you cannot convincingly explain “why” the site should be nominated, you cannot preserve it.

Landscape architects are employed as consultants for cultural landscape nominations, as was the case for Heritage Park Plaza. Establishing a role regarding the identification and nomination of cultural landscapes, landscape architects provide possibilities for the future evolution of cultural landscape policies. Their familiarity with reading the landscape and describing it are needed pieces in the nomination process. Because landscape architects have been trained to read the landscape they should take a leading role in determining how to preserve and identify landscapes.

5.5 Recommendations for Further Study

The following recommendations for further study resulted from the questions raised during the case studies and interviews. The recommendations provide opportunities to develop and enhance the process of nominating and preserving cultural landscapes on the national register.

1. Develop a possible language that will support the recognition of cultural landscapes.
2. Analyze the treatments assigned to listed cultural landscapes and determine their ability to benefit the landscape.
3. Analyze the role and background on the form preparer for national register nominations to determine their qualities that allowed for them to have successful nominations.
4. Analyze the unique concerns associated with nominating cultural landscapes, as seen by the public.
5. Analyze public perception of what cultural landscapes are and their significance in American history

5.6 Summary

This chapter includes a discussion about the perception of cultural landscapes within historic preservation and the ability to recognize those landscapes within the framework of the national register. From the analysis of the case studies and interview data, themes regarding cultural landscapes and the national registry processes arose. Policy recommendations were also produced from the data. Through the analysis of case

studies and interview data, conclusions from the themes were drawn. The relevance of the study to landscape architecture was also arrived at through the analysis of the case study and interview data. Recommendations for further study were discovered while reviewing the case studies and extracted from the discussions held with interview respondents.

APPENDIX A

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

The following are the questions that will be asked of each interview participant:

1. Does Texas have distinct cultural landscapes that make them different than cultural landscapes in other states?
2. Is it easier to identify a historic building over a cultural landscape?
3. What is an example of a Texas cultural landscape that is not recognized but should be?
4. Are there policies/regulations in Texas that have influence on the process of cultural landscape recognition here?

It is noted that other questions may arise in the interviews, based on the responses of the interview participants, and that the information will be subject to use in the analysis and conclusion of this research.

APPENDIX B

SAMPLE EMAIL AND PHONE RECRUITMENT SCRIPT

SAMPLE EMAIL AND PHONE RECRUITMENT SCRIPT

Dear Mr. / Ms. _____ :

My name is, Dorothy Wright and I am a graduate student in the Program in Landscape Architecture at The University of Texas at Arlington. I am conducting research for my landscape architecture master thesis titled "Cultural Landscapes in Texas: An Inquiry for Policy Recommendations"

I would like to request your participation in my thesis research via a face-to-face or over the phone interview. You are being selected because you are a knowledgeable resource in the field of historic preservation within the state of Texas or because you are known to have an interest in the subject. The primary goal of the research is understanding the role of cultural landscapes within the frame work of historic preservation in Texas. The interview will take approximately one hour of your time.

I will be available to conduct the interview at your convenience. If you would like to participate, please reply to either of the email addresses or call the phone number listed below to schedule the interview. Before agreeing to participate you will be given an Informed Consent form. This form will explain the study in further detail. Participation in the study is voluntary.

Thank you for your consideration. Your support and participation will be invaluable part of my research and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Wright
Graduate Student
Program in Landscape Architecture
The University of Texas at Arlington
Phone: 479-236-2202
Email: dorothy.wright@mavs.uta.edu

APPENDIX C

IRB Letter of Approval



Office of Research Administration
Regulatory Services
817-272-3723
regulatoryservices@uta.edu
<http://www.uta.edu/ra/oric/>

**Institutional Review Board
Notification of Exemption**

March 06, 2013

Dorothy Joelle Wright
Dr. Pat d Taylor
Landscape Architecture

Protocol Number: 2013-0450

Protocol Title: Cultural Landscapes in Texas: An Inquiry for Policy Recommendations

Type of Review: **Exemption Determination**

The UT Arlington Institutional Review Board (IRB) Chair, or designee, has reviewed the above referenced study and found that it qualified for exemption under the federal guidelines for the protection of human subjects as referenced at Title 45 Part 46.101(b)(2). You are therefore authorized to begin the research as of March 06, 2013.

Pursuant to Title 45 CFR 46.103(b)(4)(iii), investigators are required to, "promptly report to the IRB any proposed changes in the research activity, and to ensure that such changes in approved research, during the period for which IRB approval has already been given, are **not initiated without prior IRB review and approval** except when necessary to eliminate apparent immediate hazards to the subject." Please be advised that as the principal investigator, you are required to report local adverse (unanticipated) events to the Office of Research Administration; Regulatory Services within 24 hours of the occurrence or upon acknowledgement of the occurrence.

All investigators and key personnel identified in the protocol must have documented Human Subject Protection (HSP) Training on file with this office. Completion certificates are valid for 2 years from completion date.

The UT Arlington Office of Research Administration; Regulatory Services appreciates your continuing commitment to the protection of human subjects in research. Should you have questions, or need to report completion of study procedures, please contact Robin Dickey at 817-272-9329 or robind@uta.edu. You may also contact Regulatory Services at 817-272-3723 or regulatoryservices@uta.edu.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Dorothy Wright is a Master of Landscape Architecture candidate for Spring 2013 and is currently employed by Weston Gardens, where she is a landscape designer. Dorothy received her bachelor's degree from The University of Central Arkansas in History. During her senior year of college Dorothy worked for the Conserving Arkansas' Agricultural Heritage seed bank. After graduation Dorothy worked for The New School in Fayetteville, Arkansas and also for the University of Arkansas' Fayetteville campus. Previous work experience included horse stable hand, soccer coach, substitute teacher, and office assistant. Dorothy enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, including camping, backpacking, canoeing, and kayaking all of which strengthen her appreciation for landscapes, their value, importance, serenity, and history.