

BARBARA WYATT TRANSCRIPT

BARBARA: So, those were great summaries that were presented and great information and great ideas for directions.

My perspective, and I work for the National Park Service, for the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmark Program, both programs. I think it's critical to get one of the, get a designation. Because, as has been pointed out, that, that is a means of getting some kinds of funding. It also is the stamp that this is a recognized historic site, it's the nation's standard, for establishing significance. So, we have of course, tons of sites out there that have never been designated, but it's definitely a good way to go, to start with a designation.

And it's usually, National, National Register designation may be a little quicker, than the National Historic Landmark Program, which is a bit stalled right now, and has been during this administration. But I think that National Historic Landmark designation should be the goal, and I think that the integrity of the [unintelligible] is there. So, I would like to see that as a goal.

We've talked about National Monuments so I just wanted to make sure that there's a clarification there. The National Monument, we're not talking about a National Historic Landmark, that's a different program that came from the Historic Sites Act. Just as was pointed out earlier, the National Register came from the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and then the Monuments Act was actually the Antiquities Act of 1906. That has, as Mike pointed out, is a presidential designation. Can one president designate and another take away? We're finding out.

So, I think that, all of these are such worthy goals, but what has to be done first is to determine what is significant and what are the boundaries of this historic site. So, Ted and I have talked about this, and we've talked with Scott Baster[?], the archaeologist who may have been on the tour, I don't know. At any rate, he's done, and the archaeologists has done a lot of research up there. I can hand this out in a few minutes, but he gave me a copy of the map, of a map, showing where he's done his investigations. And he kindly took the sites off, because as you know, as with any archaeological site, we don't publicly broadcast their location. But what I have is a broad boundary of where he's done most of his investigation. That doesn't mean

that's where all the archaeology is, but it's a starting point for significant sites.

I think we should be thinking about the tunnels, the archaeology that's associated with them, and then part of this route because these are all viable candidates for historic designation. Whether it be National Register, NHL or you know the Monument, I won't even talk about that, because that's kind of a different, a different thing.

So, I think I've said enough about it, if any questions come,

Yes ma'am?

MEGAN(AUDIENCE): Could you maybe clarify for folks the difference between a single property and a district?

BARBARA: Oh sure, and this is my colleague Megan Sprinkey[?] and tell them your website, I mean, there's a great AAPI website for both of our services.

MEGAN: So, if you go to the National Park Service and you look for "Telling All Americans' Stories" you'll find what I do every day.

BARBARA: Well she's done a great job with the AAPI part of that website. So, I think this is absolutely a historic district because it's such a rich collection of historic sites. So, if we were just designating the tunnel for example, that's one structure that could be, it could be designated, it's a thought. But there's so much more there, I would think you know why stop at just the tunnel? There should be a district of other resources like these associated archaeological sites which, and I'll pass this map around, as you'll see, they're really not that distant, they're there. It's not like these workers were hiking long distances to get to their work site. So, we have the tunnels and the remains, the archaeological sites of the camps right in the same, in the same vicinity.

So, I think, that would be a great goal for an underrepresented communities grant, to do a survey and establish what the boundaries are what the significance is. And that would be, those, that grant program is intended for getting underrepresented, properties associated with underrepresented communities, listed in the National Register, so...

AUDIENCE: Can I also mention that, in the state of California right now, they're working on a statewide Asian American context statement which includes Chinese American histories, that should be out later on this year. But also, that just got designated and placed

on the National Register this year the city of Los Angeles did multiple documentation form, for the city of LA's Asian American context statement which also included Chinese Americans. So, now that's on the register as of January, somehow during the shutdown, but we're not complaining.

So, but I think, for many of us in California and even in Los Angeles are learning about things that are possible with the National Register and with our state historic preservation office, our SHPO, in terms of, it doesn't have to be a singular site, it doesn't even have to be a contiguous district or cluster of structures but it actually can be non-contiguous.

BARBARA: Well, I'd better explain that...

AUDIENCE: [unintelligible] You can explain that, as as possibilities, since we've seen some of the maps, because they are very spread out and what is possible since and then we've been partnering in California with our new SHPO to see, because I think a lot of [unintelligible] in California, correct me if I'm wrong okay, crosses over to another, into Nevada?

MODERATOR: Some of it's in Nevada.

AUDIENCE: So, I mean, that's even some of the questions too, if it's on the Register in one state, or across state lines.

BARBARA: So, what the state of California is doing, is going to be groundbreaking really with this context they're developing for AAPI communities throughout the state, all sorts of resources. So, they're coming up with historical documentation that we started at the NHL program, I have one copy, I don't want to carry it home with me, so, if anyone would like a copy of our, of the AAPI theme study that we have done for the NHL program, I'd be happy to give you this and we have a few more I can send out.

So, what they're doing, Annie Crane[?] is leading this in California, is doing this, which is a nationwide study, on a statewide basis. So, they all have a context for evaluating historic properties throughout the state of California just as Los Angeles did this very, and Boston, did these studies for these individual cities. That's where we hope this takes our states and our cities across the nation, is developing these contexts, when I say contexts, it's the historical information you need, it's the background and the backdrop for evaluating historic properties. So, it spares someone the research of going in-depth, to a certain, for example railroad history, if there was a railroad context, and particularly even a Chinese railroad context that

looked at the entire West, then we could have standards for which sites related to that context may be eligible for the National Register or for NHL designation.

So, as far as these multiple property nominations, like Los Angeles did, all of those, all of the sites that are named in there, are not listed in the National Register. The next step, is to do that, that legwork that's needed to present a nomination to the State Historic Preservation Review Board, then it comes to the National Park Service. So, but it does, it does consolidate that research that's necessary for background.

But then, as Michelle pointed out with archaeological sites, just to clarify districts, because Meghan also asked for a clarification there, if you have a cluster of archaeological sites, you don't have to nominate this one and this one and this one all separately. Particularly if they are thematically linked, if they're all railroad camps you draw a boundary, and that would be an archaeological district.

So, I think that's clear.