National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS)

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HALS News

Release date: **For Immediate Release - November, 16 2013**

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Documenting the Cultural Landscapes of Women 2013 Results & New 2014 HALS Challenge: Documenting Landscapes of the New Deal

The Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) was created in 2000 as a federal program to document historic landscapes in the United States and its territories. Documentation is critical to preserving these significant sites for the benefit of future generations. Like its companion programs, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), HALS produces written and graphic records used by educators, land managers, and preservation planners as well as the general public. The National Park Service (NPS) administers the planning and operation of HALS, standardizes formats and develops guidelines for recording landscapes, and catalogs and/or publishes the information when appropriate (www.nps.gov/history/hdp/standards/halsguidelines.htm). The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) provides professional guidance and technical advice for the program through its Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network. The Library of Congress (LOC) accepts and preserves HALS documents, furnishes reproductions of material, and makes records available to the public (www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/).

Results of the 4th annual HALS Challenge were announced at the HALS Meeting of the Phoenix, Arizona ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo on Saturday, November 16, 2013. Congratulations to the winners! Sponsored by the National Park Service, cash prizes were awarded to the top 3 submissions. This challenge resulted in the donation of 30 impressive HALS short format historical reports and 2 HALS drawing sets to the HALS collection.

2013 HALS Challenge: Documenting the Cultural Landscapes of Women, Sponsored by HALS-NPS

1st Place: Gaiety Hollow HALS OR-5, Salem, OR by Laurie Matthews.

2nd Place: The Arizona Inn HALS AZ-9, Tucson, AZ by Gina Chorover, Jennifer Levstik, and Helen Erickson with University of Arizona Student Researchers: Jae Anderson, Crystal Cheek, and Ryan Sasso.

3rd Place: Gypsy Camp for Girls, HALS AR-5, Siloam Springs, AR by Benjamin Stinnett and Kimball Erdman.

The other 27 wonderful short form history entries for 2013 included: Anne Spencer Garden - Lynchburg, VA; Arden, Modjeska, CA; Chatham Manor, Fredericksburg, VA; The Ebell of Los Angeles - Los Angeles, CA; Elmshaven - St. Helena, CA; Faraway Ranch - Wilcox, AZ; Four Seasons Garden* - Indianapolis, IN; Gaiety Hollow - Salem, OR (1 of 2 for this site); Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village - Simi Valley, CA; Hills and Dales - La Grange, GA; Hopewell Furnace - Elverson, PA; Lanie Fleischer Chester Creek Trail - Anchorage, AK; Library Park - Orland, CA; Marian Anderson Heritage Village - Philadelphia, PA; Mary Washington Monument, Fredericksburg, VA; The Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden - Los Angeles, CA; Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area – Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Taos Counties, NM; Northfield Campus - Northfield, MA; Pabst Addition At Summit Cemetery - Waukesha County, WI; Pond Farm Pottery - Guerneville, CA; Rancho del Oso, Davenport, CA; Restored State House of 1676 - St. Mary's City, MD; Richards DAR House Museum - Mobile, AL; Stenton - Philadelphia, PA; The Mr. and Mrs. William W. Wessinger Garden, Portland, OR; Wiawaka Holiday House - Lake George, NY; and Wildflower Woods* - Rome City, IN **Includes a drawing set*

The HALS office is continuing the challenge again in 2014 with a new theme, Documenting Landscapes of the New Deal. Short format histories should be submitted to HALS at the NPS no later than July 31, 2014 (c/o Chris Stevens, 202-354-2146, Chris_Stevens@nps.gov). Sponsored by HALS, cash prizes will again be awarded to the top three submissions. Results will be announced at the Denver 2014 ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo during the HALS Meeting. Good luck and thank you for helping to preserve American landscapes!