

# *HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE*

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

*Historic Landscape Architecture is the practice of applying artistic and scientific principles to the research, planning, design, and management of both natural and built environments with specialized training in the principles, theories, concepts, methods, and techniques of preserving cultural landscapes.*

## Standard for Historical Landscape Architect

**(a)** The applicant, employee, consultant, or advisor will have a State Government-recognized license to practice Landscape Architecture, **PLUS** a minimum of two (2) years full-time professional experience applying the theories, methods, and practices of Landscape Architecture that enables professional judgments to be made about the identification, evaluation, documentation,

registration, or treatment of historic properties in the United States and its Territories; **AND** products and activities that demonstrate the successful application of acquired proficiencies in the discipline to the practice of historic preservation (see [Documenting Professional Experience for Historic Landscape Architects](#)); **OR...**

**(b)** A Masters degree in Landscape Architecture with demonstrable course work in the principles, theories, concepts, methods, and techniques of preserving cultural landscapes, **PLUS** a minimum of two (2) years of full-time professional experience applying the theories, methods, and practices of Landscape Architecture that enables professional judgments to be made about the identification, evaluation, documentation, registration, or treatment of historic properties in the United States and its Territories; **AND** products and activities that demonstrate the successful application of acquired proficiencies in the discipline to the practice of historic preservation (see [Documenting Professional Experience for Historic Landscape Architects](#)); **OR...**

**(c)** A four-year or five-year Bachelors degree in Landscape Architecture, **PLUS** a minimum of three (3) years of full-time professional experience applying the theories, methods, and practices of Landscape Architecture that enables professional judgments to be made about the identification, evaluation, documentation, registration, or treatment of historic properties in the United States and its Territories; **AND** products and

activities that demonstrate the successful application of acquired proficiencies in the discipline to the practice of historic preservation (see [Documenting Professional Experience for Historic Landscape Architects](#)).

*(Note: only persons who are licensed to practice Landscape Architecture in that State may prepare and seal plans and specifications for construction permits, authorize payments to contractors, and certify that the work is completed. However, State staff, State Review Board members, and CLG staff or commission members who are not licensed, but who meet the Standard for Historical Landscape Architect under (b) or (c) above, can review proposed and completed work for compliance with the applicable Secretary's Standards for Tax Act, HPF Grant, or other related programs.)*

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND FOR HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

***Closely related fields:*** Landscape Architecture is the typical professional Bachelors degree, which is awarded after successful completion of a four-year or five-year undergraduate program. However, the Bachelors or Masters in Landscape Architecture may not always include historic preservation course work. While the standard Landscape Architecture degree program addresses all general aspects of landscape architectural practice (including design, planning, construction specifications, and professional practice), additional training is needed for Historical Landscape Architects. They may need training in landscape research, documentation, analysis, evaluation, and treatment techniques. This additional training is

achieved through additional course work and/or professional experience.

***Graduate study:*** The Masters in Landscape Architecture degree is the typical graduate degree, which is awarded after successful completion of a two-year or three-year graduate program. This degree should include studies in the principles, theories, concepts, methods, and techniques of preserving cultural landscapes. Course work may include cultural geography; landscape history; archival research techniques; historic preservation theory, principles, and practice; and preservation technologies.

***Discipline specialization:*** Historic Landscape Architecture is a specialization within the broader field of Landscape Architecture. Historical Landscape Architects should have completed training in the principles, theories, concepts, methods, and techniques of preserving cultural landscapes. Cultural landscape preservation focuses on preserving a landscape's physical attributes, biotic systems, and use (especially when that use contributes to its historical significance). Graduate study and/or professional experience provides the specialized training needed by the Historical Landscape Architect.

## **APPLYING THE STANDARD FOR HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

**Documenting Professional Experience:** To be licensed by a State Government as a professional Landscape Architect, an individual typically must pass a written exam and successfully

fulfill education, training, and experience requirements. In addition, an Historical Landscape Architect must have two years of experience in the application of Landscape Architecture theories, methods, and practices to the identification, evaluation, documentation, registration, or treatment of historic properties in the United States and its Territories. A professional Historical Landscape Architect has both theoretical knowledge and technical skill associated with the preservation of cultural landscapes in accordance with the Secretary's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation. Cultural landscapes include historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.

**Products and activities:** Professional experience and expertise must be documented through "products and activities that demonstrate the successful application of acquired proficiencies in the discipline to the practice of historic preservation."

Products and activities that meet the appropriate Secretary's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation may include:

- Surveys and inventories of cultural landscapes.
- Documentation of cultural landscapes that meets the Secretary's Standards for Documentation.
- National Register nominations or Determinations of Eligibility for cultural landscapes.
- Cultural Landscape treatment and maintenance plans.
- Cultural Landscape Reports.
- Publications, which might include articles in regional, national, or international professional journals, monographs, books, or chapters in edited books about cultural landscape preservation.
- Presentations at regional, national, or international professional conferences, symposia, workshops, or exhibits about cultural landscape preservation.
- Professional service on boards or committees or regional, national, or international professional organizations concerned with cultural landscape preservation.
- Awards, research grants, research fellowships, or invitations to

teaching posts associated with cultural landscape preservation.

*This list is not comprehensive. Furthermore, it should be understood that not all of these products and activities are needed in order to meet the Standard; rather, a combination of several products and activities would be more typical.*