



**DATE:** 12 October 2022

**TO:** Diane Boston, Mather Homestead

**FROM:** Patricia M. O'Donnell, Peter Viteretto, Heritage Landscapes

**RE:** Cultural Landscape Report Descriptive Outline for Reference

For your information, Heritage Landscapes has prepared the following simple outline of the usual steps taken to develop a cultural landscape report for a historic landscape. We offer this outline of the typical components as an introduction for future discussion. A CLR can be thought of as a master plan that incorporates site history and evolution while developing a clear vision for the future and itemizing how to achieve that vision. There are variations in subtasks and emphasis that depend on the property, project goals, documentation, budget and other factors. The steps we usually follow in a collaborative planning effort with the board, project committee stakeholders and potentially the interested public are:

- 1. Historic Research, Narrative History & Period Plans-** review of all available documents, often with some level of document search and organization carried out by the client group to reduce staffing costs. An illustrated landscape history narrative and a period plan or sequence of period plans that capture the landscape over time in its as-built condition are developed in this step using a detailed current plan and historic documents. The plan is assembled from historic plans, photos, paintings, sketches, aerial photos and is also informed by the remaining or partially extant historic features in the landscape today.
- 2. Existing Conditions Documentation-** using all available mapping to understand the landscape as it is today and note partially extant historic elements in the landscape today. Digital ACAD survey can be provided with tree layer down to 6" caliper, or prepared for existing surveys and field work. A current landscape plan is prepared in AutoCAD, and current photos are selected to illustrate a narrative that focuses on current landscape character. The detailed drawing developed in this step is used as a plan base for building historic period plans and for shaping the cultural landscape treatment plan, or historic site master plan, as well as other potential uses.
- 3. Assessment of Historic Integrity and Landscape Character.** This task compares historic and current landscape character to answer questions about the level of change and the degree to which the landscape embodies its historic character today. Remaining historic elements and features are itemized and described.
- 4. Review and Selection of Landscape Preservation Treatment-** options to preserve, restore, rehabilitate, reconstruct are tested. The philosophy of the project is clearly laid out in this section. The selected treatment is described in detail and is accompanied by an overall plan.

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**5. Discussion of Land Management, Landscape Treatment Implementation Approach, Phasing and Priorities:** This final task is shaped by property needs and can include all the elements noted in the title or a focused selection. In some projects, priorities are enumerated, a near-term action plan is set forth, or specific undertakings are described in detail, while in others a management component that addresses future landscape staff needs is elaborated.

These are the typical components of the planning process and are, as noted, customized to address the needs of the property and project objectives. Thank you for this opportunity to offer a framework to consider in proceeding with landscape planning.

We look forward to exploring your needs and objectives for the historic landscape of the Mather Homestead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter F. Viteretto".

Peter F. Viteretto, FASLA, Principal

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