



## Laura L. Knott HLA, LLC

Historic Preservation | Landscape Architecture | Planning & Design

### Education

M.S.H.P.	University of Texas	Historic Preservation	2004
M.L.A.	Louisiana State University	Landscape Architecture	1991
B.A.	University of Alabama	Anthropology and History	1981

### Experience Profile

An award-winning landscape architect with a background in archaeology and graduate training in historic preservation, Laura has spent thirty-one years practicing landscape architecture in Virginia, Maryland, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Texas, with a focus on research, analysis, and design for parks and other public landscapes, taking a landscape approach to the treatment of historic properties located throughout the U.S.

### Licensure

Licensed Landscape Architect: Virginia, Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Maryland.

### Employment History

**Principal, Laura L. Knott, Historical Landscape Architect, LLC (07/2019-present).** Owner and manager of sole-proprietor cultural landscape preservation and historical landscape architecture practice. Projects range from analysis and planning to interpretive design and Section 106 compliance services.

**Regional Director, Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (10/2014-07/2019).** Responsible for managing one of seven company offices, including staffing, marketing, budgeting, and management of a wide range of historic preservation projects, including historic resource surveys, preservation planning, and historical landscape architecture.

**Principal Landscape Architect, John Milner Associates, Inc. (09/2007-10/2014).** Responsible for managing the landscape architectural practice of JMA, including staffing, marketing, budgeting, and management of a wide range of historic preservation projects, including historic resource surveys, preservation planning, and historical landscape architecture..

**Historical Landscape Architect and Project Manager, John Milner Associates, Inc. (09/ 2005-09/2007).** Responsible for managing a wide range of historic preservation projects, including historic resource surveys, preservation planning, and historical landscape architecture.

**Lecturer, University of Texas School of Architecture (09/2004-05/2005).** Taught classes in the departments of Historic Preservation and Landscape Architecture, including landscape history, landscape technology, and cultural landscape preservation.

**Senior Planner, City of Austin Development Assistance Center (12/2001-09/2004).** Provided advice and guidance to the public and developers in understanding and utilizing the Austin Land Development Code. Presented review cases to Planning Commission and Historic Landmark Commission.

**Planner, City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department (12/1999-12/2001).** Responsible for review of site plans submitted as part of development and building applications. Met regularly with applicants and presented cases to the Planning Commission.

**Landscape Architect, Winterowd Associates, Inc. (11/1992-12/1999).** Provided landscape architectural services, including design and construction documentation for a wide range of public projects, including parks and public facilities.

**Landscape Designer, Graham Landscape Architecture (09/1989-12/1990).** Provided design services for a wide range of public and private projects.

## Key Projects

**Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden Significance and Integrity Evaluation, Washington, D.C.** Provided an impartial evaluation of the contribution of landscape architect Lester Collins to the design of this national sculpture garden. Working with Robinson & Associates, Inc., Laura served as historical landscape architect, providing a cultural landscape approach to the assessment of integrity.

**St. Elizabeths Hospital Center Building Rehabilitation and Building 54 Design, Washington, D.C. St.** Elizabeths Hospital is a nationally significant historic resource that represents the evolution of treatment for mental health patients in the United States. The historic Center Building was rehabilitated to house the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and related staff. The rehabilitation was followed by the design of a new addition to the historic building, Building 54. Laura served as project manager for landscape architectural services.

**Austin Historic Cemeteries Master Plan, Austin, Texas.** Preservation master plan to guide the care of five historic municipal cemeteries threatened by disrepair. Collaborative team of landscape architects, archaeologists, planners, and historians crafted a thoughtful approach, including public engagement that reached a diverse array of community members. Plan provides a comprehensive review of the history of each cemetery, existing conditions, and recommendations for historic resource management including concept designs for access, planting, and historical interpretation. Project was featured in the September 2015 issue of *Landscape Architecture Magazine* and has won several awards, listed below. Principal investigator/historical landscape architect.

**Pershing Park Determination of Eligibility, Washington, D.C.** Team provided research and analysis to determine the significance and integrity of this Modernist park, built in the 1980s close to the White House. The report helped a separate design team further refine its work to preserve key characteristics remaining from the park's period of significance. Historical landscape architect.

**Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site Historic Resource Study, Tuskegee, Alabama.** This national historic site preserves the legacy and associated historic physical resources of Tuskegee Institute, a college for African Americans founded in 1881. The college played a significant role in the ascent of African Americans into mainstream America during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and well into the 20<sup>th</sup>. The NPS commissioned the study to provide a historical overview of the site and identify and evaluate its cultural resources within historic contexts; it will be used as the basis for a National Register nomination. Project manager.

**Park Road 4 Cultural Landscape Report and National Register Nomination, Burnet, Texas.** This scenic parkway was constructed by the CCC and Texas Highway Department between 1934 and 1942, guided by the National Park Service. The team of landscape architects and historians produced a CLR to form a basis for land planning decisions by Texas Parks and Wildlife and to protect the parkway from threats to its historic character. Research for the CLR formed the basis for the National Register of Historic Places nomination, successfully listed in 2010. Project manager.

**Fort Fisher State Historic Site Master Plan and Design Implementation, Kure Beach, North Carolina.** Developed a historical summary describing the major landscape features of this National Historic Landmark, the largest earthwork fort of the Civil War era, to inform the development of the master plan. During implementation, which included earthwork reconstruction, Laura provided information on the original construction of the fort and previous reconstructions to ensure the project's compliance with federal regulations. Historical landscape architect.

**Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois.** This park preserves the home and neighborhood of Abraham Lincoln at the time he became U.S. President. Team designed design development and construction documentation for installation of interpretive footprints of brick and wood representing missing neighboring houses, along with plantings representing historic vegetative patterns. Project manager.

**Borden Building, Tucker House, and Pope House Schematic Design and Design Development, City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina.** These three historic buildings are owned by the City of Raleigh and used for events and other programming. The team conducted historic research into the history of the development of their landscapes and design contexts, then developed schematic and design development plans for their adaptive reuse and interpretation. Project manager.

**Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.** The memorial was completed in 1915 to honor those who fought in the War of 1812 Battle of Lake Erie and to celebrate lasting peace between the combatants. Laura's team evaluated the park's historical significance and developed a cultural landscape treatment

plan. The plan includes conceptual alternatives for providing accessibility to the memorial column and its terraced base, as well as the design for a new Peace Garden. The team subsequently developed an accessibility management plan for the entire park. Project manager.

**Blue Ridge Parkway Survey and Planning Study, Virginia and North Carolina.** The Blue Ridge Parkway, which runs for 469 miles, was built as a scenic motor road for Americans to enjoy leisurely travel and recreation. The team surveyed 264 scenic overlooks, pull-offs, and parking areas designed and constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service starting in 1936, documenting native stone walls, drainage structures, curbs, cultural vegetation, and site furnishings, and evaluating their historical integrity. Received Merit Award from Virginia ASLA. Historical landscape architect.

**U.S. Capitol Complex Stormwater Pollution Prevention and Management Plan, Washington, D.C.** Federal regulations outlined in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act set new standards to restore the hydrology of the Capitol Complex to its pre-development conditions. Team developed a historic integrity summary identifying the best sites for stormwater management solutions to best limit disturbance to the Capitol's sensitive historic resources. Historical landscape architect.

**Cane River Creole National Historic Site Historic Resource Study and Determination of Eligibility, Natchitoches, Louisiana.** Park preserves 63 acres of cultural landscapes and over 65 built resources located within Oakland and Magnolia plantations, representing the lives of people whose families lived and worked the plantations for more than 200 years. The NPS commissioned the study to provide a historical overview of the park and identify and evaluate its cultural resources within historic contexts. Laura then developed a National Register determination of eligibility based on the study. Project manager.

**Cool Spring Battlefield Cultural Landscape Rehabilitation Plan, Bluemont, Virginia.** The Battle of Cool Spring occurred July 17-18, 1864, and was the precursor to Sheridan's deadly march through the Shenandoah Valley. The team developed a strategic cultural landscape rehabilitation plan for the protection and interpretation of historic resources at the site, including a new interpretive trail, and improvements to universal access and wayfinding within the core of the campus. The interpretive concept also took into account the natural features that guided the course of the battle. Project manager.

**George Rogers Clark Memorial National Historical Park National Register Nomination and Design, Vincennes, Indiana.** The George Rogers Clark Memorial was built between 1929 and 1936 to commemorate the battle that helped establish the Northwest Territory. The park is also nationally significant for its neoclassical composition of landscape, building, structures, and works of art designed by some of the nation's most notable leaders of the City Beautiful movement. Laura served as project manager and landscape historian for this and two subsequent design projects, including a new pedestrian plaza and trails.

**Mission San Juan Capistrano and Mission Espada Cultural Landscape Reports, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, San Antonio, Texas.** Founded in 1731 by Spanish Franciscans on the eastern banks of the San Antonio River, these missions are now part of a World Heritage Site. Mission San Juan became a regional supplier of agriculture produce and Mission Espada a center for manufacturing. Laura developed CLR treatment plans to address the use of the San Juan Farm for interpretation of traditional farming practices, new facilities to relocate visitor parking outside of the historic complex of Mission Espada, and interpretive site plans, showing the proposed locations of new trails and waysides. Historical landscape architect.

**Orton Plantation Cultural Landscape Report and National Register Nomination, Brunswick County, North Carolina.** Orton Plantation was established in 1725 on the Cape Fear River. Originally operated for timber extraction, Orton was subsequently developed as a rice plantation in the 19th century, then as a nationally recognized horticultural operation and tourist destination in the 20th century. JMA's landscape architects collaborated with historians to conduct a cultural landscape investigation and develop a new National Register nomination for the property. Project manager.

**National Air & Space Museum Facilities Development Plan, Washington, D.C.** Completed in 1976 to celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial, the museum was the last constructed of the McMillan Plan. In 2009, the Smithsonian Institution initiated a Facilities Development Plan to improve and upgrade the museum building and its site. Laura led a cultural landscape assessment to meet Section 106 requirements, including a history of the evolution of the site, an existing conditions assessment, significance and integrity analyses, treatment recommendations, and design guidelines. Historical landscape architect.

**Fort Bliss Landscape Handbook for Historic Properties and Design, El Paso, Texas.** The Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with early 20th-century efforts to create a cavalry division along the U.S.-Mexico border. Laura led the development of a landscape handbook for tenants of historic administrative properties, then to develop designs to conserve limited water resources, including planting and irrigation plans; a cost benefit analysis; and a tree inventory and replacement plan.

**Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report, Little Rock, Arkansas.** Central High was the site of the first important test of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, making segregation in public education a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, setting a national precedent. Laura led the development of a CLR with urban design guidelines to preserve this important site and its neighborhood setting. Project manager.

**University of Virginia McCormick Road and Pavilion Alleys Design Projects, Charlottesville, Virginia.** Design of conceptual improvement plan for roadways in UVA's West Lawn vicinity. Subsequent related projects included design and construction documents for Poe Alley as a test case for application throughout the site. Following, the team designed a new stone retaining wall along McCormick Road. Project manager.

**National Zoological Park Facilities Master Plan, Washington, D.C., and Front Royal, Virginia.** Consultant to the Smithsonian Institution as part of the master planning team, preparing a cultural landscape assessment in compliance with Section 106 to ensure protection of significant resources, and assessed the historic resources associated with the Smithsonian's Conservation Research Center in Front Royal. Historical landscape architect.

### **Selected Award-Winning Projects**

"Monument Terrace," Historic American Landscape Survey, Lynchburg, Virginia. Third Place, 2018.

*Austin Historic Cemeteries Master Plan*, Austin, Texas. Principal investigator with CHG:

- National Planning Achievement Award | Gold – Urban Design, American Planning Association, 2017.
- Merit Award, Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, 2017.
- Preservation Texas Honor Award, 2016.
- Preservation Austin Merit Award, 2016.
- Project Plan Award, Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association, 2017.

*Repository of Mission Places*, Preservation Piedmont Publication Award, 2016.

*Blue Ridge Parkway Survey and Planning Study*, Virginia and North Carolina. Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Merit Award, 2015. Historical landscape architect with CHG.

High Ground Park, Knoxville, Tennessee. Historical landscape architect with JMA:

- Environmental Stewardship Award: Excellence in National Heritage, 2014.
- Tennessee Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects, Honor Award, 2014.

*Park Road 4 Cultural Landscape Report*, Burnet, Texas. Texas Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award in Planning and Analysis, 2012. Project manager with JMA.

*Fort Bliss Landscape Handbook for Historic Properties*, Landscape Analysis, and Design; El Paso, Texas. Fort Bliss' Outstanding Beneficial Landscape Environmental Quality Award, 2010. Project manager with JMA.

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, Austin, Texas. Texas Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award, 2001. Landscape architect with Winterowd Associates.

### **Selected Publications**

"Monument Terrace." HALS short-format history, 2018. National award winner.

"Monticello Landscape and Gardens" and "Avondale Park." *Archipedia*, Society of Architectural Historians, 2019.

"Historic Landscapes of Sweet Briar College." Brochure. 2014, with Lyn Rainville.

"Restored State House of 1676" [Rose Greely, Landscape Architect]. HALS short-format history, 2013.

"Historic Landscapes," in *Landscape Architectural Graphic Standards*. New York: Wiley & Sons, 2006.

"Chronicling Charlottesville's Industrial Past." With Justin Sarafin. *Repository of Missing Places*, Deborah McCloud, ed., 2017..

### **Professional Affiliations and Service**

American Society of Landscape Architects; Southern Garden History Society; Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, Board of Directors, 2007-2016; Charlottesville Board of Architectural Review, 2013-2016; Preservation Piedmont, Board of Directors, 2011-2014