

on we get a section on Thomas Moran's Yellowstone paintings, but then, later, only a scattering of short analyses of Ansel Adams and some contemporary satirical photographers. Although focusing exclusively on writers would have deprived us of such things as Herring's analysis of the very witty parody photograph by Ted Orland that graces the cover, overall I think the book would have benefited from a more concentrated editorial approach.

Still, *Lines on the Land* is well worth taking time to read. If you do, you will be in the company of a competent and discerning guide to the changing cultural meanings that have been projected upon, and found in, America's national parks.

David Harmon
George Wright Society

*An Architectural Guidebook to the National Parks:
 California, Oregon, Washington*

*An Architectural Guidebook to the National Parks:
 Arizona, New Mexico, Texas*

By Harvey H. Kaiser. Layton, UT: Gibbs Smith,
 2002 and 2003; paper \$21.95 and \$16.95.

Harvey H. Kaiser, scholar of the rustic architecture of the national parks and author of *Landmarks in the Landscape* and *Great Camps of the Adirondacks*, offers two regional guidebooks to national park architecture. These volumes, which he refers to as the "The Far West Book" and "The Southwest Book," serve as true guidebooks providing practical information on visiting and enjoying the architectural resources of 40 national parks (and 1 national forest site) in 6 states. Each section includes a map and driving directions, as well as the government website for each unit.

Kaiser begins by describing the natural setting of the park, and then he relates the cultural history from the earliest Native American groups associated with the land, through the period of territorial and colonial settlement, to the eventual development and conversion to national park status. Quotes from noted park creators and developers, historians, architects, and archeologists highlight the significance and beauty of the featured structures. Of particular interest are the numerous sidebars outlining influential people, events, and natural and cultural history associated with the parks and their architecture. Included in Kaiser's architectural descriptions of the historic structures is the history of preservation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of these buildings by the National Park Service.

"The Far West Book" features the familiar big lodges of sites like Yosemite, Mount Rainier, and Olympic National Parks. These wilderness mansions, set ingeniously within natural landscapes, reflect integrity of design in form, structure, and materials. Kaiser also includes lesser-known remote destinations such as Manzanar National Historic Site and Lewis and Clark National Historical Park (formerly called Fort Clatsop National Memorial), as well as the urban parks of Cabrillo National Monument, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. The architecture at Manzanar and Lewis and Clark, far from being monumental, is spare or even reconstructed. [Editor's note: On October 3, 2005, a fire destroyed the replica of Fort Clatsop at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. For more information go to: <http://www.nps.gov/lewi>.] Kaiser acknowledges the significance of buildings of lesser design or authenticity that nevertheless contribute to powerful cultural landscapes. Kaiser also describes sites, buildings, and structures of importance in engineering and technology, such as the lighthouses at Cabrillo and Point Reyes National Seashore, the vessels of San Francisco Maritime, a suspension bridge at Mount Rainier, and artillery casements at Fort Point National Historic Site.

The format of "The Southwest Book" pays tribute to the Route 66 tourist experience with rounded page corners, informal title fonts, and maps with a hand-drawn quality. While the big lodges and the early 20th-century buildings by the architect Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter at Grand Canyon National Park are featured, the book is mostly given over to the smaller national parks and monuments that pepper the region. The national parks of the southwest tend to honor the remains of Native American villages, Spanish missions, and United States military forts. Kaiser describes not only these lonely and monumental structures of stone and adobe, but also the architecture that resulted from the sites becoming part of the National Park System. These buildings, designed by National Park Service architects, were the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression, and represent a school of small-scale rustic design parallel to the grand timber and stone lodges constructed to the north. Many of these buildings are designated National Historic Landmarks, such as the Painted Desert Inn at Petrified Forest National Park, or contribute to National Historic Landmark districts, such as at Bandelier National Monument.

In these two books, Kaiser continues to revere the tradition of rustic design in its congruent use of local materials, harmonious setting and scale in the surrounding environment, and use of natural design elements and schemes. Still, the volumes are not limited to wilderness "parkitecture" but illustrate the diverse and eclectic selection of Victorian homes, abandoned mines, eccentric mansions, and archeological treasures found in our national parks. The regional guidebook format invites readers to plan trips of architectural discovery in our cities, the large parks of natural wonders, and small shrines to our nation's history.

Mary E. Slater
National Park Service

Appomattox Court House: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Virginia

National Park Handbook Series. Washington, DC: Division of Publications, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, 2002; 129 pp., illustrations, maps, index; paper \$11.50.



This handsome little volume is so well done, it could almost substitute for an in-person tour of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. The book is divided into four parts or chapters. The first three contain essays by leading scholars and focus on the events just prior to the Civil War, the last hours of the Army of Northern Virginia, and the efforts to piece the nation back together after the war. The essays are written for general readers and visitors who will also benefit from the fourth section, a guide to the park.

Although this is a handbook for Appomattox Court House National Historic Park, the compilers have sought to educate readers about the Civil War to place in context the momentous events that occurred in this sleepy village in April 1865. Three eminent historians provide this background, each telling part of the story. Written by Edward L. Ayers, the first essay is entitled "Slavery, Economics, and Constitutional Ideals" and focuses on the decades prior to the South's secession. Professor Ayers does an outstanding job in just a few pages, chronicling the significant events leading up to the war. Dismissing the possibility that the war began over constitutional ideals or competing economic interests, he turns his attention to the issue of slavery and maintains, as do most historians, that the causes of the Civil War turned on that issue. He asserts that the passionate debate over slavery, especially its extension into the territories.

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