

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.

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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.

engendered distrust and animosity. For both Northerners and Southerners, “[t]he Civil War began in expectation of easy victory over a detested enemy, a quick and satisfying ending to a long and frustrating argument.” Ayers adds, however, that no one at the time realized how long the war would last or the suffering and devastation it would bring.

A timeline carries the story from 1861 to March 1865, just before the Appomattox campaign began. Gary W. Gallagher picks up the story in early 1865 in an essay entitled “An End and a New Beginning.” He provides a good play-by-play account of Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s attempt to break out of the siege at Petersburg, where his army had been for 10 months, and link up with the Rebel army in North Carolina under the command of General Joseph E. Johnston. As Union forces closed in on Lee’s beleaguered and dwindling army near Appomattox Court House, Lee saw the handwriting on the wall and surrendered to avoid further bloodshed. Gallagher admits that Lee had in fact done little more than surrender one of several Confederate armies—

yet Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia loomed so large—as the Confederacy’s primary national institution and the Union’s principal enemy—that most people, North and South, believed its surrender marked the end of the war.

Gallagher praises the way the two accomplished commanders handled the surrender: “Grant and Lee might have stoked bitterness with a different handling of the surrender. They chose instead to craft an agreement with the best interests of their peoples firmly in mind.” The generous handling of the events at Appomattox as well as the conduct of the leaders demonstrated to all Americans that the time for reconciliation had come.

David W. Blight wraps up the essays with his piece on the postwar era. He notes that the nation faced many challenges immediately after the war: reconstructing the Union; determining the political sta-

tus of the freedmen; and caring for and protecting the former slaves in a South that was largely unrepentant. Blight covers the conflict between the President and Congress over Reconstruction policy, the emergence of the sharecropping system of labor, Southern Redemption, and the Lost Cause ideology, to which many Southerners today still adhere. He also comments on the meaning of Appomattox and reminds readers that it is an “important symbol of national reconciliation. It has been the peace begun there, and not the war ended, that Americans have most wanted to remember.”

These three essays are well done and leave readers with a sound understanding of the park’s historical significance. Interspersed among the book’s pages are excellent illustrations, charts, and quotes, which add to what is being discussed in the text. The book also contains sidebars on little-known related topics, such as the role of African American soldiers in the campaign and the story of the Sweeney family of Appomattox Court House. These extras are nicely done and truly enhance the book.

The fourth part of the book is devoted to the village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, encompassed in the park site. This section functions as a first-rate guide to the park; it contains high-quality photographs of the buildings (both original and reconstructed) and shows how the village looked at the time of Lee’s surrender. Each photograph caption provides readers with interesting details about the buildings. A layout of the entire town is also provided, including the buildings that existed in 1865 but no longer stand. Much attention is devoted to the reconstructed McLean House where the surrender took place, but the reader is left wanting to know more about the house, particularly how it was completely rebuilt in the 1940s to look exactly as it did in 1865. The book concludes with a lengthy list of suggestions for further reading and a useful index.

This is a nifty little book. In fact, it would make an excellent teaching tool for secondary school teachers. The essays are straightforward and provide an easy-to-read summary of the major events that occurred during this critical period of American history. (Teachers would need to supplement the essays with additional information, however.) Furthermore, the outstanding drawings, superb illustrations, and fascinating quotes would certainly capture the interest of the pupils as well as other general readers. Indeed, *Appomattox Court House* would make a fine addition to the collection of anyone interested in the Civil War, for the events in April 1865 come to life on the pages of this impressive volume.

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Landmarks of the American Revolution

By Gary B. Nash. American Landmarks Series, New York: Oxford University Press, in association with the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, and the Gilder Lehrman Association, 2003; 160 pp., illustrations, bibliography, index; cloth \$30.00.

This volume is one of the latest editions to the American Landmarks series. The stated intent of series general editor, James Oliver Horton, is to present an aspect of American history—in this case the American Revolution—using extant historic properties to illustrate the volumes, as “any historical event is much better understood with the context of its historical setting.” At least a dozen of these volumes will be published covering diverse areas of American social, political, and military history.

As might be expected from such a well-known publisher and experts in this field, this volume is

very well written and contains historical and contemporary illustrations that greatly enhance the text. The text is a fine example of what some scholars have called the “New American History.” Instead of concentrating solely on traditional American historical figures and the battlefield events of the American Revolution, the author presents history from the point of view of diverse ethnic, social, and cultural backgrounds, often based on a multidisciplinary approach of oral and written history, archeology, and anthropology.

In this volume, the viewpoints of enslaved peoples, women, common soldiers, Native Americans, and British loyalists and their English compatriots who participated in the American Revolution are presented. One of the author’s main strengths is not merely presenting a range of ideas and viewpoints, but offering readers information on the physical manifestations—homes, towns, battlefields, and sites—where people lived and worked.

The history of historic preservation is a relatively new field of study. The history presented in the text is impressive, detailing how following the American Revolution organizations, agencies, and individuals banded together to preserve properties for the future. The author keenly understands the importance of the present generation comprehending the commitment and purpose of past generations who preserved these landmarks of the American Revolution.

That being said, there are also some things missing. For example, some of the more significant battle and encampment sites managed and interpreted by the National Park Service were downplayed or not mentioned, such as Saratoga, Morristown, and Guilford Courthouse. From this reviewer’s southeastern perspective, the book suffers from the omission of the viewpoints and historic properties representing slave-owning American patriots, British loyalists forced to relocate to St. Augustine, and the Spanish military contributions to the American cause on the Gulf Coast. Likewise, the

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