Statement on Integrity, May 2019 Update

The following statement is an update to the integrity discussions in the Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, 1700-1960, Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). The statement of integrity is updated to include a discussion of Plain Sect Farms.

Location

Integrity of Location refers to the requirement that buildings and landscape elements remain in their original location.

Normally, a building loses eligibility if it has been moved. However, where a farmstead is concerned, farm buildings present a challenge to this normally straightforward rule. Historically it has been very common to move and reuse farm buildings. Some, like poultry houses, were actually designed to be easily moved. Other types of smaller farm buildings were frequently rearranged. The New England Connected Farm complex, for example, resulted from moving buildings. Therefore, if an agricultural building has been moved, and the change in location can be interpreted as a reflection of changing agricultural patterns, Integrity of Location has not been compromised. If a farm building has been moved or reused after the period it is supposed to represent, Integrity of Location is not present.

Integrity of Location for a farm is well defined by the SR 30 context, which says "an agricultural property must be located either where it was constructed or where important trends or patterns in agriculture occurred…. Siting with respect to natural features and topography, use of local and indigenous materials, relationship to roadways, the presence of native species… and other responses to the natural environment all add to Integrity of Location."[1]

Integrity of Location by definition is present in a historic agricultural district, as it is unlikely that an entire area would be relocated.

For Plain Sect farms, an emphasis on proximity of the family unit resulted in continued use of the historic farmstead as well as the introduction of new farmstead complexes for second and sometimes third generations, often on former farmland, altering the pattern of farmsteads on the landscape.

[1] "Corridor Improvement Study, Reconnaissance Survey and Historic Contexts Report. SR 0030, Section S01, East Lampeter, Leacock, Strasburg, Paradise, Salisbury, and Sadsbury Townships, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania." 2 Volumes. Prepared by A.D. Marble Company; 2004, Volume I, page 175. The SR 30 study involved an exhaustive survey of all resources in the multi-township area of Lancaster County and preparation of contexts for agriculture, industry, and several other themes. For agriculture the study identified character-defining features for both English and Plain Sect farms.

Design

To quote the State of Georgia agricultural context, design is the "combination of natural and cultural elements that create the form, plan, style, and spatial organization of a property."[2]

For individual farmstead buildings, design includes such elements as siting, orientation, form, massing, proportion, fenestration, location of doors, roof types, and ornament. Integrity of Design applies to both exterior and interior elements.

For houses, interior integrity may be well established based on relevant contexts and style guides; for barns and outbuildings, interior integrity of design refers to the presence of significant plan elements characteristic of a given barn type. So, for example, an English Barn should retain the characteristic one-level, three-bay layout with mow, threshing floor, and stables arranged crosswise to the roof ridge. A Pennsylvania Barn should exhibit the characteristic multi-level work-flow arrangement, and the diagnostic features of the type (forebay, banked construction, and so forth.)

Another aspect of interior design would be framing systems; while these are covered under Workmanship, they also fall under Design because often they were assembled to permit hay tracks, expand storage space, and delineate spatial divisions both vertically and horizontally. Barn and outbuilding interior alterations that show significant agricultural changes in a region do not compromise integrity, because they can contribute to significance based on change over time. However, if they postdate the period of significance and/or obliterate historical fabric, then integrity is not present. For example, a Pennsylvania Barn whose lower level was cemented and fitted with stanchions for dairy cows in the 1930s could retain integrity because it illustrates changes within a period of significance, but if its entire lower level was gutted, expanded, cemented, with new partitions in the 1980s, it would likely not retain integrity.

Farmstead layout and the relationship of buildings to topography are important elements in Integrity of Design. Farm layout should retain integrity with respect to farm labor patterns for the period of significance in the region where the farmstead is located. In most cases, this means spatial organization to facilitate family and neighborhood labor. So, for most pre-1930 farms, a poultry house, detached dairy house, or hog facility should show a siting relationship to both house and barn, usually being situated between house and barn, or in a clear relationship to the house's dooryard (as in the Yankee Northern Tier) or vorhof (more common in German Pennsylvania), or in an arrangement where all buildings are closely clustered. Integrity of farmstead design also can apply to characteristic cultural or regional patterns. In the Northern Tier, for example, it was common for a road to bisect the farmstead, whereas in German Pennsylvania, a linear or court-yard organization was more prevalent.

For farmstead landscape elements, Integrity of Design applies to whether the farmstead retains traces of the fabric and location of boundaries, lawns, fences, ponds, circulation elements (paths, drives),

[2] "Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage, A Context." Prepared for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, by Denise P. Messick, J. W. Joseph, and Natalie P. Adams, New South Associates, Inc. 2001. http://hpd.dnr.state.ga.us/assets/documents/tilling_the_earth.pdf.

gardens, farm lanes, orchards, and ornamental plantings that convey agricultural significance. It would be rare for these to survive in their entirety, but some vestiges should be present.

Integrity of Design also applies to the collection of buildings on a farmstead. A property should reflect the spatial organization, physical components, and historic associations attained during the period of significance.

The design of a farmstead may be affected by the size of the farm family, aesthetic considerations, and changes in agricultural production. Most farmsteads will contain a mix of contributing and noncontributing buildings and structures. Presence or absence, the relationship between, and the layout of buildings and structures, and small-scale elements are most important when considering Integrity of Design for a farmstead. These changes can be considered significant if they represent important trends in agriculture and occurred during the period of significance. While the landscape does not need to appear exactly as it did in the past, the general character of the historic period must be retained for eligibility.

When assessing the Integrity of Design for a farmstead, a determination must be made as to whether there is too high a presence of noncontributing elements. In such cases, it is important that the farmstead adequately reflect the composite patterns of the relevant agricultural region and period. For example, a farmstead might have an early wood-stave silo, a c. 1940 concrete stave silo, and a c. 1975 Harvestore silo all clustered together, next to a barn complex that includes a c. 1900 Northern Basement barn, a milk house, and a c. 1950 cow shed. In this context, the noncontributing Harvestore silo does not detract from Integrity of Design, because its scale and siting relate to the historical fabric. On the other hand, a farmstead may have a Pennsylvania Barn surrounded by a 1990s livestock loafing shed twice its size, and a 1980s manure lagoon. If modern livestock-handling facilities dwarf the historic building in scale, or if they are sited so close as to overshadow the historic fabric, then Integrity of Design is doubtful. However, it should be noted that in many cases, modern livestock handling facilities are sited away from older buildings, and in these cases (especially if the modern facilities are all concentrated in one place; for example, at the edge of the farmstead complex), Integrity of Design may still be present. Scale and location should be considered in determining Integrity of Design in cases like these. A comparison of historic and current aerial mapping, along with labels indicating dates of construction, can be useful in illustrating retention of integrity of design of a farmstead.

When considering Integrity of Design of a Plain Sect farmstead or farm, it is important to remember that design is a reflection of cultural values and practices including the importance of family, the high value placed on utility, the need for functionality, and the emphasis on community instead of individual. The cultural traditions of Plain Sect farmers are evident in the built environment. The importance of the family unit results in large houses with additions or separate dwellings in which the grandparents or children reside. Other common alterations to the dwelling of the Plain Sect farmstead include: the enclosure of open porches to provide more interior space and the addition of kettle houses to the rear of the dwelling. When making additions or alterations to the existing dwelling, the practicality of the interior arrangement is valued over outward form, often producing asymmetrical elevations. While the members of the Plain Sect community usually modify a building to suit their needs, the core structure should remain.

The Integrity of Design of the barn on most Plain Sect farms is reflective of the community's response to changing markets and technologies as well as the importance placed on continued agricultural practices. Typical alterations include changes related to providing shelter for horse-powered traction, dairying, alterative power sources, and tobacco curing. A significant number of workshops and related structures that house commercial or manufacturing enterprises of less than 50 years in age can detract from the Integrity of Design of the Plain Sect farm, particularly when the commercial or manufacturing enterprises are larger in scale than the agrarian buildings and structures of the farm.

Finally, the Plain Section community has retained traditional building forms (Pennsylvania farmhouse and barn). Thus, modern buildings associated with the Plain Sect landscape may be difficult to distinguish from historic examples that have been covered in modern materials; a close examination of historic mapping and interviews with local informants will reveal those buildings that are less than 50 years in age.

At the farm scale, Integrity of Design is present only when a significant proportion of acreage remains. Integrity is enhanced if a property continues under agricultural use – i.e. crop production, pasture, livestock raising, and so on. In addition, a farm's Integrity of Design depends on the extent to which it retains traces of field divisions, fields (such as small fields or historic strip cropping) property boundaries, tree lines, hedgerows, fencing, woodlots, circulation paths, and the like. If continuity of use is present, it is unlikely that all historic landscape features will have survived intact, because of the needs of modern farming; but at least some traces should be evident. If large-scale monocropping resulted in the removal of field boundaries, woodlots, tree lines, fencing, and circulation paths in the 1990s, Integrity of Design may have been lost.

A historic agricultural district retains Integrity of Design when its constituent farms have an acceptable level of integrity to collectively reflect the trends and patterns in agricultural production in the relevant region and/or time period. Since contributing resources are counted individually (so, each resource, even within a farmstead, would be counted), this must be determined with respect to whether and how the sum total of contributing resources creates a coherent whole. For example, there may be cases in which one or two farms are included because they have one outstanding building, even though its other resources are not exceptional. But overall, there should be a consistent presence of contributing resources on farms that make up the district. Also, elements of the historic transportation routes, waterways, etc. that connected the farms in the district should remain.

A historic agricultural district's integrity of design depends very much upon landscape features. This includes the layout and functional organization of land, topography, boundaries, overall circulation networks, buildings and structures, and vegetation. Intact historic field patterns, tree lines, ponds, disposition of pasture and woodlot, etc., dependent upon the farming region and associated production, should count heavily in an assessment of integrity in a district. Some loss of vegetation or minor changes in land use do not necessarily affect integrity of design but integrity can be lost through topographic changes, incompatible land uses, changes in spatial relationships between major features, and degradation or despoliation that would make agricultural use difficult or impossible to reestablish in the future.

The integrity of the landscape should weigh equally with architectural integrity of buildings. So, for example, a district might contain buildings where there has been some impairment to integrity, but if many landscape features are clearly intact, the overall district's integrity would still meet National Register standards. Another example would be a situation where small patches of modern development are interspersed within the boundaries of an historic agricultural district; small residential subdivisions at the edge of farm fields adjacent to existing roadways would not affect overall integrity of design of a historic agricultural district in the same ways as the establishment of a large residential subdivision that results in new circulation networks. In a case like this, the total number of noncontributing resources might be relatively high, but overall integrity would still meet National Register standards because the land area occupied by the intrusions would be minimal compared with the total area taken up by the district.

Setting

Integrity of Setting with respect to a farmstead has two dimensions. Integrity of Setting can be present with respect to the farmstead's interior organization, for example if it retains its original relationships among buildings, natural features, and landscape elements that make up the farmstead. Integrity of Setting also applies to the farmstead's surroundings, so at least part of a farmstead (one or two sides at least) should border on open space, woodland, or agricultural land. If a literal spatial buffer is not present, Integrity of Setting may still be present if the farmstead retains visual buffers. For example, what if a farmstead lacks much original acreage, and abuts on a modern subdivision? It may retain Integrity of Setting if it is visually set off from the subdivision through such means as topographical features. However, if not, the farmstead probably does not retain Integrity of Setting.

Integrity of Setting with respect to a farm normally involves continuity of use. There may, however, be cases where continued farming with modern methods has all but wiped out historic farm landscape elements such as patterns of crop rotation and field organization, hedgerows, tree lines, shade trees, rock piles, fencamines, fences, and the like. In extreme instances, Integrity of Setting may be compromised by continuous farming. An example would be if 1930s aerial photographs showed all of these features, and a present-day site visit showed that a large monocropped field had supplanted these earlier farm landscape features. Integrity of Setting for a farm is also present if a farm abuts open land, woodland, and/or historic transportation corridors.

On Plain Sect farms, landscape features, buildings, and small-scale elements common to the community's values (alternative power sources, evidence of reliance on horse traction, intensively cultivated crop fields, a general lack of trees or overgrowth, small yards, large, kitchen gardens and Dawdy Haus or kettle house additions) would enhance integrity of setting.

Integrity of Setting with respect to an historic agricultural district can be reckoned with respect to internal relationships among buildings, landscapes, natural features, and transportation corridors. Critical elements of setting include large-scale features such as bodies of water, vegetation, hills, valleys and woodlands which often define the visual boundaries of an historic district. The agricultural capabilities of soil are another means of defining boundaries and integrity of setting of districts. For example, a district along a historic canal corridor should include canal features like locks, masonry lining,

and the like; a district in a sharecropping region should include a number of farms that were historically and thus architecturally interrelated. A historic agricultural district possesses Integrity of Setting if its external surroundings continue to reflect general historic patterns and use. Historic agricultural district boundaries may be drawn to exclude incompatible and large-scale commercial or industrial features or suburban development located adjacent to agrarian features that retain integrity of setting.

Materials

Integrity of Materials refers to the presence of "key exterior materials from the period of significance."[3] Integrity of Materials for houses is well covered elsewhere. For the other buildings of the farmstead, barns and outbuildings often are constructed, or reconstructed, of recycled materials, and Integrity of Materials is present as long as the recycling can be interpreted as contributing to significance for agriculture. On a farm property, some materials may be organic – such as a fence line made of rubble, trees, and spontaneous growth. (However, the original vegetative material of crops, or the original fence, does not need to be present). An historic agricultural district retains Integrity of Materials if its constituent properties possess Integrity of Materials collectively. As well, in districts Integrity of Materials can refer to the presence of key materials across property boundaries, or along shared property boundaries. Remnants of irrigation systems would be an example.

On Plain Sect farms, particularly those in the Amish community, the impact of men's off-farm work has resulted in changes to architectural materials and components on some Amish farmsteads. The choice of materials by the Plain Sect community is often based on values of economy, utility, and an emphasis on plainness - thus, the widespread use of vinyl, aluminum, and replacement doors and windows.

Workmanship

Integrity of Workmanship refers to the retention of traditional or historic craftsmanship. These include such familiar skills as wood joinery (log, plank, post and beam framing), masonry (stone and brick), but also skills more closely related to agriculture such as fence building, contour plowing, windbreak planting, crop rotation, garden construction, farm pond construction, or farm planning. Workmanship can also refer to the skilled use of technologies that are not necessarily hand-tool derived. For example, the Shawver Truss, a barn framing system popular c. 1900, combined artisan skill with industrial technologies. Evidence of recycling or reuse may contribute, as long as it is part of a pattern or historic trend. Integrity of Workmanship applies mainly to the farmstead buildings and landscape features. However, collectively Workmanship could conceivably have an impact on the overall appearance of a historic agricultural district in some instances, for example, if in a district a group of farms collectively exhibits particularly adroit arrangement of contour strips.

Members of the Plain Sect community often continue to use traditional building techniques, primarily timber frame construction. Evidence of the recycling of materials from older buildings when altering or constructing a building or structure is also commonly found on Plain Sect farms.

[3] Ibid.

Feeling

Integrity of Feeling refers to the "ability to evoke the aesthetic sense of a particular time and place."[4] A key question that can be asked to establish integrity of feeling is: Would someone who lived here during the period of significance recognize this resource? It is an intangible quality, which depends to some extent on some combination of integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship.

If the farmstead, farm, historic agricultural district, or the general area continues under agricultural use, integrity of feeling is enhanced. Areas that continue under agricultural use can be considered to have a higher degree of integrity of feeling than an area of upscale restored farmhouses where there has been substantial architecture restoration but where there is little evidence of agricultural work.

Integrity of Feeling also is present if a property retains a sense of scale characteristic for its period; the interrelationship of the human and natural that is so important in agriculture; if there are many vantage points from which agricultural activity or evidence of agricultural activity are vividly apparent.

Association

Integrity of Association refers to the "direct link between the property and the… events and persons that shaped it."[5] For significance with respect to agriculture, a farmstead or farm must have contributed to a working farm for its period of significance.

The presence of historic landscape features related to agriculture is a key aspect of Integrity of Association. Close attention should be paid to identifying intact or remnant features. For example, are crop field size, scale, shape, and patterns are retained from the pre-contour stripping era? Are there remnants of early woodlots or sugar bushes? Is there evidence of land use such as pasturing?

A majority of farms in a historic agricultural district should have a continued association with agriculture for the period of significance. To ensure Integrity of Association, the inevitable "intrusions" should be kept to a minimum. However, a historic agricultural district could conceivably have a high percentage of noncontributing properties relative to an urban district. For example, a concentrated 25-acre subdivision with 50 noncontributing houses might be contained within a 1,000-acre historic agricultural district with 50 contributing farms. Even though technically the subdivision elevates the percentage of noncontributing properties, it does not reduce Integrity of Association, because it is such a small percentage relative to the continuously farmed (and contributing) acreage in the remainder of the district land area.

[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.