



HAYS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO, LTD.

Providing prestige in professional land planning and design."

Cultural Landscapes

As two passions of Principal Gabe Hays are history and landscape architecture. Together these concepts have created a niche at Hays LAS, by addressing Cultural Landscapes. Growing up in historic farm houses of Eastern Ohio provided the basis of interest in historic structures that extended to the historic vernacular landscapes of Appalachia. This background was emphasized during work with historic natural & vernacular landscapes of Redwood National Park, with the study of historic designed and vernacular landscape of Northern Europe and with historic estate and arboretum sites while employed at EPD in Pittsburgh, PA.

Upon the establishment of Hays Landscape Architecture Studio in 1997, Cultural Landscape work began with principal Gabe Hays formulating his philosophy of community design as a cultural landscape. This philosophy was outlined in a lecture entitled "**Avoiding Cookie Cutter Streetscape Designs**", Building Successful Communities- Preservation and Revitalization Strategies," presented at the Ohio Historic Society's annual conference in May of 2000. The Hays LAS philosophy uses the heritage and the sense of place unique to each community to create community design that includes all parks, streetscapes and public areas of a town.

During this same time period Mr. Hays, at the request of Dave Mertz, director of Belmont Technical College's Building Preservation Program, developed his cultural landscapes class. The class included the history of landscape architecture and the National Park Service's approach to protecting Cultural Landscapes via Preservation Brief number 36 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.

These efforts have resulted in Hays LAS receiving several cultural landscape commissions for historic estates, historic parks, a Civil War Site, historic streetscapes, several Historic National Road properties, and Scenic byway planning. Furthermore, Mr. Hays is President of Boa Constructors, LLC a historic properties company that currently owns The Benjamin Lundy House in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Benjamin Lundy was one of the country's earliest abolitionist leaders and the grandfather of the movement. Boa is currently trying to move the building into a not-for-profit's hands for access to the Save America's Treasures Grant and for protection for perpetuity.