

Most twentieth-century accounts have been anchored in the first of these fundamentally conflicting interpretations. As a result, a substantial body of literature interprets what happened in one-room schools as pretty dismal. A book review is not the place to advance arguments, much less try to settle them. Yet the more one reads primary accounts of one-room schools—the dominant form of American schooling from the 1630s to the 1930s—the more difficult this interpretation is to sustain.

Frederick Jackson Turner, in his famous 1892 essay, noted that local educational control meant that the populism of the frontier had produced far-reaching pedagogical change. Most historians have not come to terms with that issue (Karl Kaestle and Barbara Finkelstein are notable exceptions). Andrew Gulliford is in the company of the majority, but his book suggests a starting point from which a quite different view may emerge. With the passing of one more generation, few living Americans will have attended one-room schools. Perhaps the time is finally close when a fresh view of this central aspect of the American experience can emerge.

Saving America's Countryside: A Guide to Rural Conservation, by Samuel N. Stokes, A. Elizabeth Watson, Genevieve P. Keller, and J. Timothy Keller. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989. xxii, 306 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index, appendix. \$42.50 cloth, \$16.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY PATRICK NUNNALLY, THE COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE

Saving America's Countryside is a handbook that summarizes and brings together many of the newest trends in preserving what has variously been called the working countryside, the cultural landscape, or the vernacular landscape. Brought out under the auspices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the volume clarifies the many strategies and tools that have been employed to preserve the cultural landscape. The step-by-step, topically oriented approach to the body of the book, which marks it as a reference handbook, is balanced by some two dozen nicely illustrated case studies of landscape protection around the country.

Rural conservation is the authors' term for the integrated sense of land protection they promote. The book makes it clear that this kind of preservation borrows from traditional historic preservation, from environmental and ecologically based protection strategies, and from innovations currently being developed to protect agricultural land. Furthermore, rural conservation involves the cooperation of private

and public agencies, and seeks to integrate economic development needs with the desire to identify and preserve what is valuable in a landscape. It "includes protecting natural and scenic resources, preserving buildings and places of cultural significance, and enhancing the local economy and social institutions" (2).

The case studies, which illustrate particular strategies and tools of preservation, all point out that rural conservation can address the demands and imperatives of rural economic change in a way that is more sensitive to historic and natural resources than many other kinds of economic development. We hear, for instance, about the establishment of the Heritage Trail biking trail in Dubuque County as a recreational opportunity that is bringing money into the communities along the trail even as it preserves that landscape corridor. In the state of Washington, Eby's Landing National Historical Reserve illustrates federal and local cooperation in preserving a rural community that provides a direct connection with nineteenth-century exploration of Puget Sound.

Although the book is well organized for the task it sets itself, namely guiding citizen groups who want to protect a landscape but don't know how to go about it, the book's structure establishes some limitations as well. It is difficult to read it through and get an understanding of rural conservation as both a coherent response to changing rural landscapes and economies and a set of specific tactics. The book offers very specific responses to particular protection problems, but it never fully addresses the larger issues of how any kind of landscape protection can respond to deep-seated structural matters such as rural poverty. This is asking, I realize, for a different book, but an acknowledgment of the urgent imperatives guiding some rural development initiatives might have fit in with the authors' orientation toward solving immediate problems.

More to the point for historic preservation specialists, the authors do not seriously address the problems that can arise between conflicting goals for preservation. For example, they explicate ways to inventory "historic and cultural resources," "scenic areas," and "outdoor recreation," but do not point out how those definitions of the landscape resource can overlap and even contradict one another.

The book's strength is its focus on integrated protection of landscapes rather than just preservation of individual buildings. The National Trust and the federal government (most notably the Park Service) have over the past decade begun to explore ways to preserve the combination of features that makes rural landscapes special. Though Cazenovia, New York, may not have the scenic grandeur of the nearby Adirondacks, or be associated with conventionally "his-

toric figures," still it is a culturally valuable landscape. For too long, preservation decisions have been made on the basis of "national importance" or "scenic wonder," qualities that often exclude the perspectives of local people and their sense of place. The strategies outlined in this book, along with government initiatives such as the development of Heritage Corridors and the National Landmark program, offer tools for identifying and preserving what is important about "ordinary" rural countryside.

The massive economic and social changes sweeping rural America pose a potentially grave threat to the landscapes we often associate with rural history and culture. This book, while not addressing many theoretical and conceptual issues, does illustrate that agricultural conservers, environmental activists, and historic preservation specialists can work together to accomplish the goals they share. As such, the book is extremely valuable not only to professionals in historic preservation but to anyone who is concerned with the future of our rural landscape and culture.

The Social Meaning of Civic Space: Studying Political Authority through Architecture, by Charles T. Goodsell. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1988. xviii, 229 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, appendix. \$25.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY WAYNE FRANKLIN, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Of all the arts, architecture is the most inherently social: very rare is the building that, whatever its claims as art, has not been built primarily as an enclosure of space. It is hard for most people to imagine "pure" architecture, an architectural construction, that is, which is intended to be nothing but a sculptural form to be looked at from the outside. Architecture is built to be entered and inhabited.

Who is to enter a building, and how it is to be inhabited, become the important social questions to ask of any building. What behavioral context is the building intended to define and implement? The most common architectural forms emerge from and implement the dominant definitions of the social groups these forms shelter. In America, the "family home" as a social ideal is mirrored and enforced by the single-family "house." Over time, changes in the social institution cause and to some extent are caused by changes in the dwelling. We know that members of a seventeenth-century New England family were closer to each other than members of a twentieth-century family in Des Moines or Pasadena merely because they had so little interior space in their houses and so much of that space was common to the

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