For a scholar with interests in issues of memory, representation, and place-making, particularly at sites associated with tourism, national parks offer rich research sites. But research gets more complicated when the scholar is commissioned to produce studies to help park managers understand and make decisions about groups of people with links to particular parks that pre-date the National Park Service's own presence there. In this talk Professor Stanton will trace some of the issues of community politics, intellectual responsibility, and bureaucratic approaches to managing culture as she has encountered them over the course of several applied ethnography projects around the northeastern U.S.