

1995

Preservation Eastern Newsletter, January-February 1995

Preservation Eastern
Eastern Michigan University

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The Centennial Farm Program in Michigan

By Robert M Ward, Susan Tosick Storwick and Linda Young.

INTRODUCTION: The popular perception of centennial farms by the non-rural population is often based on an idealized version of the American farmer. The general public often envisions a family whose forefathers began farming a specific site, and as people who love the soil and toil long hours to make it productive. These are farmers who epitomize stability among a highly mobile American population. However, according to Sloane (1976), "Perhaps one of the great changes in American building and farming philosophy has been the abandonment of the enthusiasm for permanence."

DESCRIPTION OF CENTENNIAL FARM PROGRAM: Since 1948, the Historical Commission of the Michigan Department of State has given recognition to Michigan farm-families who have owned and operated the same farm for one hundred years or more. Within the first month of the announcement of the Centennial Farm Program in August of 1948, the Historical Commission received over 200 applications. By the end of the 1980 decade approximately 4,500 farm families remain registered throughout the state. Unlike some historic structure designations, the Centennial Farm Program is honorary and does not restrict the member farm or farmer. This has minimized the reluctance of some eligible farmers to apply for designation.

Each farm owner must initiate his/her own application, indicating that it meets the following criteria:

- i) it must be a working farm,
- ii) it must have a minimum of ten acres,
- iii) ownership must have remained in the same family for over one hundred years,
- iv) the relationship of the present owner to the owner of one hundred years ago must be stated."



TERMINATION PROCESS: Qualifications for centennial farm status are somewhat subjectively interpreted. Some farms are being decertified when the continuous ownership is broken by sale of the property. The necessity to sell is attributed in part to declining farm revenue, aging farmers who lack heirs and urban land pressure. Before termination from the program, some farmers have sold small parcels of their land, hired farm labor, or switched to high value crops. Many who remain centennial farmers are located on "essential agricultural land" and participate in Michigan's farmland preservation program.

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION: The greatest number of centennial farms is located in the southeastern corner of Michigan, the counties directly north of Detroit, and the area in the southwest portion of the state near the Michigan-Indiana/Ohio border. All of these areas have good accessibility and are located on the state's best agricultural lands. It was only after the Civil War that settlement began to spread into the northern part of the lower peninsula; therefore, few farms in this area have existed for 100 years.

Ward is a professor in the Geography and Geology Department, Storwick and Young are graduates from the historic preservation program.

Editor's Column
by Heather Richards

Welcome Back! This is the first newsletter of 1995, and in keeping with Kimber VanRy's tradition we would like to carry the development of the Newsletter one step further. We are hoping to stimulate much more student and community input into the newsletter.

With that in mind, I put out a "Call for Papers" at the beginning of February, encouraging people to respond to questions generated at an educational session at the 48th Annual National Trust Conference in October. Quite frankly I was extremely anxious about the response, or lack of response, we would receive. I kept hounding and pestering people to respond, and to my delight, by the stated deadline (or a few days after the deadline, there were quite a few stragglers) I had far more responses than I ever anticipated. The result is a rather deluxe edition of this first newsletter of 1995.

I realize it is quite voluminous, but I encourage everyone to at least glance through the response section. There is a tremendous amount of good material, ideas and observations to learn from. Regardless I enjoyed reading them all, and I thank everyone who responded.

Will the next newsletter be this verbose? Probably not, unless I hear word that everyone enjoyed receiving such a treatise, and only if I can find more willing victims to pester and prod for material. However I would like to encourage (and unabashedly implore) anyone to contribute to the newsletter.

**PRESERVATION EASTERN
NEWS - HANDS-ON**

As a student organization we've been looking for a hands-on project that we could support or sponsor. At our meeting on Thursday, February 2, 1995, three guests from the Ypsilanti community presented information on possible hands-on projects for Preservation Eastern's considerations.

Riverside Art Center - Art McVicar discussed the renovation of the old Masonic Temple at 76 Huron Street. The building was purchased by the DDA who plan on turning it into a performing arts center, meeting place, and art gallery. He requested help in clean up, painting, and repair work as well as volunteer help for an April 1 fundraiser.

Ypsilanti Historical Society - Kevin Walker, Grants Coordinator of the City of Ypsilanti, said the Ypsilanti Historical Museum needs help in three areas: 1) preparation of an architectural feasibility study; 2) maintenance work, such as window sill repairs, interior and exterior painting, installation of ornamental porch posts, etc.; and 3) interior design consultation to maximize use of its space.

Cobblestone Farm - Kerry Adams discussed the renovation of Cobblestone Farm. The current focus is on the dining room which will require research on appropriate window and wall treatments as well as furnishings, tableware, chair rails, etc. Repair work is also needed on walls and floors.

These projects will be discussed at the February 16th meeting to determine which project Preservation Eastern should support as a group effort.

REMEMBER, Preservation Eastern Meetings are the first and third Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM, Room 239, Strong Hall, Eastern Michigan University.

1995 Preservation Eastern Officers

Heather Richards - Director

Julie Letendre - Treasurer

Kirk Bunke and Laura Manker - Activities

Amy Arnold and Heather Aldridge - Public Relations

PRESERVATION HONOR AWARD - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We are looking for nominations for the annual Preservation Honor Award to be presented at the Department of Geography and Geology Honors Event on April 10, 1995. Submit nominations to Marshall or Ted.

ADVANCING WITH INTERNSHIPS

Now is the time to start looking for internships for the summer. Summer internships can serve as stepping-stones for career positions after graduation. Many interns have either moved directly into a job straight from their internship, or have established the very crucial network needed to obtain a job in the future. If nothing else, internships will expose the intern to the "real" world of historic preservation.

Internships as Stepping Stones

Many students in the program have found permanent employment upon graduation with the same organizations that they interned with during the summer. Following is a small example of these gainfully employed graduates:

Kimber VanRy - Southwest Pennsylvania Heritage Commission

Kirk Huffaker - Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

Evan Lafer - Flood Impact Program, Midwest National Trust Regional Office

Cynthia Ruffner - Preservation Institute of Nantucket

Kerry Adams - Cobblestone Farm

Kevin Coleman - Cultural Resources Management Group in Ohio

Chris Owen - City of Toledo, Department of Neighbors and Cultural Resources Management.

Create your own opportunities - You can also create your own internships. Call those institutions or organizations where you ideally would like to work. Sometimes these organizations have internships for which they do not actively solicit applicants. And nearly any organization is willing to supervise a qualified volunteer intern.

Request for internships information - we are in the process of putting together a binder of internship information and applications for future reference. Contact Heather Aldridge.

1995 Internships

Descriptions and applications for 1995 internships are posted on the board between Marshall McLennan's and Ted Ligibel's offices. Postings come in nearly every week, so students are encouraged to look at the board periodically. Below is a sampling of the postings found on the board, and the application deadlines.

| Organization: | Deadline: |
|--|-------------|
| HABS/HAER - Documenting historic structures, sites and vessels. | February 27 |
| US/ICOMOS - International. | March 1 |
| SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE COMMISSION - Historic Preservation administration and planning internships. | March 3 |
| NPS/NCPE - National Park Service internships focusing on historic preservation projects. (21 internships) | March 3 |
| COOPER HEWITT - National Design Museum, New York City | March 31 |
| OLD YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Interpretation / Historic Preservation internships in York, Maine | April 1 |

Interning in Baker City, Oregon - A Valuable Look at Heritage Tourism Initiatives

By Heather Richards

Last year for my *Introduction to Historic Preservation* class at the University of Oregon I researched a heritage tourism initiative in Baker City, Baker County, Oregon. This research eventually led to a four-month internship with Baker City which allowed me to explore and strengthen my personal interests in historic preservation - the broader vision of a "place" and "community."

Baker County is near the eastern border of Oregon, adjacent to I-84, the interstate highway in Oregon that follows the original route of the Oregon Trail. The area possesses a rich history of pioneering, gold-mining and ranching. Towns are scattered, small, and essentially undisturbed since the early twentieth century. I remember stopping at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City on my trip cross-country to Eugene, Oregon. For my "intro" project I decided to return to Baker City to study the impact of the Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial on the area. To my surprise I discovered that this tiny town of 9000 had actually orchestrated and initiated the Oregon Trail commemoration themselves. Indeed, an Oregon Trail celebration was one of Baker City's stated goals in its 1986 Economic Development Strategic Plan, long before the State of Oregon pursued such a commemoration.

In the 1980s, following fiscal cuts in the timber and agriculture industries, Baker County consistently found itself with the highest unemployment rates and lowest per capita income in Oregon. The community decided to generate some economic opportunities by promoting their area's historical resources as an impetus for the tourism industry. They developed an economic development strategic plan. Phase I dictated the need to put Baker City "on the map" with a "demand generator" that would target the interstate pass-through visitor industry. A small group started raising funds and eventually leveraged that money to build a \$10 million dollar Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Phase II of the plan called for "peripheral attractions" which consisted of a facade restoration program for the 110 buildings in Baker City's downtown historic district, a new Oregon

State Park, the Sumpter Valley Gold Dredge State Park (first new state park in 20 years), and several scenic byways that were recognized on the state and federal level. In the first year the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center was open, 400,000 tourists pulled off the interstate to visit this tiny community.

Baker County's heritage tourism initiative was an unqualified success. Unemployment went down. Businesses were recruited. Vitality returned to the downtown commercial district. Lasting partnerships were formed for future projects. A new community pride emerged.

Simply put I was fascinated with what I had found. I decided to pursue an internship with Historic Baker City, Inc., an organization modeled after the National Trust's Main Street program, for the summer. I started off working with Destination Downtown, the facade restoration program in the historic district, however as I became more involved with the community, I realized that the power behind Baker County's successes revolved around the collaborative partnerships between various political, economic and social organizations in the community. I started to divide my time between Historic Baker City, Inc., the planning department, the Visitor and Convention Bureau, and the economic development department. From this position I witnessed the value of interagency networking and cooperation in working towards a common goal and vision.

As my presence became more known in the community (in a town of 9,000, how could it not) I became more actively involved in the hands-on work. I wrote a historic preservation ordinance for the downtown historic district, designed guidelines for the historic district, initiated discussion with the Oregon SHPO about Certified Local Government status for Baker City, wrote grant applications for a county-wide survey, and a walking tour brochure. What started out as a simple research project for an introductory class evolved into one of the most valuable historic preservation learning experiences of my life.

REDEFINING HISTORIC PRESERVATION - Is a New Manifesto Needed?!

Volume 2, Number 1

The Preservation Eastern Newsletter, January / February

Editor's Note: *One of our main objectives for the Preservation Eastern Newsletter in the forthcoming year is to stimulate dialogue amongst the students, alumni, faculty and professionals in the field regarding prevalent issues in historic preservation today. For our first issue of 1995, we asked for your thoughts and opinions on whether or not historic preservationists need to look towards a new manifesto. Questions set forth were: **Has historic preservation lost sight of its original intent? Has historic preservation narrowed or broadened its image? Is it time for a new definition? Has historic preservation positioned itself to play a significant role in the movement trying to define a sense of place and community? Where would you like to see historic preservation in the future?***

At the 48th Annual National Preservation Conference held in Boston this past October, one of the most popular and interactive educational sessions addressed this issue. Roberta Brandes Gratz, author of The Living City, and W. Brown Morton III, director of the Historic Preservation program at Mary Washington College, were the speakers, and participants spilled out of the doors and into the halls to engage in this very divisive and exciting conversation.

Happily we did receive several responses.

INTRODUCTION by Heather Richards

I first entered the historic preservation field simply because I wanted to quite literally preserve our nation's heritage for present and future generations. However, now three years later, I realize that preserving our nation's history is much more complicated and intensive than I ever imagined. William Murtagh wrote in Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America, historic preservation is "engaging the past in a conversation with the present over mutual concerns for the future." (p. 168) All of the following contributors talk about the need to nurture and encourage that very important conversation.

People always tease me about my apparent disdain for architectural styles. However, my disdain is not necessarily directed at the architectural styles themselves, but at the narrow-lens through which many historic preservationists view those styles. As the respondents indicate in their narratives, we need to start addressing the current context in which those architectural styles stand, such as community health, cohesiveness, identity, heritage, cultural values, economics and education. After twenty-five years it is time to remove that lens and take the next step. The question is - what is the next step?

W. BROWN MORTON III

W. Brown Morton III is the chairman of the Department of Historic Preservation at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He has been active in the historic preservation community for many years, and is an editor for many different journals. Following is an abstract of his presentation at the 48th Annual National Trust Conference.

"In Pursuit of Human Wholeness: A New Paradigm for Preservation"

Being Chair of the Department of Historic Preservation at Mary Washington College provides me a special opportunity to reflect deeply upon education and historic preservation. As a middle-aged professor in daily dialogue with the fresh minds of much younger students, I feel firmly placed between past and future. It is a position that encourages the contemplation of a new paradigm for preservation.

You know, the ancient Greeks had two words for time, "chronos" and "kairos". Chronos is linear time: one o'clock, two o'clock; Monday, Tuesday; 1989, 1990. Chronos measures sequence only; it does not measure value. Kairos is a different conception of time altogether. Kairos is time in the sense of fulfillment. Everything, every person, every flower, every structure, every idea is somewhere in the great cycle that arcs from conception - to gestation - to birth - to infancy - to adolescence - to maturity - to decline - and finally to death. A baby is born when the "time" is right. That is Kairos. Sometimes we have the intuition that now is or is not the right "time" to say something or to initiate a particular action. That is Kairos. When we see a flower in full bloom, or hear a poem read in what the poets speak of as "the one perfect telling" and we know the flower is in full bloom and the poem perfectly told; that is kairos. It is my hope that this 48th National Preservation Conference is a kairos event.

The cultural heritage of the United States, indeed the cultural heritage of the globe, has never been in greater peril than it is at this very moment.

To put it in its simplest terms, we are killing the plane: not just the ozone layer and the rain forests, as if that were not bad enough, we are also destroying each other's cultural heritage.

I believe that historic preservation is at a critical moment in its "kairos". If the historic preservation profession is to be an effective partner in the global struggle for quality of life, the profession must adopt a new paradigm. We must change or ossify.

Historic preservation must become primarily a quality of life undertaking. High on my list of things that contribute to environmental integrity in America would be urban and rural communities of a design, scale and patina that encourages respect, privacy, intimacy, trust, celebration and shared remembering among all members of the community.

I define "historic preservation" these days as the dynamic and deliberate process of deciding what to keep from the present for the future and then keeping it. Our job is to educate people, all people, to that process and to the fruits of it. It is obvious to me that the preservation of the cultural heritage of the United States is a reasonable alternative to surrender to the spirit-crushing anonymity of the asphalt parking lot at a suburban shopping mall.

Twentieth century America has constructed itself on the marketplace ideal of John Stuart Mill's model of "Homo Economicus": that is to say of human beings whose value is judged almost entirely by the standards of what the Lilly Endowment's Carol Johnston calls "wealth-maximizing at the expense of other important values and relations."

*I believe the greatest moral failure of the twentieth century in the United States has been the collapse of what Kentucky writer, Wendell Berry (*The Hidden Wound*), calls "authentic community."*

We are living in a time of severe social disorder. We are living in a time of the disintegration of our cities and towns. We are living in a time when the high tide of middle class affluence that hid so much of the ugliness of the 80's has receded and revealed the jagged edges of poverty, ignorance, and greed more starkly than before. At the bottom of it all, beneath the poverty, beneath the ignorance, beneath the greed, beneath the fear, lurks a deeper human collapse - the collapse of authentic community.

My friends, we have become a nation of strangers mesmerized by the most bizarre social manifestations of our fearfulness and distrust for one another. The "we" of "we the people" has curdled into angry clots of "us" and "them" separated by the slime of poverty,

(W. BROWN MORTON III, cont'd.)

racism, cynicism, despair and greed. And all this in the economic context of the highest overall standard of living ever achieved by any nation state in human history. At a very profound level of human existence "Homo Economicus" has failed.

For the past century and a half, historic preservation in the United States has defined itself largely in terms of history and aesthetics. Associative historical significance and style, be it high style or vernacular, have been the touchstones for making choices about what to save from for the future. This is no longer enough.

The national collapse of authentic community demands that we adopt a new paradigm for our work. The new paradigm must be that of human wholeness. Good looks and historical association are not enough. We must learn to ask the question, "What does this place do for people in this community, in this region?" - whatever it may look like.

As we observe the negative economic and social effects of ignorance, injustice, greed, pollution and loss of cultural memory on individuals, families, communities, and nations, we must identify and protect those places where dignity, pride, intimacy, trust, celebration and shared remembering are possible. We must do this neighborhood by neighborhood, community by community, and we must do this now.

Our new policy must move far beyond our present system of conceptualizing and identifying historic resources as parcels of private property and adopt an aggressive new model for regional planning, in which individual historic properties are correctly seen as punctuation marks in a much wider and equally important conversation: a conversation about regional identity.

To do this we must fully utilize new technologies in documentation and research in our work and we must challenge ourselves to push the theoretical and practical models for historic preservation far beyond the limits of our present system.

The new paradigm for our work must be that of "homo salutaris": healthy humans in healthy communities in a healthy world. Can we do it? You bet your life we can.

DARRIN VON STEIN

Darrin Von Stein is a graduate student in his last semester of the historic preservation planning track at Eastern Michigan University with a profound interest in modern architecture.

Recently, I was asked to contribute a "modern" perspective to the newsletter; I had nothing to write. Perspective does not come from a period, rather it comes from synthesizing what we have learned from history, culture, and heritage. At best, I can present a rural, Midwestern perspective. What am I getting at?

Well, as preservationists, our primary concerns aren't rooted in periods such as Colonial, Victorian, or Modern, rather, we focus on people and culture.

All artifacts, written or built, reveal underlying pattern in our culture, thus giving us a greater understanding of the past as well as the present. Whether a building was built in 1670 or 1970, its cultural value remains the same. Unfortunately, the building from 1670 is given priority due to issues of rarity and age. There is an inherent problem with this since we seem to care more about the lives of dead people rather than living ones. Preservation must be about people.

Now is the best time to study modern architecture, especially post W.W.II buildings.

It is part of recent memory, thus the information we can gather will be quite accurate. The successes and failures of our society from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s help dictate who we are right now. The contemporary and the future must always be at the heart of people's actions. As preservationists, we interpret the past, not only to understand a specific time and place, but also to teach that the past gives insight toward the present.

If historians and critics can understand and interpret recent history, then preservationists should also be concerned with this period. Remember, preservation is first and foremost about people and culture, and all periods need to be treated equally.

ANDREW NAZZARO

Andrew Nazzaro is one of the co-founders of the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University, and is currently Chairman of the Department of Geography and Geology.

In 1978, on a tour bus preparing to leave the Drake Hotel in Chicago, I began a conversation with an individual who served with the National Park Service. The reason she and I were on the bus, was because we were participants in the National Trust meetings that year and we were on our way to visit notable historic preservation sites. When we pulled away from the hotel entrance and began our dialogue, I never dreamt that the same sorts of questions would still be debated in 1995.

Among the ideas that we talked about that day were such considerations as: what kinds of sites should be preserved; what place do vernacular architecture sites have in preservation action; when a site accumulates a patina of public history, does its "ownership" transcend private property rights; if cultural context is of crucial concern in historic preservation, is it appropriate to eliminate those parts of the context for which admission tickets can't be sold? These are not only interesting, but important questions to be asked.

In my experience, in any community which is evaluating the dimensions of its cultural resource there is always a tension between those who calculate principally in terms of financial return on investment and those who measure investment and reward incorporating cultural context and continuity. The fact is that fiscal monitoring is a much more discrete exercise than gauging the importance and impacts of our historic and current cultural fabric.

Frankly, measures of the impact of our history on the evolution and articulation of our values have always been difficult to demonstrate, with the notable exceptions of when we have lost some of that history or its artifacts.

The historic preservationist has among his/her obligations the duty (opportunity) to keep the debate alive. What many preservationists have discovered is that they have an innate sensitivity to the importance of history and its symbols to today's changing society. What programs such as Eastern's gives them are the

intellectual tools to successfully articulate that importance.

The main problem with using only fiscal measures is that they reflect only a small, often temporary, snapshot of the consumer's market. The preservationists can offer connections to the past and its symbols which transcend momentary market aberrations.

Though we can not argue that historic preservation is a basic value, with intrinsic worth; it certainly comes close. This is true because of its ability to link together ideas such as history, cultural continuity, and transmission of societal values. Historic preservation enriches all of us, across generations. A large part of that enrichment comes from engaging the public in such issues as the ones enumerated above. We must continue to pull on our end of the rope, in the symbolic tug-of-war between purely fiscal and cultural maintenance measures.

In 1978, many got off the bus to participate in the debate. Some returned to the driver's seat. Buckle your seat-belt, the ride is worthwhile.

MARSHALL MCLENNAN

Marshall McLennan is one of the co-founders of Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation program, and serves as Director of the same program.

Turning to the future of historic preservation in the United States, I would like to make two observations.

The first is to warn that redirected philosophical currents in the newly elected Congress may undercut the operative structure by which much of preservation has been practiced for the last twenty-five years.

The property-rights movement, which advocates monetary recompensation for the owner whenever new regulatory limitations are placed on property, has gained significant support in the new Congress. Link this development with the move to significantly reduce the budget and shrink Federal governance by transferring many responsibilities to the already financially burdened states forces me to be concerned for the future of government support for historic

(MARSHALL MCLENNAN cont'd)

preservation. Preservation still has many allies in Congress, but those who have been newly elected and who have the single ideological objective of reducing government regulation of all kinds, pose a real threat to preservation.

Keep an eye on what happens to the federally-funded Historic Preservation Fund in the next budget.

What could prove even more dangerous is if the same philosophy becomes prevalent in the state legislatures, where, ultimately, the constitutional power to regulate private property lies.

On a more optimistic note, I want to call your attention to the National Park Service's "heritage areas" initiative.

There seems to be a multitude of budding heritage areas and heritage corridors emerging all over the country, driven for the most part by local initiative. One of our most recent graduates, Kimber VanRy obtained a job in Pennsylvania that falls into this category. The National Park Service has proposed an initiative to Congress to formalize a partnership between the NPS and groups of associated communities. If this initiative is passed by Congress, the NPS will work with the communities to help them achieve a self-sustaining financial base of support.

This approach has all the philosophical underpinning that could appeal to a more conservative Congress.

Instead of purchasing land to create a new national park, the NPS will provide leadership and negotiated financial support for a limited period of time while the heritage area seeks to become self-sustaining. Local initiative will continue to be the basis for getting a project started. Many such initiatives are already underway, and some have received NPS support. Formalization of this program by Congressional legislation will stabilize this approach. It has the potential of providing a new kind of job category for aspiring preservationists, and I believe the sort of preservation education we make available to you, ie., community interpretation, cultural landscape assessment, and heritage tourism and preservation provide an appropriate background for such jobs.

ALAN WARE

Alan Ware is a graduate student in the EMU historic preservation planning track and will graduate in Spring 1995.

In the past we have seen the adoption of preservation as a way of holding on to our past in the present-day world. But, with the dawn of the 21st century just over the horizon, I believe that we, as preservationists, need to refocus our attentions and energies, not redefine preservation as a whole. There are those of us that are still in hopes of saving every site, property or scenic view that someone comes to call with. This sort of optimism is refreshing to see and hear but it is hardly a goal that can be attained in our real world. The cause for preservation in areas that have evolved with their own unique character over time has even been taken to the point of deconstructing them so as to preserve them in some idealistic vision of the past.

I have come to believe that we all need to be more pragmatic in our vision for preservation.

Modernists, those that like new things over old, and preservationists, need to work together, complementing each others work. The Modernists should look to the past and see that most things people like, whether in design or anything else, will be repeated by our society's own desire, over time, to see those same designs new once again. As preservationists we should look at what we do as only a temporary measure of saving a resource so that an area or style can be studied or documented before any change can or does occur. We should view the reality of change as a good thing and look before we leap into projects. However we should also be ready to react aggressively when the pace or scale of change merits a swift counteraction.

Further, we should view the past as a singular whole not as pieces or eras of design, style, or whatever.

A streetscape can be saved for only one style of structure that exists along it, but, wouldn't it be better to view the street as a whole, allowing people to view the evolution of the place over time whether it is by stylistic, economic or driven by some other means.

(ALAN WARE cont'd)

A single style or design should be seen as a complement to or for all other styles or designs; this ideal also applies to any styles or designs that are sure to follow in the future as they make their appearance.

If a place is not allowed to evolve it will become just a small remnant of time lost in a changing world context.

Finally, in the search for scholastic achievement, we may well be placing ourselves and our work beyond the level of comprehension of the people we are attempting to benefit. We may have to learn or relearn common everyday English so that we can communicate with everyone that we come in contact with so that no one is left out of discussion or information. Remember that Americans and British are one people divided by a common language, if we were to make our information and discussion more universal, communication would be easier.

We would all like to save every site, property or scenic view that is presented for preservation, but we need to be more conscious of the needs for the present and future. Preservationists need to be more understanding, they need to work with developers and landowners so that the developers' projects and the preservationists' plans work toward a common goal of harmony in the landscape. If the ideas of the present and the reality from the past are not allowed to proceed together and evolve, then the future will become a stagnate landscape and what new things will there be for preservationists to care for?

ROBERT SCHWEITZER

Robert Schweitzer is an adjunct professor in the EMU historic preservation program. He has taught a course, Problems in Architectural Interpretation for nearly twenty years, and is a very active member in the Michigan and national historic preservation community.

Any Future There?

Great growth and expansion has occurred over the history of the historic preservation movement in the United States. Yet today most Americans still do not grasp the fundamental basics of our theory nor do they have a knowledge of our goals. The movement by and large is still relatively small as compared to such

recent newcomers as the recyclers or the "Save the Whales" groups. Why is this so? How can we ensure or accelerate the growth of the movement?

For most of the preservation movement's life it has concentrated on recognizing and protecting major individual *great works*. Houses of presidents, authors and famous architects all come readily to mind. And while the old fashioned neighborhood architectural survey has been going on for decades the end results are often less than desirable. In Southern California, the Arts & Craft's Gamble House by Greene & Greene is saved and turned into a shrine to the architect's genius while only a few miles away hundreds of fine examples of the modest bungalow are destroyed to extend an expressway. In Detroit, great public outcry is given when one of the oldest houses remaining in the city is unlawfully removed to make way for a pancake house. But just a few blocks away, an entire neighborhood was removed to make way for an auto plant. The lesson here is fairly clear - preservation's focus is too narrow. Its perception by the general public is one of being elitist (just browsing through the National Trust's magazine can confirm that impression).

How can these images be altered?

How can we begin to focus on neighborhoods rather than on single buildings, on the community instead of the elite? One way is to begin to educate the public in general. But more important is to educate America's youth.

Recycling and natural preservation are even now part of the educational training of many students today, yet there is no concerted nationwide effort to have architectural/building historic preservation taught in the middle and high schools. Many prestigious universities with internationally renown architectural schools do not offer historic preservation classes to their students. Tagging along on the shirt-tails of the environmental movement, as some have suggested, is not the answer. Historic Preservation must stand on its own and be acknowledged for what it is in its own right. Given the knowledge, the general population would see neighborhood destruction in the same light as destruction of the water supply. If one handcrafted, Greek Revival building is destroyed then the entire community has lost out. The problem today is that most people do not know of the potential for loss.

(ROB SCHWEITZER cont'd)

On the national level, the Trust needs to work on its image as an elitist East coast organization. On the governmental level, acknowledging the era of tighter budgets, perhaps it's time the Department of Interior and the SHPO offices stopped collecting and pushing paper, streamlined their processes, and reevaluated their mandate and goals. They should shift their focus and get down to actually assisting in preservation activities. Locally, more groups of organized citizens are needed to press the historic preservation case in the political arena and to support local historic laws. These groups, perhaps similar to the early twentieth-century Arts & Crafts Societies, would also press for preservation education in the public schools.

What I'm advocating is a more general revolution in the attitude we as preservationists take into our work.

Militancy seems to be a popular stance these days in the world of politics and in keeping with that cultural mood, preservationists should adopt a tougher, more proactive stance as well.

While the historic preservation movement has a long and sometimes glorious past, living off that reputation and continuing to follow paths based on older ideas can not possibly lead to a future worth striving for. Without the changes noted above, I see the preservation movement declining in importance and effectiveness in the years to come.

LLOYD BALDWIN

Lloyd Baldwin is a graduate student in the historic preservation / heritage interpretation track at EMU, and will be graduating Spring 1995.

As I near graduation from the Masters Program in Historic Preservation (heritage interpretation) I find that the challenge to define what historic preservation is and should be remains difficult at best. As it should be. We are not in a field that has, or necessarily should have, neatly defined parameters. It is a complex field that encompasses history, technology, ecology, economics, politics, and more. Over the years, preservation has become more sophisticated, and thankfully, more broad-based in its approach.

Historic preservation began primarily as an approach to save a handful of buildings that represented the icons of America's perceived values of democracy and

free enterprise. It was a natural progression from Mount Vernon and Monticello to include the palatial homes and "cottages" of the various barons of industry and business. For a long time, and still to a large degree, emphasis was on the most unique, the most beautiful, and the most powerful examples of the American experience. As an afterthought some elements of the folk tradition were included, but interpreted along the lines of how they fit into the elite view. This is not to say that it is wrong to value the biggest, the best and the most unique . . . far from it, what is meant here is that preservationists need to become more active in embracing the common elements of the built environment.

The "common" is far from mundane, as it expresses fulfillment of real and perceived needs, and more importantly, were built to contain the lives and corollary activities of people no less important than the statesman, inventor, or titan of industry.

Conjecture and supposition have, and do play a strong role in preservation. The contribution of working class and poor whites, blacks, and other ethnic and racial groups, even when studied, did not carry the same import as the contributions of the cultural elite . . . at best a curiosity, but not of much value.

This is not too hard to understand, preservationists tended to be those with money and time to invest in projects. Naturally, their interests and values tended to correspond with the projects they embraced. We see this today, although the stock of buildings being embraced has become broader, there remains still a strong elitist attitude.

While preservation has (thankfully) saved a tremendous part of our built heritage, it has often done so through gentrification, a strategy that often creates a tableau far from what was the traditional rhythm of a place. All too often this has been accomplished through the displacement of large numbers of people who can least afford the move or the struggle to avoid displacement.

It is a tough issue, and one that is finally being wrestled with by preservationists. The desire to preserve, and to do so affordably, necessarily turns attention to blighted areas. Creating an attractive, livable environment out of squalor is a positive goal.

(LLOYD BALDWIN cont'd)

but one needs to consider the costs of those displaced. Where do they go? How do they create a new sense of place and community when they are uprooted?

Can we effectively balance gentrification with providing quality living environments for those that are displaced by a project; or can we provide a means of blending the traditional community with the new by finding a means of maintaining affordability?

I believe it is possible, and imperative, as one goal of the preservation movement. Through inclusiveness, and certainly through creative economics, we can infuse new life and possibilities into blighted communities; communities that are mixed in every aspect. It is happening, and as more cultural groups feel they, and their heritage, are included in the preservation movement, it is certain to grow.

Preservation in the future should be closely aligned with providing affordable quality housing in safe, cohesive, mixed neighborhoods, for ourselves and for those who do not have the economic or social power to do so alone. It may mean finding a way to balance the desire for purism and accuracy with dollar realities.

As preservationists we need to be communicators, we have to impress on the public the economic feasibility of preservation, its importance to the environmental health of the land, and its sociological importance in maintaining and rebuilding a sense of community and place. We can have an amazing impact in the overall future quality of life by being broad-based in our interests and activities, through the embracing of cultural groups long ignored, by seeking means of providing quality housing and economic opportunities with dignity for the disenfranchised, and by further building our natural linkages with the environmental movement. Our future will be considerably more challenging than simply focusing on the "house museum" school of thought, but it will be far more valuable and far more gratifying.

With That Said, For Our Next Issue . . .

Tell us what you think about - anything!
Respond in 750 words or less by
March 24, 1995.

TED LIGIBEL

Ted Ligibel is a professor in the EMU Historic Preservation program, and just finished his Ph.D. dissertation on heritage areas and heritage corridors.

Steel-grey shafts of light angled dimly through the room. I stirred slowly, only mid-way past an REM.

Suddenly I reeled floor-wise, propelled by the dull remnants of a dream, a dream that announced I just had purchased a 1950's ranch at the edge of suburbia.

Dazed, I fumbled for reality, only to realize that I was indeed surrounded by birch doors, formica counter tops, and green and salmon bath tiles. Was this the dream, was this the reality . . . would I get caught?

I'm beginning to rest a bit easier now, two months into fringe suburbia, and it OK, especially the ease of getting to EMU, and the little details that say 1955. But there are those nagging doubts. Will I be drummed from the preservation community? Will Dick Moe declare my emeriti status null and void? Will Marshall ask me to teach *nomenclature*
AHHHHH!

So here I am, boldly going where few preservationists have gone before . . . some interior designers and SF types maybe . . . but midwest preservationists, I don't think so.

My weekend task for example was to replace the boring pseudo-Colonial foyer lantern with the space-inspired fixture hanging in the dressing room, which we suspect originally did grace the front hall. And I tackled it with true preservation-gusto, making sure I used all the authentic hardware and not over-cleaning any portion.

Now I fret over the unsavable yellow fake-terrazzo kitchen linoleum and stew over living with 1980's replacement windows (rather than aluminum casements and jalousies).

It occurs to me though that the preservation tenets I've been harping on for all these many years (21 but who's counting?), haven't changed at all. Especially the Q and A of it! Oh, sorry Heather, I'll finish this up. So, until then, see you next time on "*This is Your Life (Isn't it?)*."

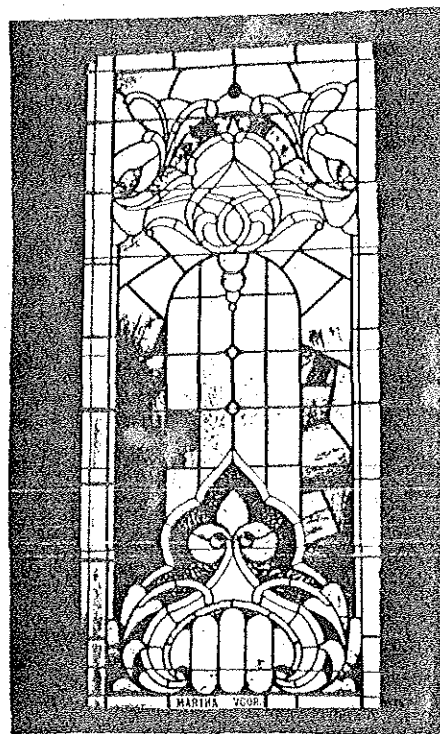
Stained Glass in Ypsilanti

Graduate Student Barbara Krueger has been involved in a survey of stained glass in Michigan. Under the auspices of Michigan State University Museum in East Lansing, the survey is taking a different approach than is the national survey, which terminates its interest with 1940 installations. Many current studios and independent artists have been interviewed with donated artifacts making the beginning of a collection for the MSU Museum. Placing the building (church, literary club, train station, city hall, etc.) within a historical context in its community or township has allowed for the collection of written documentation far beyond the initial query of the stained glass. A church in Stockbridge took this opportunity to locate and publish information and photographs of those memorialized in their windows.

To this end, Barbara led a small EMU class during Fall 1994 where the students documented stained glass mainly in Ypsilanti. As a culmination, a Preservation Eastern meeting will be a tour of some buildings documented (and others!) on March 24, 1995. There are some very interesting buildings (an "Akron Plan"!) near the campus, with interesting and varied styles of stained glass.

Barbara recently responded to an RFP from Inspired Partnerships (a Chicago based non-profit) and will become a member of a team investigating the virtues and liabilities of the various types of protective glazing installations used on the exterior of stained glass windows.

Barbara and her colleague, Dr. Betty MacDowell, have been conducting informational sessions around the state, and this spring will make presentations in Grand Rapids (April 8) and Hillsdale (April 29). . .For more information contact Barbara Krueger.



One of the stops on the March 24 tour will be The First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti, which was organized in 1825. The sanctuary opened on June 26, 1892. The windows in the sanctuary were created by George Misch and Sons Company of Chicago, at a total cost of \$1,200. This firm created art and stained glass from 1864 to 1903. The commission of the work specified that there should be no figures in the designs. The kaleidoscope color patterns in the windows are in keeping with the Victorian flamboyancy and mixed style of the building's architecture.

The windows were selected from a portfolio of designs by the architect and the building committee. Their choices were then crafted in Chicago and shipped by railroad to Ypsilanti for installation.

Network Receives Challenge Grant - One of Four Nation-wide

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network, a state-wide, non-profit historic preservation organization, is in the process of raising \$35,000 to match the challenge grant that they received from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As part of the Trust's Statewides Initiative program, the Network will receive \$35,000 over the next three years, (\$20,000 the first year, \$10,000 the second year, and \$5,000 in the third year). The funds will be used to strengthen the organization and hire a full-time staff person. The Michigan Historic Preservation Network was one of four statewide preservation groups chosen. The others were: Colorado Preservation, Inc., the Mississippi Heritage Trust, and the Historic Preservation League of Oregon.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Field Trips / Tours:

Tours of Historic EMU Campus, Saturday, March 4 - Preservation Eastern has been selected to give tours featuring the historic buildings of EMU for Alumni Outreach Day. Volunteers are needed to serve as guides for the tour. If interested contact Ted Ligibel or Laura Manker.

Chocolate Vault Adaptive Use Example, Tecumseh, Thursday, March 9 - Tour the Chocolate Vault in Tecumseh with Ted Ligibel's "Adaptive Use" class. See Ted Ligibel for details.

Tour of SHPO Offices and State Capitol Restoration, Friday, March 10 - We will be meeting with Kathryn Eckert, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer, at 10:00 AM in Lansing, for an informal tour of the SHPO offices, focusing on SHPO activities and resources. Then at 1:00 PM, we will join Kerry Chartkoff, the State Capitol Archivist, for a behind-the-scenes tour of the recent capitol restoration project. For more information, see Heather Richards or Kirk Bunke.

Tour of Stained Glass in Ypsilanti, Friday, March 24 - Barbara Krueger will be conducting a tour of stained glass examples in Ypsilanti. See Heather Richards for details.

Field Trip to Mackinaw State Historic Parks, Friday and Saturday, April 7 & 8 (tentatively) - Tour the forts and receive a behind the scenes look at archaeological artifacts of the parks. See Kirk Bunke for details.

Spring Semester Tour of Hannibal, Missouri - Ted Ligibel will conduct a week-long historical preservation midwest tour to Missouri. Potential sites include: Lincoln's home and Frank Lloyd Wright's famous DANA-Thomas house in Springfield, Illinois; Hannibal, Missouri, Mark Twain's home town; the Illinois-Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor; and a section of historic Route 66.

Lectures / Presentations:

HABS/HAER Documentation of University of Michigan Properties Presentation, Thursday, February 16 - Lloyd Baldwin Ted Ligibel will be presenting the HABS-style documentation of the University of Michigan's properties on East Huron that the Documenting Historic Structures class researched last fall to the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission Individual Historic Properties Study Committee at 5:00 PM at the Kempf House.

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, National Park Service, Monday, March 6 - Barbara Jameson, the Coordinator of the "Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program" in Michigan will be speaking about her role in the National Park Service and in Michigan. In addition, a representative from Southeast Michigan Greenways Program, and the Washtenaw County Park System will attend. 5:15-7:00, Room 205.

"Stories in Stone", Rochelle Balkam, Thursday, March 16 - Preservation Eastern will host Rochelle Balkam, a professor in the History Department of Eastern Michigan University, at their meeting March 16. Rochelle Balkam will be presenting her slide lecture on local cemeteries, local history and one-room schoolhouses. She is vice-president of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission and secretary of the One-Room Schoolhouse Committee at EMU. She holds a B.A. in history from EMU, a M.A. in History and a M.S. in Historic Preservation. 7:30 PM, Room 239.

Albion Historic District Nomination Presentation, Tuesday, March 21 - Ted Ligibel will present the National Register Nomination that his Fall class, "Documenting Historic Structures", prepared for Albion's historic commercial district to the planning department, chamber of commerce and DDA of Albion. 7:00 PM, Albion City Hall.

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Conferences:

Sustainable Regional Development: A Heritage Partnership Symposium, March 13-15 - A Heritage Partnership Symposium sponsored by the National Park Service at Roscoe Village, Coshocton, Ohio. Featured speakers include: Randy Cooley, Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Partnership Commission; Cheryl Hargrove, Heritage Tourism, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Sam Stokes, National Park Service, Shelly Mastran, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and our own Ted Ligible. Registration Fee - \$50. See Ted Ligibel for details.

Preserving the Recent Past, March 30-April 1 - Chicago, Illinois. A national conference with three tracks focusing on resource evaluation, preservation and reuse strategies, and conservation of 20th century materials and systems. Registration Fee - \$165. Contact 217-244-7659 for registration information, and 202-343-6011 for conference agenda.

Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Spring Conference, Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22 - Topics will include the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other building codes on historic resources. To be held in the historic Frauenthal Theater in downtown Muskegon. Contact the Network for conference brochures and further information.

Communities for the Future: Preservation of African-American Heritage in the United States, April 27-30. Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact Claudia Polley at 317-639-4534 for details.

Heritage Partnerships: The Concept & Tools to Make it Happen, Midwest Preservation Conference, May 9-12: Fort Wayne, Indiana. Featured speakers include: Roger Kennedy, Director, National Park Service, Shelley Mastran, National Trust for Historic Preservation and Ted Ligible. Contact the Midwest National Trust Office at 312-939-5547 for details.

Wisconsin Heritage Tourism Preservation Conference, May 11-13: Hurley, Wisconsin. Contact Sharon Foley at 608-266-7299 for details.

Michigan Preservation Week, May 14 - May 20 - The 1995 Michigan Preservation Week's theme will be "Real People, Real Places, Real History."

Resume Boosters:

Editor's Note: This section of the bulletin board will focus on selective projects that come into the historic preservation department from the community. They are projects that you can pursue individually, and are excellent stepping stones for networking and portfolio building.

Michigan Historical Marker Application - The Hitt Law Offices in Jackson, Michigan would like a student to work on a Michigan Historical Marker application for the Hitt Farm on Clark Lake, Michigan. The Hitt Farm was nominated for the National Register last year by a student in the EMU program. See Heather Richards for details.

National Register Nomination, Queen Anne in Chelsea - Jacquelyn Frank would like a student to research and prepare a nomination of her ca. 1880 Queen Anne house for both the state register and the national register. They are also interested in a student researching period landscaping, and period furnishings, and developing a long-range plan for restoration and maintenance. She will pay for any expenses and actively network the southeastern Michigan region for you. See Heather Richards for details.

Alumni Notes:

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We would like to devote this section of the bulletin board to Alumni notices, events and happenings. Unfortunately, we do not know what most of you are doing. Drop us a line and fill us in. Is there life out there?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?????

Henry Amick, Kevin Coleman, Diana Moran, Jennifer Tucker, Diana Sepac, etc.

Don't forget about the Kempf House Wednesday Brown Bag Series, many of the program's faculty, alumni and students are guest speakers. The series begins on Wednesday, March 8 and continues through Wednesday, May 10. 12:10 PM - 12:50 PM. Donation of \$1 required. Parking is available in the Library Parking Lot.

Membership Counts! Join Preservation Eastern

Why join Preservation Eastern? Well, it's the best way to keep up on historic preservation activities both within the department and throughout the area. We're planning guest speakers, lecture series, activities, events and trips for the upcoming year, so join now and keep informed with the *Preservation Eastern Newsletter* which will be mailed to all current members. Dues are only \$5 per year, and your membership and involvement will insure future growth and success in the organization. For more information, contact treasurer Julie Letendre or any other officer.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Program of Study: _____

Attach a check or money order for \$5, and mail to:

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