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Review of Buildings, Landscapes, and Memory: Case Studies in Historic Preservation

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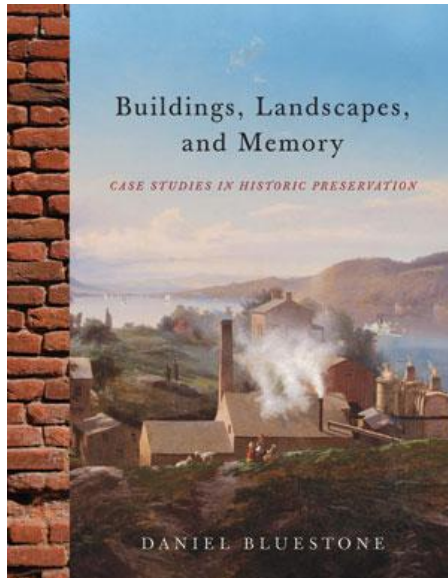
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Buildings, Landscapes, and Memory: Case Studies in Historic Preservation, by Daniel Bluestone. W. W. Norton, December 2010. 304 p. ill. ISBN 9780393733181 (cl.), \$47.95.



In this recently published book, Daniel Bluestone, architectural historian and director of the University of Virginia's Historic Preservation program, examines the development of historic preservation philosophy in the United States through ten in-depth case studies. Not intended to be an exhaustive history of the movement, this book selectively presents cases and the political and cultural processes that influenced the preservation, and in some instances demolition, choices made in each.

The case studies cover a wide range of times and places, beginning with the Marquis de Lafayette's tour of the United States in 1824-25 and concluding with a presentation of adaptive reuse, interpretation, and preservation ideas for EPA Superfund sites. Chapter five, "Conservation on the Hudson," addresses the strong connections that environmental conservation and historic preservation have had with each other. Bluestone also highlights the unique contributions the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs made to save

the Palisades at a time when it was highly unusual for women to be involved in wilderness conservation campaigns.

Portions of chapters seven and eight were previously published in academic journals and parts of chapter eleven were published in the 2007 book *Reclaiming the Land: Rethinking Superfund Institutions, Methods, and Practices*, edited by Gregg Macey and Jonathan Cannon. Bluestone's ideas concerning the remediation of Superfund sites, now presented in the chapter entitled "Toxic Memory: Preservation on EPA Superfund Sites," have been discussed at environmental conferences and in current literature such as Ned Kaufman's *Place, Race, and Story: Essays on the Past and Future of Historic Preservation* (2009).

Together the ten case studies illustrate the impact of aesthetics, politics, and historical narrative on the perceived significance of places, the importance of physical place and material culture in historical memory, and how these perceptions have changed over time. The breadth of this work will provide practitioners and students with a broad perspective from which to examine current preservation decisions.

Detailed endnotes, arranged by chapter, are available at the end of the book. There is no bibliography, but the index is thorough. The images, binding, printing, and paper are of excellent quality. There are 184 black-and-white illustrations comprised primarily of photographs, lithographs, maps, and architectural plans. Nine of these illustrations are also reproduced in a section of color plates at the beginning of the book. They are numbered for easy reference, but there is one small error in that image 3.30 in the front, corresponds to 3.32 in the text.

This scholarly work is highly recommended for all academic libraries and other library collections with a focus on historic preservation.

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