

1996

## Preservation Eastern Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 3, 1996

Preservation Eastern  
*Eastern Michigan University*

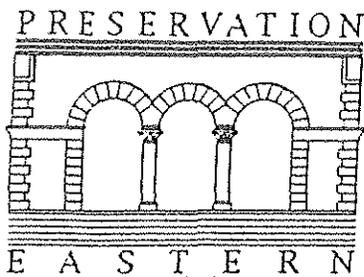
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# *PRESERVATION EASTERN*

## *NEWSLETTER Summer Edition*

Volume 3, Number 3, 1996

The Newsletter of the Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Student Organization

## **Fall Orientation Planned for September 6, 1996**

By Janna Baron

The grill is fired up, the pool's still open and the nights are still soft and warm. There's no doubt that summer is still in full swing, but fall semester and the Historic Preservation Program Orientation are not far behind, however.

The 1996 Fall Orientation will be held on Friday, September 6 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM in EMU's recently restored Pease Auditorium. It will be a day to learn more about EMU's Historic Preservation program as well as to meet instructors and students.

The orientation is scheduled to kick off at 9:00 AM with a meet and mingle session. There will be the opportunity to pick up printed information about the Historic Preservation program and associated activities. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

Faculty introductions will be made between 9:30 and 10 AM. Geography and Geology Department Chair Dr. Drew Nazarro will give opening remarks. Historic Preservation Program Director Dr. Marshall McLennan will give a brief introduction to the program and introduce program faculty.

From 10 to 10:40 AM, the Heritage Interpretation concentration shall be discussed. Dr. Gabriel Cherem will give his perspective on this unique concentration, followed by adjunct faculty comments. Finally, the student view on Interpretation shall be presented.

There will be a 20 minute break from 10:40 to 11 AM.

When the orientation resumes at 11 AM, Dr. Ted Ligibel will give his thoughts on the Preservation Planning concentration. Adjunct faculty will make a presentation, followed by the student view.

Historic Administration is next on the day's agenda. Dr. McLennan will discuss his view of the concentration. Next, adjunct faculty will speak on Administration and associated classes, followed by student perspectives.

From 12:30 to 1:45, the orientation group will break for lunch. Space will be reserved at the Tower Inn across the street from Pease Auditorium.

After lunch, returning Preservation graduate student Rob Burg will lead a tour of EMU's own Historic District.

Following the tour, Preservation Eastern Director, Kirsten Merriman, will discuss Preservation Eastern activities,

opportunities for involvement in local historic preservation activities.

Orientation wrap-up will be from 2:45 to 3:30 PM.

Dr. McLennan will discuss some "nuts and bolts" of the program. Finally, there will be a brief evaluation of the orientation.

This day-long orientation will be a good place to get to know the various facets of the Historic Preservation Program, including instructors, coursework and faces that are or soon will be familiar. Whether you are a new student, returning student, alumnus, or just interested in learning more about the Historic Preservation program, we look forward to seeing you there!

## **Ypsilanti Historical Society Update**

by Janna Baron

Members of the Ypsilanti Historical Society (YPS) and Preservation Eastern (PE) Director Kirsten Merriman met in mid-June to determine projects the two organizations may carry out jointly.

Immediate projects include planting flowers on the museum grounds and creating an inventory of artifacts in the museum's tool room.

For those in search of an excellent opportunity to interact with the public, the YPS is recruiting volunteer docents to give museum tours during the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival (Aug. 16-18). Volunteers are needed for two to three hour shifts.

The museum will be open from 2 to 6 PM on Aug. 16; from 2 to 7 PM on Aug. 17; and from 12 to 4 PM on Aug. 18.

Volunteering during the Heritage Festival will provide a chance to meet museum volunteers and the public, learn more about the Ypsilanti community, and help strengthen the ties between PE and the YHS. For more information, contact Wendy Winslow at (313) 483-6988.

## Director's Column

By Kirsten Merriman

Summer has arrived, providing opportunities for relaxation and rejuvenation for everyone before fall semester. The planning and preparation are underway for the Historic Preservation Program Orientation. This year's orientation will be on Friday, September 6 at Pease Auditorium through the cooperation of the Office for University Relations. I would like to personally invite and encourage faculty, students and alumni to attend.

mith and I are still looking for a few (10) good, experienced, wiser, yet enthusiastic students to participate in the mentor program for incoming students. Reflect upon your first Historic Preservation class at EMU and think about how you would have benefited from the guidance of a mentor. If you are interested in being a mentor, call Phil Smith at (810) 231-1178.

Preservation Eastern activities and projects are continuing throughout the summer. The growing relationship between Preservation Eastern and the Ypsilanti Historical Museum continues to yield exciting opportunities. Gretchen Walter and I are working on the Fall Speaker Series. If there is a hot topic or incredible person in preservation that you want at the speaker series, then let's make it happen together. Please contact Gretchen Walter at (313)663-6531. The newsletter has new editors, Janna Baron and Wendy Winslow, and some new features. There will be reports on recent conferences attended, alumni and faculty profiles. I hope Preservation students and alumni will take the opportunity to contribute their knowledge and experiences in the historic preservation field.

I will be spending 10 weeks this summer at Camp Santanoni in the Adirondacks. I am looking forward to the experience and cool mountain air. I will see you all at the Fall Orientation.

## Boone Hall - An EMU Landmark

by Robert Burg

Late in 1995, Preservation Eastern voted on its 1996 Goals and Objectives. Among these was a goal dealing with the EMU's historic Boone Hall. The goal, to persuade the EMU Administration and Board of Regents that Boone Hall (1914) is a building worthy of restoration and preservation, supports the University's leadership in its own goal to save Boone Hall.

Why does Boone Hall need to be saved? It is the fifth oldest building on EMU's campus and is the oldest one not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since 1990, it has housed EMU's prestigious College of Education. However, upon completion of the new library, the College of Ed. Will move into the present library. Although the University has made it clear that it wants to save the building, the Historic Preservation Program and Preservation Eastern should not stand on the sidelines watching, but instead should take an active role such as they did in the fight to save Welch Hall (1896) in the early 1980s.

At the end of 1995, the EMU Board of Regents submitted a Capital Outlay Budget Request to the Michigan State Legislature for new buildings on campus. Among the 3 requests was one for \$5,933,000 for renovation of Boone Hall. This request is for the 1997 and 1998 fiscal years. The last Capital Outlay request by the University for the Library/College of Education Project was successful, and thus leads to the Boone Hall situation.

EMU has become pro-preservation since the late 1980s. The 3 biggest examples of this are the restorations of Welch Hall, Sherzer Hall and Pease Auditorium. Each project came about for different reasons: a 1989 fire nearly destroyed Sherzer Hall, demolition by neglect of Welch Hall and Preservation Eastern's activism caused the University to take notice, and the Ypsilanti and EMU communities rallied around Pease.

Among the strategies to guarantee Boone Hall's future is a petition drive. Set to be launched in Fall 1996, this will gather community support (both in Ypsilanti and at EMU) behind the University's initiative to save the building. If there is strong support from the community behind the University on the project proposal, there could be a stronger desire in Lansing to fund the project.

Preservation Eastern must plan to help the University find an alternative funding plan in the event that the University does not get Capital Outlay funding for the project. (Other projects for which the University has requested funding are a new College of Health and Human Service building and a new Science building.) Currently, the University does not have an alternative plan if state funding is not granted. As the leaders in historic preservation on EMU's campus, Preservation Eastern and the Historic Preservation Program must lead the University in the proper direction.

Another important part of saving Boone Hall is to have it designated on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of many buildings on the campus that is eligible and should be designated. A logical solution would be to amend the current EMU Historic District to add more buildings to it. Currently only Welch Hall, Starkweather Hall, Sherzer Hall and the McKenny Union are listed on the district. Pease Auditorium is listed individually on the National Register. Boone Hall, Roosevelt Hall (1924), and Ford Hall (1929) are the most likely additions among the 20 eligible buildings that are currently eligible or will be by the year 2000.

Boone Hall is truly a gem on campus. Its neo-classical style reflects its sister building, Pease Auditorium. It is part of the streetscape of Cross Street and is a connection to the old campus of the pre-war years.

### PRESERVATION EASTERN OFFICERS FOR FALL 1996

Director - Kirsten Merriman

Treasurer - Tracey Miller

Public Relations - Susan Rothstein

Newsletter Co-Editors - Janna Baron and

Wendy Winslow

### 1996 Main Street Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

by Laura Manker

Heather Aldridge, Laura Manker, John Murphey and Heather Richard were among an estimated one thousand downtown revitalization leaders from throughout the United States who met in Nashville, Tennessee for the tenth annual National Main Street Conference.

The largest gathering of downtown revitalization leaders in the world, the conference afforded the students a great opportunity to hear what's happening in communities across the country, share ideas, and to develop new skills in the field of revitalization. The conference also a chance for the students to meet some of the most prominent preservationists in downtown revitalization circles. Speakers such as Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, James Kunster, author of *The Geography of Nowhere* and Tom Moriarity, one of the founders of the Main Street movement, spoke positively of the growing trends in historic preservation and the increase in the use of the Main Street program throughout the country.

Other issues such as the future of the Main Street movement, and the trends that are going to effect downtown revitalization were also addressed by the speakers. Results from a nationwide survey conducted by the National Main Street Center were shared at the conference, and also reflected a growth in downtown revitalization and historic preservation. The survey revealed that with in the last year, there has been a strong increase in tenants in professional, offices, retail businesses, and entertainment in downtowns across America. Smaller increases were reported in government, light industry, and religion. Thirty six percent of the communities surveyed reported an increase in downtown housing.

The conference featured sessions on downtown housing, fund raising for revitalization, Geographical Information Systems, design improvements, affordable housing, economic revitalization, managing volunteers, fighting discount superstores, planning for emerging ethnic markets, and many other interesting topics. The sessions were scaled from beginners to advanced and were applicable to small towns and urban neighborhoods.

The conference was not all business however. At the end of the day, there were many social functions that offered the opportunity to relax. The opening reception was held at the historic Belle Meade Plantation and the "Big Bash" was held at a farm outside of Nashville. Both functions featured live country music bands and everyone learned a little about country line dancing. At the "Big Bash" everyone had a great laugh as the winners of the Dubious Achievement awards were handed out. This years winner: Hooker, Oklahoma.

### 15th Annual Michigan Preservation Network Conference by Amy Arnold

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network's Fifteenth Annual Conference was held in Ann Arbor on April 19th and 20th. More than 300 people registered for the conference and Eastern Michigan's Historic Preservation Program was well represented. Over twelve students were in attendance and Professors Marshall McLennan, Gabe Cherem, and Mary Culver participated as speakers while Norm Tyler led a walking tour of downtown Ann Arbor. The conference provided basic information on a wide range of topics

### Ohio Conference Building Successful Communities

#### Preservation and Economic Development

By Wendy Winslow

This year's Ohio State Historic Preservation conference, *Building Successful Communities* was held in Akron on May 1, 2 & 3. The conference offered several workshops, lectures and tours promoting the use of historic preservation to enhance a city's quality of life and increase it's economic stability.

Wednesday, May 1, community leaders from around Ohio attended informative sessions on historic preservation commissions, design review, and rehabilitation investment tax credits.

On Thursday, May 2, speakers such as Kennedy Smith, of the Trust's National Main Street Center, Ed McManon director of the American Greenways program, and Kathleen Crowther, Executive Director of the Cleveland Restoration Society, offered their advice on how best to use tax credits, grants, and loans. A wide consortium of interested people from both the public and private sectors attended.

The last day of the conference was devoted to tourism and its role in economic development. Different approaches to site and exhibit interpretation were presented. Hot topics regarding tourism were heritage corridors, ethnic communities, and archeology.

Through out the conference, downtown commercial district revitalization was brought up. Kennedy Smith outlined four key steps in successful revitalization in her speech. They are: organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring.

I was fortunate to be given a ticket to the gala dinner; *A Toast to Akron*. An evening of fun and frolic included the Akron Art Museum, the Howler House museum, and a wonderful dinner at the Stan Hwyt Hall house museum, the 1915 home of industrialist Frank Seiberling.

The Ohio conference was an informative collection of people, events and success stories of how neighborhoods, commercial downtowns and private investors can use and market historic preservation to preserve, enhance and enliven there unique sense of place. All in all, it was an informative conference on how preservation can bring positive change to cities and towns alike. Hey, I even liked Akron!

## Editors' Column

As the new editors of the Preservation Eastern Newsletter, we would like to outline our goals for the publication in the coming year.

First of all, we welcome and encourage contributions and suggestions from our readers. Whether your interests are in planning, museums, or other historic preservation activities, we want to hear from you.

In future issues, we plan to continue to bring to you information on local and national conferences, as well as on other activities of interest to the preservation community, such as workshops, internships, and current events.

The goals and objective of Preservation Eastern (see next column) will be addressed.

The newsletter shall reflect the varied interests of those currently enrolled in the program. Issues including planning, administration, heritage interpretation, and museums will be reported here.

We would like the newsletter to be far-reaching, in that it shall reach EMU's historic preservation graduate and undergraduate students, alumni, and other historic preservation organizations, including academic programs at other colleges and universities.

Last but not least, we hope to improve our skills as editors and thereby, improve the quality of the newsletter.

We look forward to these challenges!

*Janna Baron*  
*W.C. Winslow*  
Janna Baron & Wendy Winslow,  
Editors

## Preservation Eastern 1996 Goals and Objectives

**Goal: To foster a working relationship between Preservation Eastern and the Ypsilanti Historical Museum/City of Ypsilanti.**

Objectives: Draft and Interpretation and Collections Plan with the Ypsilanti Historical Museum board (YHM); conduct a feasibility study of the YHM structure with Eastern Constructors; work towards an internship at the YHM for a EMU Historic Preservation Program student.

**Goal: To persuade the Eastern Michigan University Administration and Board of Regents that Boone Hall is a building worth of restoration and preservation.**

Objectives: Organize a "Save Boone Hall" task force, including members from different University groups and concerned Ypsilanti residents and groups; publicize the history and importance of Boone Hall to the public utilizing the local media; contact EMU Historic Preservation alumni and faculty who helped save Welch Hall and/or receive their guidance.; add Boone Hall, Ford Hall, Pease Auditorium, and possibly the Martin Luther King, Jr. Courtyard to the EMU National Register Historic District.

**Goal: To establish a "Detroit Initiative" to increase the awareness of the students and the faculty about the activities and issues of historic preservation in Detroit.**

Objectives: Establish a Media Information Series made up of binders of newspaper clippings, brochures, conference material, etc.); develop contacts with Detroit preservation organizations; research and draft a feasibility study regarding the possibility of a student organization such as Preservation Eastern initiating and sustaining a working relationship with the preservation community in Detroit.

These Goals and Objectives were decided in late 1995 by members of Preservation Eastern during regularly scheduled meetings.

### Preservation Program Reunion & Reception at Chicago Conference

A reunion and reception for EMU Historic Preservation alumni and students is planned for October 16 from 5 to 6:30 PM in Chicago during the National Trust Conference. It will be held in Trader Vic's Luau Room in the basement of the Palmer House. Further details will be listed in the Conference's registration and information packet.

## ♠ BULLETIN BOARD ♠

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
<p><b>Pioneer America Society: <i>First Call for Papers for Annual Meeting.</i></b> Submit a title and half page, single spaced abstract no later than September 1, 1996 to: Terry Jordan, Dept. Of Geography, University of Texas, Austin TX, 78712-1098 or FAX (512) 471-5049 or e-mail to tgjordan@mail.utexas.edu.</p> <p><b>Michigan African American Symposium: <i>Building Our Communities, Preserving Our Heritage.</i></b> September 26-28 (Thursday to Saturday) at Cobo Hall, Detroit. Contact Janese Chapman at (313) 224-3488 for further information.</p> <p><b>50th Nation Trust Preservation Conference: <i>Preserve Community.</i></b> October 16-20, Chicago, IL. Contact the National Trust at (202) 673-2000 for details.</p> <p><b>State Historic Preservation Office Fall Seminar: <i>Preserving More for Less and Historic District Commissioner Training.</i></b> October 25-26 (Saturday and Sunday). Michigan Historical Center, Lansing. For more details, contact the SHPO at (517) 363-1630.</p> <p><b>Pioneer America Society: <i>Annual Meeting.</i></b> November 7-9 in Austin, TX. Two concurrent sessions of papers and a field trip to Austin's multicultural region, a varied and fascinating cultural landscape. Contact Terry Jordan or Jennifer Helzer at (412) 471-5049.</p>	<p><b>Cobblestone Farm:</b> Located in Ann Arbor, MI, Cobblestone Farm is an outstanding example of a Greek Revival cobblestone farmhouse of the mid-nineteenth century. The Cobblestone Farm Association cares for this living history site, and always welcomes enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers.</p> <p>Areas of need include educational interpretation, hands-on living history programs, research into all aspects of restoration (including archaeology) and other opportunities.</p> <p>If you're interested in historic landscaping or gardening, call Bob Grese at (313) 663-4047. Assistants are needed in our historic kitchen garden in the evenings and Saturday mornings.</p> <p>Please call Kerry Adams at (313) 994-2928 for further information or write to Cobblestone Farm at 2781 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48108.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Reminder: Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival Aug. 16-18</b>                      The Ypsilanti Heritage Festival will be held Aug. 16-18. Numerous events of interest, including the 19th Annual Ypsilanti Historic Home Tour and a living history encampment will occur. Some events are free. Others, such as the home tour, require a ticket purchase. For more information, call the Events Hotline at (313) 930-6300</p>

***Preservation Network Conference cont'd from page 3***

from tax credits and historic district ordinances to restoration technology and techniques. One of the most outstanding presentations was given by Ginna Jordan on "Creating an Historic Interior". Ginna used old photographs to point out the common decoration features of historic time periods and addressed how to chose modern materials and textiles to recreate them. Eric MacDonald, formerly of the Michigan SHPO, did an excellent job of presenting the issues involved in the preservation of rural landscapes. Richard Moe, president of the National Trust, was the keynote speaker.

The tour of downtown included visits to the upper floors of the Nickels Arcade and the loft apartments being created in the newly renovated Klines Building. It was inspiring to hear from a developer like Ed Shaffran who has a strong commitment to maintain the architectural integrity of the building he restores. Another highlight of the tour was a visit to the apartment of Joseph and Carolyn Acure at 111 West Liberty Street above West Side Books. Built in 1880 as the Ludwig Walz Grocery, the Acures purchased the space in the 1970s and have sensitively renovated the second and third floors to create a visually appealing living space, both comfortable and unique.

## 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 \$10 per year, and your membership and involvement will insure future growth and success in the organization. For more information, contact Kirsten Merriman or any other Preservation Eastern officer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Program of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a check or money order for \$10, and mail to:

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EMU Department of Geography and Geology  
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Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

### PRESERVATION EASTERN

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