

1998

Preservation Eastern Newsletter, July 1998

Preservation Eastern
Eastern Michigan University

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Thoughts from the Director of Preservation Eastern, by Philip Smith

Summer is a time to relax and let the cares of the school year flutter away. It is a time that I hope most of you use to take much needed vacations. Of course us preservationists never seem to travel anywhere without picking up on some of the local preservation issues or visiting some historic sites. This is as it should be, for if we are committed to preservation we need to use the extra time that we have in a way to make ourselves better preservationists, and one way to accomplish this is to always be ready to learn what others have accomplished in our field of study.

I say this in this newsletter because this issue is aimed at those incoming students who are interested to taking the plunge into historic preservation. It isn't as interesting to test the waters with just your big toe. You need to make a big splash, as we all do in order to keep government officials and other citizens aware of the importance of historic preservation.

For incoming students, a word of advice. Go to a camera store and get yourself a good quality camera. As you travel around Ypsilanti, Michigan, and other areas during your student life here at E.M.U. try to carry this camera with you at all times. There are constant reminders of lost preservation chances all around us. Take pictures of buildings, barns, environmental sites and other cultural landscapes, for in many cases you might be getting the last picture of a structure before it is torn down. The old J.H. Hudson's building in Detroit is set for demolition. Unfortunately, government officials see the building as a liability to the city. They don't understand what we in preservation see in such a building.

While you study here, you will have many chances to expand your knowledge out of the classroom. I suggest that you do as much as you can with extra projects. Classroom learning is just part of the educational experience. I hope that this issue of our newsletter gets you pumped up so that you contact the museums or organizations listed here and become active in the decision making process. There are also conferences at both the local and national levels. These are great opportunities to network and further your knowledge in preservation issues.

Our student organization, *Preservation Eastern*, meets twice a month. Please plan on attending meetings and becoming active so that we continue to work on projects that the students are interested in and want.

I hope the final weeks of summer vacation find you exploring wonderful historic sites, and I look forward to meeting all of the new students on September 4th at Cobblestone Farm in Ann Arbor for orientation.

1998-99:

A Year to Remember

This coming year will be a memorable one for the Historic Preservation Program. It marks the beginning of the 20th anniversary of the program, and the closing of a chapter, actually the first book, in our history as at the end of the year our co-founder, and leader for this entire period, Marshall McLennan, will retire. It also is the beginning of EMUs "Sesquicentennial" honoring the fact that we will celebrate 150 years as an institution. So you see what I mean.

In this issue you will find a plethora of information about the upcoming year including classes, the new student orientation, recent job placements, fabulous site visits, Preservation Eastern, alumni updates, internship opportunities, germane conferences, and much more. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll see you in September.

REMEMBER...
SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 2
AND
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
IS SEPTEMBER 4
AT COBBLESTONE FARM!!!
Contact Ted Ligibel
at (734) 487-0232 or
Phil Smith at (810) 231-1178
for more information.

Inside this issue....

- Stories of Cultural Landscape Interpretation
We sure had fun this spring!! Thanks Ted!

- Cobblestone Farm offers many opportunities to students
- Updates on Historic Preservation alumni
- Special Course offering this Fall

Metro Airport by John Bower

During the Spring Semester, the Cultural Landscape Interpretation class visited many sites in Michigan and Northern Ohio. One site worth further study is the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport. The Airport is an example of a "middle landscape", one that people visit for a short period of time without residing on the site. Commonly referred to as "Metro", the Airport represents a unique cultural landscape. During the past 70 years, five terminal buildings have served the needs of Southeast Michigan air travelers. Surprisingly all five of the buildings still exist and are in use. A 6th terminal is currently under construction. This collection of terminal buildings offers a unique glimpse into the development of air travel and the history of airports.

When the State of Michigan Airport Enabling Act was passed in 1927, the mile square land area that would later become Wayne County Airport was just a section of Romulus Township farm land. But the passage of the Act quickly sparked the purchase of the parcel by the Wayne County Board of Supervisors. An airport facility was quickly conceived and built.

The class toured the two oldest terminal buildings; the 1928 twin towered building easily seen from Interstate 94 and the 1938 Works Progress Administration Terminal. The 1928 structure, known today as Building 278, was designed by Giffels and Vallet, Inc., predecessor of Giffels Associates. Since this was the first building constructed for Wayne County Airport it was required to serve several functions. The design included a passenger waiting area, pilot's lounge, outdoor observation deck and administrative offices. When the huge rolling doors on each side of the building were opened, access was provided to the large hanger floor capable of sheltering and maintaining several aircraft. Today the building is used as a storage facility for the Hertz Rent-a-Car Corporation.

As interest in air travel grew the need for a more functional terminal and office building became apparent. In 1938 the county applied to the Works Progress Administration for a separate terminal building. The result was what is now known as Building 348. This art deco structure was a much smaller building than the 430' long Building 278, but it was much more functional as a terminal building. A passenger ticketing and waiting area occupied the first floor, while administrative offices were located on the second floor. Building 278 then became the aircraft maintenance hanger for Wayne County Airport. Today Building 348 is still used as a passenger terminal for corporate aircraft and is operated by Signature Flight Support, Inc.

Additional terminal buildings were constructed in 1956, 1966, 1974 and a new midfield terminal is expected to be completed in 2002. Combined, these buildings offer a unique historical context which traces the development of an industry that we today often take for granted. While standing in a hanger built in 1928 it was interesting to consider that pilots

who first used the facility listened for taxing instructions from a person shouting through a megaphone from one of the towers above. The class was able to reflect on some of the advancements and improvements that air travel has undergone during the life of the terminal buildings.

While walking through the two oldest structures, the class considered the larger commercial landscape that has developed both on and off the Airport. Parking facilities, car rental agencies, retail vendors, food concessions and banking all operate within the Airport perimeter. Expanding out from the Airport a larger commercial landscape has developed since 1928. Dozens of hotels, motels and restaurants are accessible from the Interstate 94 exit to the airport. Commercial parking lots, air freight businesses, trucking companies and light industrial complexes also have located near this transportation center.

The Cultural Landscape Interpretation class viewed Metro Airport as representative of both commercial and aviation landscapes. While we explored the components of these landscapes, we also came away with questions. What preservation efforts should be undertaken to stabilize Building 278, the oldest of the terminals? What more appropriate use could be found for this historic structure? How will the new terminal now under construction change the overall Airport context? As we closed the evening we realized that Metro Airport represents a very complex landscape that can be viewed from many different perspectives.

The Hayes Library by Arch. Ioana Campean

Many of the students in the Historic Preservation Program like to travel. The course on Cultural Landscape Interpretation - Professor Ted Ligibel's - brings to us one of the most diverse experiences. From northern Ohio to northern Michigan, from simple farms to high style architecture, from industrial, natural, to cultural, rural or urban landscapes, all of them have one essential element in common: the humans who shaped it. The visit to the Hayes Presidential Center was not just one of the visits where you listen and observe, but made many of us think about alternative solutions and improvements.

Today the Hayes Presidential Center includes Spiegel Grove (a wooded 25 acre estate and its carriage house), and the first US Presidential Library. Spiegel Grove is in the process of being restored back to its 1880s appearance. Many of us considered this a loss. The house could be used as a very good example of evolution in time (the house was lived in by the Hayes family till in the mid 1960s). The exhibition in the library building was quite old fashioned and some of us considered that a more visitor friendly remodeling would help.

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...continued from page 3 THE HAYES LIBRARY

The main discussions erupted when we heard about the new extension of the library building. The current proposal consists of an above ground level addition, on the back part of the library - which is the facade facing Spiegel Grove. The library is very near to the mansion. With this addition, the mansion would be taken out of scale and its image destroyed. This proposal would also cut more trees down; trees which are not only old and beautiful, but also the most important characteristic which defines this landscape.



The Rutherford B. Hayes residence was built in 1859 by D. L. June. Photo from the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center Internet Web Page, <www.rbhayes.org>

The mansion has quite a generous attic and a basement, which could house some of the office spaces needed. The carriage house could also be remodeled to accommodate some more offices and maybe the giftshop. To many of the classmates, the acquisition of historic buildings in the bordering neighborhoods (which would be near the main complex and offer an historic context) seemed to stand out as a much better alternative to changing the landscape. The building of the library could also be remodeled in the interior. A certain area could be used for offices by introducing two levels in the height of the existing one. As for more space - especially the conservation laboratories - the architectural solution of the new extension should use the underground in the current parking area. The underground solution is the best for more reasons. It is a delicate intervention having almost no impact on the image of the existent landscape. The labs would highly appreciate zenital lightning. And the parking area has no trees, therefore building there would bring no further harm on the green spaces.

For more information about the Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio call 1-800-998-7737

A Great Weekend in Northern Michigan by Danielle Hall

During the weekend of May 29 through June 1, Professor Ted Ligibel took his Cultural Landscape class on a Northern Michigan Study Trip. During the weekend, our class visited many different types of cultural landscapes, from a one-of-a-kind drive in restaurant, to the top of Mackinac Island.

The trip began Friday night, at the Riviera Motel in Mackinaw City, where some of the students spent the night. This classic example of mid-century motor lodge is situated right on the Straights of Mackinaw with a great view of the bridge.

Saturday morning, everyone headed down the road to Fort Michilimackiac for a tour of the reconstructed French and English fort settled 275 years ago. Some of the Fort's buildings include barracks, headquarters and a church. One of the buildings now houses the remains of the original powder house, and visitors can see the charred wood remains from a small inner observation deck. We also saw a black powder musket demonstration by two of the forts re-enactors/ employees.

From there we traveled across the bridge to St. Ignace, and stopped at a unique drive-in dinner called Clyde's. This place was full when we got there, but the burger and malt that I got where definitely worth the wait!

After lunch, we went right up to Whitefish Point in the Upper Peninsula. Bruce Lynn, (recent EMU grad from the Preservation program) is the new Sales Coordinator for the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum right on Whitefish Bay. Bruce greeted us and started our tour with a walk onto the beach, which looks on Lake Superior. The lake is known for horrible weather in the fall and has seen more ship wrecks than any other Great Lake. As you walked toward the water, the beach is filled with very smooth water washed stones of all different sizes and colors. It made the beach very beautiful to look at.

We then watched a movie showing the retrieval of the bell of the Edmund Fitzgerald, one of the last and most well known of ships that sunk in the lake. Twenty years after the Emund Fitzgerald sank in 1975, the bell was retrieved and replaced with a new bell that had all the names of the men who died inscribed on its surface. The original bell is now on display in the museum.

The museum itself is one of the best designed small museums I have ever seen. All the lighting is focused on the twelve exhibits of ship wrecks from Lake Superior in chronological order. In one corner, a portion of the ribs of one wreck was displayed as if it were underwater and being explored by divers. A huge lighthouse lens was in the center of the room and was being circled by seagulls hung from the ceiling.

The last part of the tour was through the lighthouse keepers quarters, which is furnished with items from the years 1890

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to 1920. The house is broken up into two sections; one for the keeper and the other for workers. One part of the house leads up to the lighthouse itself, a very unusual designed tubular metal structure from 1861. We ended up in the small gift shop, which had wonderful boat and lighthouse merchandise. Monica was in heaven!!

From there, we caravanned south to Paradise, and our lodging at the Cedar Lodge, located right on the water. This unique property had six large double rooms off the main lodge room. Off to one side of the main lodge, were a number of one bedroom cabins, and on the other were two room cabins. Each cabin had a living room and full kitchen with cooking gear. Just as the desk clerk said, the beds were very comfortable!

That night, we traveled to Camp 33, an old CCC camp area where a new microbrewery and restaurant are now located. Camp 33 had genuine pasties and a wonderful draught! On a personal note, I would like to thank Ted and everyone else for singing Happy Birthday for me.

Camp 33 is just a short walk to Tahquamenon Falls, a beautiful natural fall that can be seen from a platform above or below the falls. On the way back to the cars, we experienced another natural phenomenon, it rained on us! Ted gave us all a treat that evening, s'mores over a fire. Ioana thought they were good, but a little too sweet.

The next morning, we caravanned back to St. Ignace, hoping the the Ojibwa Museum was open, which it wasn't, but we spent a few minutes at a "genuine" Indian store. A few of our classmates got to the Ojibwa Museum, but missed the ferry with the rest of the class.

Arriving on Mackinac Island, we were greeted by Jill Skiera, the Sales Coordinator for our hotel, the Harbor View Inn. The original part of the Harbor View was built in the 1820s by a French-Indian woman, Madame La Framboise. From the original four rooms, an elegant sixty-five room hotel was constructed from the back of the 1820 house.

After checking in and seeing our rooms, we met with Phil Porter, Mackinac State Park Historian and author. Mr. Porter told us about the start of the Island, as the next city up the Lake from Detroit in its beginning. A very important site in the Great Lakes area during the War of 1812, the Island was actually a Federal Park till the beginning of this century. When the first automobile was driven onto the Island, a law was almost instantly made to ban all of the motorized vehicles from the Islands streets. Thank you to Mr. Porter for a wonderful introduction to the history and current events of Mackinac Island.

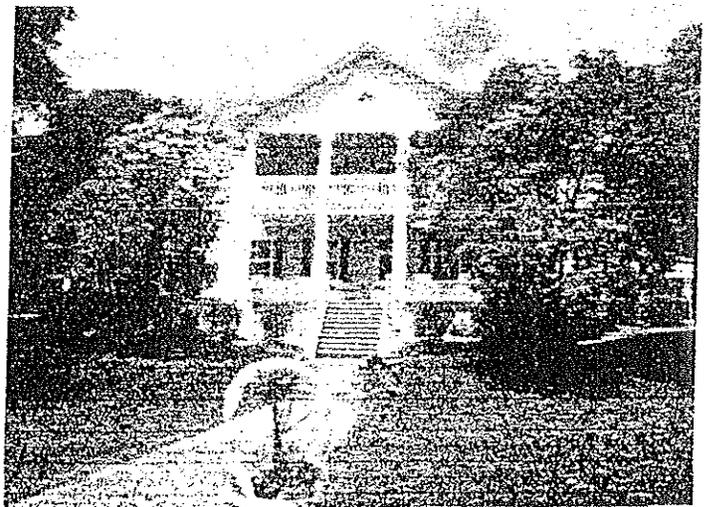
Bruce Lynn took over as tour guide again, as we started up the beautiful east bluff of the island to see some great architecture. On our walk, we past many sites. From the bluff we proceeded inward, through the park and across the island to see Sugar Loaf and Arch Rock, two beautiful natural rock formations. We also walked by the three cemeteries on the island, the recreated earthen-work of Fort Holmes, Skull Cave, past the north side of Fort Mackinac and the Governors Mansion over to the west bluff. If it can be said, the west bluff has houses of the top ar-

chitectural design. Huge Victorian beauties with a view of the Straights. On the way back to the hotel, we were fortunate enough to walk right in front of the Grand Hotel and its fabulous porch.

After dinner at the French Outpost, we headed back to the hotel for a rest, but were out again that evening to experience some Mackinac Island night life. A group of us went to Horn's Bar, where Nancy requested the song "Edmund Fitzgerald" to the talented singer/ guitarist. We had fun!

Monday morning, after a wonderful breakfast complements of the Harbor View, we walked to Fort Mackinac for an early appointment. It now interprets life at the Fort in a late nineteenth century. The dress army uniform resembles a Prussian uniform, the military heroes at that time. After a rifle demonstration by the Fort soldiers, the cannon was fired off, and it hit a buoy! We then took a while to explore the many buildings in the Fort. The guardhouse (jail to us lay folk) had colonial graffiti on its walls. The post hospital was home to famous William Beaumont, who experimented for many years on the digestive system of a patient. This fort also had barracks and officers quarters, as well as a school for the soldiers, a storehouse and commissary.

After the tour of the Fort, Ted broke up the class to walk around on our own. Some of the class followed Ted down to Historic Mill Creek, a reconstruction of a sawmill back on the main land, south of Mackinac City. As for myself, my mom and I rented bikes and started a trip around the island, seeing the British Landing site and Devil's Kitchen. We caught the ferry back to St. Ignace, and ended a great weekend of seeing the sites of Northern Michigan.



The Harbor View Inn on Mackinac Island

The original part of the Harbor View was built in the 1820s by a French-Indian woman, Madame La Framboise. From the original four rooms, an elegant sixty-five room hotel was constructed from the back of the 1820 house.

Photo by Nancy Reynolds

A Unique Opportunity At *COBBLESTONE FARM*

This fall term we have the unique opportunity to partner with Cobblestone Farm on a grant the City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Division has received from the Michigan SHPO to authentically restore the dining room of the farmhouse. Preservation and conservation experts will be brought in to complete the project, and we will be using their expertise for a number of on-site lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Preservation Eastern will be heavily involved as the student-involvement coordinating body. Ask for more details as the fall term arrives; (this was a venture set up by our own Kerry Adams prior to his departure to Dayton.)

Upcoming Events at Cobblestone Farm

**New Student Orientation for EMU
Historic Preservation program -
September 4**

Fall Harvest - Sept. 20

Country Christmas - Nov. 29, Dec. 6

Winter Evening - Feb. 12

*For further information,
call Ed Rice at 994-2928.*

... more opportunities at Cobblestone Farm by Ed Rice

Historic Cobblestone Farm Museum built in 1844 by naval surgeon Dr. Benajah Ticknor has a variety of research and volunteer opportunities. Numerous areas of research are available for those interested in an internship, working on class projects or perhaps a final project.

One specific area of study could be to compile a complete list of Dr. Ticknor's books. In 1858 Dr. Ticknor willed his collection of books, valued then at the large sum of \$550.00, to The University of Michigan.

Those interested in living history are welcome to volunteer for any of the special events which occur throughout the year. If you are interested in historically accurate plants and flower beds, the fountain circle is an area that could use attention. For more information, call Ed Rice 994-2928.

Michigan Preservation Week at the Jr. High Level

During Michigan Preservation Week in May, Karen Maddick and Philip Smith visited Jeanette Jr. High School in Sterling Heights and spoke to the students about preservation issues.

Ms. Maddick spoke to the ninth grade Spanish classes, while showing slides of Mexico and discussing the Mexican culture and history. Through the slides and discussions that followed, the idea of historic preservation was demonstrated on an international level. Ms. Maddick has visited Mexico several times and used her experiences to discuss how the Mexican culture differs from ours. She discussed their history and steps they are taking to preserve this part of their society. The students in every class were very excited to learn about Mexico. They asked so many questions that the class time was over before their curiosity was satisfied. It was a wonderful experience for Ms. Maddick as well. This was her second visit to Jeanette, and she has stated that she looks forward in returning this Fall to bring preservation issues to the next level of students.

Mr. Smith spoke to both seventh and ninth graders, with a slide show entitled "Combining Preservation & Environmental Issues at the Local Level". A week before the presentation he visited the Sterling Heights/Utica area, and took slides pertaining to preservation and environmental matters. Students are well aware of the environmental movement, but Mr. Smith sees these two movements as going hand in hand, and wants the students to see how important it is to save buildings for the sake of combating future sprawl. Mr. Smith found that he was able to give some local historic information that the teachers were unaware of, and the students enjoyed trying to determine where in their community the slides were taken, so that they could better understand what buildings and sites they have that they should be proud of. By bringing the preservation issues closer to home the students came to understand that they should be more aware of what is happening in and around their community. Mr. Smith expects to visit the school again in the fall also, for he was pleased with the positive reactions he received from both students and teachers.

The combination of foreign and local preservation sessions tied in well together for a few of the students who actually saw both presentations. If other Historic Preservation students are interested in this type of activity, please contact Phil Smith or come to the *Preservation Eastern* meetings so that we can discuss your ideas.

Documentation of *Renchler Farm* in Saline is needed for Historic District application contact Lisa Kolberg, HDC Chair, (734) 429-8220. Use this opportunity to learn and build your resume.

Preservation Eastern

Phil Smith, Director
Karen Maddick, Assistant Director
Monica Kuhn, Business Manager
Danielle Hall, Public Relations Officer
Nancy Reynolds, Newsletter Editor

FALL SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES

GHPR 572 FUNDING PRESERVATION PROJECTS - I wish to point out to new and old program students that we have scheduled the popular Funding Preservation Projects course for this fall. The course has no prerequisite requirement, and whatever the student's concentration area, it is a useful applied course to be able to include in your future job resume. Several program graduates have reported to me that during employment interviews they were asked if they had any fund raising expertise. The course is taught by adjunct professor Ken Munson, who has a long working background with nonprofit organizations, including the Wyandotte Historical Museum and Henry Ford's Fair Lane estate. The course covers a variety of fund raising techniques including grant writing, solicitation, fund raiser events, etc.
by Marshall McLennan

GEOG 541 MATERIAL CULTURE - I originally scheduled this class on campus on Thursday nights, but the opportunity has arisen to hold the class instead at Greenfield Village-Henry Ford Museum (The Edison Institute) on Saturdays, where students can work directly with one of the greatest collections of America material culture in the country. Nancy Bryk, the instructor, plans to give students a hands on experience with the artifact collections at the Edison Institute. The class will meet on the EMU campus the first night as scheduled, and Ms. Bryk will tell students where to meet at the Edison Institute thereafter. The classes at the Edison Institute will meet on Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM. In addition to registration, it will be necessary to purchase a pass (estimated cost, \$25 - \$30), which will entitle the holder to access to the museum, village, and collections, not just for the period of the class, but for one year.

During the early years of the program, we regularly scheduled classes at the Edison Institute, so I welcome this opportunity for students to work with one of the world's greatest material culture collections again. This arrangement will provide a far more valuable learning experience that if taught on campus! *by Marshall McLennan*

GHPR 680 ADVANCED FOLK ARCHITECTURE - For those who would like to pursue this subject further, this course will examine American log architecture in greater detail than GEO 548, giving more attention to construction characteristics than morphology. The course will also look at nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular and folk architecture in French Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley, the Great plains, Texas, and the Southwest.

Membership Counts!

Why join Preservation Eastern? Well, it's the best way to keep up on historic preservation activities within the department and throughout the area. Dues are only \$10 annually, and your membership and involvement will insure future growth and success in the organization. For more information, contact Phil Smith or any other Preservation Eastern Officer.

NAME _____

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

PROGRAM OF STUDY _____

Mail this application and your \$10 check to Preservation Eastern, EMU Dept. of Geography and Geology, Historic Preservation Program, Strong Hall, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

The format will differ for my other courses, beginning with lecture on the log cabin material, followed by a midterm (the only exam) and then shifting to a seminar based on selected readings and complemented by some slide presentations. Instead of a research paper, students will make an oral presentation on an appropriate book. Other than the midterm, course evaluation will be based on seminar participation and the oral presentation.

For those using the General Concentration to focus on architectural or design history, this course can be used as part of the concentration. Under certain circumstances and in consultation with an advisor, it might also be used as part of the Heritage Interpretation Concentration. Otherwise this is an elective course. *by Marshall McLennan*

GHPR 538 HISTORIC PRESERVATION & TOURISM - This course will be offered on Thursday evenings by Professor Ligibel. This course will explore the interrelationships between HP and Heritage Tourism by adopting a real-life project(s) currently underway in this region. One possibility is to work with the new *Automobile National Heritage Area* as it comes to fruition. This course is designed as an adjunct to the Heritage Interpretation concentration, but will work well if you are looking for a tourism class that bridges the planning or administration concentrations. It can be used as an elective in any of the concentrations, for the certificate, or for the General Study focus. *by Ted Ligibel*

Norm Tyler will NOT be teaching GHPR 557 Community Development and Downtown Revitalization in Fall 1998. This class will be offered in Winter 1999.

Preservation Eastern
EMU Dept. of Geography and Geology
Historic Preservation Program
Strong Hall
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Upcoming Conferences in Historic Preservation

Michigan African American Symposium

September 18 & 19

Grand Rapids, Michigan

For more information, call (616) 895-3441

52nd National Preservation Conference

"The Art and Economics of Preservation"

October 20-25

Savannah, Georgia

For registration information, call (800) 944-6847

1998 Annual Conference Pioneer

America Society

"Wilmington: A Port Town and its Hinterlands in
the Early British Colonial South"

November 5 - 7

Wilmington, North Carolina

For conference information contact:

W. Frank Ainsley (910) 962-3493

State Historic Preservation Office Fall Workshop

"Preserving Historic Landscapes" - September 25

"Skills for Effective Historic District Commissions"

September 26

Both in Lansing, Michigan

For registration material contact SHPO (517) 373-1630

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

Fall Rural Conference

November 20

Fowlerville, Michigan

For more information contact Marshall McLennan

(734) 487-7571.

**Preservation Eastern T-shirts and sweatshirts
are now available. Also, look for postcards from
the Preservation Eastern Art Contest winners.**