

2001

## Preservation Eastern, Winter 2001

Preservation Eastern  
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BUILDING THE PAST: INTERPRETATION, ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING.

# Preservation Eastern

## PE Visits National Trust Conference in Los Angeles

Preservation Eastern members Heather Aldridge, Theresa Beagle, Ruth Mills and myself joined Dr. Ted Ligibel at the annual National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Los Angeles from October 31-November 4, 2001. I attended as an Emerging Preservation Leader. Dr. Ligibel, EMU's Historic Preservation Program Director, presented an educational session on "The Recent Past". This went nicely with the theme of the conference theme, "Saving America's treasures in the 21st Century," and provided an appropriate setting. On Halloween, I had hoped travelers would be in costume, at least attendees for the opening night of the con-

ference. I was greatly disappointed at the lack of holiday spirit and kept my mask and other decorations hidden in my backpack. On the opening night, Robert Winter (a.k.a. Bungalow Bob) spoke. The large crowd witnessed a humorous and interesting presentation which was epitomized by his comment, "Only Florence Italy can beat the Los Angeles area for architecture." The longer I stayed and explored LA, the more I appreciated its structural and cultural diversity. It wasn't long before I had shared many storied and made friends with others in attendance. A typical day consisted of educational sessions and social events at

night. Of the many interesting sessions, "Ballparks and Stadiums: Coming to a Town Near You", stood out. The General Manager of the San Diego Padres Baseball Team detailed plans of a new stadium in the city's warehouse district. The Padres not only intend to construct a modern stadium incorporating warehouse structures (page 3)



PE students Ruth Mills and Teresa Beagle with National Trust President Richard Moe in LA

## Materials Conservation Lab Coming to EMU

James Marston Fitch, viewed by many to be the "Father of Historic Preservation", defined historic preservation as the "curatorial management of the built environment" and architectural conservation as a "highly specialized aspect of the

broader field of historic preservation." Architectural conservation is considered highly specialized because detailed knowledge of specific building materials and technologies is mandatory. An architectural conservator can determine

original paint colors, mortar ingredients, or construction methods. Architectural conservation is a demanding, challenging field filled with rewarding hands-on projects.

The conservation of the architecture and (page 3)

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### PARTY!

PE's annual year-end party is tentatively scheduled for May 12th at the Broadhead Armory in Detroit. The Detroit Art Deco Society will present its prize to a



preservation student and Alumni is always invited. More details will be forthcoming.

## Notes from the OHPO Barn Colloquium in Columbus

The Ohio Historic preservation Office held a colloquium on barns on January 26, 2001 in Columbus. The following is information useful when surveying barns in the Midwest from Steve Gordon, the author of "How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory".

The oldest barns are scribal barns and date to the 13-14th century. They have hand-hewn knee braces and most pre-1840s barns are noted by this feature. Each post in the scribal barn was 8x8 and 10x10 so they could be substituted for one another and were assembled piece by piece. A Medieval system used marriage marks, which were Roman numerals indicating joints.

For identifying Civil War period barns, circular saw and tool marks are a good indicators. Of the wood used to build barns, white oak was preferred. Tulip, poplar and red oak were the next choices. In 1880s, hay tracks were introduced and were a technological break through (denoted by hay hood). Between 1895-1920, the "Better

Barn Building Movement" occurred. This movement was led by the work of John Schaubert who was a premier bridge engineer and creator of a system of barn roof framing. Barns became uniform using either 2x6s or 2x8s and were bolted. Schaubert Barns are noted by the barn load resting on a sill plate. 7,000 of his buildings were constructed in 24 states.

By the 1900s, barns commonly functioned with a factory mentality, promoting hygiene. This was noted by glazed tile solos, corked floors and some concrete floors. By the 1910-20s, pre-fabricated barns/ kits became widespread. Many were created by the Black River Company. OARDC in Wooster, Ohio is a great resource for further such barn information.

For researching barns, deed indexes give a date of sale and a name denotes the cultural influence. Wall maps from the 1850s have illustrations of barns but were not widely published. Local informants,

county engineers offices, road surveys, copies of "The Ohio Farmer", Wilhelm's 1850 census data, family collections and Ohio agricultural reports are also invaluable. For barn books, Radford's Practical Barn Plans, in the OHS archives, is a great resource. The University of Illinois -Agricultural Experiment Station and Tax Bills are good too.

For surveying, take good panoramic photos and detailing on exteriors which should be complimented by good interior shots. Is wood hand sawn or hewn? Exterior siding is not a good indicator of date. Vertical siding is always an indication of a 2nd-3rd generation farm. Look also for nail fabrication. Are they square, machine or wire? When completing an OHI, present a sketch of the major interior framing pattern. When surveying, look for cues that indicate alterations. Example: adding hay tracks often turned a gable barn into a gambrel barn.

Negative findings are also useful. Think integrity when determining (Page 4)

## Materials Conservation, Archeology among Guest Speaker Topics

The EMU Speaker Series dates for March and April will provide input from professionals on topics relevant to a number of historic preservation professions.

On March 19th in the Alumni Room of McKenny Hall, Mark Gervasi of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village will discuss the use of Conservation Treatments. A wood specialist, Mr. Gervasi will present ways professionals are

addressing issues related to material conservation. This is an area that is being addressed more frequently by EMU's Preservation Program since the arrival of the material conservation lab. The presentation will begin at 4:15 PM.



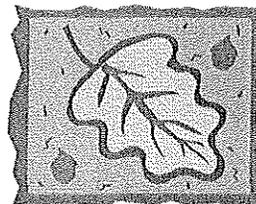
John Halsey will be the guest speaker on April 16th at 4:15 PM in the Alumni Room. Mr.

Halsey is Michigan's State Archeologist and he will discuss Fayette from an archeological viewpoint. Fayette is the site of a mining town in the upper peninsula where EMU conducts its annual summer field school.

Both presentations are free.



## Inside Story Headline



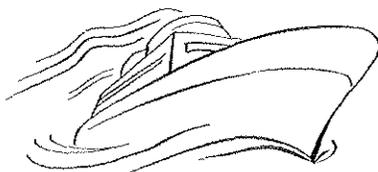
*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

## Materials Conservation Lab Coming to EMU (Continued)

(from page 1) artifacts of growing concern in the Great Lakes region. A unique architectural assemblage, consisting of lighthouses and related structures and the vessels that plied the lakes and rivers, exhibit a wide ranged of designs and materials. With each passing day the architectural remnants of maritime activities that were the cornerstone of the Great Lakes economy decay at an increasing rate. The study of this architectural legacy offers abundant opportunities for us to learn about our maritime heritage. However, before they can be studied they must be conserved. A careful review of conservation facilities in the Great Lakes area suggests a considerable need for services and exper-

tise in this arena.

Under the direction of Dr. Lauren Sickels-Taves, a maritime/materials conservation laboratory has been established at Eastern Michigan University. It is the first of its kind in the Midwest to be devoted exclusively to the conservation of the architecture and artifacts



associated with the maritime trades. Dr. Sickels-Taves has secured several grants to expand the work of the lab, and the list of clients requesting serv-

ices is growing.

The activity of the maritime conservation laboratory is being integrated with the Historic Preservation at EMU. This has significant implications for the program and the students, especially those enrolled in the new "Conservation and Technology" track. In addition to a thorough and complete background in historic preservation, students in the new track will be exposed to traditional, and emerging, conservation protocols. In keeping with an educational philosophy that emphasizes "hands-on" experience, work in the lab will afford students a venue for applying the skills learned in class.

-Dr. Michael Sheehan

## PE Students Attend NTHP Annual Conference in Los Angeles

(from page 1) in the outfield, but a whole sixty block revitalized baseball neighborhood! The majority of sessions I attended dealt with cultural resources, heritage interpretation or the National Park Service. Other speakers of note were National Trust President Richard Moe, Secretary of the Army, Louis Caldera, futurist Stewart Brand and of course, Dr. Ligibel.

At night there were gatherings at sites

where well known Hollywood movies were filmed. The old theatres around downtown LA are true architectural gems and their dire need of protection is being insured by its local preservationists. The California cuisine was interestingly unique. I ran in the Trust 5K race and most of us toured Hollywood.

*"The longer I stayed and explored LA, the more I appreciated its structural and cultural diversity."*

-Trent Margrif

Next year the National Trust intends on offering on-site job interviews during the conference and other job leads. Overall the conference was exciting, informative and most enjoyable. See you next year in Rhode Island.

- Trent Margrif

### Important Upcoming Conference/ Meeting Dates:

- **March 9** *Understanding the Farmstead: 150 Years of Agricultural Building in the Great Lakes Region*, Kellogg Conference Center, 9 a.m. -4:30 p.m., Michigan State University, Lansing. (517)347-3073 for more info.
- **March 14-15** *Downtown Ohio, Inc. Spring Workshop*, Emmett House Hotel, Mt. Vernon, OH. (614)224-5410 for more info.
- **March 15** *Preservation Eastern Meeting*, Rm.214 Rackham, 4:30 p.m.
- **March 19** *Speaker Series: Mark Gervasi, "Conservation Treatments at HFMGP"*, EMU Alumni Room, McKenny Union, 4:15 p.m.
- **April 1-4** *National Town Meeting on Main Street*, Indianapolis, IN, (202) 588-6020 for more info.
- **April 5** *Preservation Eastern Meeting*, Rm. 214 Rackham, 4:30 p.m.
- **April 6-7** *Ohio Barn Conference*, Wooster, OH. (614)298-2000 for more info.
- **April 16** *Speaker Series: John Halsey, "Fayette from an Archeological Viewpoint"*, EMU Alumni Room, McKenny Union, 4:15 p.m.
- **April 26-28** *Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference*, Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, (248)625-8181 for more info.



**Preservation Eastern**

**BUILDING THE PAST: INTERPRETATION,  
ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING.**

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## Notes from the OHPO Barn Colloquium

(from page 2) eligibility. Would a farmer returning today be able to recognize this barn? Aluminum siding does change the historic integrity of the structure. The following are examples of non-eligible barns:

1. Was not eligible due to vertical siding added.
2. Barn has additions. List what happened and why.
3. Setting of barn has changed.
4. Has lost its integrity due to addition on dairy barn.

Also, a barn's architectural integrity must overcome its setting when a house has been lost.

When considering National Register eligibility and submitting forms, think MACRO, but act MICRO. Usually there are 3 historic contexts; Geographical, Historic and Time Frame.

Criterion C is usually used for barns but may be A due to agriculture in the region. B is used when a breakthrough is found on an individual.

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office has a list of bibliography resources and a chart listing the six barn structural types that came from "The Michigan Barn Phase II Report" from 8/31/92. For more information, call OHPO at 614-298-2000. >



*Barn architecture is important to the history of early settlement patterns*



### **Volunteers Needed!**

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference is being held April 26-28 in Detroit's Marriott Renaissance Center. Volunteers are being requested to help with registration and other services. Various incentives for volunteering will be available including help with registration costs. To find out more, contact Dr. Ted Ligibel at 734-487-0232 or e-mail, ted.ligibel@emich.edu.