

2003

Preservation Eastern, September 2003

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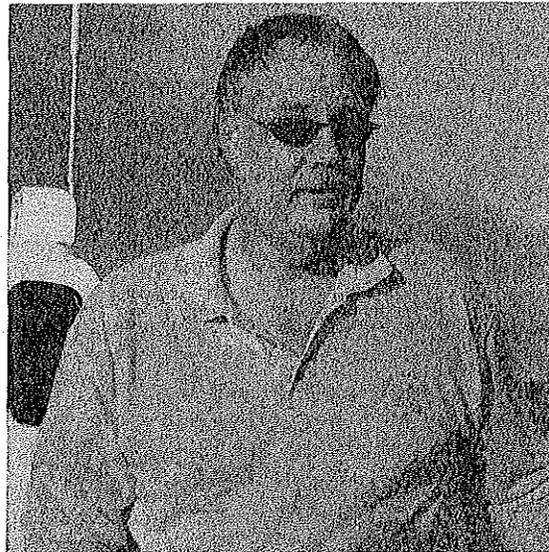
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PRESERVATION EASTERN

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Dr. Ted Ligibel fresh from his soaking on the ferry ride between the Manitou Islands.

Special points of interest:

- Keep your calendars open for upcoming PE events this fall - make sure to look at the calendar for more details.
- Join the PE Yahoo! Group - if you have problems send Michelle Sponseller an email a to sign you up.

Dr. Ted's Corner

WELCOME TO OUR 24th YEAR!

2003 brings the Historic Preservation Program to the start of its 24th year. And its promising to be another banner year, again with one of our largest enrollments, at 23 new students, even surpassing last year. I want to welcome these new students and all of our returning scholars as well.

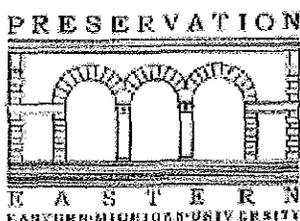
Among the new and formally admitted students this term are: Devon Akmon, Aubrey Alter, Amanda Apple, Martha Burczyk, Alison Chalom, Tracey Craig, Matthew Folland, Kristi Gilbert, Alex

Haddad, Elizabeth Hall, Jennifer Jones, Annette Knowles, Jennifer Maglinter-Timbrook, Jennifer Mazurek, Cassandra Nelson, Stephen O'Neill, Lisa Ruppel, Deborah Sanchez, Kelly Simpson, Kimberly Smith, Mary Stachowiak, Renee Tavares, and Cynthia Underwood. Welcome to you all!

Several items may be of interest since our last newsletter. Dr. Barry Fish, former Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, will remain this year as Head of the Geography & Geology Department while the search for a permanent Department Head is undertaken. Dr. Rocky Ward has officially retired, though you will find him teaching the GEOG 553, the Urban & Regional Planning class, as an emeritus faculty this

term. Dr. Robert Jones has been hired to replace Rocky and will be teaching planning courses that some of you may be interested in. Our co-founder, Dr. Marshall McLennan, will be on board one more term to teach the Settlement Geography course; Dr. Chris Mayda will return to this course next Fall. Our other co-founder, Dr. Drew Nazario, also returns to the department this year after serving in EMUs World College for the past few terms. Of course Drs. Gabe Cherem, Ted Ligibel, Lauren Sickels-Taves, and Norm Tyler, and will continue in their starring roles this year.

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DR. TED'S CORNER...CONTINUED

I'm pleased to announce that we will have two Graduate assistants this year, Kathy Keefer and Jennifer Wendler. Two of our students, Michelle Sponseller and Carolyn Nelson have received scholarships to attend and present at the Association for Preservation Technology annual conference in Maine this fall, and Linda VanKoevering received an "Emerging Leader" scholarship from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to attend their annual conference in Denver in October.

It was a very busy spring and summer term...

Fayette Field School: WE DID IT!!! We completed the restoration of Building # 3 at the Fayette Historic Townsite. For the last two weeks of June over the course of the previous five years, we have been working on this structure...and now it is open to the public for the first time since 1959, the year the state purchased the property for use as a state park. It will be interpreted as a "work-in-progress" showing the

restoration process from beginning to end, and wait until you see the vivid colors that were restored to the walls, floor, and ceilings of the small front bedroom. WOW! Even those of us who are color-impaired were amazed. The 'crew' on closing day of Fayette Field School 2003 with a freshly painted Building # 3 as a backdrop.



The hardy souls who took GEOG 695 in Traverese city.

Traverse City Intense Course: During the second week in August, ten hardy souls...we nearly lost two to the heat...spent their time and energy assisting NPS staff at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the development of a historic con-

text statement for the Manitou Passage. The Manitou Passage is the body of water lying roughly between the Manitou and Fox Islands and the mainland. The park staff are pursuing the nomination of that strait of water as a National Historic Landmark, which would be the first such designation of its type in the nation.

Students also met with representatives of four organizations involved in local preservation and conservation activities, including the Michigan Land Use Institute, the Land Information Access Association, the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, to assess the potential for participation in the Certificate in Historic Preservation program that we are developing at Northwest Michigan College through EMUs Office of Continuing Education.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S SEPTEMBER ALREADY

By: Kathy Keefer

When textbooks take the place of travel books and long days of just hangin' out turn into long nights at the library. There will be many new faces in the halls this semester as one of the program's largest classes starts working towards that new career in historic preservation. Personally, and on behalf of Preservation Eastern, I would like to say "Welcome!" to all new students and "hello again!" to all returning students and friends.

Who ever coined the phrase "the lazy days of summer" obviously hadn't heard of Eastern's Historic Preservation Program. While many students disappeared as soon as finals were over in April – I continued to work on a graduate assistant research project involving the River Raisin Battlefield site in Monroe, Michigan, that was to be finalized in June. So, at the end of May, I traveled first to Washington D.C. to do some research at the National Archives and then to the military archives housed at "The Barracks" in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. It wasn't all work though, as I was staying at my sister's home in Alexandria, Virginia, and so I was able to spend some time exploring that very historic and very beautiful city. I was also able to revisit one of my favorite museums in D.C. – the National Building Museum, which is tucked away on a street behind the mall.

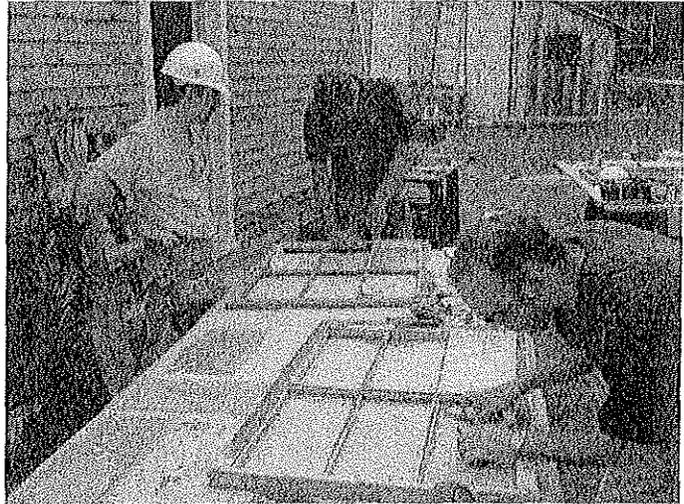
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FAYETTE FIELD SCHOOL

By: Paul Janostak

Looking out on the serene little peninsula where the town of Fayette was founded, it takes a great leap of imagination to picture what this place must have been like during its heyday. The soot, noise and smells that would have come with the production of pig iron seems so out of step with the beauty of the site. On our tour of the town site, I marveled at the amazing collection of buildings still standing. When I first saw Bldg #3, I began to wonder if we would be able to get the building ready for the park in just two weeks. Monday morning (and every morning for the two weeks) we started bright and early and put together the list of items we would need to get done the first week. That week we worked on the siding, cornerboards, windows and doors, to name a few of the items. Probably the nastiest job of the trip was cleaning up the bat guano from the inside of the building. One of the benefits of the working at Fayette was learning how to use tools such as a table saw and compound miter saw. Gordon, the park's carpenter, gave us demonstrations on window repair/reglazing and the use of epoxy. By the end of the week, we were all pretty tired and happy to get the weekend off.

The next week would mostly be spent on painting the building and getting the "punch list" done. Luckily for us, we got only a little bit of rain the entire week, so the only thing that slowed us down were the trips to Escanaba to get more paint! Demonstrations this week were on historic paints and finishes, paint strippers and also how to do faux graining. We also had the opportunity to help install the exhibits that went into the reproduction off a workers' cabin that is now in the park. The last couple of days we got the last few items on the punch list done and started to put all our equipment away. Alumni Tamara Click and Ruth Mills stopped by at the end of the week to help out and got the unenviable job of cleaning the upstairs of the Supervisor's house.



Fayette Field School 2003

Another of the benefits of the fieldschool were the evening sight visits we took each week. The "Big Spring Kitchiti-kipi" was just incredible, you cross this pond on a glass bottom boat and gaze down into the crystal-clear waters. I wish I could adequately describe the way the spring churns the sand at the bottom of the pond, it is something that must be seen to be believed. On the weekend off, Deb Adamcik convinced me to go with her to see some of the natural wonders that the UP had to offer. Our trip took us to Grand Marais to see the Sable Falls, and then we went to Munising to see the Munising Falls. Finally, we went to Miner's Castle in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. And yes, this was all in one day and I wish you could have been there!

I have to thank the following people for taking their time to help us out: Steve Steir and Ron Koenig (our guest instructors), Robb MacKay and Brian Grinnell (from the SHPO) and Bill Click (our student instructor). My biggest "thank you" has to go to Gordie, Brenda and the rest of the park staff for putting up with our little circus! Now, while your own experience may vary (should you go on the fieldschool) it will be something you will never forget. The sense of pride you get from seeing your work actually making a difference was more than worth the price of the class.

Don't forget to keep in touch with PE!

If you are a member of the Preservation Eastern Yahoo! Group, you will receive official announcements regarding PE related events, job postings and non-EMU preservation activities.

If you are not a member of the Yahoo! Group, please send an e-mail to Michelle Sponseller at michellesponseller@hotmail.com with your name and e-mail information and we will sign you up!

Do you have an event you'd like to tell EMU Historic Preservation students, faculty and friends about?

Send an email with the pertinent details to:
michellesponseller@hotmail.com

HISTORIC FORT WAYNE

By: Amanda Wettergren

The shores of the Detroit River hold a great treasure of history that is currently in need of a significant amount of tender loving care. This diamond in the rough is Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne. Located at the juncture of West Jefferson and Livernois, the fort is named for Revolutionary War hero General "Mad" Anthony Wayne who defeated the British at Fallen Timbers in 1796. The fort was originally commissioned in 1840 to serve as a defense against British attacks coming from Canada. The actual fort was constructed in the common five point star form, and was completed in 1845. The stone barracks within the fort walls were finished in 1848. Not long after the fort was commissioned, the United States signed a treaty with Britain which stated that both sides would attempt to resolve differences diplomatically. The fort never saw a day of battle, with Britain, or anyone else for that matter! Thus, the catch phrase "Never a shot fired in anger" has become the battle cry of the fort's supporters.

For over 125 years, the fort remained an Army post, and was the primary induction center for Michigan troops entering battle in every U.S. conflict from the Civil War to Vietnam. During World Wars I and II, Fort Wayne became the primary procurement location for vehicles, equipment, and weaponry. This "Arsenal of Democracy" supplied more equipment to U.S. troops during these major conflicts than any other supply center.

Officers' houses and support structures were constructed on the grounds outside of the Fort's walls between the 1880s and 1940s. In the late 1930s, the Works Progress Administration renovated many of the structures associated with the Fort. The Fort's grounds also include an American Indian Mound that has been determined to be over 1000 years old. This remains the only surviving American Indian Mound in Southeastern Michigan today.

In 1964, Fort Wayne was decommissioned; however the Army Corps of Engineers continued to occupy a portion of the grounds where they operated the Great Lakes Boatyard. The Fort was turned over to city hands at that time, though the city did little to enhance or maintain the site. The Detroit Historical Society was named the responsible party for the Fort. In the late 1970s a living history program was established, providing costumed docents, civil war re-enactments, and live cannon demonstrations to excited visitors. The site continued to operate with a very limited staff and budget until 1992, when the city closed Fort Wayne to the public.

In 1998, the voters of Wayne County passed a \$3 million tax specifically dedicated to the restoration and maintenance of the site; however, city and county officials were unable to agree about how the funds should be apportioned and the money went unspent. The site continued to deteriorate, becoming a popular place for local vandals to perform their particular brand of destruction.

Currently, the site is in need of major restoration and repair. Many of the structures outside of the Fort walls have fallen victim to extensive water and weather damage, though one Commanding Officer's home has been restored to its late 1880's appearance and remains in excellent condition. Volunteers have begun minor restorative work on the 1940 built Roosevelt Theatre; however, funding is limited and work is sporadic.

A master plan for the Fort has been created, and Project Manager Bode Morin estimates that the cost for the major restorative work that the site needs lies between \$20 and \$50 million. The Detroit Historical Society, as well as several other concerned non-profit organizations, are at work on a long term funding plan for the Fort. A \$40,000 grant from the Southwest Concerned Citizens Trust allowed the Fort to be open to the public on weekends throughout the summer of 2003. Volunteers led visitors on guided tours, and several large events, such as Civil War re-enactments also took place during this time.

During 2003, Preservation Eastern hosted several informative and entertaining tours of the site, as led by Bode Morin, one of which included a wonderful picnic on a beautiful afternoon by the banks of the Detroit River. These events were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Preservation Eastern hopes to host additional events at the site in the near future.

Historic Fort Wayne is one of the most significant historical sites in the Detroit area, we, as preservationists, must continue to spread the word about this great and unique treasure. Preservation Eastern, as well as the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University, are excited about building a strong relationship with Historic Fort Wayne that will foster future opportunities for education and community preservation. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for exciting future events!

If you would like further information, please contact:
 Historic Fort Wayne
 6325 West Jefferson (at Livernois)
 313-833-1805
www.detroithistorical.org



Calendar of Events

<p>September 12 (Friday) King Hall 6:30—Social time 7:00 pm—9:00pm Speaker</p>	<p>PE Speakers Series presents...the Michigan SHPO Come and listen to Amy Arnold (State Planner) and Elizabeth Snufnar (Environmental Review) of the SHPO office.</p>
<p>September 17 - 20 Portland, ME</p>	<p>APT Annual Conference www.appt.org</p>
<p>September 27 (Saturday) 1:00pm—3:00pm</p>	<p>Octagon Barn Tour (Gagetown, MI) Come and take a tour of one of Michigan's fantastic treasures. Check the PE Yahoo Group for more details and directions.</p>
<p>September 30 - October 5 Denver, CO</p>	<p>National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference www.nthp.org</p>
<p>October 18 & 19 or 25 & 26 Chicago, IL Final dates TBD</p>	<p>Chicago Architectural Tour Look for more details to follow shortly on this exciting PE trip!</p>
<p>November 14 (Friday) King Hall 6:30—Social Time 7:00pm—9:00pm—Speaker</p>	<p>PE Speakers Series Presents...Marla Overhouser, Detroit HDC Staff Marla will be speaking about her Detroit home that was profiled on HGTV's Restore America</p>
<p>December 5 Location—TBD</p>	<p>PE Holiday Party and Elections More details on this event as we finalize them.</p>

FRANKLIN UPDATE

By: Jennifer Wendler

Students who worked on the National Register Nomination for the Village of Franklin will be happy to hear that the project is coming to a close. The project began almost one year ago, when the Village of Franklin offered the job of updating the National Register Nomination for their Historic District to EMU's Historic Preservation program. Franklin's previous nomination, written in 1969, was very brief, imprecise, and not up to current guidelines.

Over the past year, Dr. Ted Ligibel's students have worked to create a new nomination for the Village. Students of his Preservation Research Techniques class researched the contributing properties in the Historic District, including the architecture and history of each building. They also researched the historic context of the entire area. Students of the Documenting Historic Structures class continued the project by compiling and editing the research to write the first draft of the National Register Nomination. They also completed Michigan Historical Inventories for most of the contributing buildings.

For the past few months, Dr. Ligibel, Bill Lamott of Franklin's Historic District Commission, and myself have been working to complete the project. We have had some additional research to do, as well as clarifying the boundaries of the Historic District and photographing the featured properties. We are also completing 25 additional Michigan Historical Inventories for the final submission to the SHPO. Recently, we created a second draft and presented it to the Franklin Historic District Commission for review. After making the few minor changes that they suggested, we sent the draft on to Robert Christensen, National Register Manager for the SHPO, for his review and comments.

Overall, the project has been a great success for the program. The students involved have gained excellent real world experience in completing a National Register Nomination, and the Village of Franklin has been incredibly pleased with everyone's work.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S SEPTEMBER ALREADY

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Two great exhibits were on display at the time: "Saving Mount Vernon - The Birth of Preservation in America" that told the story of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association which became the model for other organizations that came into existence in the 19th century as the historic preservation movement gained momentum and "Picture This - Windows on the American Home" that explored the defining role that windows play in both the architecture and the culture of the American home. If you haven't had the chance to visit the National Building Museum yet, be sure to do so during your next visit to the Capital. You can also check out their website at www.nbm.org, where they often have very interesting interviews with architects and other articles.

I wasn't home for very long before I headed to our Field School in Fayette, where I would spend a week helping put the finishing touches (e.g. paint) on Building 3. What an incredible experience. No matter what your concentration - try to include this in your plan of study. You won't be disappointed. The Field School is located in an area of outstanding natural beauty and although the days are long (and that climb up the hill from the work site to your car at the end of the day can be a killer) the sense of accomplishment at the end of the week is spiritually rejuvenating. By the way, Building 3 is now open to the public, thanks to five summers of hard work put in by EMU historic preservation students.

Back home, I managed to unpack a few boxes from my recent move before my husband, Mark, and I took off for a one-week vacation. Traveling to northern Michigan, I stopped to see the historic Tawas Point Lighthouse for the first time. The state, which purchased the lighthouse from the Coast Guard in 2001, is currently in the process of restoring the structure, built in 1876, with plans to reopen the lighthouse keeper's house as a public museum or interpretive site. My vacation also included a visit to the Whitefish Point Lighthouse, one of my favorites, and famous for its association with the Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Real lighthouse fans may want to check out the National Park Service volunteer positions list next summer for possible positions at a Great Lakes lighthouse (a room and money for food may be provided in exchange for giving tours of the lighthouse).

At this point the summer was more than half over but there was still time to get to Traverse City to participate in Dr. Ligibel's Regional Preservation Issues class. Our project included helping the National Park Service prepare a preliminary context statement that would help define the significance of the Manitou Passage and that would be used to develop their argument for National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation for the Passage. Yet again (I took the summer class in Traverse City last year as well; it was actually my first class in the program) this class proved to be fascinating, fun and inspiring.

Wow! What a busy, busy summer, but it produced many memories that will surely last a lifetime. We'd really love to hear from other students about their summer adventures. Why don't you send your favorite summer stories to Michelle Sponseller at michellesponseller@hotmail.com - and we'll try to print as many as possible in subsequent newsletters.

Kathy Keefer, Preservation Eastern Director

PS: In between all that running around, Preservation Eastern board members managed to have a few meetings during which we started planning this semester's lecture series and fieldtrips. The tour of historic Fort Wayne that took place on July 26th was very successful. On September 12th at 7:00pm in King Hall, representatives from the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office will be speaking. We've arranged for a private tour of the Gagetown Octagon Barn on September 27th at 1:00pm and we're currently organizing a trip to Chicago in October that will include architectural tours of that great city. Preservation Eastern, YOUR student organization, works very hard to provide interesting and fun educational and social opportunities outside of the classroom. So please join or renew your membership to Preservation Eastern (dues are only \$10 a year). Your support is *very much* appreciated!

Questions / Comments / Ideas for the PE newsletter?

Drop one of your PE officers a line and give them your thoughts...

Kathy Keefer
Jenifer Wendler
Paul Janostak
Amanda Wettergren
Michelle Sponseller

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