

2006

## The Post & Lintel, September 2006

Preservation Eastern  
*Eastern Michigan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://commons.emich.edu/postlintel>

---

### Recommended Citation

Preservation Eastern, "The Post & Lintel, September 2006" (2006). *Post & Lintel*. Paper 39.  
<http://commons.emich.edu/postlintel/39>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Preservation Eastern at DigitalCommons@EMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Post & Lintel by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@EMU. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@emich.edu](mailto:lib-ir@emich.edu).

# The Post & Lintel

An occasional publication of Preservation Eastern

## Dr Ted's Corner

### **WELCOME TO OUR 27<sup>th</sup> YEAR!!!**

The Fall 2006 term initiates the Historic Preservation Program's 27th year amidst some challenging times, including a faculty strike. It promises, though, to be a very productive and rewarding year with 28 new students coming into the program. Your Preservation Eastern board has met throughout the summer and has planned a very active term for our student organization. This year's new student Orientation, organized by Preservation Eastern, will feature campus walking tours, a potluck atop the REC/IM Building, and the annual spectacular, *Evening Under the Stars*, hosted by our superb Alumni Chapter atop historic Sherzer Hall.

Welcome to all new and returning students! We hope this year is stimulating and fulfilling.

I am proud to announce that of last years graduating class of seventeen, eleven already have secured/continued employment within the fields of historic preservation or planning...that's a 65% placement rate within less than a year, showing that our graduates are highly regarded and placed. We wish them all well as their careers evolve.

At the National Trust's Annual Meeting this year the HP program is sponsoring a reception/reunion at the Conference. The event will be held at historic Mitchell's Restaurant (304 Ross St.) in downtown Pittsburgh. Please join us on Nov. 3 (Friday) from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

The Field School at Bay View was a great success this summer. Under the direction of HP Alum and TV-series "Restoration Realities" host, Bill Click, we again were able to secure the skills of Ilene Tyler, Steve Stier, and the International Masonry Institute (IMI) who flew in masonry experts from New York for seminars in masonry and plaster restoration. Michigan's IMI is directed by Larry Darling, a graduate of our HP Program.

We are looking at returning to Bay View next summer, and may even be expanding the field school to more than one site. Also, we began what may become an ongoing relationship with the world-famous music camp at Interlochen, Mi. this August. We surveyed over 400 buildings in one week as part of an HP Seminar offered during the summer.

Adjuncts this term include Dr. Marshall McLennan (Settlement Geography), Nancy Bryk (Introduction to Curatorship), and Robert Donohue (Seminar in Downtown Revitalization). Dr. Chris Mayda is on sabbatical all year working on preparing a new textbook.

Should you have any questions, concerns, comments, etc., please contact any of us. Of course Drs. Gabe Cherem, Lauren Sickels-Taves, and I continue to serve as your advisors.

Looking forward to another great year!!

## A note from the fearless leader (Director Chris Beyer)...

Exciting things are happening on the Preservation Eastern (PE) front this year. The new board was elected last May and has been hard at work this summer preparing for the upcoming school year. Our theme for the year is going to be "Careers in Preservation," and many of our programs are intended to help you identify possible career paths in the field of historic preservation (HP). Our speaker series this year will feature distinguished alumni and other

professionals who will be sharing their work experience. We are also kicking off a new "networking dinner program" this year where twenty-five students will have the chance to dine with a group of HP professionals. This is a rare opportunity to meet important people in our area of study, including potential employers. We have also made it a goal to establish a closer working relationship with our Alumni Organization this year. Many other ideas are in the works, and

updates will be available through our newsletter and on our website, [www.preservationeastern.com](http://www.preservationeastern.com).

There are also many opportunities available to those wishing to become active within PE. Aside from the named board positions, there is an advisory committee, open to all students, which serves as a vital support network for the organization as well as the HP Department.

## Preservation News Briefs

### **Property rights**

On June 23, 2006, President Bush issued an Executive Order in response to the controversial Supreme Court ruling on *Kelo vs. City of New London, Connecticut* in June 2005. That decision upheld the City's right to take private property for the purpose of economic development. The City had applied the principle of eminent domain to take the property from longtime residents and make it available to a private developer who would initiate potential redevelopment projects. The City felt this constituted a public purpose since the redevelopment would boost the economy of the city as a whole and therefore benefit everyone. These tentative development plans included a new

conference center, hotel, parks, retail and office space, as well as new residences. The property



owners sued based on the contention that the law only provided for taking property for public use and that the public purpose of economic development did not meet the criteria. The Executive Order limits the taking of property by the government for only

public use rather than for public purpose or, as stated, the "purpose of advancing the economic interest of private parties to be given ownership or use of the property taken."

## **"The Preservation Paradox"**

A recent article in Slate Magazine discusses the trend toward "pre-emptive demolition" whereby a building, which might potentially be of interest to preservationists, is promptly demolished before it can be included in an historic district or otherwise regulated. The idea is that the owner sees a potential fight coming that might limit his options with the property and so removes the structure to prevent interference—even in some cases before he has come up with a new plan for the site. The author concludes that it is in the best interest of governments who want to preserve resources to buy up the significant properties before they can be destroyed and that "we should be willing to pay the going rate to do so." (See <http://www.slate.com/id/2147734/> for the article.)

## **Big Deal for Detroit**

In June a deal was finally reached to restore and rehabilitate the Book Cadillac Hotel in Detroit. The City of Detroit reached an agreement with the Ferchill Group of Cleveland, Ohio to complete the project costing \$180 million. The deal makes use of federal and state historic tax credits as well as new market and brownfield redevelopment tax credits. Various easements and other incentives create seventeen different sources of funding, and one extremely complex real estate deal. Work has already begun on the 33-story building, which will become a combination of modern hotel rooms, condominiums, retail and restaurants. Two of the original hotel's grand ballrooms will be restored to their former glory. Completion of the work is expected to be near the end of 2008.

## **EMU Preservation Field School: 2006**

**By: Ryan Schumaker**

The 2006 Historic Preservation Field School took place June 3-9 in Bayview, Michigan. Each day of that week was packed with many different things to do and learn.

### **Highlights:**

- > Dr. Ted Ligibel led the class for the week and took the group to various sites in and around the area.
- > Ilene Tyler gave an introduction to field sketching of both interior and exterior components of a structure. She also demonstrated various measurement techniques for challenging situations.
- > Bill Click gave instruction on the different approaches used in restoring and repairing windows. He also gave us our morning briefings.
- > The International Masonry Institute (IMI) gave personalized instruction on masonry construction and repair. They also demonstrated plaster removal



and replacement.

- > John Weeks, the archivist for Bayview, showed us the archival collection and aided in finding material for our research project.

Field school let everyone experience the hands on aspects of historic preservation. This program provides activities that are not possible in the normal classroom setting in Strong Hall. In addition to experience, there is a chance to network and talk with classmates in the program. Everyone stayed in Crist Hall for the entire week, and

ate, went to class, rode to the various site visits and spent free time together. It was a very positive bonding experience for everyone involved with the group.

The week ended with a farewell dinner at the Terrace Inn. Representatives from Bayview and from EMU's Traverse City Campus also attended this dinner. Certificates of completion were presented to everyone in the class and each student got a poster of Bayview to take home with them. Field school was a highlight of this academic year and I am sure it will be another great one next summer.

## **The Henry Ford: An Introduction to Curatorship**

**By, Kira Macyda**

This summer, I had the opportunity to learn about curatorship at the Henry Ford, one of the top history museums in the country. In 2005, the Henry Ford received a donation of 200 artifacts made by Everlast Metal Products Corporation, a manufacturer that produced forged aluminum giftware from 1932-1961. Objects in the collection include items that were used for entertaining during the era such as silent butlers, cigarette sets, and ice buckets. My task this summer was to research and document the company, as well as identify and catalog its artifacts. I am an interior designer by degree, so, needless to say, I was excited to work on this project because it explored decorating in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century home.

I had the unique opportunity to work with the donor of the collection whose father worked for Everlast. I spent a week at her home in New York sifting through

old magazines and trade journals looking for advertisements and articles written about the company. In addition, I conducted an oral history with the donor to document her memories of Everlast.

Very little was published about the company so I had to do a great deal of research to locate primary and secondary sources. Through these sources, I examined how the company reinvented itself as the public's design tastes evolved from Colonial Revival to the fascination with the South Pacific after World War II, as shown in Everlast's tropically styled 'Bali Bamboo' line. I also documented how the company's philosophy changed over time from producing goods that were hand-forged and of high quality, to those that were mass-produced and poorly fabricated.

During my final week, I presented my findings to about 40 Henry Ford employees from the curatorial, conservation, and

archival departments. It took three busy months to document the Everlast story, but in the end, I produced a manuscript that is placed in the Benson Ford Research Center for those researching the company. This fantastic experience has taught me that a curator's role is to research, manage, and interpret a collection to make learning accessible to the public.

Bali Bamboo Ice Bucket  
Everlast Metal Products Corp.



## Simmons Internship at The Henry Ford

By Laurie Turkawski

This summer, I served a twelve week Simmons Internship at The Henry Ford. Their website describes the program as follows:

The Henry Ford's Simmons Internship Program is designed for graduate students pursuing careers in museums, historical agencies, conservation labs or related fields. This internship provides participants with a great opportunity to gain work experience in a major American history museum.

My main focus was to write a Historic Structure Report for one of the buildings in Greenfield Village under the supervision of Jim McCabe, the Curator of Buildings. I was pleasantly surprised when the building I was most interested in - Grimm Jewelry Store - was on his short list of buildings requiring documenting. My secondary project was working with Curator Malcolm Collum to document the recent restoration of one of the most visible buildings in the Village, the Sir John Bennett Shop. Work was performed on most of the building, including the replacement of deteriorated

stone, the restoration of the clock mechanism, and the refurbishing of the giant figures.

The internship was an amazing experience overall, and the research process was an absolute blast! On my first day there, I was out on the roof of Sir John Bennett overlooking the entire Village. I had almost unlimited access to the two buildings, and also to resources throughout the departments at The Henry Ford. I was especially impressed by the resources available in their Benson Ford Research Center, and wish I had known about it when writing papers for classes (highly recommended!). The atmosphere at The Henry Ford was truly inspiring; the respect for each other's profession was very apparent, but they also know how to have a good time and not take things too seriously.

We found out some incredible information about the Grimm Jewelry Store, and found the original architect's drawings and specs from 1885, when the store was originally built in Detroit. It was moved to Greenfield Village in 1940. The Historic Structure Report is

complete and can be accessed at the Benson Ford Research Center, filed

in the Greenfield Village Building Box files for Grimm Jewelry Store.

## **Upcoming Conferences and Workshops:**

### Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy Annual Conference

- September 13-17, 2006 in Southfield, Michigan  
([www.savewright.org](http://www.savewright.org))

### Michigan Preservation Advocacy Workshop

- September 19, 2006 9am-4pm in Lansing, Michigan  
([www.mhpn.org](http://www.mhpn.org))

### State History Conference

- September 22-24, 2006 in Bay City, Michigan  
([www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org))

### Pioneer America Society:

#### Association for the Preservation of Artifacts & Landscapes Annual Meeting

- October 5-7, 2006 in Springfield, Ohio  
([www.pioneeramerica.org](http://www.pioneeramerica.org))

#### National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference

- October 31-November 5, 2006 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
([www.nthpconference.org](http://www.nthpconference.org))

## **Join Preservation Eastern Today!**

Why should I join Preservation Eastern??

- Get discounts events, like the holiday party
- Receive invitations to member only events
- Opportunities for involvement on the PE advisory committee
- Voting privileges
- Participate in the alumni mentor program
- Opportunities to network with professional colleagues