

2008

The Post and Lintel, Fall 2008

Preservation Eastern
Eastern Michigan University

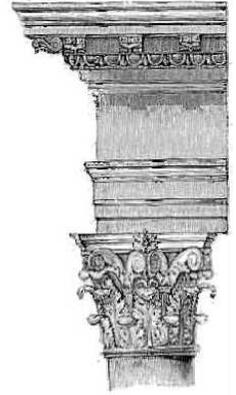
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THE POST AND LINTEL



FALL 2008

BRIDGING THE GAP

By January Wawro

The advantage of implementing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with Historic Preservation is that it provides a visual tool for the community and the preservationist to illustrate how time has changed the landscape. Urban planners, municipalities, and consultants have been employing GIS for some time which makes it impractical for Preservationist not to use GIS as a way to bridge the gap between the past and the present for future generations.

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INTERNING ABROAD AT THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE



By Ashley Ray

In 1756, Benjamin Franklin was sent across the Atlantic on an important diplomatic mission to resolve a tax conflict between the Penn family of Pennsylvania and the English government. Some 250 years later, I arrived in England on, admittedly, a less noble cause: to earn some work experience and four credit hours from EMU at an unpaid internship. While Franklin and I had two very different reasons for being in London, we both found ourselves at 36 Craven Street, Charing Cross, London.

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Photo: 36 Craven Street, Charing Cross, London.
Courtesy Ashley Ray.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS!

- *Fall Networking Mixer
November 8, 2008
Monroe County Historical Museum*
- *Holiday Party
December 6, 2008*
- *Commencement
December 14, 2008*
- *30th Anniversary of the Historic Preservation Program
September 2009*

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DR. TED'S CORNER



WELCOME TO OUR 29th YEAR!!!

With the opening of the Fall 2008 term, we begin the Historic Preservation Program's 29th year...and it is with a renewed air of optimism and support at EMU. We have a new President, Susan Martin, who already has become a friend of the program; a new Dean, Tom Venner; and a new Department Head (Interim), Robert Jones, all of whom are very supportive of our program.

THE BIG NEWS IS THAT WE ALSO HAVE A NEW FAULTY...FINALLY!! We are very pleased to welcome Professor **Dan Bonenberger** to our program. Dan and his wife Kim and children Nina and Joe, came to us from West Virginia where Dan was working and studying at the University of West Virginia. Please join us in welcoming Dan and his family to our HP family.

This will be a very productive and rewarding year with 21 new students coming into the program. Preservation Eastern met throughout the summer and held events such as the downtown Detroit Tour. They are vigorously pursuing an event-filled year that already has included the fabulous **Chili Cook -Off** in September (at which I won the "Most Original Chili"

award for my famous Cincinnati chili) and a resume-creating workshop in October.

This year's new student Orientation, organized by Preservation Eastern and held on September 5, featured a potluck, guest speakers; the annual Alumni Chapter sponsored Evening *Under the Stars* atop historic Sherzer Hall.

At this event we welcomed our new students to the program. They are:

NEW STUDENTS

Kimberly Bouchard, Leah Collins, Amanda Curylo, William Danforth, Susann deVries, Sara Ericson, Rachel Foshag, Sarah Layman, Kari Lillie (Smith), Michael Limoges, Paula Meyer, Brenna Moloney, Nathaniel Nietering, Gregory Peruski, Jessica Puff, Kelly Robideau, Anne Stevenson, Amanda Tremba, John Wegner, Kristen Young, and Xian Zhan.

As in recent years we are indeed fortunate to be able to maintain strong enrollments levels. And of course, we welcome back all our returning student body as well! We still stand at about 90 full and part time and Certificate students in our program.

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2008 FIELD SCHOOL: MORE THAN JUST A REQUIRED COURSE



Photo: 2008 EMU HP Field School Goll Farmstead Archbold, Ohio. Courtesy of Mary Bishop Stachowiak.

By Tracy Knoeller

I showed up to this year's Field School at Goll Farmstead in Archbold, Ohio not really knowing what to expect. When we all join the Historic Preservation Grad Program at EMU, we are told "field school" is a required course for graduation. I've always been a hands on sort of person, so I was geeked about going from day one. But I know others were trepidatious. If you are studying to be an Urban Planner or an Executive Director of a Museum, what does hands on experience mothballing a farmhouse have to do with your professional career?

Well, if you are reading this and you've been to an EMU Historic Preservation Field School, you know it is about more than sanding, painting, and learning how to use power tools. It's about getting out of your comfort zone and realizing you are more diversely talented than you gave yourself credit for. It's about learning you really can finish a daunting project in a short amount of time. It's about learning to work in a cohesive team for a greater goal, and cement-

ing life long friendships with classmates. And most of all, its about changing lives.

The best part about this year's Field School for me was not the long days of hard manual labor (which I loved), or the quality time with friends, but seeing the happy looks on the faces of Don and Martha Julliard. You see, Martha was the last of the Goll family members to have lived in the house, and she had been instrumental in protecting the property since the early 1990's. To see her face light up with joy at our accomplishments was the best thing that has happened to me since I joined the program. Before field school, how many of us could say that we were apart of such a powerful project as saving someone's memories for future generations?

Whether our personal interests lie in saving historical buildings, battlefields, textiles, sustainability, or many other facets of Historic Preservation, we are all here at EMU because we want to help preserve memories. I'm glad to have played a part in Martha Julliard's dream of saving her ancestral home from neglect and possible demolition. It's an experience I would gladly recommend to anyone, no matter what their field of study.



Photo: Dr. Ted Ligibel with Martha and Don Julliard. Courtesy of Mary Bishop Stachowiak and Tracy Knoeller.

GREAT LAKES PIPING PLOVER



Photo: Brenna Moloney with a piping plover at Ludington State Park.

By Brenna Moloney

The Great Lakes piping plover is a diminutive bird that summers on the cobbled beaches of Michigan. Listed as endangered in 1989, the piping plover inhabits one of the most fragile and beautiful habitats in the Great Lakes region, the dune ecosystem. Home to countless shorebirds and birds of prey, deer, coyote, fox, and other animals, and plant life, dunes are also host to much of the human activity that makes Michigan so attractive to visitors. It is this interconnectivity and shared use of landscape that makes protection of the piping plover so important. With the loss of even one of its members, the beaches and dunes of Michigan are degraded. This summer, I was lucky enough to play an integral role in that protection by working as a piping plover steward for the Ludington State Park in northwest Lower Michigan.

As a steward, my job was simple. I monitored the beach and nesting areas, watched the birds, recorded activity and educated the public. This translated in to hiking up to eleven miles a day along the beach and through the dunes, or sitting for hours at time watching a single bird through a scope. Often I was also called on to perform duties beyond monitoring, such as sandbagging the Hamlin dam after a huge storm threatened to flood the park or burying ring-billed gulls and cormorants killed

by a botulism outbreak.

All in all, being a piping plover steward was the most rewarding job I have ever had. It enabled me to intimately know and understand the four pairs of birds at the park and I was able to watch their chicks as they grew and eventually fledged. Few people get to have such an encounter with a species and with a place as I did. It may seem silly to employ someone to stay on the beach and watch over a bird but to me, the act of doing so signifies something greater. The true richness in our experience of a place comes when we are allowed to live beyond the scope of our own lives. Great architecture, planning, true community, and great design do this. Art does this, as does poetry, history and anything worth preserving, interpreting and fighting for. I carry this lesson with me as I embark on my career and education in Historic Preservation and I have only the plovers to thank.

GOOGIE ARCHITECTURE

By Anthony Timek

Douglas Haskell, *House and Home*, 1952 coined the phrase "Googie", to refer to a chain of coffee shops in Los Angeles designed by John Lautner. Lautner was ambivalent and uncomfortable with modern architecture but understood that free architectural exploration was necessary to advance design.

Characteristics of Googie Architecture:

- Could look organic, but abstract
(not just a bird, but a geometric bird)
- Ignore gravity
- Pluralism of structural systems
- Incorporate new technology and materials
"Googie accustoms people to accept strangeness"

But it could be used disparagingly: "Googie was used as a synonym for undisciplined design and sloppy workmanship."
- Esther McCoy, 1976.

ALUMNI UPDATE

From Page 2

Over the course of the 2007-08 Academic year we graduated a large number of students, 29 in all.

With great pride, I can say that over 75% of these students already have jobs in preservation or a related field like architecture and planning; the reason this isn't 100% is because some have gone on for post-graduate education, already had an existing job, have retired, or haven't found a job just yet. Our recent graduates include:

Debra Adamcik, Jami Babb, Thomas 'TJ' Bennett, Aimee Burpee, Dennis Caviston, Lisa Carter, Cheryl Chidester, Allison Craddock, Katie Dallos, Heather DeKorte, Mollie Douglas, Alexandra Haddad, Elizabeth Hall, Josh Hollis, Sara Jezewski, Dace Koenigsnecht, Tanya Mendez, Courtney Miller, Doreen Mobley, Kristen Monroe, Heidi Nielsen, Marcia Phillips, Shawn Rogers, Debbie Davenport Sanchez, Wesley Thompson, Rebecca Torsell, Carrie Udeshi, Jeffrey Weatherford, and Jessica Williams.

NUTS & BOLTS

The Historic Preservation Graduate Assistants (GA) this year are Meghan Schafbuch and Anthony Timek. Teaching GAs for the Geography & Geology Department include Tracy Knoeller and Edwin Root; Elizabeth Palmer is an administrative/research GA for the same Department. A number of students hold agency-sponsored GAs, including MDOT (Aimee D'Agostini), the City of Ypsilanti (Courtney Miller and Aimee D'Agostini), and two positions with the Ypsilanti Historical Society that are also supported by EMU



Photo: (left to right) Top Row: Katie Dallos, Sarah Collingwood, Dr. Ted, Rebecca Torsell, and Jessica Williams. Front and center: T.J. Bennet.

President's Office (Pam German and Veronica Robinson). Both Amanda Curylo and Rachel Foshag hold GAs with the Graduate School.

At the National Trust's Annual Meeting, this year the HP program is sponsoring a reception/reunion at the Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma and everyone is urged to attend. The event will be held at historic Mayo Hotel in downtown Tulsa. Please join us on Oct. 24 (Friday) starting at 5:00 PM. The EMU Foundation also is sponsoring an Alumni event in San Antonio, Texas immediately following the NT conference. I will be representing the program along with President Susan Martin and Jill Hunsberger from the EMU Foundation. We also will be treated to a private tour of Villa Finale, a new (yet unopened) National Trust property in San Antonio, the restoration of which is being guided by our Alumni Chris Roddy.

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The Field School this past summer was held at the historic Goll farmstead near Archbold, Ohio. The Goll farmstead restoration, which focused on proper mothballing of this unique wattle and daub lined house, was under the direction of HP Alumni, Jeff Weatherford, Steve Stier, and Bill Click.

Adjunct Instructors this year will include *Nancy Bryk* (Introduction to Historic Administration and American Decorative Arts), *Brian Conway*, Michigan SHPO, (Principles of Building Technology); *Jeff Green* (Preservation Research Techniques and Preservation and Planning Law), *Ilene Tyler* (Principles of Preservation Technology); and our co-founder *Dr. Marshall McLennan* (American Vernacular Architecture).

Should you have any questions, concerns, comments, etc., please contact me, or Dr. Cherem, your humble advisors....(we'll give Prof. Bonenberger a term to get saddled up, eh).

Here's looking ahead to another great year!!

-Dr. Ted Ligibel

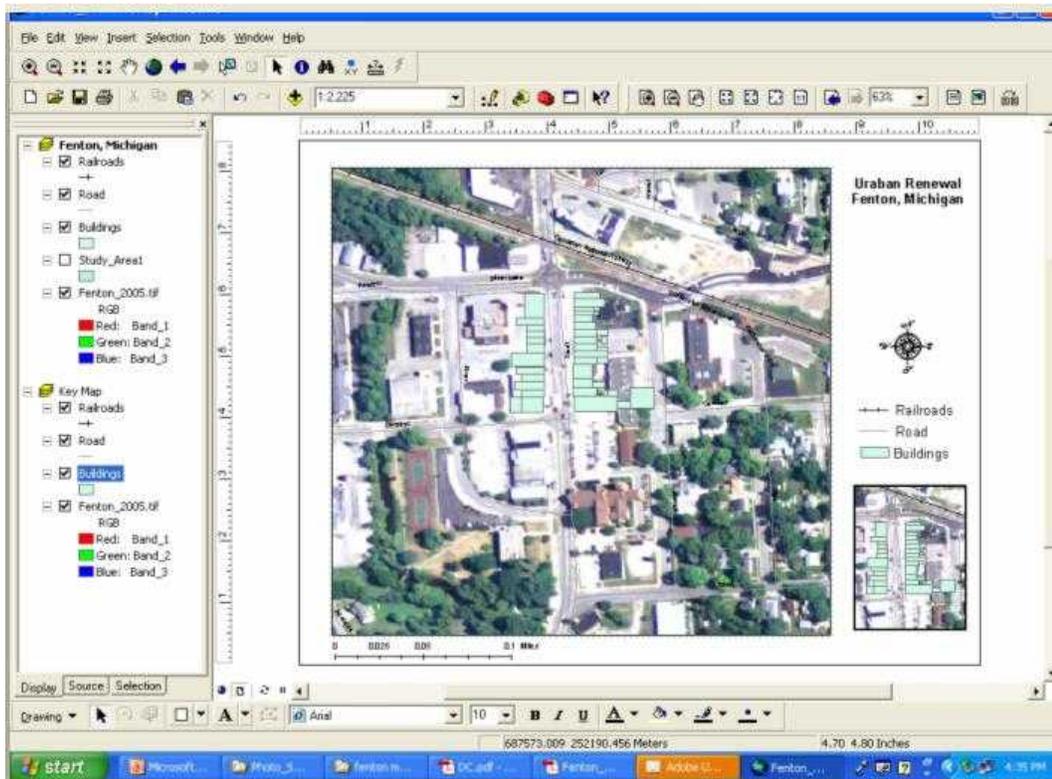
From Page 1 Bridging the Gap

GIS gives a detailed account of the community's historic structures by manipulating data and projecting it into a geographic setting. This can be used as a representation of the community historically and has the ability to show what lies ahead if community leaders do not take action in preserving its material history. Historic districts and the inventory in which they hold can be documented through GIS for the use of tourism, grants, and encouraging Main Street Revitalization Programs. The possibilities are endless in which the Preservationist can use GIS as a means to market, promote and document Historic Structures within a community.

Preservation students tend to fall to the extreme left or right of the spectrum when it comes to the use of GIS. They either willingly adopt the use of GIS or turn their heads, viewing GIS as a complicated program. Only through the act of repetition, will they overcome their frustration and self-doubt of GIS programs. As Preservationist we should

not be apprehensive of GIS for it should be embraced as an innovative tool for documenting and promoting historic preservation within our communities.

Map created by January Wawro to represent a small percentage of the 69 buildings that were destroyed during the 1970's due to Downtown Fenton's Urban Renewal Program.



From Page 1 Benjamin Franklin House

The aptly named Benjamin Franklin House was home to the man himself for nearly sixteen years, from 1756 to 1775. He rented the second floor of the home owned by the widow Margaret Stevenson and quickly made himself at home taking his morning air baths in the large windows, installing his newly invented Franklin Stoves in every fireplace and hosting meetings with various important English governmental officials. Franklin even set up his own laboratory in the house where he invented the bifocals, the glass harmonica and swim flippers in the years before returning to the Colonies on the eve of the American Revolution.

Franklin's time in London has been largely forgotten by history so it is ironic that out of all of the homes that Franklin occupied in his eighty four years of life, only the Benjamin Franklin House remains. However, from having its foundation compromised by the building of the Charing Cross station, to being hit by a bomb during the Blitz of World War II, to being ravaged by squatters while laying derelict in the late 20th century it is hard to believe that this early 18th century building is still standing let alone still in near original condition. When the Friends of Benjamin Franklin bought the house in the 1990s, serious conservation and restoration work were performed.

A steel cage was put under the façade and a steel beam under the ground floor to stabilize its foundation. The original 1730 wood paneling, wood floors, central staircase, fireplaces and recessed window shutters were still all present in the house making it rather easy to restore it to the period of Franklin residence.

The Benjamin Franklin House was opened to the public on January 17, 2006, which would have been Franklin's 300th birthday. Visitors can take a walking tour of the house called a Historical Experience tour. The Historical Experience tour combines audio, visual projection and an actress who plays Polly Hewson (Franklin's landlady's daughter and rumored lover) to interpret the story of Franklin's time in London. The historic home has only been open for two years and is struggling financially. The Friends of Benjamin Franklin can only afford to pay a director, an operations manager, a marketing manager and an education manager so the house relies on interns to run the day to day operations of the house. Finally, this is where I come in...

I decided I wanted to make the most out of my last remaining years at school and have an adventure while gaining work experience so I began looking for an international internship in early 2008. While researching different opportunities in London I came across the Benjamin Franklin House, which was perfect for me: I am very familiar with colonial American history (and by extension, Ben Franklin) and I wanted to work in a small museum in order to have real responsibilities. After contacting education manager Ana Doria Buchan and doing a phone interview I was offered a three month long summer internship in London if I wanted it. Did I want it?! Blimey mate, I was already practicing my British slang at this point!

Arriving at the Benjamin Franklin House on a surprisingly sunny English morning in June I was put straight to work because, well, they weren't kidding about needing interns to run the historic home from day to day. I was trained to do three main duties that all of the interns take turns doing during the week—Box Office, Front of House and Patrol—and sent to work immediately. Box Office duty requires you to sit in the shop and sell tickets and merchandise, of course. Being Front of House involves passing out leaflets, answering questions of passersby and greeting



Photo: 36 Craven Street, Charing Cross, London.

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From Page 7 Benjamin Franklin House

guests. Patrol, my favorite duty, involved introducing the Historical Experience by giving a short history of the house and Benjamin Franklin's life in London. I had free reign on how to tell these stories so I tried to apply Tilden's Interpretive Principles that I learned in Dr. Cherem's Heritage and Interpretation class as much as possible. It was definitely fun getting to be creative with interpretations and getting positive feedback from the guests when I interpreted to them in a way they appreciated. While these duties were not the most exciting they did help me understand how a historic house museum operates day to day, which was one of my goals in taking this internship as a Heritage, Interpretation and Administration concentrator.

I was the only historic preservation student the Benjamin Franklin House has ever had so, lucky for me, they actually gave me a conservation project to work on. Basically, the house is allowed to have 20,000 visitors to the house a year in order to maintain the structural stability of the building. It was my job to look at every nook and cranny of the house and document any wear and tear that has happened in the last year because of foot traffic. I spent one whole month carefully documenting every single crack and gap in every floor board, wood panel, step and shutter. I had to measure the flaws, write down where they were located and then photograph them. I pretty much ended up with a twelve page table and 300 photos of cracks in floor board. Let me tell you, this was a job only a historic preservation student could love. All of the other interns looked at me like I was going a bit mad when was walking around testing all of the floor boards for weak spots!

Because the Benjamin Franklin House is so short staffed I actually got to meet with the conservation team personally in July. I took them through the house and pointed out all of the repairs that were needed immediately like a split floor board in Franklin's Laboratory and a broken step on the staircase. The conservation team agreed with me and scheduled the repairs to be done at the end of August. After my conservation project I had become quite familiar with the house architecturally so I was asked to draw floor plans of the first three stories to be included on their new leaflets.

I was also very involved with museum education at the Benjamin Franklin House. I supervised students in the Science Room on school tour days and during special children's events in the afternoon. The education manager, Ana, assigned me the task of writing a lecture and developing a game for one meeting of the newly created Franklin's Young Archeology Club that is going to begin in January. I was also asked to pre-plan a kid's Christmas party at the house for the interns that would be working in the fall. As my internship drew to a close at the end of August, I was given the responsibility of training all of the new interns and re-writing the intern handbook.

Overall, I believe my internship at the Benjamin Franklin House was successful because it was mutually beneficial. Although I had only been in the historic preservation program for one semester at that point, I was able to teach the staff about using Tilden's Interpretive Principles in their material. Also, I was able to use my architectural knowledge to complete a conservation project and to create an architecture leaflet. The staff at the Benjamin Franklin House gave me responsibilities I would not have been able to experience at a larger museum in London. I feel well versed in how a small historic house museum works and how to operate a museum education program, which is what I exactly what I had been seeking in an internship.

For all of my fellow historic preservation peers debating on doing an internship during their time at Eastern, I have three words for you: go for it! Do your research and find an internship that will suit you best. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to effectively apply things you have learned in the classroom in the real world.

FIRST ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

By Meghan Schafbuch

The 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off benefiting the Ypsilanti Freight House was a resounding success! On Saturday, September 20th, members of Preservation Eastern joined forces with the Friends of the Ypsilanti Freight House (FOYF) to raise money for the city's beloved site. Five daring judges including Tom Venner (Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences), Robert Jones (Interim Director of the Geography & Geology Department), new faculty member Dan Bonenberger, Bonnie Penet (Co-Chair of the FOYF), and Paul Schreiber (Ypsilanti Mayor) tested their taste buds and wet their whistles with the robust flavors. Prizes were awarded to Jacob Woodcock for spiciest, Dr. Ted for most original, Tracy Knoeller for 3rd place best-overall, Edwin Root for 2nd place best-overall, and Sidetracks Bar and Grill for 1st place best-overall.



Photos:(Above) Southern elevation of the Ypsilanti Freight House, date unknown. Courtesy of <http://www.foyf.org>; (to the right- top) Chili Cook-Off Judging; (to the right, bottom) Chili Cook-Off tasting; (Below- left to right) Jacob Woodcock, Tracy Knoeller, Edwin Root, Veronica Robinson, and Val Cabot.



SNAPSHOTS FROM THE FIELD

Photos: (Top row left to right) Sarah Leaders; Goll Farmstead; Jody Chansuolme, Brian Conway, and Jeff Weatherford in Hudson Michigan; Spring H.P. Alumni walking tour of Detroit. (Bottom row left to right) Lisa Stangis and Jeff Weatherford, Marshall McLennan and Anthony Timek; Pam German; Maryann Huk).



Preservation Eastern Mission Statement:

To enrich the historic preservation education of the students of Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Program, as well as the general public, by providing opportunities for advocacy, networking, and growth while encouraging and promoting the preservation of Michigan's historic and cultural resources.

Preservation Eastern is an active student organization affiliated with Eastern Michigan University's award winning graduate program in Historic Preservation. Taking Part in Preservation Eastern activities allows members to gain valuable practical experience in the many different areas of the historic preservation field.

Fall 2008 Board Members:

Anthony Timek	Director
Tracy Knoeller	Assistant Director
Veronica Robinson	Business Officer
Meghan Schafbuch	Communications Officer
Edwin Root	Public Relations Officer
Dr. Ted Ligibel	Faculty Advisor

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MEMBERSHIP COUNTS, JOIN PRESERVATION EASTERN

Preservation Eastern is the best way to keep up on historic preservation activities both within the department and throughout the area. We're planning guest speakers, a lecture series, activities, events, and trips for the upcoming year. So join now and get involved!!! The annual membership fee is only \$10 and is valid from September until August of the following year. We are excited to have you join us; your membership and involvement will insure the future growth and success of the organization!!!

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Historic Preservation Program
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