

2008

## The Post and Lintel, January 2008

Preservation Eastern  
*Eastern Michigan University*

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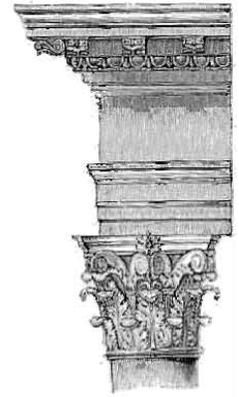
### Recommended Citation

Preservation Eastern, "The Post and Lintel, January 2008" (2008). *Post & Lintel*. Paper 44.  
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# THE POST AND LINTEL

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2      JANUARY 21, 2008



## PE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### AND SECTION 106 TRAINING

*By Jessica Williams, Director of Preservation Eastern*

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2008!

As the current Director of Preservation Eastern, I am delighted to announce our new Director for the 2008-2009 school year, Mr. Anthony Timek. Congrats Anthony! Anthony will be shadowing me through the winter term and will take office in May of 2008 as the new PE Director.

For those who are anticipating graduation in April, like many of you, I have been searching for employment

opportunities and internships both near and far. What I have come to find during my job hunting is that knowledge of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is highly desirable.

In October of 2007, I attended the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Section 106 Essentials course in St. Paul, Minnesota with several other EMU HP students. The course was held in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation annual conference.

The course was a rigorous, two-day, in-depth session that explained the requirements of Section 106 of the

National Historic Preservation Act, which applies any time a federal, federally assisted, or federally approved activity might affect a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The course is geared toward federal, state, or local government officials, tribal representatives, or private consultants who encounter preservation-related law in their job, and members of the public with an interest in historic preservation. The course is essential for those of you who plan to pursue careers involving preservation societies, local or state preservation organizations,

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## IS THE SENECA COUNTY COURTHOUSE DOOMED?

*By Valerie Marvin*

In August of 2006 the Seneca County Commissioners voted to raze their 1886 Elijah E. Myers courthouse after vacating the building two years before. I learned of the situation the follow-

ing month, when I contacted members of the Tiffin Historic Trust in pursuit of information about E.E. Myers, the subject of a research project I've been conducting since the spring of 2006. When I learned that the building was slated for demolition, I quickly

headed to Tiffin to visit and document the courthouse.

Then, in November of 2007, after being served with two lawsuits, the Seneca County Commissioners agreed to open the courthouse for tours so the

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## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS!

- *Spring Networking Mixer at Ladies Lit. Club on Friday, March 14.*
- *HP Alumni Workshop in March (TBD)*
- *Trip to Toledo Zoo and examples of several warehouse conversions on Friday, February 9.*
- *End of Year Party on Friday, April 25.*
- *Graduation is on Sunday, April 27.*

*(Times and firm plans TBD. More information to follow)*

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## RESEARCH TECH DIGS INTO ELK RAPIDS

By Leslie Van Veen

For several years historic preservation students have delved into Michigan cities such as Eaton Rapids, Saline, Adrian and Ypsilanti. Research Techniques or GHPR 620 decided to do things a little differently this past fall. The village of Elk Rapids, located on US-31 approximately ten miles north of Traverse City, contacted Dr. Ted. Dan LeBlond, a graduate of the HP program and the

president of the Elk Rapids Historical Society, requested the help of Dr. Ted and his students to research and document the area structures.

Much of the land was acquired by Abram S. Wadsworth when he settled in Elk Rapids around 1848. Wadsworth is considered the village's founder, and here he also built the village's first saw mill. The village was platted in 1852 and lots sold for \$25.00 each. Wirt Dexter

and Henry Noble arrived in Elk Rapids from Washtenaw County; they purchased land from the United States government and began a lumber industry that dominated the area well into the twentieth century. Dexter and Noble also incorporated the Elk Rapids Iron Company. The developing industry caused the village to grow quickly.

Retail stores, grocers, saloons, and many other types

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## COURTHOUSE, CONTINUED

*From page 1*

local residents could view the building for themselves and decide upon its fate. (The commissioners have asked the local citizens to vote on an \$8.5 million bond proposal that would allow the county to borrow money to restore the courthouse.) Within a matter of days I found myself partnering with the Tiffin Historic Trust to write a tour script for the building and develop a training workshop for volunteer guides. By December 9<sup>th</sup>, I was back in Tiffin again.

*The following is an excerpt from the script I created for the courthouse tours currently being offered by the Trust.*

*History*

The current Seneca County Courthouse is the third courthouse used by Seneca County since its founding. On September 28, 1882, the county commissioners passed a resolution to build a new courthouse - the present building - hiring Elijah E. Myers of Detroit as the building's architect. Known as an architect of public buildings, Myers designed the capitols of Michigan, Texas, and Colorado, and over a dozen courthouses that stretch across the nation.

The decision to build a new Seneca County Courthouse was part of a larger national movement to erect beautiful public buildings designed to be the center of county activities. The buildings celebrated the perseverance of the Union and the coming of age of the

midwest. It also marked a growing interest in "fireproof" construction. The courthouse is a brick building faced in Amherst, Ohio sandstone. Myers constructed the floors of brick arches filled with concrete and supported by heavy iron beams. Masonry building like the courthouse evoked the idea of strength, stability, and above all, safety.

*Look for the next Post & Lintel with the balance of Valerie's interpretive script for the Courthouse!*



“WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS I FOUND MYSELF PARTNERING WITH THE TIFFIN HISTORIC TRUST TO WRITE A TOUR SCRIPT FOR THE BUILDING...”

Photo: Seneca County Courthouse in Tiffin, Ohio. [http://blog.dispatch.com/oldhouse/preservation\\_news/](http://blog.dispatch.com/oldhouse/preservation_news/)

## DR. TED'S CORNER

What interesting times these are. We are in the middle of a world-wide search for our open Historic Preservation Specialist position. Over 22 applicants have submitted materials so far, and an average of another application arrives each week. So we have a good pool to choose from. We also will be looking for a new Department Head as our head of three years, Dr. Yichun Xie, will be returning to the faculty and managing his many grants. And we are searching for a new Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences (our college) and a new EMU President... WOW! These are certainly challenging and dynamic times. Amidst all the change, your Historic Preservation Program continues to thrive and grow. We are now at over 100 graduate students, including full and part time, and Certificate students. We accepted **nine new students** this Winter term:

Kristin Baldeschwiler, Jennifer Bluhm, Jennifer Bruen, Cynthia Christensen, Patrick Hudson, William Kwasniak, Michael Limoges, Kristen Monroe, and Ashley Ray. Join me in welcoming them to the program.

I am off to California for the next week, guest of the EMU Foundation. I will be giving a presentation about our program to the California Alumni Chapter...not a bad gig in late January.

The following is my semi-annual Alumni and students update. Just take a look at the amazing things our folks are doing; note that no less than five of our students or alums have had new preservationists, er babies, just recently. Congratulations to them all. Take care.

Dr. Ted

### ANNUAL ALUMNI UPDATE

It may not surprise you to learn that the Alumni of the program have fanned out across the globe and are working in an amazing array of preservation careers.

### New Positions/Relocations

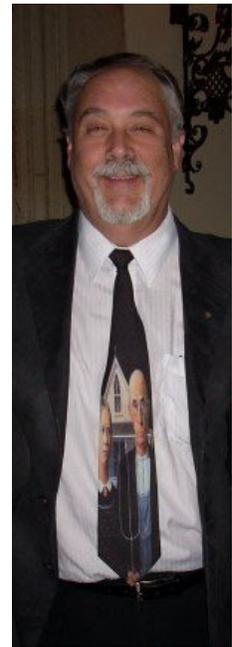
**Renee Benn (2006)** has accepted a permanent position as a supervisory level architectural historian with the Environmental Affairs Division of the Texas Department of Transportation.

### **Heather Burnash**

graduated from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School this January with a Juris Doctor Degree...Congratulations Heather.

**Rhonda Deeg (1998)** is proprietor of *Ol' House Experts*, a Restoration and Consultation firm that specializes in Historic Wood Windows and

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“AMIDST ALL THE CHANGE, YOUR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM CONTINUES TO THRIVE AND GROW. WE ARE NOW AT OVER 100 GRADUATE STUDENTS...”

## PE DIRECTOR'S CORNER, CONTINUED

*From page 1*  
preservation and/or planning administration, and among many other preservation avenues.

The class was held on a Monday and Tuesday and began at 8:30 am and ran through 4:30 pm. At the end of the day Tuesday, everyone who attended received a certificate

of completion of the ACHP Section 106 Essentials course.

A background of Section 106 is helpful and desirable when looking for employment. I encourage all of you to attend a Section 106 course. It is challenging, but the knowledge gained from the course is very advantageous.

Currently, the Section 106 Essentials training is available at a special student rate of \$100 through an agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Council for Preservation Education member schools.

For further information on the Section 106 Essentials

course and schedule, please refer to the website at:<http://www.achp.gov/106essentials.html>

I wish everyone much success in their job hunting and studies in the new school year!



Photo: www.elkrapids.com

## ELK RAPIDS, CONTINUED

*From page 2*

of economic resources opened along River Street to accommodate the growing population.

Many students researched structures associated with the turn-of-the-last-century economic boom. Students learned to use Antrim County's registrar's office for deed records, and tax records dating from 1874 creating a chain of ownership.

Many students utilized the local residents who were able to give a history of their property and others around the village. Josh Hollis was one of these students; while asking permission to photograph the property he received an entire oral history from the current owner.

Each student had many different types of success with their research and even uncovered some information on their own families. Katie Dallos

researched the Town Club on River Street, the local watering hole where one of her family members used to pour the drinks.

The completed research will be presented in the spring of 2008 to the village of Elk Rapids. The village will then continue on in their historic marker program and then decide whether or not they want to pursue a historic district designation.

## ALUMNI UPDATE, CONTINUED

*Continued from page 3*

Stained Glass in Madison, Indiana. She still teaches online courses for the Building Preservation Program at Harford Community College in Maryland where she formerly was coordinator/faculty for that program.

**Carrie Duhl Udeshi (2007)** is living in India with her husband Kabeer. She is working with several Indian museums helping with exhibit design and research.

**Laura Henderson (2000)** is the Museum Registrar of the Miami University (Ohio) Art Museum. She recently masterminded the moving of a historic c. 1870s Township Hall in Oxford, Ohio. (See National Trust online for the full story.)

**Margaret Jensen (2007)** has entered the Library Science/Archives program at

Indiana University in Bloomington, In. and is working for an "out of the ordinary" scientist in their prestigious Science program. Margaret is married to current student Dennis Caviston. (See his entry also.)

**Monica Kuhn (1999)** moved from Ohio SHPO to become the Staff Historian in the Cultural Resources Section of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

**Kira Macyda (2007)** served as the Planning Intern for Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation District throughout 2007. She researched a number of historic properties owned by the district and wrote several articles for their newsletter, most notably about the historic Staebler Farm in Superior Township.

**Marnie Paulus (1999)** has been living in Turkey for two years where her husband

Tony is headmaster at a private school in Istanbul. Later this year they will be returning to the U.S. to Ft. Myers, Florida.

**Frank Quinn (2001)** is, once again, with Heritage Ohio, this time as the new Program Manager. *Heritage Ohio* is that state's statewide preservation organization. After stints with Marshall, Michigan's Main Street Program and HLFI... maybe Frank will be settling down.

**Rick Rockwell (2003)** is the General Super-Intendent for J. Robert Nolan, LLC Construction Company in Charleston, South Carolina. He also teaches HP courses at The College of Charleston.

**Chris Roddy** is the Buildings and Grounds Manager for a new National Trust Stewardship property, *Villa Finale*, in San Antonio, Texas.

## ALUMNI UPDATE, CONTINUED

*Continued from page 4*

**Shawn Rogers (2007)** has moved to Greensboro, NC and is pursuing job opportunities with the several museums and historic sites in the area.

**Lisa Ruppel (2005)** is the new Survey and National Register manager for the Ohio SHPO in Columbus. Previously she was Historian for the American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS) in

Washington, D.C.

**Matt Schulte (1997)** was named the first Executive Director of the *Steamship Historical Society of America* in April, 2007. The society is located in Providence, Rhode Island. He formerly was Executive Director of the Park-McCullough House in North Bennington, Vermont.

**Phil Smith (1999)** is the new Middle School Social Studies teacher at the Cheryl

Stockwell Academy, a well-known Charter school in Howell.

**Darrin VonStein (1996)** is conducting major research for a book on New York architect Francis Kimball. In April 2007 he participated in a symposium on Kimball sponsored by The Skyscraper Museum and the AIA New York Chapter. His presentation was entitled: "Unbuilt Kimball: The 1000-foot Pan American States Association Building."

## THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRESERVATIONISTS

**Heather Aldridge Ibrahim (1996)** gave birth to Luken Ramy Ibrahim on May 2, 2007. Heather and spouse Ramy are reveling in their new life with little Luke in Grand Rapids.

**Jami Babb (student)** and her husband Robert are the proud parents of little Gunner Winston Babb who was born on September 12, 2007.

**AJ (Allison) Chalom (2006)** lives in the Chicago area and is a preservation consultant. She and husband Adam are happy to let you know that Jonah Ethan Chalom was born on October 26, 2007 at 8:41 AM. Jonah joins big sister Maya.

**Laura Manker Mauck (1996)** and husband Jeff live in Denver, and have the

pleasure of announcing the newest addition to their family, Olivia Siena Mauck, who entered this world on February 22, 2007. Big brother Dean is amazed.

**Cassandra Nelson (2005)** and her husband Rufus Isaacs are parents of Ruby Charlotte Isaacs, born August 20, 2006. They are living in Arizona while Rufus is on Sabbatical.

## CURRENT STUDENT UPDATE

**Dennis Caviston** has entered the Law School at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Dennis is married to EMU Alumna Margaret Jensen. (See Margaret's entry also.)

**Katie Dallos** is the new intern with the Ypsilanti Historical Society where she serves as the archival intern.

**Mollie Douglas** took a position with the "Historic Preservation Team" with the major nationwide CRM firm of Mead & Hunt in their Wisconsin office in September 2007. (Remember that Final Project Mollie.)

**Sarah Gaynier** began a one year term with LISC through the AmeriCorps/MSHDA *Cities of Promise* program in

Pontiac in September. She is engaged in their community development and neighborhood revitalization activities.

**Meredith Long** is this year's winner of the Detroit Art Deco Society \$1000 Scholarship for the best article on an Art Deco/Moderne location. Her article,

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## Preservation Eastern

205 Strong Hall  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, Mich.

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CHECK US OUT ONLINE:

[WWW.PRESERVATIONEASTERN.COM](http://WWW.PRESERVATIONEASTERN.COM)

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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.

### Winter 2008 Board Members:

Jessica Williams	Director
Anthony Timek	Director-elect
Rebecca Torsell	Assistant Director
Katie Dallos	Business Officer
Sarah Collingwood	Communications Officer
Leslie Van Veen	Public Relations Officer
T. J. Bennett	Social Coordinator
Dr. Ted Ligibel	Faculty Advisor

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## CURRENT STUDENT UPDATE, CONTINUED

*From page 5*

**A Thoroughly Modern Space for a Thoroughly Modern Style: The Art Deco Influence at Meadowbrook Hall** was published in the Fall 2007 issue of the society's journal, *The Modern*.

**Valerie Marvin**, intrepid Michigan State Capitol tour guide, is deeply involved in

an effort to save the Seneca County Courthouse in Tiffin, Ohio, also an Elijah Myers building; she served as lead trainer for tour guides for the old courthouse.

**Deb Odette** will begin her year-long duties as Curatorial Assistant for the Arab-American National Museum in Dearborn in February 2008. She joins Alumnus Devon Akmon who has been

with the museum since it opened.

**Debbie Davenport Sanchez** was selected as a 2007 Diversity Scholar by the National Trust to attend the annual meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota. She also works at the Ypsilanti Fire Museum, and is a founder of the new Gibraltar Historical Society.



## JOIN US!

Are you interested in getting more involved? Join Preservation Eastern! Through the events held throughout the year, you are provided with opportunities to network, expand your knowledge, and get to know your fellow students and alums while having a great time.

Dues are \$15 for first time members and \$10 to renew. If you're interested, contact any of the officers to get an application and get started!