Dr. Ted’s Corner

Ahhh, the coming of spring!! As we approach the end of the 2015-16 school year be aware that there are only a few, often hectic, weeks left. If we can help you during those weeks let us know, especially if you plan to graduate; and remember you have to apply for GRADUATION.

Also, registration for Summer and Fall 2016 courses began in mid-March; if you need advising please do that ASAP. There is light at the end of the learning funnel, catapulting you to a successful career in historic preservation.

Welcome New Students!
We admitted/re-admitted five new students for the Winter 2016 term. They are: Laura Bahnmiller, Courtney Bishop, Hannah Meyer, Kate Morgan, and Celia Villac

Congratulations Graduates!
We also will bid adieu to a large number of students who graduated in the Fall 2015 term, including: Bethany Berdes*, Megan Blaha, Rennae Healey, Mohammed Humudh, Belinda McGuire, Kristen Rheinheimer, Sherry Sidick, Marsha Steffan*, Steven Stuckey*, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Thomas Varitek*
Please join us in congratulating these individuals. (*Those with asterisks already have, or have recently accepted, preservation-related positions.)
Dear Reader,

As EMU’s Historic Preservation Program wraps up another great academic year, Preservation Eastern (PE) continues to enhance students’ lives. PE enthusiastically welcomed Roberta Henrion as Treasurer, and Mary Bindas as Events Coordinator, to the board of directors. They both made great additions to the team!

This semester we took the incredible opportunity to enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the historic Detroit Opera House. We learned about its history, as well as its extensive and transformative restoration project. It was a great opportunity to meet some of the family and friends of our PE members!

Additionally, PE members attended a guided tour of historic buildings in downtown Detroit. The buildings were owned by Bedrock Real Estate Services, the property management arm of Quicken Loans; this was an exciting chance to witness the preservation work Bedrock is doing downtown. I want to thank both Mary Bindas and Jeffery Brown for coordinating this.

Advocacy was part of our agenda this semester. We hosted our local MHPN Representative, Ellen Thackery to speak to us about this year’s Historic Preservation Advocacy Day in Lansing. We had several PE members attend this event in Lansing to support our community, talk with our officials, and to represent EMU’s historic preservation program. Thank you, Ellen, and thank you Val Pulido for your help coordinating this.

PE puts its members in front of experienced professionals. It was our pleasure to connect PE members with EMU Historic Preservation Alum and Director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Bruce Lynn. Bruce spoke about a few summer internship opportunities at Michigan’s Whitefish Point and a few of our members took the bait!

Lastly, I want to take an opportunity to sincerely thank PE’s faculty advisor Professor Dan Bonenberger for putting up with us for another semester! It was a pleasure to work with a board of champions: Ashleigh Czapek, Abigail Jaske, Roberta Henrion, and Mary Bindas. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

As we close the Winter 2016 semester, we look forward to celebrating with our annual year-end party. It will be a chance to reflect on the challenges and triumphs of another successful year and to welcome the 2016/2017 Preservation Eastern Board of Directors: Mary Bindas, Director; Katherine Bessemer, Assistant Director; Val Pulido, Events Coordinator; Lindsay Ellis, Communications Officer; and Diane Conde, Treasurer. Only together can we best contribute to this robust and meaningful field of Historic Preservation.

On behalf of Ashleigh, Abigail, Roberta, and Mary, thank you!
Sincerely,
Michael Gute
State Highways and Historic Towns

Article and Photos by Valentin Pulido

As a photographer, I am always on the lookout for something to shoot. Experience has taught me there are no better places to look than along Michigan’s own state highways. Never mind the interstate freeways, lined with big-box retailers and chain restaurants. Towns and villages rich in heritage may be found on the roads less traveled. Little adventures filled with picturesque landscapes await those who are willing to explore.

You never have to go very far to find the serene, quirky, and exotic. M-22 stickers on rear windshields are a common sight for most Michiganders. Many of those who have driven along M-22 would agree that it is a very special stretch of road. However, there are many other highway systems throughout the state that could rival its scenic beauty. I believe that some of those too ought to have their own sticker.

In southern Michigan, US-12 runs from downtown Detroit to as far west as Aberdeen, Washington and is recognized as a heritage trail. As a connection linking Detroit to Chicago, this road developed as a corridor for travelers. Out of necessity a string of tourist stops emerged along the way. Notable sites include the Tibbits Opera House, the Irish Hills Towers, Brick Walker Tavern, and many others. Throughout the highway, ruins of the automobile’s golden age serve as a decaying testimony of a younger America. Nevertheless, plenty of tourist friendly establishments remain where visitors can have fun and learn about the state’s history.

Another highway worthy of exploring is M-66, which is often referred to as Michigan’s Route 66. Running north and south, M-66 nearly divides the state in half, or “splittin’ the mitten” as they say. The highway provides a gamut of urban to rural and everything in between. Along the way you can see the mansions of Battle Creek, Downtown Ionia, and Colon “The Magic Capital of the World.” M-66 is lined with numerous small towns and vast amounts of farmland that caters to the historic barn lovers.

(Contd. on page 4).
While US-12 and M-66 have established themselves as routes for tourists, there are many other highways that are just as fascinating. M-50 runs through a number of towns that have significant historic value. From the south, M-50 starts in Monroe and works itself north to Alto, which is just east of Grand Rapids. Along the way is a series of changing landscapes that keep you wondering what is beyond the next bend. Britton and Tecumseh are notable places to admire for their vintage qualities. Of course, there is plenty to see going north through Jackson, Charlotte, and Lake Odessa.

On a personal note, my favorite highways to drive down are the ones sprinkled with towns just big enough to have some character, but small enough that they may be difficult to spot. I have a particular fondness for railroad towns. These are the places where I tend to take my best photos. Going east on M-57 are the towns of Pompeii, Middleton, and Carson City. M-43 is also a lovely drive with towns like Grand Ledge, Mulliken, and Sunfield. Places where the architecture of agriculture and transportation meet. The rustic silos along the train tracks always makes for compelling imagery.

Visiting these places can be surreal; it is an exhilarating blend of experiencing the past and the present.

When exploring the Michigan state highways, you really cannot go wrong. Connect with the local residents by visiting the local bars and restaurants for a drink and a sandwich. In rural areas, locals tend to be interested in why I am there and enjoy talking about their community. The excitement of traveling is not limited to far off locations. With an open mind and open eyes, a great experience may be had on a nearby road.
From humble beginnings to the modern era in America, the home toilet has been one of the least discussed topics of the private American household. Due to its sensitive and private nature, the toilet has been an underestimated fixture within the home since its introduction to America. This paper will not only discuss the evolutionary changes of the home toilet but also how the aesthetic changes to the toilet changed homeowners’ perspective of sanitation and cleanliness in the late 1800s. Starting in the early 1900s, however, the home toilet became an accessory to the in-home bathroom and it soon became a statement of wealth and status in the more modern upper and middle class home. Beginning in the 19th Century, the modern toilet was a new piece of technology in American households, but by the mid-1930s style and personalization were paramount to owning the “perfect” bathroom.

During the mid-1800s, common consumers’ acceptance and integration of the indoor toilet brought new ideas of cleanliness and sanitation. Upper and middle class homeowners were now openly conscious about personal hygiene and sanitation within their homes. Before having the option of indoor plumbing and toilets, people had the unfortunate privilege of using the outside privy or outhouse. Britain was the first to invent the “modern” toilet, which did not arrive in the United States until the 1870s. American toilet designs were much more crude in comparison to the stylish British porcelain and American toilets were initially constructed of earthenware because in America, porcelain bowls sturdy enough to be incorporated into a water closet proved challenging to reproduce. However, American toilet styles such as the Syphon Jet Bowl, the Wash down Syphon Bowl, the Combo Hopper and Trap, and the Chemical Indoor Closet gave the consumer new ways to “lay waste.” According to Porcelain God, “The Chemical Indoor Closet was billed as the alternative to tramping through the mud to reach the privy. It guaranteed to ‘protect the morals of your children.’ A combination of chemicals and water were required to sanitize the facility and prevent odor.”

At first, these types of styles by American manufacturers
proved too expensive for the common consumer who continued to use communal catch basins with neighboring tenants. Due to various problems associated with the outdoor privy such as rats, odor, and disease, American consumers changed their outlook on the idea of an indoor lavatory.

During the late 1800s, the issues of bodily care and sanitation became important in American households and indoor toilets became an important fixture for bathrooms. Today, homeowners do not think twice about including a full-functioning bathroom within their home. In the late 1800s, however, integrating a three-fixure bathroom, i.e., the tub, sink, and toilet, was a new idea. Originally, these fixtures were not located within the same space in the home. According to Alison Hoagland’s article, “Introducing the Bathroom Space and Change in Working-Class Houses,” “The sink, replacing a water pitcher and basin, was first located in the bedroom, while the bathtub received its own room adjacent to the bedroom. The toilet, however, was placed in a separate room, due to odors associated with its use.”

Starting in the 1870s, the idea of simplifying the network of pipes and traps within the home arose with public health professionals. Therefore, health experts encouraged American homeowners to consolidate the three fixtures into a single room. Thus, the modern bathroom was born and by the end of the nineteenth century, many upper-class houses crossed uncharted territory of the new and upcoming three-fixture bathroom.

The late 1800s brought about momentous change in the style and standard of cleanliness in the bathroom including the toilet. As uniquely described in The Bathroom, the Kitchen and the Aesthetics of Waste: A Process of Elimination, “The bathroom is an index to civilization. Time was when it sufficed for a man to be civilized in his mind. We now require a civilization of the body. And in no line of house building has there been so great process in recent years as in bathroom civilization.” The “process of elimination” within the United States took place roughly in 1890 because of the steady decline of decorated enclosures and sculptural fixtures to 1930 when the decorated, yet hygienic, bathroom appeared. By the 1920s, the bathroom was not fully sophisticated, but a quote from House & Garden in September 1926, shows the coming change: “Contrast our modern bathroom with its older prototype and note the difference. The toilets of today are noiseless and well ventilated. Gleaming white vitreous china porcelain fixtures have taken the place of stained pine boarding, never to return.”

The evolution of the modern and convenient toilet was slow but arrived first in upper and middle class homes then finally into lower class communities through national newspaper and magazine ads.

During the early 1900s, companies, such as Aladdin, J.L. Mott Iron Works, and Sears & Roebuck started to distribute to middle class families mail-order catalogs, which advertised the latest trends in home fixtures. Wood materials such as Golden Oak and Mahogany were a popular choice for consumers. Certain designs such as the “Bavaria” style gave the customer the option of different wooden accessories that were included with the tank, seat, and bowl. This example can be seen in an Aladdin catalog from the mid-1900s, “The tank is made of Vitreous earthenware and is guaranteed to be perfect in every way.

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The bowl has either a Syphon Wash Down or a Syphon Jet action. The seat is finished in Golden Oak or Mahogany with nickel-plated offset hinges. The tank being made in one piece is positive insurance against leaks. This style hints at the certain styles of the period. Earthy materials such as different types of woods were popular within the bathroom because this style mirrored other rooms throughout the home such as the dining and sitting room with its rich oak and mahogany wood furnishings.

In the mid-1900s, bathroom products, such as toilet paper, were sold through persuasive ads such as the series of ads created by the Scott Paper Company in 1939, “How many mothers faithfully ‘follow the book’ on child feeding and care – yet are completely unaware of the daily risk they run in exposing a child’s tender skin to ordinary, harsh toilet tissue! Always keep Luxury Texture in your bathroom. Your child needs its greater comfort…” Bodily hygiene rather than bodily comfort, however, determined the evolution of the “bathroom” aesthetic. Products such as china, enameled iron, and ceramic tile were preferred over potentially moisture- and germ-gathering materials, such as wood, marble, and wallpaper. With emerging technical advances in manufacturing, toilet tanks that were formerly made of wood with copper or lead lining were later made with porcelain enameled cast-iron and later vitreous china. Tanks were also brought down from the wall and placed directly behind the toilet bowl, which introduced the material for the modern toilet.

In the late 1920s, companies such as The Universal Sanitary Manufacturing Company, Kohler and Crane, and the American Standard started to advertise full bathroom sets that contained matching styles and color swatches. Salesmen from such companies tell the customer how to “plan your plumbing wisely” (Figure 1). The Standard considered the bathroom the health center of the home, which assisted companies such as the Standard in selling the most up-to-date advances in design and decoration in the home bathroom. The salesman would also tie in current modes of living while trying to sell to the customer. Discussing adequate and capably installed plumbing in the bathroom could have been coupled with the most fashionable bathroom designs and set-ups. If a homeowner were to have an old, outdated bathroom, the Standard claimed that the new improvements could be installed with ease. The essential thing, according to the Standard is, “to plan wisely – consider all phases of your bathroom problem, use the services of your Builder and the representatives (salesmen) of the manufacturers of the fixtures.” Color swatches were also an important selling feature for the bathroom fixture companies. Black and white were base colors but even more popular were bright and vibrant color choices such as Rose du Barry and Clair de Lune Blue. The bathtub, lavatory and water closet were all part of this matching color palette. Along with popular styles of the bathtub and lavatory, the toilet also had its own unique designs.


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6 Ibid., 16.
Continued

The bathroom was once valued for its standards of cleanliness but it was now being reabsorbed into the fabric of the home, subject to the same decorative attention as other rooms within the home. The following is an excerpt from a 1932 article that suggests a definitive shift in bathroom décor:

When Mr. and Mrs. Jones built their new home some five years ago, their bathroom – white of tile, glistening as the inside of a new refrigerator – was the acme of hygienic perfection… But when [her] younger sister Jessie displayed her new house the other day, the bathroom turned out to have fixtures of Copenhagen blue, a dark green lacquered floor…and a shower curtain of apricot.\(^8\)

The Universal Sanitary Manufacturing Company was the first company to introduce colored fixtures in the late 1920s. Kohler and Crane followed in 1928, and Standard followed finally in the early 1930s. Pastel colors were introduced early, then deep colors were later introduced which including black suites by Kohler. Even though colored fixtures arrived slowly in public ads in the late 1920s, they were not widely accepted until the 1950s. Colored fixtures were expensive but they also did not reflect the endurance of whiteness as the ideal of perfectly healthy hygiene. Along with colorful options, the toilet also entered a new phase of improvements. After the washout closet of the early 1900s came the more modern siphon-jet toilet, which was advertised by Standard Sanitary in the early 1920s.

The “Expulso Closet” increased the force of water to empty the bowl and featured an oval – rather than circular – form that created a centrifugal force.\(^9\) This closet also featured the tank, which was placed just above the bowl rather than being placed higher on the wall like the closets from the late 1800s. This style was also much more customizable; options included changing its flush handle type, seat cover and hardware, and overall color from a specialized manufacturer list. Instead of having a “sterile-like” environment within the bathroom, consumers were being encouraged to soften and personalize the industrial aesthetic of the bathroom, including the ever-changing toilet.

J.L. Mott Iron Works was more subtle when addressing their customers through their mail-order catalogs. During the late 1800s, the company claimed they were merely giving “suggestions” rather than “rigid rule as to the nature or arrangement of fixtures, size of room or style of decoration…however we have been careful to present only such goods as we can fully recommend and unhesitatingly warrant from a sanitary point of view.”\(^10\) This catalog series was one of the first major mail-order catalogs that showcased a 3-piece bathroom suite option for its customers. The suite option included ways of how to properly set up your bathroom and a number of ways a homeowner could fit new fixtures into a variety of areas.

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\(^9\) Ibid., 28.

\(^10\) J.L. Mott Iron Works, Mott’s Illustrated Catalog of Victorian Plumbing Fixtures for Bathrooms and Kitchens, 5.
within the bathroom space. From the customer’s point of view, this suggestion would have removed some of the pressure from buying the “appropriate” fixtures for the bathroom. Unlike the other fixtures within the bathroom, the toilet was one of the most advertised products within the Mott’s Illustrated Catalog during the late 1800s to the mid-1900s (Figure 3).

In the mid-1800s, the bathroom toilet brought along new and uncharted territory for the American household. Once the mid-1900s approached, the “water closet” had escalated into an important aesthetic fixture within the private bathroom. It has been said that the toilet, instead of written language, was the beginning of civilization. Thomas Crapper, the founder of Thomas Crapper & Co was not the inventor of the toilet. The toilet, which evolved from a “noisy, valved contrivance” was referred to as the Ajax by Sir John Harington in the 1590s, who is credited as one of the founding fathers of the modern toilet, morphed the contraption into a necessary fixture within the home bathroom during the early to mid-1900s. In the 21st century, homeowners take such technology for granted. People rarely think about its origins and how it gained its nickname, “The Crapper.”


Bibliography


Please note: this article was edited for length. Please contact Chelsea Dantuma at cdantuma@emich.edu for more information.
Transitions of the American Home: the Early 20th Century Sleeper Porch

By Selina Fish

Many houses built in the early 20th century included porches designed for fresh air sleeping. Numerous periodicals published articles and advertisements to aid people in the proper design, construction, and usage of their sleeping porches. Some residents of urban dwellings, such as tenements, found alternatives to sleeping porches derived from the same concept of fresh air sleeping for health purposes. Various inventions to aid in the comfort of sleeping outdoors supplemented the act of fresh air sleeping. The American home began to reflect people’s demands for sleeping porches as a result of emerging sanitary views in the early 20th century.

In 1883, Henry Gradle attested that it had only been within the last twenty years, or less, that evidence was accumulating showing that many ailments were due to the invasion by microscopic parasites or their germs. Dr. John Ritchie further described the new phenomenon, ‘germ theory,’ as very small plants and animals, called disease germs, that were attacking people and causing sickness and death. It was also believed that disease germs were the greatest enemies of mankind and that nearly all the germs that attack people are spread from the bodies of persons who are sick with diseases, killing thousands of people.

In order to rid the body of disease causing germs, especially those causing tuberculosis, physicians, politicians, and architects encouraged the public to sleep outside on open porches. Outdoor sleeping became a popular remedy for those suffering from tuberculosis or other ailments caused by the industrial period’s poor air quality. Outdoor sleeping was much more than a fad of the times and fresh air sleeping became especially critical for early twentieth-century germ-conscious sleepers. Thomas Carrington, in the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis pamphlet, suggested that in order to kill the germs of tuberculosis, extra doses of fresh air at night were necessary to having the best chance of recovery. In 1917, Andrew Palmer identified sleeping porches as a comparatively recent invention and the increasing use of them bared witness to the fact that people were paying more and more attention to hygiene. The matters surrounding fresh air sleeping led many homeowners to make architectural demands for sleeping porches in the early 20th century.

Fresh air sleeping was in such a high demand that it was believed that all modern homes should have one. In 1918, Beautiful Homes Magazine demonstrated this thought in an article titled, “An Up To Date Home,” which read; “A modern home that is “up-to-date” now includes a sun parlor on the first floor and a sleeping porch on the second floor, these rooms being furnished in every respect the same as the other rooms and prepared for both winter and summer use.” The article features an ad focused on a family’s priorities of having a sleeping porch with plenty of space (Fig. 1).

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2 Ibid., 6, 8.
3 Charlie Hailey, "From Sleeping Porch to Sleeping Machine: Inverting Traditions of Fresh Air in North America," Ibid., 6, 8.
7 Charlie Hailey, "From Sleeping Porch to Sleeping Machine: Inverting Traditions of Fresh Air in North America," Ibid., 6, 8.

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Figure 1. “The Up to Date Home.” Beautiful Homes Magazine v.39-40, 1918.
Continued

While the magazine was mostly geared toward the well-to-do family, the average American would find ways to follow the trend of sleeping porches in their own way.

As public demand increased, journals, magazines, and even books began to advertise sleeping porches to their customers. In 1913, *The Ladies Home Journal*, featured an ad asking, Why Not Build a Sleeping Porch?" The ad features six homes with sleeping porches that were not original to the structure (Fig. 2). The point was that a sleeping porch could be added to many homes, “without harm to the fundamental architectural design.” It was further attested in another book by Thomas Carrington, *Fresh Air and How to Use It*, that sleeping porches should be constructed of the same material as the main structure, rather than as after-thought, and should appear to be a part of the original design. It was continually demonstrated that porches should be designed in such a manner that they would harmonize with the structure to which they were added. Mail order catalogs would also begin to offer subtle design options to their building plans.

Architects of early 20th century homes became gradually aware of the need and proper design of sleeping porches. Sleeping porches could be adapted to reflect the impact of weather in their geographical location. People learned to adapt themselves to their environments in relation to the construction of their homes and architects adhered to the demands of the public. A design by the Ohio architect, W.K. Shilling, exemplified the new taste for outdoor sleeping and living. In his ‘model house at moderate cost,’ the dining-room and living-room each had an outdoor counterpart attached. The second floor chambers had three attached sleeping porches, which could be screened in the summer and shielded by canvas in the winter, with reinforced concrete floors. Shilling also considered the aesthetic of the exterior as well by designing the outdoor spaces incorporated under the main house roof, so to not read as porches, but as part of the house. Beyond the structural changes in architecture for sleeping porches was also a need to create an appropriate space for outdoor sleeping in varying weather.

Other alternatives for fresh air sleeping became available for those who either did not have the room to construct a sleeping porch or could not afford one. For residents living in the city, Carrington recommended that a simple wooden shack could be constructed on the roof of a tenement house or in a yard. A window tent was made possible for a cheap method of sleeping out of doors (Fig. 3). Window tents were easily installed in any window opening and could be “purchased for prices ranging from five to six dollars up to about fifteen dollars.” For people living in warm, dry climates or for the summer months, tents and tent houses could be used, but they were not recommended for winter use in cold climates. Fresh air sleeping, whether in a sleeping porch or other alternative, also presented certain discomforts with regards to the weather prompting even more inventions for the cause.

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10 Ibid., 105.
14 Ibid., 12.
15 Carrington, *Sleeping and Sitting in the Open Air*, 7.
16 Ibid., 7.
17 Ibid., 7.
Due to the nature of fresh air sleeping, many products were developed to aid in the comfort of sleeping outdoors. Thomas Carrington, in Directions for Living and Sleeping in the Open Air, suggested: “The Black Knight, which is a piece of stockingette with elastic going over the ears, sleeping hoods to protect the face and ears, and the Kenwood rug, designed for outdoor sleeping and sitting and a Fiala sleeping suit.” The importance of outdoor sleeping led to the development of such products and thus allowed for a comfortable use of sleeping porches in the early 20th century.

Early 20th century American homes evolved to popularize sleeping porches as the germ theory began to develop. Architecture of sleeping porches reflected public demands, with ongoing developments in regards to weather. The evolution of architecture also brought along various products to supplement this new lifestyle. As the country developed and the industrial period soared, American’s were finding new ways to connect with nature and regain their health. Beginning in the 1930s, however, tuberculosis became more manageable and the invention of electric fans made sleeping indoors much more comfortable, making sleeping porches fashionable and a thing of the past. Further, the 1930s represented the beginning of a failing economy and a new respect for streamlined functionality in all designs, which prompted the disappearance of sleeping porches.

18 Carrington, Directions for Living and Sleeping in the Open Air, 17-19.


GEO TOURISM ON THE VIA EGNATIA TRAIL

By Nancy Tare

Have you heard of the famous pilgrimage route Camino de Santiago in Spain? Or Via Francigena in Italy? Both are pillar cultural walking routes that attract millions of people each year to visit their perspective countries.

As a tour operator promoting Geo Tourism I am thrilled to be a part of the newest initiative in promoting Via Egnatia within the Balkans.

Via Egnatia is one of the oldest routes that existed during ancient times. Dating as far back as 148 B.C. This route was the “highway” connecting the East to the West. It was built by a Roman Governor of Macedonia Gnaeus Egantius, connecting West to the East. The route begins in Durres, Albania and goes all the way to Turkey passing through Macedonia and Greece.

The 4-8 meters wide road was travelled by powerful and influential people: Cicero, Mark Anthony, Marcus Aurelius, and the Christian Crusaders. Apostles such as Peter, Silvan, John, Mark, and Timothy to name a few, preached about this unknown man at the time named Jesus. This ancient road has been the “key artery” of a road system.

This route has been formalized by the Albanian Government to be offered as a tourist product promoting Geo Tourism in the region. Initiated by the Albanian National Coastline with the support of the Italian Trade Association (ITA) and local tour operator, Our Own Expeditions, this route is attracting media all over the world. We anticipate this route to be the next biggest route in Europe. It can be used as “a powerful tool to promote and preserve Europeans’ shared and diverse cultural identities.” Via Egnatia route begins in Albania.

This route will be well marked along the way with GPS coordinates and identified B&B’s for your journey. As you walk through some of Albania’s most remote villages, you will experience the unspoiled landscape and true beauty of the country. Here you will find the landscape has been unscathed and untouched by tourism. This 86 mile long trail (just the Albania side) is magnificently beautiful with lush rolling hills and mountains along the way. As you travel either by foot or bicycle you will uncover some of nature’s pure wonders with streams, vast fields of scattered crops sprinkled with fruits and vegetables being cultivated. Experiencing local foods and traditions along the way is often referred to as Slow Tourism.

As a tour operator and Country Director for the Western Balkans Network, our mission is to only promote Geo Tourism. Promoting and identifying locals, small businesses, and artisans along the way while protecting natural assets is key for a route such as Via Egnatia to exist and be successful. By encouraging the local citizens and visitors to get involved rather than remain “tourism spectators” they will help support the Geo Tourism model. This is a wonderful journey in itself proving once again that by preserving the local culture, landscape and promoting authenticity in the region is a sure recipe of success!
Poverty Point WHS presented to the World Heritage Committee in criterion iii, as a vanished culture tradition, known as the Poverty Point Culture (Nomination report). Poverty Point WHS started out publicly owned by the state of Louisiana in 1972 but had talks of designation all the way back to 1953. In 1962, the site was protected as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) and received additional protection from the federal statutory (Nomination, 2013). “Louisiana Revised Statutes, Louisiana Administrative Code, the Louisiana Constitution, deed provisions, and federal regulations protect the Poverty Point site” (Nomination, 2013). In 1966, the property was added to the National Register of historic places (NR or NRHP).

Poverty Point WHS monumental earthen mounds are a prehistoric earthworks that are currently on the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) list of world heritage sites. The earthen mounds were known as Poverty Point State Historic Site (Poverty Point SHS) prior to designation and are now called Poverty Point World Heritage Site (Poverty Point WHS). Poverty Point WHS mounds are located in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana USA. The monumental earthen mounds are the oldest man-made structures in North America dating from 1700 BCE to 1100 BCE (Preservation, 2013). The prehistoric site is the only one of its kind in existence and considered to be an economic hub or “Culture Capital” of the ancient world (Explore, 2010).

Poverty Point WHS earthen mounds still have their original configuration intact. The monumental earthen mounds consist of:

- 4 earthen mounds, with the 5th mound add 1700 to 2000 years later and two other mounds outside the Poverty Point WHS boundaries.
- 6 semi-elliptical earthen ridges.
- 1 flat interior plaza with post circle.

The earthen mounds were built 1500 years before the great pyramids (Poverty, 2014). Poverty Point WHS earthen mounds are monuments, not a burial site; but the prehistoric site has a burial site with tombstones from the 19th century from early American settlers of Louisiana. The monumental earthen mounds have an inscribed area of Poverty Point WHS that is 163 hectares (~ 0.63 sq. miles), but there are zero buffer zones (Nomination, 2013).

The monumental earthen mounds of Poverty Point WHS are a publicly owned and managed archaeological park by the Louisiana Office of State Parks and were acquired by the state of Louisiana in 1972 (Nomination, 2013). Poverty Point WHS management plan has been presented to the World Heritage Committee in criterion iii, in January 2013; however the plan has been inscribed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in June of 2014.
“On June 22, 2014, at the 38th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Doha, Qatar, Poverty Point State Historic Site was inscribed as the 1,001st property on the World Heritage List” (SOL, 2014).

The monumental earthen mounds where built in the archaic period in North America and were constructed by hunter-fisher-gatherers. Since the mounds were constructed by hunter-fisher-gatherers, rather than agricultural society, this makes Poverty Point WHS a unique engineering marvel. The ancient Poverty Point Culture constructed the monumental mounds in a various structured layers on a grand scale. Poverty Point WHS is part of the late archaic period.

During the prior archaeological investigation and the soil sampling of the rock materials unearth in the excavations were of different materials. Some were from the surrounding material at Macon ridge and as far as copper in Michigan, concluding that the materials were imported from different areas (Gibson, 2007). “To the contrary, its large inventory of nonlocal raw materials is testimony to a cosmopolitan society, a people of vast cultural connection” (Sassaman, 2005). The materials used to construct the monuments, consist of over 71 metric tons (Gibson, 1994) and originated from various sites along the Mississippi River (Nomination, 2013).

At one time it was believed that the earthen ridges were completely circular but was later proven otherwise by the archaeologist Mr. Gibson (Nomination, 2013). Excavations were done along the side of the earthen ridges that showed the edges were capped and it was concluded that the earthen ridges are still intact (Nomination, 2013). The earthen ridges are not continuous; they are broken up in sections called aisles and alleyways.

The earthen ridges are made up mostly of sand and clay (Hargrave, 2007). “Horizontal clay strata were documented in several ridges but it remains unclear whether these represent continuous caps, mantles, isolated living floors, or other features” (Hargrave, 2007).

The current status of visitation is in peak waves during the seasons, ranging from November/December and April/May. The average annual visitation is 13,449 ± 3,721 individuals and is open 362 days (Nomination, 2013). One third of the visitors are school groups that take field trips. The tours of the earthworks are 80% tram guided tours, 15% people use their own vehicles, and 5% walking the hiking trail (Nomination, 2013).

The Poverty Point WHS has a site management plan and it currently has no new construction plans for the prehistoric site. There are however, future plans that call for more construction such as support facilities, the new construction is advised to be placed north of the mound site and out of view (Nomination, 2013). There is also a future plan from the Louisiana Department of Transportation, to widen the highway that is through the middle of the prehistoric site.
Continued

The primary source of funding is from the general fund of the State of Louisiana. The repairs and improvements are funded by the revenue such as the administration fees, $4 dollars for admissions and free for 0-12 and 62 & older. Poverty Point WHS also conducts demonstrations that generate income, demonstrations on how the fire stones work and demonstrations on how various tools were made.

There are five dangers to the World Heritage Site:
- Erosion
- Tree fall
- Non-native species
- Climate change
- Natural disasters

Poverty Point WHS are working with the Army Corps of Engineers to minimize the erosion due to the creep of water flow (Advocate, 2013). Erosion is also caused by the tree falls from heavy winds blowing and exposure of soil. There are current issues with Mound B, with the Harlin Bayou creeping closer and causing erosion on the North side. There are three species that are not native to the area such as, fire ants, the boar, and armadillo, which causes damage by burrowing in the ground (Nomination, 2013). The climate change is causing different effects on the prehistoric site, such as where water levels are rising in the nearby bayou and the occurrence of wild fires. Natural disasters such as flooding and earthquakes are also threats to the earthen mounds. The prehistoric site is located on the Mississippi flood plains and is at risk of flooding; but the earthen mounds have been high enough to escape past floods. The earthen mounds are within the earthquake zone of New Madrid fault line.

Poverty Point WHS has a tree removal program in the works to remove all the trees off the mounds and ridges. The effects of falling trees are damaging to the site, causing the tree roots to rip up the ground and disturbing the soil horizons and exposing the artifacts. This makes it hard to catalog and date the Poverty Point Objects.

Poverty Point WHS is currently working with the Army Corps of Engineers on the constant threat of erosion to the site. Mound B is currently being monitored for erosion. The falling tree and tree removal program is in process and will continue once funding is provided (Nomination, 2013).

Poverty Point WHS is surrounded by farmland that has been passed down from generation to generation. The prehistoric site is the second oldest man-made monumental structures in North America that resonates with the entire nation. Poverty Point WHS is held to high standards now due to the World Heritage Site inscription, to strengthen the relationship with stakeholders and increase the public awareness and tourism.

Please note: this article was edited for length. Please contact Jackie Matheny at jmatheny@emich.edu for more information.

Sources:
Meet the Winter Semester 16’ Board

Michael Gute is a second year in the HP grad program and is focusing on Heritage Interpretation and Tourism and Museum Practices. He has a background in Art History and received a B.S. from Kendall College of Art & Design. He currently holds the Development Associate position at Eastern Michigan University for the College of Arts & Sciences and is also the Museum Graduate Assistant at the Ypsilanti Historical Society. He sees a future in advancement and advocating for the arts. A favorite food of his is anything Food Network show host Ina Garten calls “easy”. His hobbies include running and cooking for friends. If he had to be an architectural style he would be Italianate, because he appreciates the whimsical aspect, but also respects the formality.

Ashleigh, or Ash, is doing a general study in the HP Program at EMU. She completed her undergrad at Western Michigan University receiving a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She currently holds the Student Assistant position at the State Historic Preservation Office and previously worked as an Intern for Wayne Main Street. Her hobbies include reading, shopping, and traveling the world. Her future travel plans involve visiting Borobudur in Indonesia. Ashleigh loves many different types of food, but if she had to pick a favorite it would be between sushi and potatoes. She is also a mother to two adorable cats and she enjoys spoiling them. If she had to be an architectural style she would be a Queen Anne, because of their unique features that set them apart from the rest, but also for their beauty.

Abigail, or Abby, is a second year student in the HP graduate program at EMU. Her concentration is Preservation Planning & Administration. Abby attended the Rochester Institute of Technology for her undergrad receiving a B.S. degree in Biomedical Photographic Communications. After graduation she hopes to move to Detroit and work to preserve historic buildings while helping to promote community growth and affordable housing. She is currently working at the City of Monroe as the Preservation Planning Assistant and is also an intern at Wayne Main Street. Her favorite food is anything with cheese. Her hobbies include reading, music, and photography. If she could be an architectural style she would be Gothic Revival, because a lot of the times it reminds her of something that would be seen in a horror movie and she loves old scary movies!
Mary is a first year student in the Historic Preservation program. She is currently the intern for the Wayne Historical Society and Wayne Main Street. Her goal after graduation is to have a career that is focused on community education and programming. Her undergrad degree is in Integrative Public Relations from Central Michigan University. One of Mary’s favorite foods is hamburgers. Her hobbies include jogging and reading. One of her favorite historic buildings is the Belle Isle Aquarium in Detroit, MI. Her favorite PE moment from the Fall semester was touring Meadow Brook Hall. If Mary had to be an architectural style, she would be a Queen Anne as she loves the fine details and ornamentation in each home.

Roberta is a second year in the HP Program with a General Studies concentration. After graduation, she plans to use her knowledge in historic preservation to safeguard sites in southeastern Michigan. Roberta completed her undergrad at Wayne State University and holds a B.S. in Pharmacy. Her favorite food is Hostess chocolate cupcakes. Some of her hobbies include stamp and china collecting. She also has a green thumb and is a Master Gardener, but has had little time to garden since starting her M.S. degree. A favorite local building of her’s is the Palms Apartments on E. Jefferson Ave. in Detroit. If Roberta were an architectural style she would be Beaux-Arts Classicism as it has an homage to the classical Roman time that she finds interesting; the classical elements and ornamentation contrast and make her feel at home.

Dan, or Danny Bonenberger is an Associate Professor for the Historic Preservation Graduate Program at Eastern Michigan University. His background includes a B.A. and M.A. in History from the University of West Virginia as well as an A.B.D in Geography. His interests and expertise include common places, buildings, people, and landscapes at the intersection of historic preservation, cultural geography, and digital cultural heritage. Some of Dan’s current research includes virtual heritage that draws upon the latest theory and practice in these fields to integrate GIS, and 3-D modeling.
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Preservation Eastern’s 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.

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PE membership is open to all students currently enrolled in the HP program at EMU. Be a part of a group of students dedicated to enhancing their academic learning through outside activities and professional networking. Please talk to any of our board members about obtaining a membership!

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