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Preservation Eastern Newsletter, February 1998

Preservation Eastern
Eastern Michigan University

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Take note ...

* April 3-4: The Michigan Historic Preservation Network presents its 18th annual Conference, "Of The People, By The People, For The People: Working with Government to Get The Job Done," in Lansing. For registration information, call (248) 625-8181. Students get a discount for both days.

* April 26: Preservation Eastern "Year End" Banquet at the Inn of Phil and Jeanette, south of Brighton. Plan on games and a dance. See enclosed FLYER. Watch for information and map on the bulletin boards in Strong Hall.

More on what's in this issue ...

* Abstracts for presentations at the October 1997 meeting of the Pioneer America Society begin on page 6

* Art contest winners announced, page 4

* Thomas Jones, fondly remembered, page 3

* McLennan retires, page 3

Preservation Eastern goes to junior high school

A number of Preservation Eastern students had the opportunity to present preservation related topics to the students at Jeannette Junior High School in Sterling Heights on November 14th. The volunteer presenters from EMU chose topics related to their own areas of interest. Each guest speaker was assigned to a junior high school teacher for the day. This program was organized by Neva Baron, Director of Preservation Eastern, and Darlene Marshall, a teacher at Jeannette.

It was a positive experience for all involved. The Preservation Eastern presenters were excited to share their expertise in Historic Preservation with young people. Several hundred students at Jeannette were able to experience these programs. Most of the presenters remained with a faculty member for the entire school day, presenting for approximately 30 minutes to five or six classes.

Ioana Campean discussed the geography and history of Romania, her home country. She enhanced the presentation with photographs, postcards, audios, and transparencies. Miss Campean is an architect with a specialty in historic architecture.

To prepare for the presentation by Danielle Hall, classroom students each designed a grave marker. Miss Hall discussed cemeteries as they relate to history, economy, and geography. By altering the students work with water and scissors, Miss Hall demonstrated the effects of vandalism, acid rain, and time on grave markers.

The Civil War and Battlefield preservation was discussed by Karen Maddick. Ms. Maddick emphasized the events that led to the conflict, and how its outcome strengthened our nation. The importance of battlefield preservation was demonstrated with overhead transparencies depicting the terrain's influence on the outcome of the battle.

Nancy Reynolds, dressed in period costume, presented life on a canal boat in the...

JEANNETTE. Continued page 3

Mark St. John explains the idea of "living history" to some students at Jeannette Jr. High School in Sterling Heights, Mich., as part of an outreach program involving members of Preservation Eastern.

Photo: Neva Baron
Dear Preservation Easterners:

Together we can do and have done great things! We have so much to be proud of this year.

The Art Contest and Postcards: I am happy to report that our art contest this fall was a success. We were able to raise nearly $600 in prizes donated by local businesses and over $750 from EMU Student Government for marketing costs and to make selected entries into postcards. In total, we raised over $1,400.

If all goes well, we will be selling images of Starkweather Hall, Boone Hall, Rackham Hall, and Welch Hall through the EMU Bookstore in McKenny Union by the end of the winter semester. Also, we have an exhibit display in Strong Hall that showcases this year’s artists. I want to thank Mark St. John and Janna Baron for creating this professional-looking display.

I want to thank past and current members for their hard work hosting the art contest reception and going to area businesses for support. Also, I want to thank Dick Schwarze, EMU’s photographer in the Public Information Office, for arranging to have the artwork photographed for publication purposes, and Pat Mroczek, News Services manager, for getting the word out about this year’s art contest. As a result we will become better known on and off campus.

New Officers: There has been a turnover in officers this year. Karen Maddick is our current assistant director and has been working to schedule our Speaker Series for this semester. Danielle Hall is the new public relations officer and is working on bringing a documentary on the Hudson’s building in Detroit to the local area. I would like to thank Susan McBride, former public relations officer, and Heather Rinne, former assistant director, for their hard work during the fall semester.

I am delighted to announce that Phil Smith, our current business manager, will serve as our next director. He is a graduate assistant in the Historic Preservation Program. Phil has a background in recycling and banking. Our other new officers for the 1998-99 academic year will be elected later this semester.

Winter Semester Meetings: Preservation Eastern meetings for this semester are on the first and third Mondays of the month at 4:30 p.m. in Room 239 in Strong Hall.

On a more personal note: Since this will most likely be the last opportunity for me to communicate with y’all through the director’s column, I want to share a few thoughts. I have enjoyed being your director. Your support has made this organization what it is … a growing and thriving group of people who care about educating people old and young, on and off EMU’s campus, about preservation issues.

Also, I want to thank Jan Bellamy for producing a quality newsletter this academic year and Dr. Ted Ligibel for being our advisor. Finally, I want to thank Kirsten Merriman, our former director, for taking the time to mentor me last year. Together all of us have made this organization what it is … successful! I am boldly, yet humbly, proud to have had the opportunity to serve this organization.

Yours truly,

Neva K. Baron

Neva K. Baron (734) 480-3688 or nbaron@online.emich.edu

McLennan retiring

Marshall McLennan, who has served as director of EMU’s Historic Preservation program since its inception in the fall of 1979, has formally notified the Department of Geography & Geology that he plans to retire April 30, 1999. He will teach part time during the coming academic year. Ted Ligibel will assume the director’s responsibilities January 1, 1999. Pending University approval, a national search will be initiated next fall to fill McLennan’s position.

Goodison Hall demolition update:

Goodison Hall is slated for demolition this spring. Preservation Easterners are working with several campus programs, offices, departments, and organizations to save the main entry, including the Art Deco-style pillars. The goal is to see the entryway dismantled and re-erected on campus as a commemorative archway to honor EMU’s past accomplishments while forging new endeavors. In 1999, EMU will celebrate it’s 150th anniversary as an institution. Bertha Goodison remains one of the most revered and respected women in our institution’s history and should be remembered. She originally came to Michigan Normal College (later known as EMU) in 1892 as a student. From 1900 to 1937, she worked on campus and was continuously promoted for her work in training and supervising students in the art department. In 1912 she became the head of the art department. (Her father, John Goodison, was the head of that department from 1885-1892.)

Bertha Goodison died in 1937. In 1939, Goodison Hall was built as a residence hall for women. It and King Hall were the first structures built on campus especially for women students. Bertha Goodison’s name should not be forgotten just because Goodison Hall is meeting it’s fate with the wrecking ball. Preservation Eastern, the Historic Preservation Program, and the Department of Geography and Geology have teamed up with the following to encourage that the main entry be saved: the Women’s Studies Program, EMU Student Government Association, Washtenaw County HDC, and EMU’s College of Arts and Sciences. We are currently lobbying more departments, offices and organizations for support.
Saying goodbye

Thomas Jones: The man and his vision are missed

Thomas L. Jones had “a passion for the history of Detroit and Michigan, and knew how to bring it to life” wrote Lama Bakri and George Weeks of the Detroit News staff in August of last year.

These were two of many who noted the passing of Jones at the age of 51 on Aug. 6, 1997.

Among Jones’ noted accomplishments was his work as director of the historical society from 1980-94. An Ypsilanti resident, he also taught Detroit and Michigan history at several colleges, including Henry Ford Community College, the University of Detroit and Eastern Michigan University.

Jones received his B.A. in history from the University of Detroit and his master’s degree, which was also in history, from the University of Michigan.

Jones was a member of the Algonquins Club, a history club in Detroit. And he helped many people write books, including George Weeks, according to the News’ obituary.

Jones’ admirers were many:

* Secretary of State Candice Miller, who was quoted by the Detroit News as saying “he directed the Society ‘through the period of its greatest growth and change... He was an advocate for history, and his partnership in preserving and interpreting Michigan history will be missed’.”

* “He was good at bringing history alive,” said Ben Burns, a former executive editor of The Detroit News who worked with Jones in the 1987 publication of Stewards of the State, a history of Michigan governors, according to The Detroit News article.

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IN MEMORIAM

The recent tragic death of Tom Jones was a shock to all of us in the Historic Preservation Program. Tom was a veteran and respected member of our adjunct faculty who taught in the “Historic Administration” concentration for about eight years until 1996. Many of you will no doubt recall late evenings in his “Introduction to Historic Administration” course. Our tribute to Tom continues... gone perhaps, but never forgotten!

—Dr. Ted Ligibel, Eastern Michigan University, Dept. of Geography and Geology

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Speaker’s Bureau schedule is set

Preservation Eastern’s Winter Speaker Series features a diverse group:

* Feb. 12, 4 p.m.: Sgt. Gary Chapman, Detroit Police Department, in the Founder’s Room of the McKenny Union. Topic: Crime prevention through design.

* Apr. 2, (time to be announced): Chuck Forbes, Forbes Development. Mr. Forbes will discuss preservation from a developer’s perspective. Forbes Development moved the Gem Theater and we will see slides of that relocation. Please watch the bulletin board for final details, including time and location.

And please help support the Speaker’s Series by attending.

—Karen Maddick, Assistant Director, P.E.

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Jeannette Jr. High

—Continued from page 1

1830s. She discussed what a young person’s life would have been like on the canals and the types of cargo carried on the boats.

Mrs. Reynolds emphasized that canals were important to history and early population expansion into Michigan.

Mark St. John wore a Civil War federal infantry uniform. He gave students an overview of what living history is and what they might see at a reenactment or site.

He encouraged students to learn more about living history, and to try it for themselves.

According to Robert Van Camp, principal at Jeannette, “Preservation Eastern does a wonderful job of bringing to life aspects of American history and culture taught in our curriculum. The presentations with people in uniform and role playing characters from history help our students more easily visualize what life was like back then more than history books ever would.”

—By Karen Maddick and Nancy Reynolds

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Members of Preservation Eastern invite you to join them. See back page for information and form.
Winning art being made into postcards

First card reflects decorative tiles on Rackham Building

At least three of the winning images from Preservation Eastern's recent art contests, selected from a pool of 24 entries, will be turned into postcards that feature photographs of some of Eastern Michigan University's most historic buildings.

Preservation Eastern, Eastern's historic preservation student organization, will turn the winning images from this fall's alumni and student art contests into postcards, said Neva Baron, Preservation Eastern's director.

Alumnus James Ryan of Ann Arbor, a 1995 EMU graduate, created the winning entry with a photograph of decorative tiles from the Rackham Building. It will be the first postcard in the series.

Other winning images include student entries: images of Boone Hall and Starkweather Hall by Wendy Winslow, a graduate student in historic preservation; and an image of Welch Hall, by Ioana Campean, a Fulbright Scholar from Romania and also a graduate student in historic preservation.

Rackham Building, built in 1938, is decorated with a series of tiles that use nature themes. The building houses the Department of Special Education, the Children's Institute and offices, including the National Institute for Consumer Education.

Boone Hall, which houses the College of Education, was built in 1914. And Starkweather Hall, one of the oldest structures on campus, dates from 1896 and is today the home of the Graduate School.

The art contests were fall semester's "Focus on the Historic Art Contest" and the winter semester's "Buildings Between the World Wars Art Contest."

Preservation Eastern wishes once again to thank the entrants for their imagination and hard work and the judges for their consideration and contributions.
PRESERVATION EASTERN

THANKS OUR JUDGES

Cheryl Farmer, Mayor Of Ypsilanti

Dr. Gayle Thomas, EMU Vice Regent

Dr. Roy Johnston, Art Dept. Chair

Maria Davis, EMU Archivist

Dr. Barry Fish, Arts & Sciences Dean

OUR SPONSORS

YPsilanti MEijER, ANN ARBOR MEijER,
MICHIGAN BOOK & SUPPLY, Cady's GRILL, NED'S,
EMU BOOKSTORE, GANDY DANCER RESTAURANT,
SALSA ROSA'S, GRAPHIC ART WHOLESALERS,
HAAB'S RESTAURANT, LOUIS CAFE,
EMU STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION,
EMU CONNECTION MAGAZINE.
ABSTRACTS OF SELECTED PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 1997 MEETING OF THE PIONEER AMERICA SOCIETY

A Personal Thank You from Dr. Marshall McLennan: I am gratified by the significant scholarly contributions made by the Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program to the Pioneer American Society's 1997 meeting held at the Dearborn Inn in Dearborn, Michigan, last October. Mary Culver, a program alumnus, was the honored 1997 keynote presenter, speaking on “The Cultural Landscape of Southeastern Michigan.” Ted Ligibel and Gabriel Cheren, faculty associated with the program, presented papers, as did Lawrence Darling, a faculty member of the Department of Construction Technology and an alumnus of the preservation program. The following program alumni presented papers: Thomas Mackie, Patricia Condon (who came all the way from Pullman, Washington), Gladys Saborio, Susan Wineberg, Kerry Adams, Kevin Coleman, Jeffrey Winstel, and Barbara Krueger. Among current students, Wendy Winslow, Jeffrey Green, Robert Burg, and William McElhone also presented research papers.

I wish to thank Phil Smith, Lisa Porstman and the various other students who assisted either with program preparation or during the conference. Further thanks go to Robert Burg, Gladys Saborio, Kerry Adams and Tracey Miller for their contributions to the success of the Saturday field trip.

ABSTRACTS FROM EMU STUDENTS AND ALUMNI:

CANNELTON, IN.: LANDSCAPE OF AN INDUSTRIAL TOWN
Wendy C. Winslow

Massive hand hewn sandstone blocks are the main ingredient for the formidable Cannelton Cotton Mill, located in Cannelton Indiana. Backed by Boston financiers, the industrial structure was the first mill of such scale built in the midwest in the mid-eighteen hundreds. Although architect designed, the mill reflects a unique mixture of classical lines in a vernacular envelope of native sandstone. The mill also reflects early technological developments in American mill construction.

Although the town was developed by east coast businessmen, the ancillary mill buildings and early commercial structures in the town reflect a mixture of mid-west vernacular building traditions with some elements of high style architecture. My paper focuses on the development of the town, reflecting both the industrial heritage and historical development, the materials in which constructed its earliest buildings and the stylistic interpretations of midwest vernacular architecture type on a company town.

DARINTON PLACE: FOLK HOUSING FOR THE MODERN AGE?
Jeffrey L. Green

By the early 1940s, the country's war time production was in full swing with factories at near capacity levels. For a country just beginning to emerge from the Great Depression, good jobs at decent wages in the defense plants enticed not simply single men and women away from their homes and into the cities and towns in search of work, it also brought entire families. It soon became apparent that this requisite influx of new workers would need more than simply jobs. It was just as obvious that the government would need to play a role providing adequate housing for its defense plant workers.

As a response to this new and much needed in-migrant class, the Defense Plant Corporation, an entity of the federal government, began to develop housing projects for the workers of plants and factories involved in war time production. This paper examines one such project-Darinton Place.

Built in 1943 at a cost of $1.5 million, the project created 500 housing units for workers at the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) plant located in Monroe, Michigan; and, although the housing project remained in operation for 10 years, a recorded history of Darinton Place has been almost nonexistent, its significance disregarded. Terms such as “The Darinton” and “Darinton House” have become common place in Monroe, identifying a geographical area within the city and a particular house type, respectively, yet the etymology of these terms today remains generally unknown to the public-at-large.

ONE FOOT ON THE LAND, ONE FOOT IN THE FACTORY: THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARMING COMMUNITY
Lawrence J. Darling

During the 1920’s and 1930’s, Henry Ford’s concept of decentralized industrialization forever changed the appearance, significance and role of numerous southern Michigan villages. “Ford’s village Industries” as they were referred to, provided not only employment in rural areas during the depression years, but also influenced the form, the function and the architecture of twenty small agricultural communities in southeastern Michigan.

Although Henry Ford had become one the nation’s leading industrialists by the 1920’s, his inventiveness was deeply rooted in the rich Michigan farmland to the west and south of his native Dearborn. It was to these farms, streams and people that Ford turned to provide many of the resources for the Ford Motor Company empire.

The concept of bringing the factory to the rural countryside was not necessarily new, but the idea of completely restructuring villages, training local inhabitants and investing heavily in the plan and aesthetics of the
PRESERVATION EASTERN YEAR-END PARTY

Take some time to relax between studying for finals, and spend an evening in the country.

April 19 4:00 - 8:00 pm
or stop by anytime in between

at Phil and Jeanne Smiths' Farmhouse
8338 Bishop Rd., Brighton
(810)231-1178

Students, staff members, and their families, children and significant others are all welcome.
5:00 Pot Luck Dinner (grill available)
7:00 Campfire with S'Mores

Remember to bring: lawn chairs, place settings (we do not use polystyrene), ball gloves, games, and your main course and drinks. Also a dish to share. Phone us so we know what you are bringing.

Volleyball, horseshoes, and bocce ball provided.
3 1/2 acres of outdoor activity.

Directions: N. on M-23 from Ann Arbor/Ypsi. to Exit #55, Silver Lake Exit. Turn Right on Silver Lake Rd. & drive 50 feet. Left on Fieldcrest (this follows next to M-23 to the north). Follow Fieldcrest 1/3 mile north to Bishop Rd. Turn Right and follow for 9/10 mile to the house. House is a white farmhouse with flagpole in front yard. If you get to McCabe Rd. you have gone too far.

Hope to see everyone there.
UPCOMING CONFERENCES

NATIONAL ROAD ALLIANCE
CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING HISTORIC ROADS & HIGHWAYS
April 17-18, 1998. The Leland Hotel, Richmond, IN
For information call: (765)478-3172.

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
BUILDING SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES
June 3-5, 1998. The Wyndham Hotel, Toledo, OH
For information call:1-800-854-2371.

DR. TED SITE VISIT TO DETROIT
Sites include: NEW CENTER, FISHER BLDG., CORKTOWN,
GARFIELD BLDG., HUDSON'S, STROH RIVER PLACE.
March 28- You’re invited to join other interested
parties along with the Adaptive Use Class for this visit. Call
Ted Ligibel at (734)487-0232 for more information. We will
be taking an EMU van from Strong Hall, or you may meet us in
Detroit.

The Hudson’s Building:
A Documentary
Where: Strong Auditorium
When: May 15, 7:00 p.m.
Cost: $5 per person, $2.50 with student i.d.
Come and see the film that asks the
question, “Is the Hudson’s Building
worth saving.”
This program brought to you by Preservation
Eastern.
village was unique.

The result of this study is to demonstrate the effects of the “Village Industry” concept within this region. My paper focuses on the development of the town, reflecting both the industrial heritage and historical development, the materials in which constructed its earliest buildings and the stylistic interpretations of midwest vernacular architecture type on a company town.

OVER THE HILL TO THE POORHOUSE:
A GLIMPSE AT THE COUNTY FARMS OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN, 1850-1900
Thomas D. Mackie

During the later nineteenth century, Michigan’s care of the indigent and poor became a county responsibility and poorhouses became the standard form of outside support. Its population was a mix of elderly, disabled, abandoned, and unemployed humanity. The facilities that housed these people became symbols in the landscape of both shame and civic pride.

Rural residents of Michigan referred to the local county poorhouse as the “county farm.” This term has survived into this age through many “County Farm” roads, “County Cemeteries” and “County Homes” for the elderly, scattered throughout the state. By the late 1870’s they were a common feature in the rural landscape. Each Michigan county was required to provide a facility to the care of the poor, and in tDme many were built according to new “scientific” designs.

The form of the County Farm changed during the Progressive age from a private dwelling to a public facility. Design changes reflected the determination to segregate the various types of poor and indigent and retrain the healthy to work. Society saw farm labor as the foundation of a working society. Therefore, at the county farm, the isolated poor worked their way back to self respect or are supported in a “healthy” environment away from bad influences in society. Through design and size, the County farm said much about a community’s attitude toward poverty and its poor.

INTERPRETING RURAL CHURCH TYPES:
DEVELOPMENT OF A SURVEY METHOD
Patricia Condon

Although it is widely accepted that the classification of barn and house types in the rural landscape can reveal much about migration and immigration patterns in America, little has been done to document and compare rural churches. Surveying rural churches may provide another method to better understand settlement patterns in America. In an attempt to devise a survey that can provide rich descriptive data the author analyzed thirty-five churches in rural Washtenaw County, Michigan. The resulting form collects data that allow researchers not only to analyze specific structures but also to draw comparisons among churches nearby or far off. This paper will demonstrate how material from a rural church survey allows researchers to determine whether certain types of church architecture were influenced by locale, congregations, date of construction, ethnicity of the congregation, and/or denomination.

JUSTICE IN DA U.P.
COUNTY COURTHOUSES IN MICHIGAN’S UPPER PENINSULA
Ali Larson

'Spanning nearly 130 years the county courthouses of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan trace the values and aspirations of an area originally thought worthless. Courthouses, as other elements of the built environment, stylishly reflect dates of construction, building materials, ethnic groups and technical competence. Many of the Upper Peninsula’s 15 counties have not grown so as to need replacement. Thus, the area provides an especially rich area to “sense the times” of their construction. From utilitarian through high-style, the U.P.’s courthouse architecture indeed illustrates the fact that any culture is layered, and its arts reflect the layering process.

MEXICAN FOLK ART IN THE IRISH HILLS
Robert P. Burg

The Irish Hills region of south-central Michigan has a distinct cultural landscape that is unique to the rest of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. Because of it’s location along the old Chicago Road and it’s abundance of lakes and hills, it became a popular destination for travel and weekend excursions. This created a built landscape of roadside tourist attractions such as Prehistoric Forest, the Walker Tavern Historic Site, Stagecoach Stop and the Irish Hills Towers. But the most unique landscapes are those of the W.H.L. McCourtie Estate (McCourtie Park) in Somerset Center, Hillsdale County and the St. Joseph Way of the Cross Shrine in Cambridge Township, Lenawee County.

What distinguishes these landscapes from the others is the Mexican Folk Art known as “El Trabajo Rustico” (Rustic Work): the use of wet cement sculpted to resemble lumber, stone, thatch and hemp; by Mexican artisans Dionicio Rodriguez, Ralph Carona and George Cardoso. Dionicio Rodriguez is considered the leader of this craft in the United States and his work is found in several states. Carona and Cardoso were two of Rodriguez’s most skilled pupils who took on many projects of their own. Rodriguez and Carona created the wet cement sculptures at the St. Joseph Shrine in 1932. Their work depicts the Via Dolorosa, Christ’s walk to Calvary and the stations of the cross. For the McCourtie Estate, Cardoso and Carona created seventeen bridges and two stack-vents that resemble tree trunks.

BUILDINGS AND ARTIFACTS ARE STORIES
Gabe Cherem

This session will show that, in addition to “having” a story, buildings and artifacts “are” stories. The story that a building or artifact tells often depends not so much on the actual history of that item, but upon the culture, experiences, and viewpoints of the person viewing or using that item. Examples will be given, and applications for improved material culture interpretation will be outlined.
SIX CHAIRS AND A CENTER TABLE:
DEFINING PARLOR CULTURE IN MID-CENTURY ANN ARBOR
Kerrington Adams

Transforming a Colonial Revival interior into an authentic reflection of 1850’s upper-middle class taste is often an exacting task for the staff at a small historic house museum. This presentation puts the people, the story, and the artifacts into an original context by discussing the power of local probate inventories when coupled with family journals and primary source material. Compelling visuals will provide a view into what curators call “Phony Caloney” while taking you through the reinstallion process of the Ticknor’s mid-century parlor.

MORE HISTORY FROM WALL ST:
BRACED-FRAME CONSTRUCTION IN THE 1830s
Susan Wineberg

The 1820s and 30’s witnessed a tremendous upheaval in American life as scores of immigrants from New England and New York flocked to develop “the West” (as it was then known) after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. These pioneers brought with them their cultural, political and building traditions as well. One of these building traditions was the fairly new system of “braced frame” construction which began to be used in New England shortly after 1800 (Bock, Old House Journal, M/A 1992). The braced-frame method of house construction was a transitional method used to replace the medieval post and beam system. It eventually developed into the lighter method of framing known as “balloon frame” which is accepted by most scholars as having originated in Chicago in the 1830s.

Research on several buildings in Ann Arbor reveals that in the mid-1830s houses were being constructed using this braced-frame method. The recent (and continuing) demolition of these houses has allowed us to peek at their form of construction and chart its evolution into the balloon frame method we are familiar with now. Thus Ann Arbor can take its place as illustrative of the construction techniques used by Yankees as they made their way West to Chicago.

THE HOUSES OF STEPHEN MILLS:
MICHIGAN’S GREEK REVIVAL ADOBE HOUSES
Kevin Coleman

Walls of sun-dried mud bricks stand behind the classical facades of several mid-nineteenth century farmhouses and townhouses in southeast Michigan. At least fourteen Greek Revival houses attributed to Stephen Mills, a mason who lived in Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, were constructed in adobe block here among the rain and snow of temperate Michigan.

These houses vary in massing and size, and several have a distinctive and efficient three-part design. They all share the bold Greek Revival styling that is common in this region, and are covered in stucco that is scored to look like stone blocks. In many ways they do not stand out from their neighboring houses, except for the “adobe” component that most residents are proud to point out to the wayward geographer or historian.

THE STEPHEN FRAZEE HOUSE:
AN ELEMENT OF THE EARLY 19th CENTURY WESTERN RESERVE LANDSCAPE
Jeffrey F. Winstel

The Stephen Frazee house and surrounding area illustrate the settlement landscape of Connecticut’s Western Reserve, a rare and tangible reminder of northeast Ohio’s beginnings. Stephen and Mehitable Frazee were more than early Ohio settlers — they were frontiersman. The western boundary of the land they purchased in 1806 was the Cuyahoga River. The year before, the western boundary of the Frazee’s land had served as the western boundary of the United States of America. In 1825 construction started on the Ohio & Erie Canal, which ran parallel to the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. This inland transportation route changed the lives of the area’s settlers, providing their agricultural goods access to eastern markets.

The house that Stephen and Mehitable Frazee built is a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style of architecture. Unlike most example of the Federal style in the New England extended cultural region of northern Ohio, the Frazee House’s gable ends do not face the street. The eave-orientation of the house is a typical characteristic of Federal architecture in central and southern Ohio, which was dominated by settlers from the Mid-Atlantic or the Upland South cultural areas. This difference in building orientation is more likely a reflection of cultural tradition than personal preference. Although he settled in Connecticut’s Western Reserve, Stephen Frazee came from Pennsylvania, a state within the Mid-Atlantic cultural hearth. Mr. Frazee’s Mid-Atlantic house in the heavily New England influenced Western Reserve is an example of why some scholars refer to Ohio as the home of the first National Culture.

The significance, however, of the Stephen Frazee house extends beyond the brick walls and Federal style characteristics. The house is an element of a larger picture: an early 19th century Western Reserve landscape. Looking through the front windows of the 1826 house, visitors can see the 1831 River Road (now Canal Road) next to the 1825 Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath. Beyond the canal, Stephen Frazee’s fields are skirted by trees lining the river that 190 years ago served as the frontier of a young and growing nation. The vista from the house provides a visual connection between the site, Canal Road, the Ohio & Erie Canal and the farm fields beyond, illustrating dominant land use patterns associated with early Western Reserve settlement.

THE DETROIT ARSENAL’S COMMANDANT’S QUARTERS:
A FEDERAL STYLE BUILDING ON MICHIGAN’S FRONTIER
William K. McElhone

“The Detroit Arsenal’s Commandant”s
surrounding township landscape has rapidly undergone a major metamorphosis from an agrarian society to a “bedroom community”, the village abounds with 100-year-old vernacular dwellings.

J. Robert Crouse, grandson of the founding father of Hartland and a great admirer of Thoreau, envisioned a 20th century utopian society, after his retirement from General Electric Corporation. Returning home to Hartland, Crouse began the Hartland Area Project in the late 20’s, which by the late 1930s was to include building a village library, providing vocal and instrumental musical programs in a remodeled church, and directly influencing community improvements - working with Michigan State University on agricultural experimentation, a community handicrafts program, a Chautauqua–type lecture series coordinated by Emil Lorch from the University of Michigan and many more.

When confronted by state department highway engineers who wanted to widen the road through Hartland, Crouse provided some of his own land just west of the village. The highway bypass saved Hartland but put an end to Crouse’s dream of building an “ideal” village.

Crouse’s name is frequently evoked, and the amblience of the small town still exists through the annual May evening concerts and the holiday Messiah program. However, can the village of Hartland stave off the ravages of rapid urbanization just one mile to the south, including a major school complex on its immediate southern boundary?

As Civil War sites are endangered, so too is small-town America. Local government officials seem reluctant to encourage creative, “proactive” approaches to land-use policies, successful in other areas. Where will it all end?

**HARTLAND, MI:**
**UNCHANGED SINCE 1842**
Barbara E. Krueger

The village of Hartland (Livingston County) Michigan has remained essentially unchanged since it was platted in 1842 by emigrants from upper New York state. While the surrounding township landscape has rapidly undergone a major

**PRESERVING CULTURAL LANDSCAPES:**
**THE HISTORIC MAUMEE VALLEY**
Ted Ligibel

Efforts to preserve cultural landscapes often are perceived as mid to late twentieth century phenomenon, a response to an interest in developing a better understanding of the link between the natural and cultural environment. In fact though geographers local historians individuals, and the federal government have been engaged, sometimes unwittingly in efforts to conserve places that evidenced unique natural and cultural attributes throughout the nineteenth century.

The historic Maumee Valley which flows from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Lake Erie at Toledo, Ohio is such an example. Created about 12,000 years ago, the result of the last glacial epoch the Maumee River Valley served as a natural funnel for Native The valley Mississippi

Americans traversing the newly formed landscape connected the Atlantic watershed with that of the River, and was used by native tribes for over 10,000 years.

When Europeans began exploring and settling in the New World, the Maumee Valley in turn was used by successive waves of French and British, finally coming under American control after the War of 1812. This time-elongated convergence has led to a vast layering of cultural impacts both tangible and intangible across the valley.

Efforts to preserve the valley occur throughout its recorded history. The Native Americans tried in anguish to preserve their way of life in the valley, and bitterly protested their removal from it in the 1830s. The earliest Euro-American attempt to preserve the character of the Maumee Valley occurred in the 1840s with the sale of the grounds of a historic fortification in order to protect the site. In the 1880s the U.S. government launched a survey of historic military sites throughout the valley. In the early twentieth century citizens fought futilely to protect an ancient limestone outcrop in the river, an important meeting spot since the glaciers scoured out the valley.

Current efforts to preserve the valley can be seen therefore as a furtherance of these earlier efforts, and a reflection of the inherent importance of the cultural landscape as a way of protecting our cultural and natural heritage.
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Why join Preservation Eastern? Well, it’s the best way to keep up on historic preservation activities within the department and throughout the area. Dues are only $10 annually, and your membership and involvement will insure future growth and success in the organization. For more information, contact Neva Baron or any other Preservation Eastern officer.

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Mail this application and your $10 check to Preservation Eastern, EMU Dept. of Geography and Geology, Historic Preservation Program, Strong Hall, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

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INSIDE:

* Abstracts of presentations at the Pioneer America Society meeting Oct. 2-4, 1997

* Announcement of winners of the Art Contest; appreciation of judges and sponsors

* Successful outreach program at Jeannette Junior High School, Sterling Heights, MI

* Spring party date: See Enclosed