2008

The Post and Lintel, April 2008

Preservation Eastern

Eastern Michigan University

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Historic Township House Moved to New Site

By Laura Henderson, Collections Manager/Registrar at Miami University Art Museum, Oxford, Ohio

If you think moving a building to a new location four miles away is a happening, you are right! On December 20, 2007 the historic Township House, previously located at 115 West High Street in Oxford, was lifted onto steel I-beams attached to four sets of wheels and pulled to its new home at Pioneer Farmstead on Brown Road in Hueston Woods State Park.

The Township House is a one-story, two-bay eclectic style structure built by 1880, and possibly as early as the late 1850s, which served as the Oxford Township Clerk’s office and meeting house for almost 70 years. The original architectural features, mostly Italianate, remain intact and the building is structurally sound.

The future of the Township House has been in jeopardy for more than two years. Plans for development on the current site called for demolition or removal of the structure to a new location. The plan at first was to salvage only the façade and store it until the building could be replicated on a suitable site. That changed when the Oxford Museum Association expressed an interest in using the Township House as a museum featuring displays of the rich history of Oxford Township and Hueston Woods State Park, thereby preserving the cultural heritage associated with it.

When Chris and Pam Rodbro and their son Matt Rodbro, the owners of the structure, pledged funds to pay the relocation cost quoted by Fines Branscum of Northern Kentucky House Movers, a committee was formed to put a plan into action. Dedicated volunteers Laura Henderson, Committee Chair, and Mike Smith, both on the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission;

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Seneca County Courthouse Part II

By Valerie Marvin

Rotunda

The rotunda of the Seneca County Courthouse is today marred by a giant elevator shaft and floors that cut across the space on every level of the building. When restored and once again graced by an elegant dome, this space would once again serve its original purpose – to inspire the citizens of Seneca County.

E.E. Myers included domes on nearly all of his courthouses and capitols, understanding their symbolic importance in the post Civil War years. Nearly every Northern soldier watched the ongoing construction on the U.S. Capitol dome during the war advancing steadily onward, silently promising the continuation of the Union.

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Upcoming Club Events!

- End of Year Party on Friday, April 25
- EMU Graduation Ceremony Sunday, April 27 at 10:00 am
- Monday, April 28 is PE Bowling Night at Ypsilanti Arbor Lanes beginning at 10:00 pm.
- May 3, BBQ at Meghan Schafbuch’s house. Come welcome our new faculty member, Dan Bonenberger!
- MHPN Conference in Dearborn, Michigan May 8-10.

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Join Us!
**Preservation Trades Curriculum Summit**

*By Rebecca Torsell*

As part of an independent study at Eastern Michigan University and as a member of the education committee for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN), I was able to assist in the organization of and participated in the Preservation Trades High School Curriculum Summit, which took place in Detroit, Michigan from March 13-15.

The MHPN, with financial support provided by the National Park Service’s National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, was able to gather twenty-six education professionals in heritage conservation from around the United States who had experience in teaching vocational, high school, or post-secondary education. This two and a half day summit was organized so that a basic framework for integrating historic preservation into vocational high schools could be created.

The first two days were intensive discussions, which focused on current preservation and educational issues, the intenseness of the curriculum, and issues that needed to be addressed in order to create a national versus a regional curriculum. Seeking to spread seedlings around the country, the framework would provide others with a basic cookbook to set up a

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**Courthouse, Continued**

*Recorder’s Office*

Perhaps one of the greatest treasures in the Seneca County Courthouse is the original Eastlake style woodwork that survives throughout the building. Unpainted, the pure cherry window frames, baseboards, wainscoting and doors (accented by original brass hardware) stand as a testament to the quality of Midwestern goods in the post Civil War era. Produced in Dayton, Ohio, by John Rouzer and Co., the quality of both the materials and the workmanship is impossible to recreate.

*First and Second Floor Corridors*

The black and white tile floors in the Seneca County Courthouse likely came from the State of Vermont, where the Vermont Marble Company began quarrying marble as early as 1837. By 1885 the quarries employed over 3,000 people who produced stone for countless capitols, courthouses, and other public buildings.

Often called “black marble”, the black tiles are actually an extremely rare fossil bearing limestone. The only known quarry of this same stone exists on Isle La Motte in Vermont. Known as “Champlain Black”, this stone is today impossible to purchase. Now considered a state treasure, the black limestone becomes more and more valuable each year as additional historic building fall victim to the wrecking ball.

*Common Pleas Courtroom*

At first glance, there is little historic about the Common Pleas Courtroom. When soldiers returned from the war, they brought the idea of that dome with them, and began erecting their own smaller symbols of endurance throughout the nation. Though the Seneca County Courthouse’s dome was removed in 1943 and replaced with an Art Deco clock tower, the Tiffin Historic Trust has promised to raise funds for a replacement dome should the building be restored.

Historic courthouses were designed not only to serve justice, but to educate people about the importance of law in society. Designed to impress, the room included a high coffered ceiling with an elegant skylight. Though painted, the original glass tiles still exist. Majestic Ionic pilasters surrounded the room, reminding average citizens of their democratic heritage. A few pilaster capitals still exist in a small corner closet in the courtroom.
DR. TED’S CORNER

Welcome to spring…and the end of our academic year!

It’s certainly hard to believe that its already the end of the winter term…remember when I said that it’ll be warm before you know it!!

This is a very exciting time for us as we have SUCCESSFULLY completed our new faculty search, and have hired Dan Bonenberger (ABD) of West Virginia University. Dan comes to us with strong building and industrial heritage-related expertise and specialties in utilizing digital technologies to document our built environment. Please join us in welcoming Dan and his wife Kim at the BBQ scheduled for May 3 at Meghan Schafbuch’s House (See newsletter).

REGISTRATION/ SCHEDULING

Registration has begun for Spring, Summer, and fall classes, and we can’t stress enough how important it is to register early; registration of course will continue throughout the Spring and Summer terms.

There are several courses available to you this spring and summer, including the Field School (GHPR 636); Issue in Historic Architecture offered by none other than our own SHPO, Brian Conway, who is teaching it at our Brighton Campus this Spring (GHPR 592); and Settlement Geography (GEOG 333) and American Cultural Landscapes (GEOG 331) offered at our Traverse City area program in the Summer term by Dr. Chris Mayda.

We are very excited to begin our tenth year of Field School and our second year at the historic Goll Farmstead in Goll Woods State Park near Archbold, Ohio. Students again will be staying at the fabulous inn at Sauder Village and working on the preservation of this European-based, wattle and daub technique home.

Please see your advisor if you need help with registration; there are copies of these schedules in the folder on my door.

PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Also join us in congratulating Jessica Williams as this year’s recipient of the Preservation Excellence Award.

CONGRATULATIONS 2008 GRADUATES!!!

Please join us in applauding the following group who are about to graduate and make their way into the professional world of Historic Preservation:

- Debra Adamcik
- Terri Bedore
- Thomas (TJ) Bennett
- Aimee L. Burpee
- Sarah J. Collingwood
- Kathryn M. Dallos
- Mollie Douglas
- Sara K. Jezewski

(I should mention that of this number, eight have already landed jobs in the field!!)

HISTORIC TOWNSHIP HOUSE, CONTINUED

From page 1

Diana Durr of the Oxford Visitors and Convention Bureau; Bill King of the Oxford Museum Association, and a local builder, Jeb Bystrom, have divided up the various tasks necessary to complete the project. Architect Greig Rutherford volunteered to help Bystrom to organize the many details involved in laying a new foundation for the structure.

Since the Township House is in the Oxford Uptown Historic District, the issue of relocation came before the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission for review and was approved. The plans for reuse of the site were presented in their preliminary status and with some suggestions and modifications were also approved. Final drawings will be completed at a later date.

This is just an excerpt of her article, which will be posted in its entirety on the Preservation EMU Yahoo Group.
CURRICULUM SUMMIT, CONTINUED

From page 2

program. The goal of the summit was to use the expertise of the participants to create a basic plan to successfully integrate historic preservation into already existing trades programs.

On the last day there was a public meeting, which gave the community and local preservation professionals an insight into the information gathered during the two previous days and offered them the opportunity to make suggestions and comments about the plan. A variety of members of the community participated and voiced their thoughts and opinions, but most importantly they showed their support for a preservation curriculum.

The results of the summit will be published in May and will be made available to educators looking to integrate preservation into their current curriculum, providing the following basic components: trades, hands-on experience, community integration, a champion, administration and teachers’ support, an advisory council, government and community support, certification, evaluation, and marketing. The information will be available on the website of the NCPTT and the MHPN. This is the first attempt to create a national curriculum of this type and the results, we hope, will help to empower the children of the future to be knowledgeable of their role in preserving our history.

DOO-WOP ARCHITECTURE OF NEW JERSEY

By Anthony Timek

Since I grew up in New Jersey, summer vacation almost invariably included a trip down the shore. Elsewhere, the geographic feature where land meets water is known as the beach or ocean, but for some reason the local lexicon calls it the shore. But which shore town? Well it depended upon what one was looking for: Long Beach Island has no boardwalk and few motels; Point Pleasant and points north were typically over run with the city folk and college kids. Atlantic City is an adult playground and Cape May was too expensive. But there was a happy medium between Atlantic City and Cape May: The Wildwoods.

Three towns make up the seven mile long barrier island: North Wildwood, Wildwood City, and Wildwood Crest. A fourth town, West Wildwood, sits on an island connected by a two lane bridge to the main barrier island. But it is Wildwood City and Wildwood Crest that contain the majority of the buildings in the commercial architectural style now known as “Doo-Wop”.

Of course, doo-wop is a style of music popular at the same time the motels were built in the 1950’s and 1960’s. However, my basic research indicates that it may also be known as googie architecture, which incorporates a larger style of architecture that includes the Seattle Space Needle and the “Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas” sign.
PE Networking Mixer

*Ladies Lit Club March 28th, 2008*

The many faces of
Preservation Eastern

Our first annual raffle was a huge success! Congrats to Christina Branhm, who won the privilege of hanging with Charlie the Tuna until next year, and Tegn Baciocchi who procured a much needed field school survival kit!

_we came, we cooked, we networked!_
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

CHECK US OUT ONLINE:
WWW.PRESERVATIONEASTERN.COM

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.

If you’re interested, contact any of the officers to get an application and get started!

Special Thanks to Tracy Knoller for the Networking Mixer collage page!

A great event, a wonderful way to remember it!