

The ASHP Journal

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of Oregon

Associated
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of Historic
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Studio on Silver Falls

by Steve Blashfield

Among the courses offered this fall by the University of Oregon is an architectural design studio focusing on the reorganization of Silver Falls State Park near Silverton, Oregon. Silver Falls State Park is considered by many as the "jewel" of the state park system in Oregon. An area defined by a series of fourteen waterfalls coming through the foothills of the Cascade Mountain range, the park encompasses nearly 8,300 acres. The park offers a wide range of activities including hiking, biking, horseback riding trails, a conference center, several youth camps and considerable camping facilities. Despite the richness of this place, as an icon of Oregon's natural and cultural history, the park is badly in need of some redesign and improved organization. The State Park Service has identified Silver Falls State Park as one of their two major priorities for this year, and are currently in the process of developing an updated master plan for the park. Students at the University of Oregon are assisting in this process by developing new design schemes and recommendations to preserve and enhance the rich qualities of the park.

The studio is led by Don Peting, Associate Dean of Architecture and Head of the Historic Preservation Program, and Kenneth Helphand, Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture. The studio combines Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Preservation students in the continued spirit of multidisciplinary study. Students have divided into groups to focus on various subregions within the park, including the Day-Use

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UO H.P. Program Key in Donation

by Paul Falsetto



The front facade of the Watzek House, located on Sylvan Hill just west of downtown Portland, takes full advantage of its naturally landscaped site and unobstructed view of Mount Hood.

A condition assessment report completed by members of the UO's Historic Preservation Program played a key role in the acquisition of the largest private donation ever received by the School of Architecture and Allied Arts. This fall, Interim Dean Robert Melnick announced a gift of two properties and cash valued in excess of \$4.5 million dollars that was presented jointly by the John Yeon Trust and Mr. Richard Brown. The properties include the Aubrey Watzek House in Portland, Oregon and the Shire, a 75-acre waterfront site in the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge. When coupled with state and UO matching funds, the total value of the donation will approach \$9.5 million dollars. The University will be involved with the preservation of the Watzek House, designed by John Yeon, relying heavily on the skills and energy of the Historic Preservation Program. Members of the Program are now quite familiar with the house, thanks to work completed during a critical time in the negotiations of the donation.

This past spring Richard Brown, a trustee of the John Yeon Trust and current resident of the Watzek House, permitted the University to assess the condition of the house and present recommendations for its future preservation. A team from the Historic Preservation Program was assembled that included Director Don Peting and graduate students George Bleekman, Paul Falsetto, David Pinyerd and Richa Wilson. "It was very important to Mr. Brown that the condition assessment report show a level of preservation under-

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The President at Large

A new academic year has begun and, as in the past, the ASHP baton has been handed off to a new group of students and officers. Entering our eighth year, not only has our meeting attendance grown but so has the distribution of the ASHP Journal. We've received calls from various readers complimenting ASHP on our new journal format. That is why I feel that a very BIG thank you needs to go out to last year's group for doing a stupendous job. Well done! At the same time, I would also like to thank our loyal readers for their continued support and input!

This past summer had many of us scattered across the country, either working on preservation projects or traveling. I spent part of the summer doing the latter and had the wonderful opportunity to visit Santiago, Chile. During the two weeks that I was there, I had the incredible fortune of meeting the Director of the History and Theory Department in the School of Architecture at the University of Chile in Santiago. During our one hour meeting, I actually got my hands on their version of the National Register which at the time

had approximately 300 properties listed, all contained in one thick binder. Subdivided into categories reflecting the variety of resources (such as railroad stations, churches, cemeteries, and government buildings), each nomination had a brief physical description, and history statement, similar to the Physical and Context statements required of all U. S. National Register nominations. The Director voiced his concern that there were so many properties eligible, but not enough funding to survey them properly. That had a very familiar ring to it! They apparently have the same problems that we face on a daily basis. It's a constant battle to procure sufficient funding for preservation projects. Preservation funding is usually the first item to be reduced or outright eliminated in a budget. However, since I don't like to leave a cloud of impending doom hanging over our heads, I will say that there is always hope. And in Chile, there has been enough interest and resurgence in historic preservation that the University of Chile School of Architecture has just recently implemented a Post Doctorate program in Historic Preservation. Searching on the World Wide Web and

corresponding to friends in Chile, it appears to be the only one in that country. Like I said before, there is always hope.... (If you are interested in obtaining additional information, let me know and I'll be happy to share it with you.)

On the home front, there have been a number of preservation activities that merit attention. One, the University of Oregon held it's first Preservation Field School at the Peter French Round Barn in Eastern Oregon. Participants helped in masonry and timber repair work while learning about the history and architecture of Eastern Oregon (see article). It was such a big success that a second Field School is in the works. Stay tuned for more details in the next issue of the ASHP Journal. Two, the Amazon housing issue has gone from the bizarre to the absolutely ludicrous. This has been an ongoing issue for the past three(?) years. Originally, the Save Amazon Coalition banded together to save the World War Two temporary housing that the University of Oregon used as student family housing. Through a chain of events, a portion of the housing was

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The Editor Notes . . .

Well, here it is another school year and here I am once again editing the ASHP Journal. It has been a very busy year for the program and students, as evidenced by the articles in this Journal. We presented a field school, aided in a major donation for the UofO, and offered major design possibilities for one of Oregon's major State Parks, all of which you can read about in this issue of the Journal. This issue contains many excellent articles, including an op-ed piece about Amazon Housing written by Steve Blashfield. As Steve explains in his piece, The Save Amazon Coalition (a group of students and community activists) discovered that by using historic preservation as a political tool, they could further their agenda. I leave the details for you to read in Steve's article, but I would like to add my two cents worth.

I lived and worked at Amazon for four years, and as one of three maintenance workers in charge of keeping the buildings inhabitable, I certainly know what kind of condition they were in. It would take hours to list all the problems these building had, but suffice it to say that they were in deplorable condition. This is not the fault of the University, who has done an outstanding job in holding these temporary buildings together while still maintaining low rents to students for almost 50 years. The coalition would

. . . George Bleekman III

later accuse the University of intentionally not maintaining the buildings, yet ironically one of the leaders of the coalition led a rent strike at Amazon during the mid 1970's when the University attempted a modest rent increase to be used for rehabilitating the buildings. Though the University has never withheld maintenance, it finally became too expensive to continue maintaining the buildings, and the decision was made to replace them.

As a preservationist, I certainly had and still have mixed feelings over the battle. To me, and many others, these buildings have both an important cultural and architectural significance. In a perfect world, the University could have thrown tons of money into them and restored them. But it's not, and the bottom line is that student housing needs to remain affordable.

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ASHP Journal is a publication of the Associated Students of Historic Preservation (ASHP); Suite 4, EMU; University of Oregon; Eugene, OR 97403. Phone (541) 346-0726 and email ashp@oregon.uoregon.edu. We actively seek articles, news, and reports related to the discipline of historic preservation. Submissions should be sent to George Bleekman, editor, care of the address above.

One Preservationist's Opinion . . .

Steve Blashfield

Over the last two years, a situation has been played out in the city of Eugene; debating the historic nature of the University of Oregon's Amazon Housing complex. The housing was originally transported to Eugene, to help deal with the influx of new students on the GI Bill after World War II. The housing has now been in its present location for forty-nine years. Originally built as temporary housing for workers in the war effort, students and families are still living in some of these units. The units have been in identifiably poor condition for some time, but provide the cheapest alternative for rent that the University currently provides.

Several years ago the University developed plans to raze Amazon, and build a new housing complex at the site to better serve the needs of students. However, while building a prototype of sixteen units at another site, the University developed various conflicts with the architect. Thisiasco resulted in units which are too small and badly proportioned, combined with a significant rent increase. This set the stage for a battle which has lingered on for more than two years.

A portion of the units at the Amazon site were finally demolished after successive and seemingly endless appeals by the Save Amazon Coalition, a local group formed to preserve the interests of existing residents of the complex. Faced with the significant power of the University, the Save Amazon Coalition turned to preservation as a means to save this complex and the existing low rent. The complex was nominated and placed on the National Register under designation as a historic district. This was based on historic connections with the GI Bill, some attributable references to the architect Pietro Belluschi and the construction by a female work force during the war.

Despite the historic value, the condition of the units was deplorable. Investigation has shown that all units contained significant portions of lead paint and asbestos, along with other serious problems. Most individuals in the community considered

the units an eyesore, and were quite confused by the historic designation process as it developed.

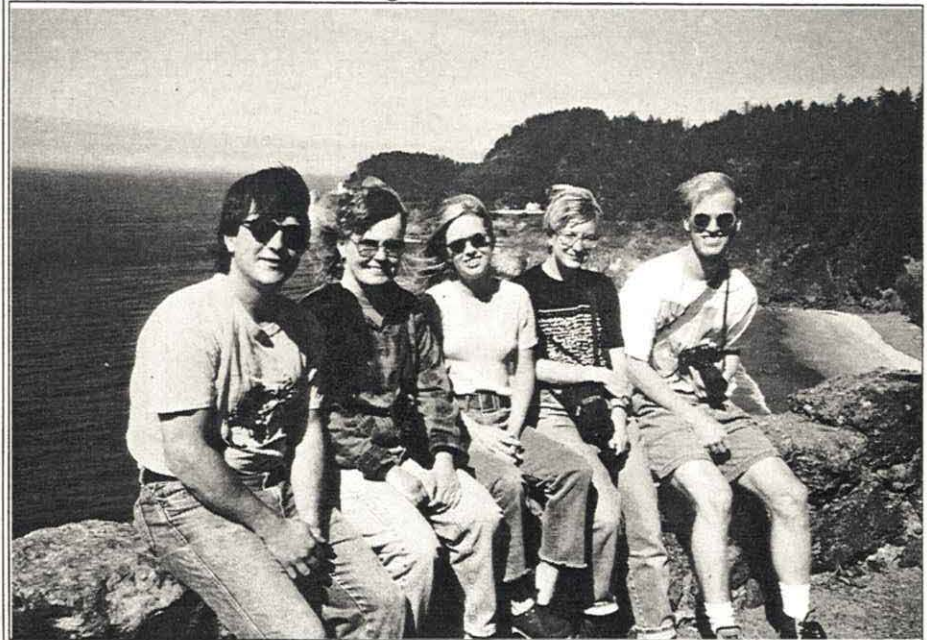
Over time, it was clear that both sides would hold their ground. Concerned about rent increases, the Save Amazon Coalition used every preservation law imaginable. The latest turn of events came just last month, after the demolition of nearly half of the units, when members of the coalition attempted to have the grounds declared historic in absence of the structures. At one point during the demolition period, a city councilman even laid himself down in front of the bulldozers, in direct violation of laws which he accepted by the very act of accepting public office. These are but a few events in a very vindictive and bitter battle. Over time it became quite clear that this group had an agenda other than preservation, and simply used preservation as a means to an end.

This is not the first time preservation has been used to support a political or financial agenda, but this is not the purpose of

preservation law. Historic preservation is a worthy and necessary goal. It is a notion of saving those places which are culturally important, so that our descendants can learn something about us, and about the people that came before us (there are valuable lessons here). It is a way to teach and to learn about our history. It is an idea about reusing old buildings, instead of continuous consumption of resources to produce new buildings and contribute to urban sprawl. It is an issue of economic viability, which recognizes that sometimes it might be cheaper to restore than develop. One can certainly argue that some of the things described apply to the Amazon issue. But, historic preservation is not a means towards preserving rent. It is not a blind fight against the powers that be, or against progress towards a better future. It is not a blind love for anything over fifty years old. It is not a political ploy. It is not a selfish attitude, which has led to clear delaying tactics with the Amazon project, costing the university a significant amount of money which will be no doubt be translated into increased rents.

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UO Preservation Program Welcomes New Students



We welcome the 1995-96 first year students to the UO Historic Preservation program, pictured here at the new student orientation retreat at Heceta Head on the Oregon coast. Pictured from left to right is David Singer, Marianne Hurley, Susan Tillack, Joy Sears and Greg Thompson. Not pictured are new students Maia Brindley and Mara Jones. Photo by Erin Hanafin.

UO and HPLO Sponsor Your Town Workshop

by Steve Blashfield

Imagine a small rural town, just over the next hill. A beautiful place, rich in history and community pride. A place of strong character, a place to feel a sense of belonging. A place where most of the locals still know each other by name, and the local grocer never bothers to ask for identification when cashing a check. But, the industry, which once employed more than half the local citizens, has moved on or closed down. Some friends have moved away, while others push on and commute twenty minutes to a larger city to find work. New jobs and industry are hard to attract. People are worried, and community groups have been formed to address problems.

With the unspoiled nature of the historic buildings downtown, tourism seems a viable alternative. The town has a welcoming atmosphere and has even attracted some commuters from the larger city who are seeking a more peaceful way of living. But, new pressures bring new problems. The new Wal-Mart is threatening the local hardware store which has operated at the corner of Main Street since the turn of the century. People are beginning to complain about those old one-way streets, because the tourists are getting lost and not finding the stores. The old newspaper building has been vacant for years and citizens are waging a battle over the potential demolition for a parking lot by the new bank...

This situation faces small towns and rural communities in Oregon and communities all over the United States. The questions are difficult, the solutions are often double-edged, the answers are hard to grasp, and there are no rules for guidance. Local community leaders and planners are troubled. It is just this situation which has led the National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop the Your Town workshop program. It is an opportunity for planners and influential local officials from across a region to gather and learn new approaches and ideas for these problems. In conjunction with the Historic Preservation League of Oregon (HPLO), the Historic Preservation Program of the University of Oregon

sponsored a Your Town seminar this past August for the Northwest region.

The program was originally developed by the National Trust in conjunction with the State University of New York (SUNY) at Syracuse. The Oregon workshop is only the third to be held nationwide through a program which the Trust hopes to expand and implement across the country. Thirty four participants were selected from states including Oregon, Washington, Montana, California and Idaho. While the backgrounds of the participants vary from local mayors to city planners and activists, the common thread of these people is a desire to see positive results in each of their respective communities. This is no small task, because the issues facing these rural

communities are often daunting and highly divisive.

The goal of this program is to provide technical and design assistance to rural leaders, in the hope that a better understanding of the importance of comprehensive planning might lead to positive outcomes in more of our regional communities. The workshop brought a number of University of Oregon professors and preservation practitioners together to try and provide resources and assistance not generally available at the rural level. Participants were familiarized with a variety of design techniques, group partnership skills and information on rural planning and cultural resource awareness. The workshop culminated in

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The community sees this fight and they find it almost laughable, but it is not. The Save Amazon Coalition and its supporters have walked all over the goals of preservation, because they have made it a joke. They have used preservation to fight the university, to try and reject authority, to try and save their rent by translating it to the pockets of others. They have used preservation to fight change. They have stretched preservation goals and methods out for their own personal use, and they have made a mockery of the system. Most importantly, they have given a bad impression to the general public of the goals and attributes of the entire preservation field.

Meanwhile, in the Oregon legislature we have seen significant legislation passed against the goals of historic preservation, including the first "Owner Consent" law in the entire United States. The federal government has mounted increased attacks in the name of property rights, significantly cutting funding for historic preservation and attempting to eliminate the Presidential Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation entirely. Efforts are now being made to sell our federal public land to serve the interests of industry at the expense of the general public. The general climate in the government is simply hard to understand.

As preservationists, it is important to promote preservation and advocate the importance of preservation activity in every single community in this country. While Amazon may be worthy of designation based on specified criteria, it is important to ask what effect historic designation, especially in a contested situation, might have on general feelings towards preservation goals. In a climate which appears to be so profoundly negative at present, preservationists cannot afford to downgrade public perception towards goals which have never been properly understood or appreciated. Otherwise, more important structures, landscapes or places may not be saved at some point in the near future.

While the University is not free of blame for disregarding preservation goals, the Save Amazon Coalition has clearly done the greater damage in this situation. This battle was unfortunate for the city of Eugene, and has downgraded the perception of Preservation in the community to levels unmatched since the city embraced urban renewal by razing most of its historic downtown structures in the 1970's. The city in particular and the country as a whole continues to lose valuable resources every day. While some will inevitably fail the test of time, battles must be chosen carefully. Hopefully, this strategy will lead to better perception of preservation, which can lead to better communities in all places.

(From Falls, page 1)

Area, Campground, Youth Camps and Trails. With this multifaceted approach, the students hope to provide the Park Service with considerable range of ideas for work in the park. One of the major issues facing the park at present is the lack of clear organizational patterns and signage, resulting in disorientation by many of the park visitors. Interpretation is also at a minimal level, despite the wealth of cultural and natural resources present.

The park was established in the 1930's, when the National Park Service began efforts to acquire Silver Falls for incorporation into the National Park system. Several buildings were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, most notably the Silver Falls Lodge, completed in 1939. The Lodge originally operated as a restaurant, but currently provides only simple concessions and a small gift store. Efforts by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department officials succeeded in acquiring Silver Falls for the state park system from the National Park Service

Silver Creek Falls was originally acquired by the State Park Service from a number of settlers in the area. Among the lesser known facts of the area, a town originally existed at the site of the present Day-Use area, immediately adjacent to the Upper South Falls. The town site was acquired by a series of government purchases, and was demolished by 1938. The town was established in 1888, and at its height supported almost 200 people in the surrounding area. Most of the settlers worked in the timber industry or agriculture. The town included several barns, mills, a church, a post office, general store and a boarding house. Little evidence remains at the site, though a number of individuals who lived in the town as children, still reside in the area.

The studio has received considerable support from the State Park Service. A number of State Park Service officials have attended review sessions and provided valuable information to the students. A booklet will be compiled of all work completed in the studio, to be given to the State Park Service to assist in their planning, decision making and public support efforts.

Only twenty five miles from the state capital in Salem, the park offers remarkable beauty. It is an unusual place hidden amidst the agricultural countryside. Waterfalls range as high as 178 feet. Annual festivals commemorate activities at the Falls, including Al Faucett Days, in nearby Silverton, commemorating a daredevil ride over

the falls in a canoe. At present, park officials are estimating over one million visitors per year. The studio provides students with an unequalled opportunity to work on a project with ramifications for many succeeding generations. With this assistance, the splendor of the many natural and cultural resources of Oregon might be preserved for the benefit of all.

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standing and commitment to the house," mentioned Peting. "He has lived in the house for the past 22 years, so we had to really know our stuff." The team members studied copies of the original construction documents in preparation for a rare glimpse of what is considered an architectural masterpiece.

John Yeon, a native Oregonian who died in 1994 at the age of 83, was an architect credited with being a pioneer in the Pacific Northwest style. He was also an ardent conservationist who worked throughout his life to protect the Northwest landscape and preserve significant buildings. His small but consequential portfolio of design work exhibits innovation and ingenuity in areas of construction techniques, material detailing, and treatment of the landscape, to name but a few. Yeon's most important architectural design, the Watzek House, will become the home of the John Yeon Center for Architectural Studies.

The Watzek House received critical acclaim almost immediately after its completion in 1937. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places at the early date of 1974, described by the nomination as "the most pivotal and famous example of modern domestic architecture in the Pacific Northwest." Stuart Wrede, the former curator of the Museum of Modern Art, goes one better by acknowledging the Watzek House as "one of the most important houses in America." John Yeon's design for the house, completed when he was just 26 years old, was one of the first to successfully combine philosophies of the International Style with a strong sense of Northwest regionalism. The house is located on a major hill just west of downtown Portland, and takes full advantage of

its naturally landscaped site and unobstructed view of Mt Hood.

The U-shaped plan encloses a well manicured flagstone courtyard with exotic plantings and a lily pond, designed in purposeful contrast to the untouched natural surroundings. The house's exterior tongue and groove flush siding was originally finished with a silvery gray stain that weathered naturally, allowing the building to settle easily into its environment. The interior rooms are detailed with beautifully crafted woodwork, befitting Aubrey Watzek's role in the Northwest lumber industry. Bookcases and built-in cabinets were integrated with the interior design in ingenious fashion. The living room is entirely paneled in rare tight-grain Noble fir and opens out towards a view in direct axis with Mt. Hood. It has been said that the slope of its gable roof was chosen to match exactly that of the mountain, framing it in a manner that quite spectacularly links exterior view with interior space.

The preservation team was well aware of this house's place in history, but did not entirely know what to expect concerning the 58-year old structure's current condition. After an all-day inspection, all were pleasantly surprised. "I was very impressed with the remarkable condition of the building, which was due mostly to the thoughtful construction detailing" said Dave Pinyerd, following the team's visit. Another reason for the state of the house has to do with the care the owners have afforded it over the years. "The Watzek House has been well preserved by virtue of continual maintenance, defining 'preservation' in the truest sense of the word," wrote Richa Wilson in the final assessment report.

Interior finishes were in extraordinary condition, showing only minor cracks and wear. Yeon's innovative systems of operable air vents and Venetian blinds that slide into defined wall openings still work with ease.

On the exterior, the posts that support the

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HP Program Holds First Field School

by David Pinyerd

As advertised, we held our first preservation field school this past summer. And according to participant reviews, it appears to have been a successful one. A bit of background for those of you who didn't read my before-the-fact field school articles. The idea for our first field school came from a fortuitous meeting between Don Peting, director of our Historic Preservation program, Henry Kunowski from the Oregon SHPO, and John Platz of the USDA Forest Service. The three were meeting about another topic when the conversation drifted over to the Pete French Round Barn in Southeastern Oregon and John's assessment work on it for Henry. Don had always wanted to produce a field school, he suggested the idea of using the round barn as a field school location, and just that quickly a field school was born. I was brought into the picture as Don's graduate assistant and given the role of coordinating the field school.

Every field school needs a mission and ours was to provide hands-on training in masonry and wood restoration. The preservation program at the University of Oregon has always been focused on the technical aspects of preservation and from the beginning we felt the field school should emphasize this philosophy and not attempt to run the gamut of preservation. We broke the field school up into three sessions, each two weeks long. The first session was masonry and wood technology, focusing on the restoration of the round barn. The second session was historic site issues, emphasizing the places, landscapes and spaces of the high desert region of Oregon. It also included a hands-on historical archaeology component. The third session was preservation theory and interpretation. The third session had to be canceled due to lack of interest and we moved an abbreviated version of the interpretation seminar into the second session.

Lisa Sasser, Assistant Chief Historical Architect for the National Park Service, came out from Washington, D.C. to teach the hands-on masonry portion of the first session. John Platz and his restoration crew taught wood technology during the second half of the first session. The round barn contains a basalt stone corral 60 feet in diameter inside of a wooden umbrella-like structure 100 feet in diameter. The "barn" was built by cattleman Pete French in 1883 as an indoor corral to break horses during the bitterly cold winter months in Harney County. Over the course of its 110-year life, the round barn had been subjected to periodic inundation, sometimes sitting in water for as long as several years. A high water mark had imprinted itself at the three-foot point around the entire structure. The water in turn had damaged the juniper posts at grade that support the roof and washed out significant amounts of the original mud mortar used in the basalt wall.

The job of the field school participants was to repoint in kind the stone structure and to restore or replace damaged portions of the wood structure. During the first week we restored the stone

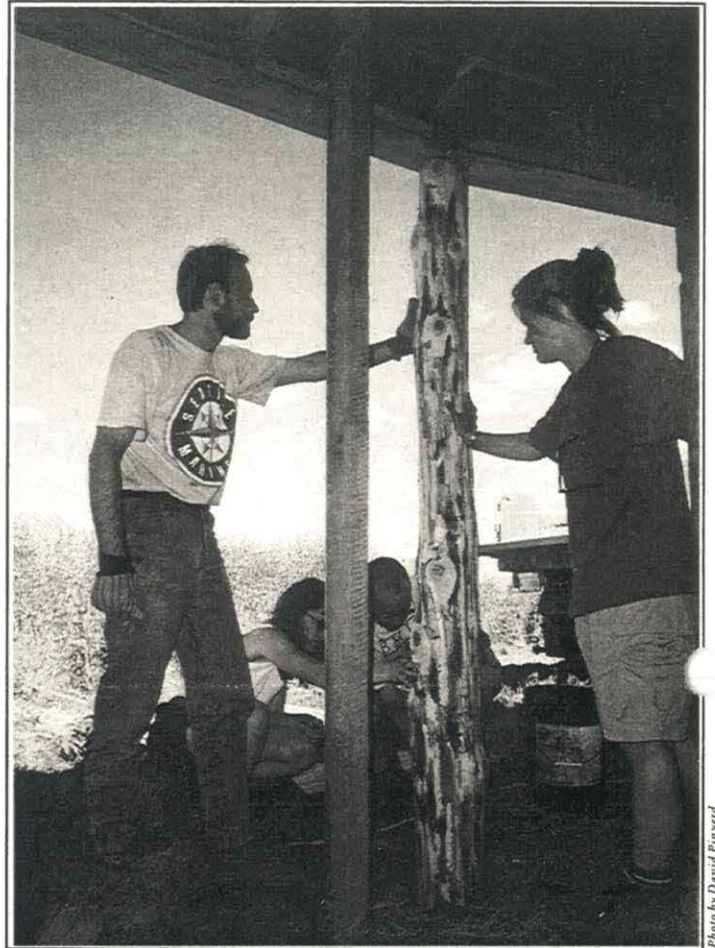


Photo by David Pinyerd

Paul Falsetto, Rebecca Snyder, Glenn Childs, and Deirdre Gerbeth replace a juniper post in kind at the Pete French Round Barn.

structure by prepping the surface, mixing the mud, and pointing the joints. Also involved was the replacement of dozens of stones that had come loose from the wall and had either fallen below their original location or disappeared. Being several feet thick, the stone wall was for the most part quite stable. However, the wall had become the home to many generations of wood rats who had weakened the wall by burrowing tunnels through the mortar and actually removing some stones. This made the repointing job more involved as it gave us the task of cutting basalt stone to fit the voids. Basalt doesn't have bedding planes so carving basalt is more of a shatter-the-rock-and-hope-something-will-fit sort of procedure. The wood rats themselves made the job more exciting by making unannounced appearances. We ended up restoring the entire wall both on the interior and the exterior in just over a week.

Over half of the juniper posts were rotted at grade. They had originally been placed in the ground about two feet deep and

at the Peter French Round Barn

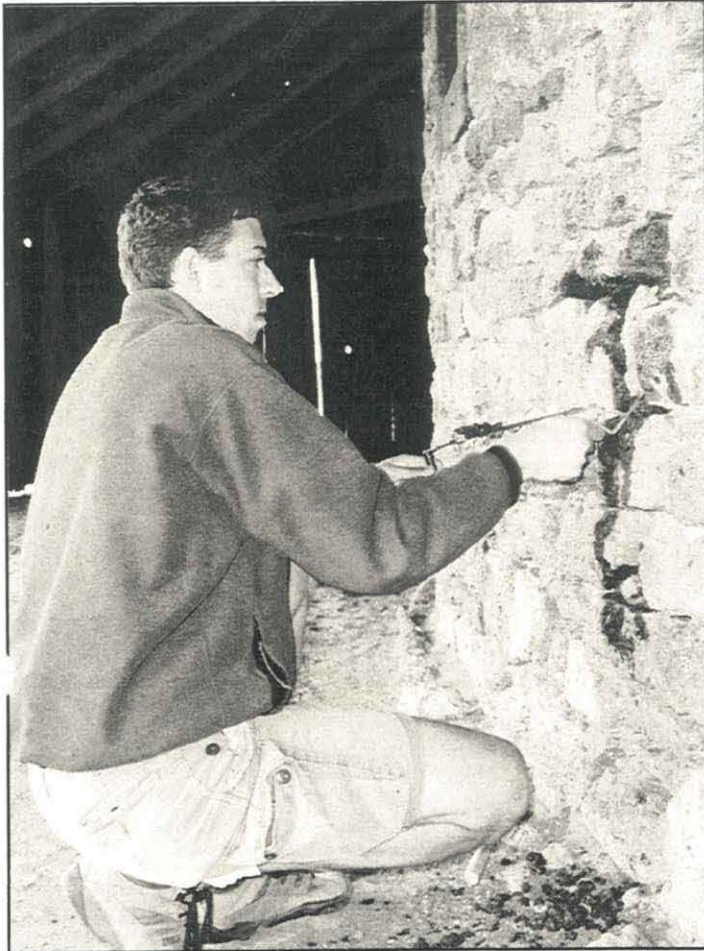


Photo by David Pinyard

Alex McMurry repointing the basalt stone corral wall in kind with mud. Generations of wood rats had tunneled through the wall and weakened it.

backfilled. Juniper is an extremely hard wood but it is still amazing that it held up as well as it did. Before the field school began, John Platz's crew had raised the roof of the barn several inches, sawed off the rotten ends of the juniper posts at grade, poured concrete bases, inserted drift pins, and soaked the ends in linseed preservative. Platz then set the posts back down on the new concrete, concealed at grade. He had saved several of the exterior posts for the field school students and we proceeded to evaluate the posts by excavating the post bases, visually and aurally inspecting the posts, and then drilling core samples. On the rotted post bases, we followed Platz's method of repair but on a smaller scale since we were only lifting the edge of the roof. Platz had also saved the exposed north side of the building which never did have any sheathing. Here, the posts were decayed and had themselves been replacement posts for the originals. The students were put in charge of replacing the seven exposed posts with new juniper posts, stripping their bark, and placing them directly into the ground as was done

originally. We also worked on restoring the board and batten exterior and replacing the two 6"x22"x10' door thresholds that had completely deteriorated.

For the second session we focused on the history of the region by touring extensively and learning directly from the people who lived there, observing how they worked and how they modified the landscape to suit their needs. Touring in Harney County is quite an ordeal. First off, Harney County is the largest county in the U.S. You could fit all of Massachusetts and Connecticut in Harney County and still have room for Rhode Island. And it has just over 7,000 residents sprinkled throughout the county, so when your vehicle breaks down, you're stuck. Second, we didn't quite have our touring act together beforehand. Thanks to an excellent county wide survey and many tolerant home owners, we pulled off a pretty fair tour of sites. However, we learned that when planning a tour, first map it out carefully and then cut it in half. You'll never get as far as you think (especially with flat tires on four separate occasions) and it's always easier to stretch a location. Surprisingly, almost every site was a hit with the students. We dropped in on home owners, didn't get shot at, we were given excellent tours, and we were treated just like one of the neighbors. We also had many unforgettable experiences, such as wandering through a 3000-foot lava tube in which the local Masonic Order uses as an annual meeting place and driving into a 3/4-mile-long lumber drying shed while it was being demolished.

We brought in Leland Roth and Howard Davis, professors from the UO, for several days to lecture on the architecture of Oregon and its antecedents. They lectured in the mornings and evenings while we toured in the afternoon. The lectures provided an interesting juxtaposition to what we were actually seeing on tour. Since we lost our third session, a shortened version of the site interpretation component was taught by Chet Orloff, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the round barn for the historical society in 1969, had decades of experience in interpretation, and knew the area intimately. He provided the leadership for a long discussion of the interpretative options that the round barn presented.

For the second week of the second session, David Brauner from Oregon State University came out to teach an introduction to historical archaeology. We sank one unit on the outside and one on the inside of the wooden structure and then two more units on the inside of the stone corral. We anticipated finding an extensive historic artifact scatter, but instead found relatively little. What we did find, however, were prehistoric artifacts. We found flakes from stone blade production, a single projectile point, and a mono and metate. The mono and metate are two stone tools, consisting of a round pestle (mono) and concave mortar (metate), used to grind grain. They were found about a foot deep, laying upright on top

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of each other, ready to be used. I think everyone felt its discovery made up for the lack of historic artifacts.

Through feedback from the participants we found that the chance to work hands-on with some very knowledgeable and important people in the field of preservation was the most rewarding aspect of the field school. Also important was the opportunity to visit a way of life most of us had not been exposed to in the cattle country of Harney County. We were allowed to visit sites most people never see and talk with people who had lived their whole lives in the region. We also had the opportunity to interact with the public. The round barn, albeit off the beaten track, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Harney County. We had a fairly constant stream of visitors who got to see first hand what a restoration project is all about. The open nature of the barn and the work we were doing allowed visitors to get right up to the task at hand and ask questions of the students. I was amazed by the poise in which the students fielded inquiries and how genuinely appreciative visitors were in seeing someone care for the "old barn." In fact, the *Burns Times-Herald* came out and did a full-page feature on the restoration work we were doing.

At that first meeting between Don, Henry Kunowski, and John Platz, they decided that the field school should be held at a new site in a new region every summer. This year was in the high desert of Southeastern Oregon at the round barn. Next summer we're moving to the Southern Oregon Coast at Port Orford and focusing our restoration efforts on the Cape Blanco Lighthouse (1870) and the Hughes House (1898). (Keep an eye on your mailbox for details.) The following summer we hope to be in the Cascade Range. By moving the field school around the Pacific Northwest, we hope to present different site and material issues every summer and to spread the preservation ethic throughout the region by restoring structures in various communities.

(From Watzek, page 5)

dramatic living room portico exhibited some decay, and were altered with the addition of metal reinforcement brackets after a violent 1962 storm. The greatest damage to the house, though, was not structural in nature, but aesthetic. This occurred when, after many years, Watzek had the exterior painted, disregarding Yeon's intention of allowing the siding to weather naturally. Yeon, who eventually purchased the house in 1973, decided to let the paint weather off. The time consuming and delicate removal of the weathered paint, along with all accumulated dirt and other organic matter will be a challenge future restorers will need to undertake.

In early June, Richard Brown was presented with a twenty-page bound condition assessment report. "The report was a good representation of what we do best -- combining practical information gathering with scholarly research," states Peting. "Richard was quite impressed with the student's work and the thoughtfulness of their investigations." Not long afterwards the contract was signed with the University, making the donation official.

The donation will present numerous opportunities for University students, especially those in the Architecture, Landscape Architecture and the Historic Preservation Program. The John Yeon Center for Architectural Studies will focus on Pacific Northwest regional architecture, Yeon's design work, and the continued preservation of the Watzek House. "We believe that meticulous preservation of the properties will be compatible with many educational opportunities," says Brown. Adds Peting, "It is our intent that the house be kept in part as a house museum, with students involved with its evaluation, documentation and continued preservation."

It is in this spirit that both the Center and the The John Yeon Preserve for Landscape Studies at the Shire will focus on instruction and research, preservation, public awareness and education. The Preserve will afford the opportunity for small groups to engage in discussion and research on local, regional and national issues involving

landscape design, preservation and management. The Shire is located directly across from famous Multnomah Falls, purchased by Yeon in 1965 to protect it from future development, and will be preserved as an outstanding example of landscape design. "Both properties present a whole gathering of issues on thoughtful design and construction that will keep us learning for years and years," concludes Peting.

(From Town, page 4)

small groups producing a design for a fictional Your Town located in Oregon. This process ranged from developing a vision for Your Town, to Design Review and Presentation, while focusing on major issues such as traffic and transportation, tourism and economic vitality. Each participant was given a workbook, customized for the region by the Graduate students in the Historic Preservation Program, to provide a valuable reference that each of the participants could take back and share with their local communities.

As the original manual from SUNY-Syracuse states, "America's rural communities are at risk from large-scale changes in the national economy, population shifts, the impact of telecommunications and mass merchandising, and changes in federal land policy. In the face of these forces, rural communities struggle to maintain their sense of identity and vitality. "

It is hard to deny the importance of these issues for rural communities and all communities in light of the present political and cultural climate of this country. It is the sincere hope of the University of Oregon, the HPLO, the National Trust and other workshop developers at SUNY-Syracuse and the University of Georgia that rural leaders begin to take positive steps towards preserving and enhancing the quality of these small communities which are the lifeblood of this country.

Information about the Your Town Workshop and additional programs is available from the University of Oregon Department of Historic Preservation, the HPLO and the National Trust.

(From President, page 2)

saved and moved; while another portion was demolished. Most recently, the Save Amazon Coalition tried to get the Eugene Historic Review Board to designate the land that the buildings stood on as historic! (Wait a minute!! I thought that in order for "land" to be declared "historic" there are certain criteria to be met! For further information, see accompanying article.) Unfortunately, this has left many individuals in Eugene and elsewhere in the state with a distorted view of preservation. Three, to counter the negative implications of the Amazon issue is the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Survey. Completed in September 1995, this was the result of a contract between the Eugene Planning Department and Sally Donovan, a graduate of our program. The survey was composed of over 400 survey forms and photographs, recording every plot and marker in the cemetery. As one of the first comprehensive cemetery surveys in Oregon, many other groups interested in historic cemeteries are awaiting copies to use as a guide. The fourth and final event recently held in Eugene was the National Conference on Preservation Education (NCPE). Hosted by our Historic Preservation program, it drew educators from universities and colleges across the United States. All in all, it was a rather busy first term for preservation activity.

As a preservationist, there is one issue I would like to bring up for possible discussion in a future issue of the ASHP Journal - "ethnic participation & historic preservation in the U.S." Are there any of you out there who are concerned about this? It's become an area of interest for me, especially since I am Hispanic and have seen a number of Mexican, Native American and other ethnic sites that have been rather minimally interpreted. This has raised a number of questions for me. For starters, how are ethnic groups (at historic sites and through other historic resources) currently depicted and why? Whose point of view is presented? In areas where many ethnic groups have resided, which one is interpreted? How involved are ethnic groups in preserving their historic resources? How many ethnic resources are listed on the National

Register? These questions led me to *How the Other Half Lived* by Philip Burnham. Just published this past summer, this book discusses ethnic minorities and historic sites in the U.S. Since I've only read the first chapter, I can't really fully comment on it now, other than to say that it's shedding some light on some of the questions raised above. I'll have more to say in the next issue of the ASHP Journal.

As Fall term draws to a close, and finals are just around the corner, it's time for me to sign off. As before, if you have any information, comments, or opinions, please send them our way. We like to hear from you! Until the next issue, enjoy your winter holidays!

(From Editor, page 2)

The Save Amazon Coalition began with that premise, but somehow turned the battle into a vindictive and personal battle against a few university housing officials. They began using historic preservation as a political "club" (one of the leaders of the coalition told me that it didn't matter if the buildings were culturally or architecturally significant, but that historic preservation "was a powerful political tool"). The coalition has delayed the project for nearly two years now, costing the University over \$1,000,000 in delayed construction costs. Since University housing is self-supporting and does not receive any money from the University, this will be reflected in higher rents for students when the project is complete. Yet the coalition doesn't seem to care.

It became quite apparent that the coalition cared little about historic preservation when the University offered the buildings to St Vincent dePaul, as long as they were willing to move them to another site. We all know that this is a less than ideal option for saving a building, but at least it does save the building. And considering that this would be the third move for the "temporary" buildings (they were originally built in Vanport, Washington and used to house Liberty ship builders and their families), it almost seemed appropriate that they be moved elsewhere and reborn once again. Yet the coalition refused to accept this compromise and by using preservation ordinances they were able to get an injunction that halted any moving of the buildings. Because of construction deadlines, the University and St. Vincent dePaul were on a tight schedule to move the buildings before they were demolished. Though it came down to the wire, and four buildings were moved, the coalition didn't seem to care that they had nearly derailed the plans of St. Vincent dePaul, who are

renovating the buildings on another site, in their original configuration, and following guidelines that will keep the buildings' historic integrity. And it will be low income housing. So much for the coalition's dedication to historic preservation.

You may be wondering why St. Vincent dePaul could renovate the buildings and the University couldn't. To begin with, St. Vincent moved the buildings to a site with bedrock underneath the soil and were able to use conventional stem wall foundations. Underneath the current Amazon site is Amazon clay that soaks up water and expands like a sponge during the rainy season. This rising and falling played havoc with the old foundations and buildings. With this type of soil condition, the foundations need to be supported by piers, or floated. These scenarios were just too expensive for the University to consider. Three different engineering studies were done on the validity of renovating Amazon, and the end result was that if the University poured \$7 million into the buildings (just to make them safe), they could get another 20 years out of them. As it is, St. Vincent is putting over \$1 million into the four buildings it has, most of which is Federal grant money (a funding option not available to the University).

The University is replacing Amazon at the cost of \$6-\$7 million. It will house more students and their families in a safer complex. Since this project is being carried out in two phases, 16 old buildings still remain, with families. The University is giving the buildings to St. Vincent, who will renovate them, and continue the tradition of low cost housing in these old buildings. The coalition needs to recognize that this is a compromise - the best they will get - and to quit using historic preservation as a political tool to wage what has become a spiteful game to them. As Steve notes, their latest trick was an attempt to have the dirt where the buildings stood declared historic. This is just plain "monkeywrenching," a childish attempt to delay the project. These type of tactics, with preservation as the weapon, will just cost future student families higher rents. And the funny thing is, if the coalition wants to visit this "sacred historic ground," they'll have to go visit the old quarry pit at Delta Sand and Gravel, because that's where Delta dumped it after excavating it 3 feet down and replacing it with rock for the new foundations.

So anyway, that's my two cents worth (or maybe \$20 worth) on the Save Amazon Coalition and their attempt to use preservation as a political tool. And if you think I am an apologist or lackey for the University, my next column will be all about how they ran shipshod over our local preservation laws. As I said, I have mixed feelings about the battle - and nobody, especially historic preservation, is a winner.

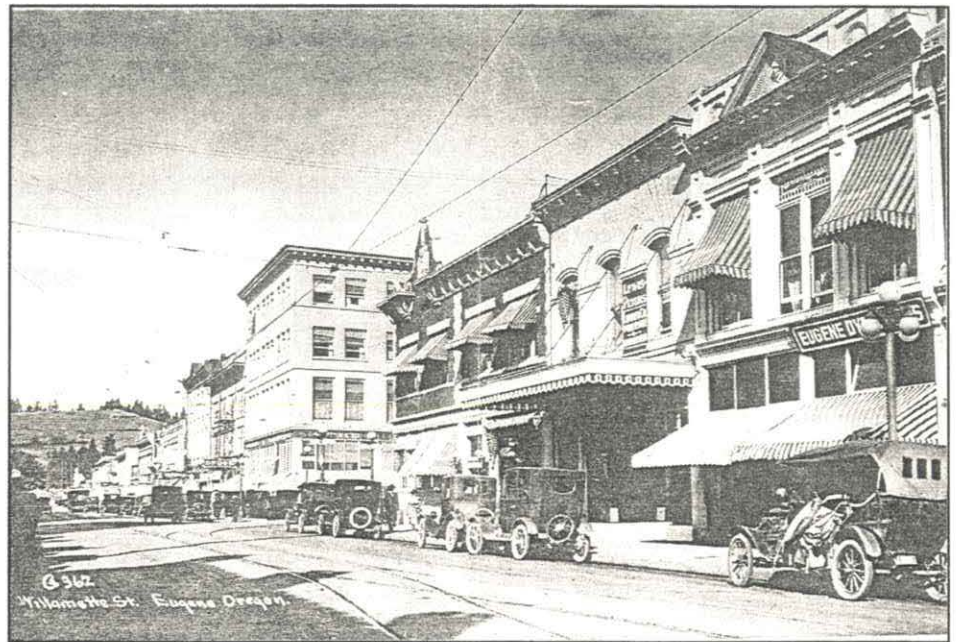
Lost Eugene - Urban Redevelopment Destroyed Much of Downtown

by Erin Hanafin

Although by most accounts an extremely civic-minded community, the city's track record for preserving its historic structures and cultural heritage has been poor. The most blatant example of this lack of preservation-mindedness and the episode which gives Eugene this reputation is one which has been embraced by other cities, as well—Urban Renewal. As a pioneer town founded in the mid-Nineteenth century, Eugene had plenty of downtown historic material. But by the mid-1960s much of it had fallen into disrepair and the downtown core was blatantly labeled a slum. In order to breathe new life into the community and its downtown, the Eugene Renewal Agency was formed and, with financial and planning assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, went about replacing its past with a newer, sleeker, and hopefully more prosperous, present.

In the way of the Eugene Renewal Agencies plans were 228 buildings in the 17-block area of the downtown core which were considered to be in substandard condition, a classification applied to the building if the cost of bringing the structure up to code exceeded half the replacement cost. Of these 228 buildings, 213 were built prior to 1930 and over a hundred were eventually demolished. Up and down Willamette Street, the buildings which could have and should have made for an attractive and historically-rich main street were demolished. Eugene's Masonic Temple and the YMCA, both fine buildings with an important history, were razed, as were scores of smaller commercial buildings including the Hoffman Building (1873), which was thought to be the oldest structure standing in the central business district. Only a handful of historic buildings were saved, despite the efforts of a small group of community members who voiced their objections. The preservation constituency in Eugene in the early 1970s just wasn't able to gain enough momentum to stop the renewal agency.

Ironically, the pedestrian mall and buildings which replaced the historic fabric of downtown Eugene have had only limited



Willamette Street looking north from 9th in 1926...



and the same view as it exits today after redevelopment.

success. At present, the storefronts are riddled with vacancy signs and Willamette Street seems like a ghost-town, even at midday. Olive, one of the north-south streets closed in 1970 to create the pedestrian mall, was reopened to automobile traffic a few years ago, and Eugene residents have recently voted to do the same with Willamette Street. Downtown still has more than its share of surface-level parking lots, evidence that the new buildings which were meant to replace historic fabric just never got built.

Yes, sometimes Eugene seems like a lousy place to study historic preservation. But the lessons to be learned about the effects of Urban Renewal are ones we are likely never to forget.

Opportunities

Curator Position - The Danish Immigrant Museum, - An International Cultural Center, - in Elk Horn, Iowa, is a cultural-heritage museum of the Danish immigrant experience in America. The curator is responsible for the care, exhibition, and academic interpretation of all objects, materials, and specimens belonging or loaned to the museum; recommendations for acquisition, attribution and authentication; and research on the collections and the publications of the results of that research.

The Danish Immigrant Museum (EEO/AA Employer) is a young, aggressive, internationally funded museum with a major growth agenda for the next century. We are looking for a curator who is dynamic, flexible, well-organized, and can get along well with the public. Skills in the Danish language and computer literacy would be helpful. Please send your resume and names of three references (postmarked no later than December 31, 1995) to J. D. Iversen, 4523 Westbend Drive, Ames, IA 50014.

Internship - Cultural Resources - The Postgraduate Internship Program for the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (Provisional) provides opportunities to participate in ASUCHPPM ongoing applied research and development projects, and is located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland (near Baltimore.) Project areas include, but are not limited to: cultural resource surveys, archaeological testing, excavations, and historic building renovations relating to cultural resources in areas of proposed construction activity; historical or archaeological site surveys, investigations and studies; recommend further investigations when warranted; prepare a variety of formal and informal historical and archaeological reports; coordinate investigations and studies with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies, as well as interested or jurisdictions Native American Tribal representatives. Applicants should have a bachelor's or master's degree in archeology, architecture or historic preservation or related area within three years of the desired starting date. Appointment is for one year with option to extend at one year intervals for a maximum total of three years, subject to availability of funds. Participant will receive annual stipend starting at \$23,904 for those with a bachelor's degree and \$28,680 for those with a master's degree. Applicants are accepted and processed on a continuing basis. For additional information and application materials contact: Postgraduate Internship program for the USACHPPM; Attn: Cindy Sheldon; Science/Engineering Education Division; Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education; PO Box 117; Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-0117; (615)576-3456.

Conferences

Preserving Maritime Heritage - The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria will be offering the following on-campus immersion course for museum and heritage professionals from January 31 - February 9. Fees: \$589 (Canadian funds). The legacies of our maritime past range from archival documents and charts to floating vessels and shipwrecks. These artifacts are complimented by a wealth of song, lore and crafts. Caring for this diverse and fascinating heritage presents special challenges to museums, heritage agencies and historic sites. In this immersion course, we take a comprehensive look at the nature of maritime heritage, the contexts in which it is preserved, and at the practical problems and opportunities that exist as we seek to preserve and interpret it effectively. Joy Davis, Program Director; Cultural Resources Management Program; University of Victoria. Phone (604)721-8462. Fax (604)721-8774. e-mail joydavis@uvcs.uvic.ca For more detailed program information, please visit our website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/crmphome.htm>

The National Preservation Institute is offering a series of Seminars for Cultural Resource Managers. Each course is offered multiple times and in various locales. For more information contact: National Preservation Institute; PO. Box 1702; Alexandria, VA 22313.

Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act: Review and Update for Practitioners - This one day seminar, led by Thomas F. King, will explore the current practice of Section 106 review, the impacts of changing laws, regulations and policies, and effective ways of carrying out the review process. Washington, DC. Jan. 26, Fort Worth, TX, March 12. Tuition \$210

Historic Landscapes: Techniques for Identification, Interpretation and Documentation - Learn to evaluate and apply cutting-edge analytical techniques to the planning and design of historic landscapes and monuments, historic districts and open space. Compare traditional solutions to computer-based approaches for solving resource management problems. Led by Joel W. Grossman, Ph.D. Washington, DC. Feb. 8. Tuition \$250.

Preserving Historic Urban Neighborhoods: A management Forum - Learn how to meet multiple challenges and demands of historic districts and older neighborhoods caught between economic development, tourism, social needs and preservation values. Washington, DC. June 6-7. Tuition \$275

Cultural Resource Management Plans: Preparation and Implementation - Learn to effectively and economically incorporate historic preservation issues into the overall planning

process for historic facilities such as parks, campuses, military bases and neighborhoods. Washington, DC. February 1-2, Seattle March 14-15. Tuition \$275.

The National Council on Public Histories 18th Annual Conference will be held April 10-13, 1996, in Seattle at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza. Organized around the theme -History and the Public Interest, + the conference will feature sessions focusing on the use of new technologies in museums, broadcast media and archives; grey literature; the status of public history within the academy; political history; and historical advocacy by professional and public interest groups. For more information contact program chair Robert Weible, Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, PO Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108. (717)783-9867. NCPH Executive Offices (317)274-2716. ncph@indycms.iupui.edu

Call for Papers

1996 GeorgiaLANDscape -NORmalady - A call for scholarly ideas and works from students worldwide in landscape architecture, historic preservation and related fields to address the theme, -NORmalady. Written submissions should be 5-10 pages, double spaced, hardcopy. Graphic submissions should be black and white, and no larger than 11x17, or in slide format. Send submissions postmarked by January 15, 1996 to Georgia Landscape, The School of Environmental Design, 609 Cladwell Hall, Athens, GA 30602-1845. For more information or discussion contact Georgia Landscape at (706)542-4719 or e-mail gland@sed.uga.edu.

8th International Congress on Deterioration and Conservation of Stone will be held from September 30 to October 4 in Berlin. The subjects treated by this Congress will be: Properties of Natural Stone, Phenomena of Deterioration, Causes of Deterioration, Methods of Analysis, Laboratory tests, Methods of Conservation and Restoration, Case Histories and Documentation. The contributions will be presented by oral communications and posters. Deadline for contributions: Title and Abstract: December 31, 1995. Text: May 31, 1996. Rathengen-Forschungslabor, Schloss - Str. 1a, D 14059

Lost Eugene

Erin Hanafin

Sometimes the city of Eugene seems like a lousy place to study historic preservation . . . (see page 10)



Willamette Street, looking south from 9th Ave, 1936 . . .



and the view as it exists today after urban redevelopment.

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