

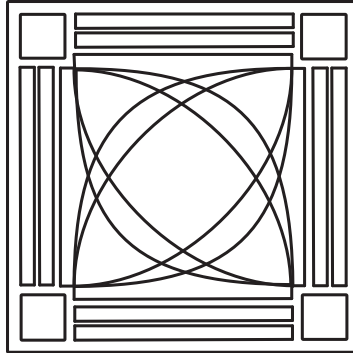
ASHP

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JOURNAL

SPRING 2008

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON HISTORIC PRESERVATION STUDENTS
FOUNDED THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(ASHP) IN 1988. ASHP'S PURPOSE IS TO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE AND
UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION POLICY AND PRACTICE
AMONG STUDENTS, PROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATORS THROUGHOUT
THE NATION.



The ASHP Journal is published annually by the Associated Students for Historic Preservation with support from the Historic Preservation Program, the School of Architecture and Allied Arts (AAA), and the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO). The ASHP Journal provides a forum in which to convey views and information, as well as promote spirited debate within the field of historic preservation at the local, state, and National levels. ASHP welcomes original, unpublished journal submissions of 2000 words or less from students, alumni, faculty, and professionals in historic preservation and related fields throughout the country.

Associated Students for Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Program
School of Architecture and Allied Arts
5233 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403.
541.346.2982

For more information about the Associated Students of Historic Preservation, as well as submission guidelines, please visit <http://www.uoregon.edu/~ashp/>

For more information about the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Oregon please visit <http://hp.uoregon.edu/>

Letter From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2008 edition of The Journal of the Associated Students for Historic Preservation. For more than a decade the Journal has provided a forum for students, professionals, and the public to engage and discuss current topics facing the preservation community.

The graduate students in the historic preservation program at the University of Oregon have contributed an array of articles illustrating various aspects of preservation. Many of these articles focus on the fundamental issues of preservation, such as the reasons why we preserve and the ways in which we can restore buildings while preserving their integrity. These discussions lay the groundwork for broader examinations of historic preservation in the 21st Century. To reflect the expanding scope of historic preservation, we are also featuring pieces on preservation and sustainability, preservation in rural communities, and the preservation of our international heritage. In addition, we are particularly pleased to publish a report by program alumna, Sheriffa Jones, regarding one of her most recent endeavors in the historic preservation field as part of the establishment of a new preservation program in Ohio.

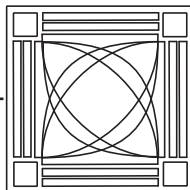
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contributed to the 2008 Journal, especially my co-editors, Stephanie Cimino and Chrisanne Beckner, without whom this publication could not have been possible. I would also like to thank Kingston Heath, Director of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Oregon, Karen Johnson, Assistant Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, and the Associated Students of the University of Oregon for their continued support of the ASHP Journal.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Donovan-Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'A' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Adrienne Donovan-Boyd

Contents

ASHP Journal, Spring 2008



Why We Preserve: A Student's Response <i>Bethany Johnson</i>	2
Historic Preservation in Deep Rural Places: Struggle and Success in Montana <i>Laura Nowlin</i>	6
Portland's Skidmore/Old Town National Landmark Historic District <i>Sarah Steen</i>	15
White Stag, Green Stag: The Role of Sustainable Preservation at UO Portland <i>Bethany Johnson</i>	22
University and Community Partner on Preservation Project: ISU Design West Grand Opening <i>Sheriffa M. Jones</i>	27
Preservation in Real Time <i>Natalie Perrin</i>	29
Preservation on the Pacific Rim: International Approaches to Preservation Practice at the University of Oregon <i>Stephanie Cimino</i>	33
The 2007 Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School <i>Abby Glanville</i>	39
Where Are They Now? A Look at Recent UO Historic Preservation Graduates <i>A. Gregoor Passchier</i>	43
Class of 2008 Terminal Projects, University of Oregon Historic Preservation Program <i>Compiled by Heather Scotten</i>	49

Why We Preserve: A Student's Response

Bethany Johnson

The following essay was composed as part of the Introduction to Historic Preservation course at the University of Oregon. This core course provides new students with a solid background in preservation history and theory, and challenges students to reflect on the meanings and purposes of engaging in historic preservation.

As a first year Masters student in the Historic Preservation program at the University of Oregon, I have found myself making endless attempts to articulate to friends, family, fellow students, and professionals why I chose this field. Preservationist Richard Stipe defends this frequently posed question in the prologue of his book, *A Richer Heritage*.¹ He asserts, and I agree, that the public is entitled to hear "why" the preservation community thinks preservation is important. Over time I believe that the answer to this enigmatic question has moved away from its roots in patriotism and socio-political legitimization. When people ask the question today they are seeking an answer

that reflects the present. Why is historic preservation important today? Stipe triumphantly declares that preservation today echoes the composition of the country and has turned to "a broader, more constructive and inclusive social purpose ... mov[ing] beyond the problem of saving architectural artifacts and begin[ning] to think about how [it] can [help] conserve urban neighborhoods, rural landscapes, and natural resources for human purposes."²

Stipe, along with many others, outlines several primary reasons why we take measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure. I would like to boil it down to one fundamental reason why I think preservation is important - *it provides for a better quality of life*. William J. Murtagh asserts in his book, *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America*, that historic preservation is one aspect of a larger environmental problem and provides a way to improve the quality

of life for individuals and communities.³ This is especially true, Stipe maintains, “for the growing number of our population who must confront an increasingly dismal existence in a rapidly deteriorating urban environment.”⁴ Four compelling and comprehensible points can further illustrate this “quality of life” argument. *First*, historic preservation can be a catalyst for a better quality of life by maintaining the physical context – a tangible link to our heritage – and reinforcing a sense of place. *Second*, historic preservation encourages a better quality of life by supporting a dynamic built environment that acts as the backdrop to our lives, witnessing and bearing the marks of both historic and contemporary existence for future generations. *Third*, preservation helps to ensure a better quality of life by securing the quality, craftsmanship, beauty, and symbols of our heritage that mark our growth and evolution, much like a child’s growth chart penciled onto a pantry door. *Fourth*, historic preservation celebrates individuality in an increasingly homogenous cultural landscape by reflecting regional

“I would like to boil it down to one fundamental reason why I think preservation is important – it provides for a better quality of life.”

character, local history, and community identity.

Norman Tyler notes in his book, *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice*, that preservation became a quality-of-life issue when we reached the point in the history of civilization where “we recognize[d] the importance of not just making new and better [buildings] but of preserving reminders of the past as well.”⁵ For the first time in our history we can step back and recognize those elements worthy of preservation. Reaching this plateau, one that past civilizations have strived to achieve and maintain, characterizes ours as a mature society. This maturation is demonstrated when we no longer question our ability – *can* we build high rise buildings on every piece of land? – *but*

instead reflects on whether we *should*, or even, whether we *must*. In the broadest sense, Murtagh asserts, preservation conveys concern for the rate at which we consume buildings by demolition or neglect.⁶ It is this concern that prompted Clem Labine to proudly declare preservationists un-American in his 1979 *Traditional Building* article. He wrote: "Preservationists oppose the conventional American idea of consuming ever more. We are actually the new wave of pioneer. We are struggling to reverse the use it up and move on mentality."⁷

American preservation has been characterized by this conflict of values, battling a consumptive culture for influence and control of the *future*. This conflict, described as "the inconvenience of history and permanence versus the convenience of efficiency and change," by W. Brown Morton III in his article, "What Do We Preserve and Why?" is played out in a very tan-

gible and real way as people go about their daily lives, here and now in the *present*.⁸ Society must come to see that actions today, on behalf of the future, are predicated on the past. A people's history, individual or collective, is used as a point of reference. The built environment is a manifestation of that functional, steady, enduring reference point. By physically linking communities to their pasts through their built heritage, we can maintain a sense of permanence and stability that is often lacking in a modern world of sound bites, red-eye flights, and ever changing technology. However, it is important to stress the words of John Lawrence, former dean of Tulane's school of architecture: preservationists do not aim to "arrest time, but to mediate sensitively with the forces of change. [Preservation] is to understand the present as a product of the past and a modifier of the future."⁹

*"This is the moment that preservationists must
'carpe diem' and educate the public on the fundamental
reason why we preserve."*

The preservation community may not often ask itself the question, "Why preserve?" However, the individuals directly affected by the fate of those buildings for which preservationists advocate often find themselves grappling with it. Preservationists have a responsibility to convey a direct and fundamental reason to the public: *We preserve to ensure a better quality-of-life.* No longer do the singular motivations of patriotism or legitimization have a monopoly on the field of preservation. Instead, the movement has gone beyond mere bricks and mortar to the preservation of local histories and neighborhoods, infusing place with meaning and contextualizing the present within the framework of the past. At no other time in the history of civilization has a society been in the position to reflect on the characteristics that constitute quality of life and evaluate such aspects as qualitative rather than quantitative consumption. This is the moment that preservationists must *carpe diem* and educate the public on the fundamental reason why we preserve.

Notes:

¹Robert, E. Stipe, ed., *A Richer Heritage: Historic Preservation in the Twenty-First Century* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), prologue xiii.

²Stipe, ed., *A Richer Heritage*, prologue xv.

³William J. Murtagh, *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997), 19.

⁴Stipe, ed., *A Richer Heritage*, prologue xv.

⁵Norman Tyler, *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice* (New York: W. W. Norton Brown & Company, 1994), 14.

⁶Murtagh, *Keeping Time*, 20.

⁷Tyler, *Historic Preservation*, 12.

⁸W. Brown Morton III, "What Do We Preserve and Why?" in *The American Mosaic: Preserving a Nation's Heritage*, eds. R.E. Stipe and A.J. Lee (Washington D.C.: US/ICOMOS, 1987), 149.

⁹John Lawrence quoted in Norman Tyler, *Historic Preservation: Its History, Principles, and Practice* (New York: W. W. Norton Brown & Company, 1994), 13.

Historic Preservation in Deep Rural Places: Struggle and Success in Montana

Laura Nowlin

An Introduction to Deep Rural Places

The great settlement of the American West took people to nearly every corner of the nation in pursuit of gold, land, and a better life. These settlers left their mark on the landscape through the buildings and structures they erected. After drought, depression, and hardship, most of the settlers in the Great Plains and Mountain West regions departed for cities while the structures they built remained to tell their stories. The exodus to the cities left behind deep rural communities that are today witnessing the disappearance of their historic built environment. These insufficiently understood, sparsely populated regions lose historic resources at an alarming rate, and preservationists continue to struggle with finding solutions to prevent this loss. The most commonly addressed rural preservation issue is the suburbanization and urbanization plaguing rural areas

adjacent to cities. Deep rural places, on the other hand, are characterized by remoteness and a shrinking populace. During the 1990s, 700 rural counties across the nation experienced a decline in population.¹ The loss of their historic resources, due mainly to deferred maintenance and neglect, mirrors this dwindling population. It is the combination of remoteness and insufficient numbers of people that leads to a general absence of preservation at the local level, as well as a lack of understanding of rural places and people by professionals at the state and national level.

Rural Preservation Defined

Focused on the ordinary and vernacular, rural preservation appeared late on the historic preservation agenda. It was not until the 1980s that preservation's focus began to shift from cities and high-style architecture to include the countryside and to incorporate rural land-

scapes and resources.² The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines rural preservation as "... the protection of the countryside, including the preservation of buildings and villages of cultural significance, the protection of their surroundings, and the enhancement of the local economy and social institutions."³

Even though the majority of the U.S. population lies within urban areas, the majority of the land in the U.S. remains rural. Rural lands comprise between 70 and 80 percent of the nation's total land mass and hold approximately 25 percent of the nation's population.⁴ These lands contain significant numbers of historic resources important to our nation's past that are quickly disappearing due to sprawl, neglect, and misuse.⁵ A drive through central Montana, for example, will reveal the foundations and collapsed remains of dozens of historic buildings that ten or twenty years ago still stood. These buildings no longer served the people in the area and eventually succumbed to the elements. The Census Bureau defines "metropolitan" (urban) regions as

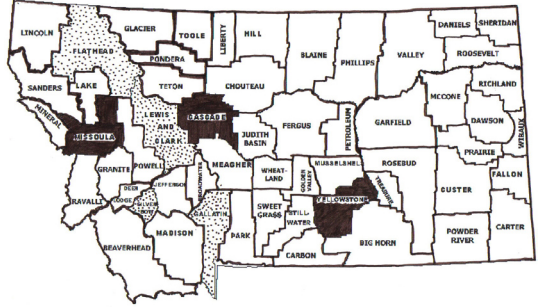


Figure 1. Montana County Population Map. Solid = Metropolitan; Stippled = Micropolitan; Outline only = Deep Rural. "Deep rural places" are those containing towns of fewer than 2,500 people. Map: Montana Association of Counties at <http://maco.cog.mt.us/Counties/MAPOfCounties.htm>. Data: U.S. Census Bureau (2005)

places with at least one city of over 50,000 people and "micropolitan" (rural) as places without a city of over 50,000 people, but with at least one town of 10,000 or more. "Deep rural places" are those remaining, generally containing towns of fewer than 2,500 people. The majority of deep rural counties exist today in the Great Plains and Mountain West Region.⁶ According to the 1890 Census, many of these places could still be classified as "frontier" - fewer than six people per square mile.⁷ The state of Montana embodies this definition of rural.

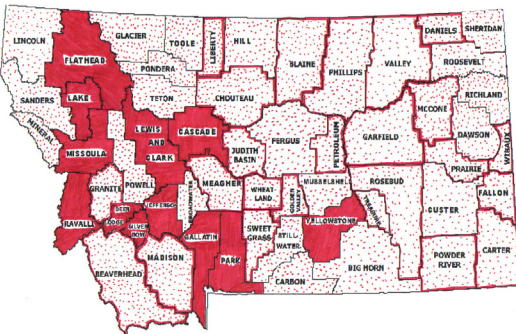


Figure 2. Montana Frontier Counties. Solid = 50 people/sq. mile; Stippled with dark outline = 0-6 people/sq. mile; Stippled = 0-2 people/sq. mile. Montana's "frontier counties" contain fewer than six people per square mile. Map: Montana Association of Counties at <http://maco.cog.mt.us/Counties/MAPofCounties.htm>. Data: U.S. Census Bureau (2005)

Deep Rural: Preservation in Petroleum and Wheatland Counties

Montana lies within both of the above mentioned geographic areas, and according to the now defunct 1890 definition, frontier counties make up 79 percent of the state's 56 counties. Furthermore, 43 percent of Montana's counties contain fewer than two people per square mile. When the overwhelming majority of a state contains so few people, preservationists must address the economic, social, environmental, and cultural issues

brought on by such extreme remoteness. Figures one and two depict the metropolitan, micropolitan, rural and "frontier" counties in Montana respectively.

Home to only 500 residents, Petroleum County is the least populated county in Montana, and the third least populated in the United States. Only one town, Winnett, remains from the exciting time of homesteads and oil speculation in the 1910s and '20s. For 74 years, the town proudly boasted a splendid school building that survived the area's decline, which began in the 1920s. This magnificent Spanish-mission style building (figure three) had served the town and surrounding community since 1921. Eventually, it became the only historic school building still in use as a school within the district. It stood as a landmark structure and source of pride for the community. The building's unique style impressed visitors to this small town and provided Winnett with a marker for exceptionality. In 1994, this building failed to meet safety code requirements. Unwilling to let the building disappear, residents

looked for options. They achieved National Register listing of the school in 1995 (the only listing in Petroleum County), but the building was demolished in 1998 regardless. Without finances, trained professionals, or viable options for preservation, this deep rural community suffered the type of loss common to many rural areas.

The residents of Wheatland County, Montana also experienced obstacles to preservation in their rural area. In 1990, Harlowton, Montana (population 899) created a 501(c)3 non-profit organization called the City-County Preservation Committee with the goal of preserving historic resources of significance in Harlowton and Wheatland County. The group's activities originally centered on the old Milwaukee Railroad Depot. Located at the edge of town, this one-story, hip roofed, wood frame building helps the community to identify with the significance the railroad played in the development of their town.

The Committee developed a long-range plan that included converting the depot and its adjoining properties into an indoor-outdoor



Figure 3. The Historic Winnett School Building was placed on the National Register in 1995, the same year this photo was taken. It was demolished in 1998. Photo: National Register, 1995.

museum. In the first few years, enthusiasm drove the project, allowing the Committee to secure several grants and numerous donations to fund preservation efforts. Unfortunately, recent years have seen the project stall with the passing of many of the original founders of the Committee and dwindling numbers of remaining volunteers, who are ready to help, but in need of a passionate director.⁸ Harlowton's experience illustrates one of the most common obstacles plaguing preservation efforts in small towns: the need for a director or point person with either the knowledge or the time and willingness

“‘Vernacular’ remains an elusive concept with many debates concerning its definition. Difficult to define, evaluate, and classify, rural vernacular resources do not fall within the auspices of traditional historic preservation programs.”

to gain the knowledge about preservation practices and procedures.

Rural Preservation Issues

Despite efforts to refine programs developed during the 1980s and '90s to address rural preservation issues, such as the Main Street program, landscape preservation guidelines, and the establishment of easements and land trusts, the same problems that have always faced rural preservation persist in the extreme rural corners of the nation. Historic preservation often

moves to the back burner in rural areas because the majority of these areas suffer from poverty, declining populations, and struggling economic systems.⁹ Deep rural areas cover large swaths of land filled with few people, making it difficult to offer public services. Tax bases are smaller, resulting in fewer professional staff available for planning and economic development, and thus much less historic preservation. Counties avoid land-use regulations, including preservation, in rural communities because there are often few opportunities for growth. Inhabitants in deep rural areas are traditionally conservative, which leads to an independent, agrarian, self-reliant view of the world.¹⁰

In addition to the difficulties found in the rural places themselves, the federal government still struggles with how to establish policies for preserving rural places. Defining and categorizing rural historic resources is one of the largest issues. Individual landmark structures and the landscape itself comprise the significant historic resources in rural places, and the majority of these

resources are vernacular in character. “Vernacular” remains an elusive concept with many debates concerning its definition. Difficult to define, evaluate, and classify, rural vernacular resources do not fall within the auspices of traditional historic preservation programs.¹¹ In a speech given at the 2007 National Trust Conference, the National Coordinator for National Heritage Areas, Brenda Barrett, praised the National Register program, stating, “... the National Register of Historic Places, the most widely recognized framework for evaluating the significance of heritage resources, has over time shown an ability to adapt to new scholarly questions.”¹² Yet, National Register Bulletins do not include the term “vernacular” as a stylistic category, thus excluding the majority of rural resources or forcing them to fit into a more accepted category.

Adding to the situation is preservation professionals’ lack of understanding regarding deep rural places, the people who live there, and their needs. The writings of William Murtagh, known to some as the “keeper of the National Register,” illus-



Figure 4. The residents of Harlowtown managed to preserve the Harlowtown Milwaukee Depot (above). Photo: Harlowton Chamber of Commerce www.harlowtonchamber.com/milwaukeeerr.html

trate this misunderstanding. As author of *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America*, he wrote, “Thus, the primary difference between the rural historical landscape and the historic district of an urban area is generally the greater distance between identifiable historic components in the rural landscape.”¹³ He makes no mention of completely divergent social histories, economic systems, traditional lifeways, or current issues that impact urban and rural areas differently. Norman Tyler, another preservation expert and author of *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practices*, relegates rural preservation to the chapter on



Figure 5. Virginia City thrives due to local preservation efforts, as illustrated in this photo from the south side of Wallace Avenue. Photo: Laura Nowlin.

“Other Issues,” where it occupies three pages.¹⁴ All of these factors make historic preservation in deep rural communities difficult.

Preservation Plugs Away

Nonetheless, these problems are being realized and addressed. In Virginia City, Montana (population 130), a handful of successful preservation programs and organizations are ensuring the future of the historic mining town. The city has been a National Historic Site since the 1970s, and city and com-

munity activities are based in large part on its popular history. The State of Montana now owns much of the town and has created the Montana Heritage Commission (MHC) to oversee preservation, museum, archaeological, and interpretive and educational activities. In addition to the professional presence provided by the MHC, Virginia City is also a Certified Local Government (CLG) through the Montana State Historic Preservation Office. The CLG program provides financial and technical support for preservation projects. The Virginia City Preservation Alliance, a 501(c)3 non-profit group, also ensures that proper preservation activities take place in the town. Virginia City has an amazing group of extremely interested residents, most of whom live there because of its historic importance to the state, region, and nation. This type of specialized population is not typical of most rural agricultural communities in Montana.

In addition to the more common government and non-profit preservation programs, Virginia City Artists’ Group provides a promising template for other small places

struggling to provide a cultural outlet. This artist group owns the historic Adobetown School, which is located at the west end of Wallace Avenue in a prime place to receive tourist traffic. Each summer, the schoolhouse operates as a gift shop/gallery. Each member of the group pays 25 dollars monthly for insurance and building maintenance expenses, while those who are not members operate on a regular consignment arrangement. Members of the group work one day a week in the store. This is an excellent way for local craftspeople to showcase their work and it provides the community with a cultural outlet and source of local pride.

As the significance of rural places is increasingly understood, their preservation needs continue to be identified. Brenda Barrett stated that more and more, "Definitions of significance can incorporate rural regions, cultural landscapes, and resources of under-reported groups."¹⁵ The foremost preservation organizations in the US, the National Trust and the National Park Service, continually build on and expand their programs to include those commu-

nities and their resources found in deep rural places. The National Trust's Rural Heritage program remains a leader in developing successful rural preservation techniques, and the National Park Service continues to update bulletins and brochures and provide technical assistance for rural residents. The National Trust also continues to administer the Main Street program, which works with communities to maintain or redevelop their commercial areas in order for them to be competitive. The Main Street approach, "advocates a return to community self-reliance, local empowerment, and the rebuilding of traditional commercial districts based on their unique assets: distinctive architecture, a pedestrian-friendly environment, personal service, local ownership, and a sense of community."¹⁶ Under the supervision of the Main Street program, Rural Main Street Iowa has been reaching towns of fewer than 5,000 residents and continues to grow in that state. Grassroots preservation movements enjoy the most success; therefore the National Trust is promoting its Community and Countryside

Workshops and Barn Again! programs in order to excite community awareness and educate residents about preservation. Even though rural places continue to struggle, towns like Virginia City are paving the way for successful preservation in rural areas and reinforcing the importance of local involvement combined with state or federal support. As programs adapt, preservation extends further into deep rural places where it strives to create a better understanding of the past and a better quality of life for the future.

Ms. Nowlin's essay is based on current research conducted for her terminal project. Please see page 49 for additional details.

Notes

¹James Lindberg, "Rural Development Trends and Opportunities for Historic Preservation," *Forum Journal* 20, no. 4 (Summer 2006), 9.

²Norman Tyler, *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to its History, Principles, and Practice* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000), 208.

³William J. Murtagh, *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America*, 3rd edition (New York: John Wiley & Sons., 2006), 120.

⁴Don Macke, "Understanding Rural America," *Center for Rural Entrepreneurship*, Monograph 11 (June: 2003).

⁵Lindberg, "Rural Development Trends," 7-8.

⁶Area Resource File, 2005: US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Rockville, MD.

⁷Lindberg, "Rural Development Trends," 7.

⁸Dane Elwood, City-County Preservation Committee member, e-mail interview, January 2008; "Harlowton, Wheatland County, Montana, Honoring the Past, Exploring the Future," <http://www.harlowtonchamber.com/milwaukeeerr.html>.

⁹U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Rural America at a Glance," USDA Economic Research Service, Rural Development Research Report, Number 97-1 (September 2003).

¹⁰Lina Cofresi and Rosetta Radtke, "Local Government Programs: Preservation Where It Counts," and Charles E. Roe, "The Natural Environment," in *A Richer Heritage*, ed. Robert E. Stipe (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 150 and 238.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Brenda Barrett, "Valuing Heritage: Re-examining Our Foundations," *Forum Journal* 22, no. 2 (Winter: 2008), 33.

¹³Muragh, *Keeping Time*, 120.

¹⁴Tyler, *Historic Preservation*, 208-211.

¹⁵Barrett, "Valuing Heritage," 33.

¹⁶National Trust for Historic Preservation, Main Street, <http://www.mainstreet.org/content.aspx?page=3§ion=2>, February 19, 2008.

Portland's Skidmore/Old Town National Landmark Historic District

Sarah Steen

During the period from the 1840s to the 1890s, what is now known as the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District developed along the western bank of the Willamette River as the commercial and industrial core of Portland, Oregon. Front Street, early Portland's main commercial thoroughfare running parallel to and nearest the river, contained the city's first substantial buildings. While nearby First Street housed those visiting and working in the district, Front Street buzzed with commerce and a bustling waterfront. Most of Portland's mercantile houses, commission agents, steamship companies and financial institutions, as well as lodging for itinerant workers, sailors, and loggers and other social amenities such as union halls, reading rooms, saloons, gambling halls and brothels crowded around Front and First streets.

Once the most culturally diverse neighborhood in Portland, the Skidmore District has housed Scandinavian, Greek, Jewish, Chinese,

Japanese, Filipino, African American and Native American workers, businesses, and families over its 160-year history. Naturally, it has been renamed many times—the North End, Japantown, Skid Row, Chinatown, Burnside, Ankeny/Burnside and finally, Skidmore/Old Town.

As in many rapidly growing urban centers in the U.S. during the second half of the 19th Century, iron provided Portland's commercial and industrial builders with an expedient and inexpensive alternative to traditional



Figure 1. Circa 1900 view of the Skidmore Fountain and First Street. Photo: Linda Dodds and Carolyn Buan, *Portland Then and Now* (San Diego: Thunder Bay Press, 2001).



Figure 2. 1923 West Side Waterfront Map.
Photo: City of Portland Bureau of Planning:
<http://www.portlandonline.com/planning/index.cfm?c=39764&>

masonry building. Strong, narrow cast-iron columns replaced heavy masonry piers in commercial buildings, allowing for more interior space, larger windows, and increased daylight into the structures. In the early years, when skilled artisan builders were scarce, there were distinct advantages to the prefabricated iron columns and arches that could be erected quickly by fewer workmen and at lower cost. The use of fire resistant iron also helped alleviate the ever-present danger of fire, which had decimated the cores of every major city in the U.S. during the 19th century. Architectural cast iron essentially made possible the rapid creation of a visually sophisticated commercial district that

projected Portland's status as a growing and prominent western port.

However, by the 1890s, the "Cast Iron Era" of American building was coming to a close. Steel and other technologies outmoded the use of iron in building, and the needs of commercial architecture were changing. In the early decades of the 20th Century, the threat of repeated flooding of Front Street drove businesses west towards higher ground, and the once grand cast-iron streets began to decline. The Skidmore district, while still occupied, steadily became identified as the "bad side of town" and was increasingly abandoned by those who could afford to do so. By the 1940s, major demolition projects, largely undertaken in the name of economic progress and industrial renewal, began to significantly alter the once unified composition of the Skidmore. In 1943, the Harbor Drive Expressway was built along the Willamette River, and the city demolished all of the structures on the east side of Front Street to make room. Ramp construction for the Morrison Bridge and the Hawthorne Bridge,

both intended to funnel cars onto Harbor Drive, also caused considerable damage to the District, destroying about three blocks each. The cumulative effect of past city “improvements” created large holes in what was once a densely packed, visually cohesive commercial neighborhood. Most, if not all, of the projected economic investments in the Skidmore never materialized, so the empty blocks created by building demolitions remained largely unused parking lots. Thirty years later, as part of another in a series of redevelopment plans, Portland rediscovered its riverfront, closing Harbor Drive in 1974 to create a large waterfront park.

With the efforts of local preservationist advocacy groups such as the Portland Friends of Cast-Iron Architecture, the Skidmore/Old Town District was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, and achieved Historic Landmark status in 1977. Altogether, the District boundaries enclose 17 full and seven partial city blocks. The 1888 Skidmore Fountain in Ankeny Plaza is both the original and the present-day heart of the



Figure 3. 1872 New Market Theater, with the re-installed North Wing cast iron arcade. Photo: Sarah Steen.

District.

A full spectrum of period design lies within the Skidmore, including Italianate, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Streetcar Commercial, among others. One hundred and eighty of the original 200 brick structures in the Skidmore used cast iron structurally or decoratively. Of those original 180 cast-iron buildings, 20 remain standing today. The Skidmore’s designation as a National Landmark Historic District was based in no small part on its remaining concentration of standing cast-iron fronted buildings, a collection generally considered second only to the New York’s SoHo District. Though there are many unfortunate gaps in its historic fabric, a signifi-

cant amount of Skidmore/Old Town's visual and material character remains reasonably intact.

Ladd and Bosco/Milligan Cast Iron Collections

During the 1950s and 1960s, preservationist Eric Ladd, reacting to the wholesale destruction happening due to Harbor Drive and other City "renewal" efforts, managed to salvage the cast iron facades, columns and other decorative pieces from nine buildings both inside and outside the Skidmore District. Benny Milligan and Jerry Bosco, both friends of Eric Ladd, also succeeded in salvaging numerous cast iron elements. Some of these pieces have already been reincorporated into the Skidmore in earlier development efforts. The cast-iron arcade of the New Market North Wing was re-erected (without the building itself) in its original location. Arches and columns from the Smith & Watson Building were reconstructed as a free-standing unofficial "gateway" into Ankeny Plaza. Artifacts from prominent buildings such as the Ladd & Tilton Bank, the Monastes Building,

the Portland Furniture Manufacturing Co, and the Dekum Reed Block are displayed on an outdoor museum wall (the Ankeny Arcade) to the south of the Skidmore Fountain.

Altogether, the collection represents cast iron elements from 12 buildings, including many located outside of the established Historic District boundaries and all demolished over the last 50 years. Excluding what has already been reused, more than 110 cast iron pieces remain, including sections of iron arcades, individual columns and arches, and various decorative elements. The Portland Development Commission (PDC) purchased the remainder of the Ladd and the Bosco/Mulligan collections in 1998, with the stated intention to reuse the cast iron in future public development projects within the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District.

Waterfront Development Plans

In 2002, the Portland Department of Parks and Recreation (PPR) and the PDC began organizing the Downtown Waterfront Urban

Renewal Project. With an overall budget of 8.8 million, the project will effectively restructure both the physical arrangement of the downtown waterfront and the City's social relationship to the area. Redeveloping the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District is a key component of the Waterfront Master Plan. The prevailing design for the Waterfront project, including plans for redeveloping the historic district, is largely based on the "New Urbanism" development philosophy. According to this plan, the Skidmore will be recreated as a "cluster of markets (with the Saturday Market), a mix of housing, restaurant/entertainment uses, community and social services, small-scale retail, and offices." Any

"The project will effectively restructure both the physical arrangement of the downtown waterfront and the City's social relationship to the area."

new construction or rehabilitation within the District will "utilize some form of public subsidy to assist in their implementation, from federal tax credits to state property tax reductions to the use of urban renewal funds." The use of federal money triggers the Section 106 process, making the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) one of the most important professional opinions on the reuse of the Ladd and Bosco/Milligan Cast Iron Collections.

Secretary's Standards - Interpretation

Few question that the Ladd and Bosco-Milligan Cast-Iron Collections should be in some way integrated into the Skidmore/Old Town redevelopment plan. How the collections should be reintroduced, however, is up for debate. Much of that debate, at least in terms of preservation, hinges on varying interpretations of relevant parts of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Bill Hawkins, author of *The Grand Era of Cast-Iron Architecture in Portland*, and the architect responsible for

“Recreating historic structures, even by utilizing their original material, can seriously damage the area’s fundamental historic authenticity, and calls into question the reason for having historic districts in the first place.”

cataloging the collection and submitting a project plan for its reuse, advocates the fairly controversial strategy of building *reconstruction* within the District. His position is that much of what is considered “compatible” architecture is overbearing, unattractive, and detracts from the historic architecture it is meant to complement. While he uses the reconstruction argument in part to start an argument, the idea that the Skidmore should be visually reunified is a sound one, given that its historic uniformity is one of its fundamental distinctions. The drawback

of infilling large portions of the Skidmore District with “compatible” contemporary architecture is the dissolution of the District’s sense of place to the point where its historic structures seem disconnected. Reusing the cast-iron pieces in new construction would inherently agree in architectural proportion, rhythm, and scale with the existing historic fabric, establishing visual continuity between the old and the new.

On the other side of the argument lies the edict against “creating a false sense of historical development,” or what is commonly referred to as “Disneyfication.” Recreating historic structures, even by utilizing their original material, can seriously damage the area’s fundamental historic authenticity, and calls into question the reason for having historic districts in the first place. The Oregon SHPO has to this point rejected the use of the salvaged metal on new construction because of this danger. Citing Secretary of the Interior Standard 3, *“Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural*

features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.” SHPO has used its control over federal preservation tax credits to discourage the use of the collection in architectural designs being submitted for approval from the City.

Herein lies the problem—developing the Skidmore District in a way that maintains its sense of place while avoiding turning the District into a caricature of itself.

Both sides of the debate seem to assume contemporary architects have limited design capabilities. SHPO has recommended reintegrating the cast-iron collections as interpretive or art pieces, removed entirely from the new infill structures that will, in the end, alter the visual integrity of the District. Hawkins and many of the earlier PDC guidelines suggest a somewhat traditional, contextual reapplication of the

pieces in new construction. Interestingly, much of the salvaged metal already reused within the district has been re-erected there in innovative ways. For example, the iron arcade attached to the New Theater Building maintains a kinetic and interactive presence on the street. It continues the proportion and line of the former streetscape, without in any way falsifying history or inviting confusion about the period of construction. It sets an excellent example of what can be done with the resources at hand. Since the iron collections present a fairly unique opportunity that does not necessarily fit into traditional preservation guidelines, it may be useful to consider unusual design or redevelopment methods. There is a great opportunity here for innovative thinking and creative “compatible” architectural design.

“Herein lies the problem—developing the Skidmore District in a way that maintains its sense of place while avoiding turning the District into a caricature of itself.”

White Stag, Green Stag: The Role of Sustainable Preservation at UO Portland

Bethany Johnson

By now many preservationists are familiar with architect Carl Elefante's powerful declaration, "The greenest building is... one that is already built." Gracing the headline of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *Forum Journal* in Summer 2007, this statement promised to catapult historic preservation into the lime-light (pun intended) of the green building movement. In December 2007, President of the National Trust Richard Moe announced the Trust's sustainability initiative. He asserted that today, more than ever, preservation is concerned with building the future just as much as it is with holding onto the past. It is this concern with the future, he maintains, that is leading preservation into a new phase. Preservation has an essential role in the new paradigm of sustainability because the very act of preserving buildings involves the conservation of energy and natural resources. Historic preservation has always been involved

in "green building," although many preservationists have never really considered it in this way. The National Trust, however, believes it is time to get the word out not only to preservationists, but to the building community and the general public as well.

The University of Oregon is already heading down this path. As early as 2006, the University, with historic re-developer Venerable Properties, Inc., procured a new location for the University of Oregon Portland campus that would ultimately combine both preservation and sustainability. The purchase of three Old

"In the adaptation from warehouse to vibrant and dynamic learning and workspace, the goals of sustainable preservation were front and center."

Town Portland historic buildings from the Naito family, located along Northwest Naito Parkway and the Burnside Street Bridge, foreshadowed a new direction for historic preservation and for all those involved in the project. In the spring of 2008, the White Stag Block officially opened as the University of Oregon's new Portland location. The new facility houses programs in architecture and allied arts, journalism, digital arts, and other disciplines.

The complex consists of three buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Hirsch-Weiss Building (1907), the Skidmore Block Building (1889), and the Bickel Block Building (1883). All three masonry buildings were historically used as manufacturing and warehouse facilities; however, each building is architecturally distinct. The White Stag, or Hirsch-Weiss, has the most industrial character with its simplified brick and concrete façade. The Skidmore and Bickel Blocks, more elaborately designed, are wonderful examples of the cast-iron front architecture erected in Portland in the 1880s. The Skidmore Block showcases



Figure 1. These cast iron columns and capitals on the east facing facade of the Bickel Block on NW Naito Parkway were re-cast in aluminum by Barr Casting in Portland after being discovered behind a brick wall. Photo: Bethany Johnson.

the Renaissance Revival style, while the Bickel Block illustrates the complex geometric patterns of the Victorian Gothic style, and was originally cast by Architectural Iron Works of San Francisco.

Adaptive re-use of these National Register buildings is not the only notable characteristic of the White Stag Block. In the adaptation from warehouse to vibrant and dynamic learning and workspace, the goals of sustainable



Figure 2. Bickel Block. Materials used in the rehabilitation of this building were reused, which helped to keep materials out of landfills and reduced the demand for the harvesting of natural resources. Photo: Bethany Johnson.

preservation were front and center. Using the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria, the White Stag Block was designed to meet the LEED Gold rating, achieved by addressing issues such

as materials and resources, water efficiency, alternative transportation, and energy performance. The White Stag Block promises to help breathe new life into Old Town Portland while still maintaining its historic character and encouraging sustainability. Achieving exemplary performance in the category of Materials and Resources, the project recycled over 98 percent of existing materials either through reuse or donation to the ReBuilding Center of Portland. In efforts to keep resources in the family, most of the wood floors throughout the UO Portland space, including those in the library and The Duck Store, employed refinished gym floors from

“Reusing the gym floor is just one example of how material reuse and recycling helped to keep materials out of landfills and reduce the demand for the harvesting of virgin resources.”

the Gerlinger Annex on the University of Oregon's Eugene campus. Reusing the gym floor is just one example of how material reuse and recycling helped to keep materials out of landfills and reduce the demand for the harvesting of virgin resources.

The installation of a water catchment tank located in what was historically a light well between the three buildings takes advantage of the Pacific Northwest's plentiful rainfall. Captured runoff from the roof is filtered and used throughout the buildings to flush low-flow toilets and urinals. All bathroom fixtures used in the White Stag Block are low-flow, designed to use less water than traditional fixtures. Another sustainable feature can be found simply in the location of the White Stag Block. Situated along bike paths, bus routes, and Portland's light rail line, known as the MAX, it offers faculty, staff, students and visitors multiple options for transportation. The basement, a bike commuter's paradise, is equipped not only with secure bike racks, but lockers and showers as well. Addressing energy performance in the historic buildings provided



Figure 3. The East facade of the White Stag Block, historically known as the Hirsch-Wiez Block, on NW Naito Parkway. The widely recognized Made in Oregon sign can be easily seen from across the Willamette river. Photo: Bethany Johnson.

an added challenge. The White Stag Block makes use of historic characteristics such as natural ventilation and day lighting whenever possible. Floor plates have been opened up to allow more light to penetrate into lower floors, reducing the need for artificial light. Designers installed day lighting sensors in order to monitor and maintain light, ensuring safety standards and user comfort. High-efficiency boilers and solar photovoltaic (PV) panels help to increase energy efficiency in the White Stag Block as well.

Green building is quickly becoming an industry standard across the nation and the globe. As the public becomes

increasingly aware of rising gas prices and resource depletion, the building arts will be expected to provide more environmentally aware spaces. Through collaboration with the sustainability movement, historic preservation is gaining a more influential voice than ever before. Sustainable stewardship can help draw attention to the importance of preserving our heritage and maintaining

our historic resources in vibrant and meaningful ways. Through adaptive reuse we can maintain a building's historic integrity while drawing on existing materials and harnessing embodied energy. The White Stag Block is only one example of how sustainable preservation can write a new chapter in the history of the built environment. As the home of UO Portland, it will help to educate students and the Old Town community about sustainable preservation for many years to come.



Figure 4. The White Stag Block, historically known as the Hirsch-Wiez Block, is an excellent example of the direction the University of Oregon is taking to lessen its ecological footprint. Photo: Jolyn Overton

*"The greenest building is ...
one that is already built."*

-Carl Elefante

More information on the White Stag Block and UO Portland:
<http://pdx.uoregon.edu/?p=about>

More information on the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the sustainability initiative:
<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/sustainability/>

Partnerships in Preservation: ISU Design West Grand Opening

Sheriffa M. Jones

The Iowa State University (ISU) Design West studio is a new satellite program of the ISU College of Design. It expands regional educational opportunities in the design disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, urban and regional planning, graphic design and interior design.

“The studio is intended as a destination for people to learn, explore and interact on the topics of urban design, community development and quality of life in Sioux City and the surrounding area,” said Mark Engelbrecht, dean of the College of Design. Courses involve upper-level students and faculty in projects that address real design issues and engage community members. For instance, in summer 2007, a class of architecture graduate students created prototype bus-stop shelters of laser-cut steel for downtown Sioux City. And in fall 2007, a landscape architecture class studied the effects of the pending Interstate 29 relocation, and ways to re-

establish connections from the Missouri River to downtown Sioux City.

The renovated ISU Design West studio space is located in an 1890s-era steam-boiler plant in Sioux City’s Fourth Street Historic District. The district contains the best concentration of late 19th Century commercial buildings in the city, many notable for the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture popular at the time.

The two-story (one is underground), 7,000-square-



Figure 1. Exterior of the new DesignWest studio, located in an 1890s-era steam-boiler plant. Photo: Carol Faber.

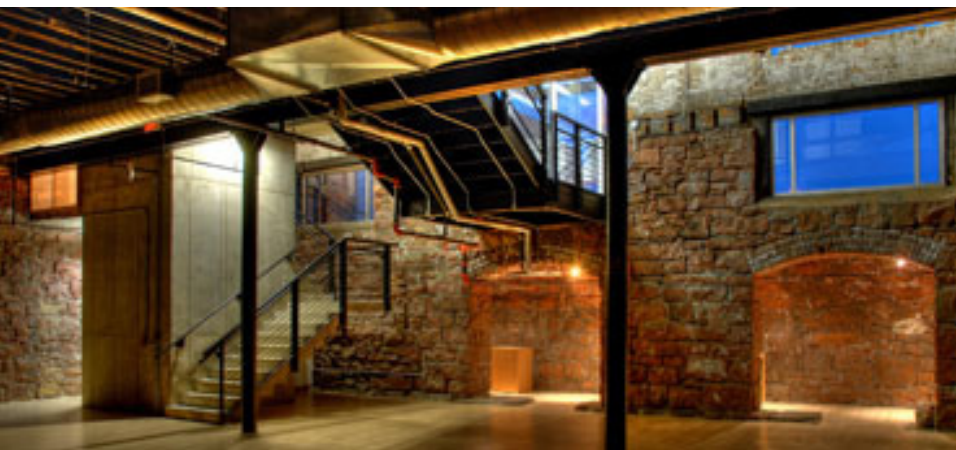


Figure 2. New students will study how the building itself is put together, including the new atrium and cantilevered stairs shown above. Photo: Chad Goosmann

foot building features a 32-foot-tall atrium, cantilevered concrete stairs, and an interior space that integrates the original red quartzite exterior walls with contemporary wood floors and new white walls. Students will not only study in the building, they'll also study how the building itself was put together, its former and current functions, and its urban context. The studio facility also features an exhibit hall in a former steam tunnel beneath the adjacent

alley, with four acrylic glass manhole covers above for viewing passersby.

"ISU Design West will become a place for students to really engage what it is that Iowa, and Sioux City in particular, have to offer the world of design in a very hands-on fashion," Nathan Kalaher of M+ Architects, and the facility's designer, said, "In time we will see the positive impacts of this program throughout the community."

Portions of this article are reprinted with permission from Iowa State University. More information is at <http://www.design.iastate.edu/> ISUDesignWest, or contact Susan Fey, program coordinator, (515) 238-5128, susanfey@iastate.edu.

“It’s hard to be an activist and a graduate student.”

That’s what Dr. Janice Rutherford of the University of Oregon once told me. Learning the business of preservation while balancing the inherent personal nature of practicing preservation can lead to frustration and disappointment just as easily as it can to success and a sense of satisfaction at a job well done. As graduate students, we learn theory and practice in a safe and hypothetical world, where the cases are already solved, or well beyond our ability to fix them. It enables a sense of surety that can be lost once we hit the real world.

In the winter of 2007, I began researching the eligibility of Eugene Civic Stadium to the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1938–39, Civic is a wooden grandstand constructed with labor provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), one of the programs established by Franklin D. Roosevelt to help combat the effects of the Great Depression. Over the

years, Civic has seen baseball, football, soccer and rodeo, hosted graduations and 4th of July Celebrations, and been beloved by the citizens of Eugene, Oregon.

It didn’t take long to see that the stadium was eligible for listing on the National Register, both for its contribution to the entertainment and recreational needs of Lane County as well as for its distinctive architectural type. Wooden grandstands like Civic are classified as first-generation stadiums, many

“It didn’t take long to see that the stadium was eligible for listing on the National Register, both for its contribution to the entertainment and recreational needs of Lane County as well as for its distinctive architectural style.”



Figure 1. Civic Stadium's future might depend more on politics than preservation policy. Photo: Natalie Perrin.

of which have been lost to second- and third-generation stadiums — monuments in steel and concrete, often built with large budgets comprised of tax-payer dollars.

Civic, while in need of minor repairs and a new roof, has been repeatedly found to be in good structural condition. However, the 4J Public School District, which has continuously owned and operated the facility since its construction, declared the site surplus in 2004. This decision ceased any influx of money from 4J to Civic, with 4J unwilling or unable to invest in the continued maintenance of the site.

The primary lessee is a minor league baseball team, the Eugene Emeralds. The

Emeralds have called Civic home since 1969, but the stadium is ill-equipped to conform to the current standards required by Minor League baseball — issues from proper lighting of the field to the standards of the locker rooms. This has generally been the state of affairs for some time, and past newspaper articles have referenced these issues for years.

There was no reason to think the ostrich approach — waiting for the site to decay from neglect — would continue indefinitely. At least, that's what the graduate student mentality I had come to develop said. I believed I would have plenty of time to complete my research with little fanfare and make helpful recommendations that would enable the site to be preserved.

The best laid plans...

Within a few months this small class project consumed all of my free time. The school district, which never argued the site's significance and historic merit, was concerned about how listing would affect their ability to sell — the ultimate goal for a

surplus property. In addition, boundary lines and contributing structures became bones of contention that forced the nomination to be returned from the Keeper in DC, well after the process and due diligence had been conducted on the other side of the country.

The constant hindrances and little issues ultimately led me to extend my research. This was no longer just a nomination, it was now THE project — my terminal project in lieu of a thesis. I decided to look for other examples of stadiums in similar situations, and find financial solutions that would benefit the school district and encourage investments and maintenance of the site, as well as make it more user friendly for the Emeralds. In a few months, I planned to leave 4J and the community at large a history, historic structures report, and preservation plan to guide them towards saving Eugene Civic Stadium.

Unfortunately, things don't often proceed at a manageable pace in real time. The Emeralds were being wooed from Civic to a new facility being constructed by the University of Oregon. With the Emeralds gone, the question of Civic became even



Figure 2. Civic is one of the few “first generation” stadiums left standing in the United States. Photo: Natalie Perrin.

“If there is nobody to play ball at Civic Stadium, can the facility exist without being a financial burden to the community and the 4J School District?”

more complex. If there is nobody to play ball at Civic Stadium, can the facility exist without being a financial burden to the community and the 4J School District?

The more I work on this project, the more questions arise. There is seemingly no end to the complications

of raising needed funds to restore the site, especially when the future of the facility and the role it will play in the community is so uncertain. I continue to write and research for multiple options, not knowing if the Emeralds would stay should the site be modernized, not knowing if the city will consider taking on the responsibility of maintenance and repairs that 4J is so obviously ready to be rid of.

The challenges of preservation in real time are not about historic integrity or

character, but about money and politics. Will the City step up and save Civic Stadium if a viable financial model can be determined? Will 4J? The public? Anyone? It is impossible to say at this time. Nevertheless, my research continues to explore the hope that historic resources can be preserved to continue to serve the needs of the community, whether those are the needs of famous ball players or local kiddie-league teams.

Let's play ball!

*“The challenges of preservation in real time
are not about historic integrity or character,
but about money and politics.”*

Ms. Perrin has presented her research in multiple public venues, including the Vernacular Architecture Forum 2008 conference in Fresno, California, as a way to raise awareness among preservation students and professionals about the need for activism in historic preservation. Please see page 49 for additional information and details regarding her terminal project.

Preservation on the Pacific Rim: International Approaches to Preservation Practice at the University of Oregon

Stephanie Cimino

National governments, public and private research and arts institutions, and organizations such as the United Nations International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) have long supported historic preservation and heritage management on an international scale. However, preservationists in the 21st Century face new challenges and opportunities in a global environment where both tangible and intangible cultural heritage is simultaneously threatened, embraced, and shared across borders at an increasingly rapid rate. It is within this expanding scope of preservation that the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Oregon hosted a seminar developed by program director Kingston Heath entitled, "Conservation Projects and Practices along the Pacific Rim." Professors and graduate students from the University of Oregon Art History Department, Arts Administration and Historic

Preservation programs, as well as visiting professor and preservationist Dr. Dong-Jin Kang of the University of Kyungshung in Korea, addressed preservation and conservation issues facing scholars in the global community, with a specific focus on the Pacific Rim region.

Seminar topics touched on multiple facets of preservation practice, including the politics of reconstruction and demolition, urban regeneration through preservation planning, adaptive reuse efforts, and the study of material culture and intangible heritage as part of the preservation curriculum. These subjects provided a platform for theoretical discussions about cultural relativism and respectful preservation practice across borders, the value of the documentation process, and the place of new media in preservation efforts. Participants also explored the Eastern concept of preserving the cultural "essence" or his-



Figure 1. Shofuso House verandah and garden. Photo: Shofuso.com

torical idea of a place through cultural practice and ritual versus the Western focus on preserving the physical fabric or “authenticity” of a site.

Following is a brief description of each lecture to illustrate the breadth of subjects covered in the seminar:

The Shofuso House and Garden in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, PA, Dr. Mara Miller, UO Art History Department

The Shofuso House and Garden were originally built in 1953 as an exhibit for the Museum of Modern Art in

New York City as a gesture of goodwill from the Japanese after World War II. A fine example of the modular *shoin-zukuri* style and formal Japanese garden landscape, the house was relocated by the museum to Fairmount Park in Philadelphia in 1958. A major preservation concern at the Shofuso House is how to properly manage the contradictions inherent in a recent structure located in the United States that embodies ancient building and maintenance techniques imported from Japan. Examination of the Shofuso House prompted discussions of the harm in isolating resources from their contexts, the importance of documenting the techniques of traditional craftsmen, and the difficulty of integrating preservation standards across cultures.

Busan, a Tale of Four Memories and Traces and Revitalization of Gwangbok Street and Namseon Warehouse, Busan, Korea, Dr. Dong-Jin Kang, University of Kyungshung, Korea

Dr. Dong-Jin Kang presented two lectures discussing

preservation, perception, and regeneration in the city of Busan on the southern tip of South Korea. Busan, one of the largest port cities in the world, has struggled with war and occupation by its neighbors Japan and China over the last 200 years. Now that the city is at peace, Dr. Kang worries that the historical and cultural value of the port and military history formed by this period will be lost to current redevelopment efforts. Some of Dr. Kang's recent projects addressing this issue include a publically juried competition for redevelopment of a major historic thoroughfare, the adaptive reuse of an historic warehouse complex on the Busan waterfront, and general approaches to the holistic preservation of an urban industrial landscape. One of Dr. Kang's largest challenges

is inspiring and explaining to the citizens of the city why they should care about saving their vernacular structures and landscapes.

ChinaVine.org: An International Cross-University Partnership Supporting China's Intangible Cultural Heritage,
Dr. Doug Blandy, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Chair of the UO Arts Administration Program

Dr. Doug Blandy's lecture focused on an ongoing inter-university project that partners educational institutions across borders and disciplines to bring knowledge of China's intangible culture to the English speaking world. The lecture covered both the logistics of such a partnership, as well as the

"Preservationists in the 21st Century face new challenges and opportunities in a global environment where both tangible and intangible cultural heritage is simultaneously threatened, embraced, and shared across borders at an increasingly rapid rate."

way perceptions of intangible cultural heritage can vary across cultures. The outcome of the project is the interactive website, www.ChinaVine.org, which uses video, photographs, and text to describe some of the rural traditions in China's northern Shandong province. Some major challenges of this project include integrating the varying definitions of folk art as defined by the participating institutions in the United States and China, and confronting resistance in the cross-cultural interactions from the Chinese people whose lifeways the researchers are documenting.

The Struggle of a Developing Nation: Preservation Challenges and Opportunities in Modern-Day China,
Andrea Blazer, Graduate Student, UO Historic Preservation Program

Andrea Blazer discussed the challenges and opportunities for historic preservation in relation to the rapid development occurring in Beijing in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games. According to Ms. Blazer, the main obstacles to successful preservation efforts include a stringent political system and sudden economic development. Land values have risen astronomically, displacing communities from the historic city center in favor of new developments in a generic "Chinese" style. Media blackouts and government ownership of most historic properties often preclude grassroots organizational efforts. Preservation opportunities include the immense public exposure that will be brought to China during the Olympic Games, and the influence of the sustainable development provisions in the International Olympic Committee charter.



Figure 2. Lang Xiu Cai, dough flower maker, Lang Village, Shandong Province, China.
Photo: Kristin G. Congdon and Doug Blandly.

This has prompted Chinese government officials to begin to meet international standards for certain environmental issues, including preservation. Again, one of the most challenging aspects of preservation appears to be arriving at a common definition of “heritage” across cultures. In China, the meanings of traditions and their expression do not necessarily agree with Western definitions.

Reconstructing the Traditional Maori Church at Manutuke, New Zealand through “Photographic” Archaeology, Dr. Richard Sundt, UO Art History Department

Dr. Richard Sundt presented an ongoing project that uses careful study of historic photographs to reconstruct a Maori church in the town of Manutuke in the Gisborn Region on the North Island of New Zealand. The church went through a series of constructions under the colonial auspices of the British, and included carvings called *manaia* by the 19th Century Maori master carver, Rukupo and his assistants. Professor



Figure 3. Circa 1930 photograph of *manaia* panels in historic Maori church. Photo courtesy of Dr. Richard Sundt.

Sundt discussed the difficulties of using photographs to inform reconstruction,

*“One of the most
challenging aspects of pres-
ervation appears to be
arriving at a common
definition of
“heritage” across cultures.”*

such as incomplete coverage, problems defining scale, and issues of authentication. Perhaps most interesting, research on the church also told a story of subtle defiance exercised through art and architecture. Professor Sundt identified a sub-type of carving with a stem motif running up the center of the carving that served as an axis around which seemingly abstract images reflected each other to create anthropomorphic figures banned by the church. Thus, the Maori sculptors retained the cultural meanings of space and symbolism associated with their traditional meeting houses in the new colonial space of the church.

As illustrated above, preservation concerns have expanded to include multiple

resource types, locations, and stakeholders across a variety of disciplines, regions, and even continents. Despite the variety of topics covered, a similar current ran through every lecture: Preservation can mean very different things in different cultures, and future preservation scholars must be sensitive, creative, and open to the many possibilities for preservation on a global scale.

The Historic Preservation Program hopes to continue expanding its international focus with similar classes in the future.

The 2007 Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School

Abby Glanville

Each year, the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School offers students, professionals in the field, and preservation enthusiasts the opportunity to step into the past and become acquainted with historically rich structures throughout the Pacific Northwest by engaging in hands-on preservation projects. In 2007, the 13th annual field school was held at Heyburn State Park near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Each week of the six-week field school focused on a different aspect of preservation relative to a primitive kitchen shelter built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937 on the edge of Lake Chatcolet. This project was a collaborative effort with Heyburn State Park staff, and contributed to preparations for the 100th anniversary celebration of the park to be held in 2008.

Created in 1908, Heyburn State Park is the oldest state park in the Pacific Northwest. The nearly 8,000 acre park surrounds and includes Lake Chatcolet, a shallow body of water formed by the banks of the St. Joe River where it connects with

the southern end of Lake Coeur d'Alene. Many of the structures, campgrounds, and roads within Heyburn State Park were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid 1930s and now comprise three historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Active from 1933-1941, the CCC was a government program initiated by the Roosevelt administration that provided work for unemployed men as a response to the economic effects of the Great Depression. In the Pacific Northwest, CCC projects encompassed forest fire protection, maintenance,



Figure 1. Tim Askin, an incoming historic preservation graduate student, repairing the central triple cook stove in the kitchen shelter. Photo: Abby Glanville.

transportation improvement projects, and the construction of recreational facilities. In addition to campgrounds and roads at Heyburn State Park, the CCC constructed restroom facilities, picnic shelters, a kitchen shelter, the park superintendent's house, and a main lodge using local woods and stone to create a rustic style that blended with the natural surroundings. Work at the 2007 field school focused on

repair of the kitchen shelter. Participants were housed in the main lodge overlooking Lake Chatcolet.

Located in a clearing adjacent to Lake Chatcolet, the cruciform shaped kitchen shelter is constructed of groups of vertical, peeled logs resting on uncoursed stone half-walls. An intersecting gable roof clad in a double layer of cedar shakes covers the structure. Entrances to the shelter are framed by peeled log columns; window openings are surrounded by vertical logs placed on the stone half-walls. The exposed interior roof highlights the structural system comprised of log scissor-trusses and purlins. A massive stone fireplace with a segmental arched opening and heavy log mantel dominates the northeastern end of the shelter. Three large stone cook stoves sharing a central stone chimney and connected in a "T" shape configuration occupy the southwestern end of the shelter. The fully functioning fireplace and the cook stoves are two of the features that have made the kitchen shelter a popular location for recreational gatherings since its construction in 1937.



Figure 2. A view of the log scissor-trussed structural system and the massive stone fireplace with its segmental arched opening and heavy log mantel located on the northeastern end of the shelter. Photo: Abby Glanville.

“The field school provided many participants with their first exposure to the hands-on practice of preservation, as well as an excellent opportunity to learn about architecture and historic building materials used in the Pacific Northwest.”

Field School faculty included Donald Peting, Field School Director and Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the University of Oregon; John Platz, restoration carpenter and owner of Pilgrim’s Progress Preservation Services; Mike Hayden, expert stone mason; and Fred Walters, historical architect and former Adjunct Professor for Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon. Projects of the field school varied by week and focused on topics such as archeology and building evaluation, cultural landscapes, log and masonry construction, and maintenance of historic park structures. Lectures and fieldtrips were also arranged to compliment the weekly project focus.

Many of the incoming graduate students in Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon attended the fifth week of the 2007 field school. Projects for that week focused

on the repair of masonry and log components of the shelter. Students learned the process of removing and installing wood shakes and replacing the entire roof in kind. Students also learned how to inspect wood members for structural deficiency, and how to replace entire purlins and portions of rafter tails. Throughout this process, John Platz demonstrated the safe use and maintenance of carpentry tools, as well as techniques for peeling and shaping logs. Mike Hayden instructed students in brick construction and mortar application so that they could replace the disintegrating firebrick in the cook stoves and fireplace. He also explained repointing techniques, including the chemistry of mixing mortar, and the careful removal and replacement of mortar and stone in the half-walls and cook stoves. Other demonstrations included Fred Walters’ lesson on shaping stone using

several types of mallets and chisels, and a lesson on splitting large pieces of granite using metal wedges.

After a long day's work, students retired to the lodge for evening lectures. Topics during the fifth week included *Northwest Architecture*, presented by Leland Roth, *Regional Mining and Geology*, by Earl Bennett, *Masonry Fundamentals*, by Fred Walters, *Idaho State Historic Preservation Office Initiatives and Section 106 Review*, by Suzi Nietzel, and *National Register Initiatives*, by Lauren McCroskey. Participants also took fieldtrips during the week to supplement the hands-on preservation projects. One such fieldtrip was to Spokane, Washington to meet with Ron and Julie Wells, co-owners of Wells and Company, a real estate and design firm responsible for building rehabilitation projects which have contributed to the revitalization of downtown Spokane. Students also visited the Cataldo Mission east of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Built from 1848-1853, the mission church is the oldest structure in Idaho and was designed by native Italian Fr. Ravalli to be reminiscent of the elegant

churches of his homeland.

Attendance at a week-long session of the field school provided many participants with their first exposure to the hands-on practice of preservation, as well as an excellent opportunity to learn about architecture and historic building materials used in the Pacific Northwest. It also provided the opportunity to interact with several experts in the field of preservation, and to see the result of preservation and rehabilitation in practice. Whether a student, professional in the field, or preservation enthusiast, the 2007 field school fostered in its participants a sense of excitement for historic preservation, an appreciation for the significant impact the Civilian Conservation Corps had in the Pacific Northwest, and an understanding of the many disciplines which contribute to the field of Historic Preservation.

Where Are They Now? A Look at Recent UO Historic Preservation Graduates

A. Gregoor Passchier

KATHLEEN MERTZ (M.S. '07) HISTORIC PRESERVATION, NON- PROFIT CERTIFICATE

Kathleen Mertz is currently working for Christian Church Homes of Northern California, a non-profit housing developer and property management company in Oakland, California. She began her position as a Development Project Manager in October 2007, and is responsible for managing the construction of housing projects for very low-income seniors. Her position combines the real estate and non-profit development skills she learned at the University of Oregon with her social service ethos of providing low-income housing to people in need. When asked which UO classes she found most beneficial to her professional development, she credited the Legal Issues and Economics classes for teaching her the legal and financial aspects of rehabilitation. In addition, one of the lessons she took away from her graduate

school experience was the importance of value-oriented real estate development: that social and community values must be considered in any real estate development project, not just the bottom line.

Kathleen's words of advice to current and future historic preservation students:



Figure 1. UO Graduate Kathleen Mertz is the Development Project Manager for Christian Church Homes of Northern California. Photo courtesy of Kathleen Mertz.

“Be flexible and cast a wide net. You never know when life’s journey will present you with a new door to opportunity.”

-Kathleen Mertz



Figure 2. Sarah Lisle’s position aligns closely with her graduate school interests in heritage education and interpretation. Photo courtesy of Sarah Lisle .

“Be flexible and cast a wide net. You never know when life’s journey will present you with a new door to opportunity.”

**SARAH LISLE
(M.S. '07) HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Sarah Lisle currently works as an Interpretive Planner for Texas Parks and Wildlife in Austin, Texas. She began her position in September 2007 and is responsible for planning interpretive exhibits for Texas parks. This involves conducting research, establishing exhibit themes, writing interpretive text, serving as a project manager, collaborating with park staff, and coordinating design and fabrication of exhibits. Two of the projects she is working on are developing an online exhibit about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and developing an iPod tour for a state natural area. Sarah’s position aligns closely with her graduate school interests in heritage education and interpretation, and she credits working with a variety of people with different backgrounds and philosophies as a UO student as one of her

most valuable graduate school experiences. In addition, Sarah notes that the Historic Preservation Program's flexible curriculum allowed her to explore a variety of subjects to understand what she wanted to do after graduation.

Sarah's words of advice to current and future historic preservation students: "Tailor your thesis or terminal project to what career path you'd like to take. The HP program is very broad and it's up to you to focus your experience for your career goals."

**HEIDI GRANKE
(M.S. '07) HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Heidi Granke is currently employed as an Architect for the Architectural Resources Group (ARG) in San Francisco, CA. Heidi's responsibilities vary significantly, and include conducting condition assessments, doing historic research, managing projects, drawing and designing, reviewing building codes, and traveling to sites throughout the west coast. Since she started working with ARG in September 2007, Heidi has completed a non-historic architecture project



Figure 3. Heidi Granke, an architect with an MS in historic preservation from UO, has joined Architectural Resources Group in San Francisco. Photo courtesy of Heidi Granke.

*Heidi credits the UO
Historic Preservation
program with giving her a
strong understanding of the
preservation field to com-
plement her architectural
background.*

in Tacoma, WA; a Historical Resources Report for the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, OR; a portion of an Environmental Impact Report for the Miraflores Residential Development in Richmond, CA; and is working on the first phase of a restoration and adaptive reuse of the Pasadena Playhouse. Upon graduation from the UO Historic Preservation Program, Heidi's main goal was to find a job with an architecture firm that specialized in historic preservation. She feels that ARG fits

her career goals and provides her with valuable professional development opportunities. Heidi credits the UO Historic Preservation program with giving her a strong understanding of the preservation field to complement her architectural background.

Heidi's words of advice to current and future graduate students: "Know what you want and be patient in looking for it. I found that my job options actually narrowed after grad school, because of my new specialization... Your degree in Historic Preservation is just the basics to get you started. Always look for opportunities to continue to learn and grow professionally."

SUSAN JOHNSON (M.S. '08) HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Susan Johnson is currently employed as a consultant for Artifacts Consulting, Inc, a historic preservation firm located in Tacoma, WA. Susan began her position in December 2007 and is working on a historic theater survey for the State of Washington. Her primary responsibilities include: compiling a list of the-



Figure 4. Susan Johnson found that her UO classes in architectural history and historic materials were useful in her work for Artifacts Consulting. Photo courtesy of Susan Johnson.

aters to be surveyed; visiting, mapping, and photographing historic theaters in the State of Washington; researching each theater's history; writing the survey; and analyzing information about each building. Susan credits the American Architecture series and historic materials classes as being the most relevant to her professional development. These courses are beneficial because the survey she is completing not only addresses the history of the buildings, but also the structural needs and repairs that need to be completed for their continued preservation. Although she has only been there a little while, Susan enjoys living in Tacoma where preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings is taking place on a daily basis.

Her words of advice on

finding employment in preservation: "Don't just look at job postings—network and approach firms you are interested in and find out how you can be a part of their work. Also, know your strengths and your goals to help focus in on your best job options."

**JENNIFER FLATHMAN
(M.S. '07) HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Jennifer Flathman is currently working for ENTRIX, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Seattle, WA. As an Architectural Historian/Cultural Resources Specialist, Jennifer performs surveys of cultural resources, assists government agencies with Section 106 compliance, and writes nominations to local and national registers. Her work

"Don't just look at job postings—network and approach firms you are interested in and find out how you can be a part of their work. Also, know your strengths and your goals to help focus in on your best job options."

-Susan Johnson



Figure 5. As an architectural historian and cultural resources specialist, Jennifer Flathman advises incoming UO students to use internships and fellowships for professional development. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Flathman.

involves surveying a broad variety of cultural resources, from chicken houses to industrial complexes to hydroelectric powerhouses and dams, and she enjoys working with an excellent cultural resources team that includes UO Historic Preservation graduate alumni and adjunct faculty. Jennifer credits her internship for the City of Eugene’s Historic Preservation program and her position as the John Yeon Graduate Research Fellow as significant experiences that enhanced her professional development as a Historic Preservation

graduate student. In addition, national and local register nominations she completed as a UO graduate student provided her with professional quality projects she could use as examples of her work when seeking employment.

Jennifer’s advice to current and future Historic Preservation students: “Make the most of the internship program and other opportunities to do professional work or participate in professional quality projects—even unpaid. Seek out UO contacts whether through alums or contacts that professors might have. But enjoy being in school and the opportunities to research and explore your interests in preservation.”

“Make the most of the internship program and other opportunities to do professional work or participate in professional quality projects—even unpaid.”

-Jennifer Flathman

Class of 2008 Terminal Projects, University of Oregon Historic Preservation Program

Compiled by Heather Scotten

Shawn Lingo is currently working on a terminal project preparing a historic structure report for the submarine mine casemate at Fort Columbia State Park in Washington. This military fortification, built between the two world wars, is an important example of massive concrete fortification construction. The structure is almost entirely subterranean and presents a number of interesting problems regarding preservation treatment. Although these mine structures are less studied than more visible fortifications, they were the crux of the defense systems of their day. In addition to condition assessment and preservation directives, Shawn will prepare a thorough historic context statement for the structure, address the hermeneutics of such tangible but inaccessible cultural resources, and include numerous appendices covering photo-documentation, historic maps, and construction drawings. The casemate

has been selected as a preservation project in anticipation of the Washington State Parks centennial in 2013. This project will be of use in that effort and will have interest for international scholars of fortification preservation.

Laura Nowlin is currently working toward the completion of a terminal project focusing on the process of historic preservation in deep rural places. As the field of preservation has turned more attention to the less populated areas of the country, many practitioners have realized that traditional techniques for preservation are not as effective in rural places. This terminal project uses the Historic Resources Study format, which includes a history and discussion of historic resources and of preservation management strategies for deep rural preservation in the community of Petroleum County, Montana. Laura feels that by working in rural areas, she

can demonstrate how historic preservation can be used for the development of rural towns and communities. She also hopes to discover and adapt a variety of preservation techniques for use in rural places.

Natalie Perrin is currently working to complete her terminal project on Eugene Civic Stadium, a 1938-39 wooden grandstand built in conjunction with the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The facility has been continuously owned and operated by the 4J Public School District, and has acted as a municipal athletic facility hosting baseball, football, soccer, graduations, 4th of July celebrations and even rodeos in its 70-year history. Concern for the future of the site began to escalate when the current lessees, the Eugene Emeralds, a professional minor league baseball team, began discussions with the University of Oregon regarding relocating to the new UO baseball facility, scheduled for completion in 2009. Natalie's terminal project will include a history and historic structures review focusing on life safety concerns. In addition,

she will include a preservation plan proposing potential restoration ideas to ensure the enjoyment of the site for future generations. While Natalie hopes her work will entice the Emeralds to stay and play at Civic, her terminal project will also address how the site could continue to be utilized should the Emeralds relocate. Listening to concerns and working with the 4J district as well as local grass roots organizations to save Civic Stadium has been educational and informative for her future career in preservation.



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
AND ALLIED ARTS

University of Oregon