

Center for Historic Preservation  
1301 College Ave  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

# UMW HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

**Welcome to Professor Henry/2-3**

**Feature Story:**

**Anne Darron and Scott Harris/4-5**

**Campus Buildings: New and Old/6**

**The Column/7**

**Internship Stories:**

**Sarah Rogers/ 8-9**

**Courtney Kuzemchak/10-11**

**Sam Biggers and Mary Fesak/11-12**

Dear Readers,

We welcome you to our Fall 2015 Newsletter!  
As of 2012, the newsletter has gone digital. This new format will allow us to put out newsletters more regularly. If you would like to receive a digital copy of the newsletter, go to

**[cas.umw.edu/hisp/](http://cas.umw.edu/hisp/)>About>Newsletter**

and fill out the form.

Thank you for reading!

-The Department of Historic Preservation

# **Congratulations and Welcome Professor Christine Henry**

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Photo of Professor Christine Henry

As a new semester and school year begins at the University of Mary Washington, a new professor has arrived to the preservation suite. After saying our goodbyes to Professor Stanton in the spring, Professor Henry has joined the ranks of the Department of Historic Preservation.

Professor Henry spent her undergraduate years at The College of William and Mary where she received a bachelors in art history with a minor in geology. Following her undergraduate degree she attended Catholic University. . After graduating with a masters degree in architecture, she worked for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that gives grants to museums and libraries. There she worked closely with conservators as well as other important museum personnel, where she eventually became the Federal Preservation Officer. During her last four years with the Institute, she decided to return to school part-time to get her masters of historic preservation at the University of Maryland. Once completed, she returned full-time to pursue her PhD in Urban Planning. As she teaches at UMW she is finishing up her degree, “teaching during the week and writing her dissertation on the weekend”. Working here at UMW fulfills a goal she has had since William and Mary of teaching at a university. She has gained worldly experiences of her own and looks forward to bringing them into the classroom where she can share those experiences with her students.

As a professor here Henry's goal is to make sure that students, whether majors or non-majors, realize that preservation affects everyone. She wants her students to be able to look around their environment and figure out how preservation affects them. She is particularly excited to see students making their own connections and pursuing their own questions. The excitement of the students relating their own ideas and making sense of everything around them is what has Professor Henry right in the middle of her dream job.

We, here at the Department of Historic Preservation, are glad to have her as part of our team and cannot wait to see her excitement and love for this major that we all share.

-Laura Gilchrist '17

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### **Important Dates:**

Be sure to mark your calendars for up and coming events and lectures!

#### **Wednesday November 11, 5:30pm, Combs Hall RM 139:**

**PresTech: Scott Diaz Capturing Reality: Cutting Edge Technology for Architecture and Heritage Documentation**— Come explore the scientific and technological innovations that are helping to interpret and conserve our cultural history through the use of laser scanning.

#### **Sunday December 6, 4:30-7pm:**

**Mary Washington House Candlelight Tour and Open House**— Enjoy a tour of Mrs. Washington's house by candlelight. Visit [washingtonheritagemuseums.org](http://washingtonheritagemuseums.org) for more information or check out Mary Washington House on Facebook.

#### **Saturday December 12– Sunday December 13:**

**HFFI Candlelight Tour**— Enjoy the opportunity to see some of Fredericksburg's finest homes on a once a year tour presented by the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation. Visit [historicfredericksburgfoundation.org](http://historicfredericksburgfoundation.org) for more information.

#### **Wednesday January 27, 5:30pm, Combs Hall RM 237:**

**PresTech: Dr. Susan Buck Under the Surface: Paint Analysis for Fine Arts and Architectural Materials**— . Understand more about how innovative scientific analysis is being used to better understand the color patterns used throughout history.

# Laying a Foundation for Preservation

## Meet Anne Darron:

- A 1983 graduate, Anne is one of the first graduates of the Historic Preservation Department
- Anne was the founding treasurer of the Historic Preservation Club
- She is Executive Director of the Washington Heritage Museums in Fredericksburg, VA



We can all remember the bewildering first months of being a college student. The moments of confusion, nervousness, and excitement for a new experience overwhelmed our senses. Add being a part of a brand new major into the mix and a first year experience can be a scary thought, but not for alumni Anne Rivello Darron and Scott Harris.

As 1983 graduates of the Historic Preservation Department, Anne and Scott were two of the first students to complete the major having gone through all four years, laying the foundation for the department today.

The Department of Historic Preservation has grown since Anne and Scott's first year at Mary Washington College. "The department has found today what it was searching for during my time. When the core faculty came on board it really started to build the culture of the major. It went from being a program within the Department of History to being its own department, and it helped spawn the museum studies program," says, Scott Harris. "The faculty has been essential in developing the major into what it is today, and they are the reason the department has made a name for itself within the university and externally."

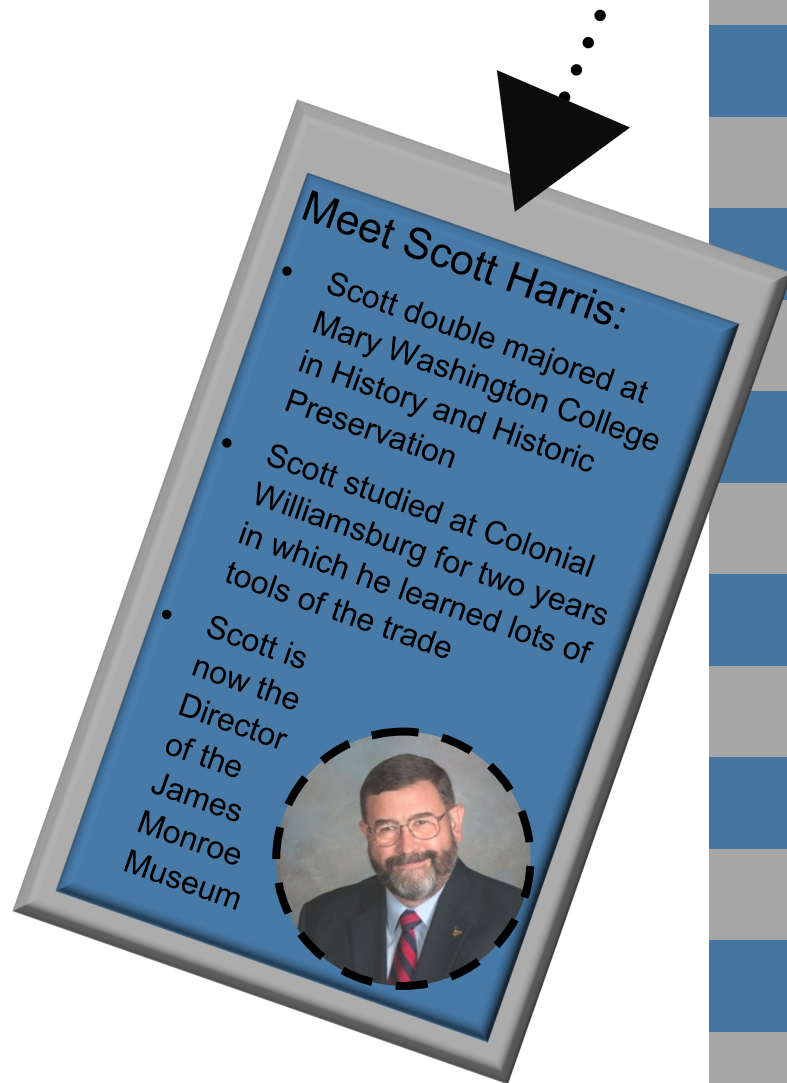
Created in 1979, this department was one of the first of its kind; historic preservation at the undergraduate level was almost unheard of. With a growing in interest preservation, by students like Anne and Scott, the undergraduate major has become an established success. Little did they know that later in life they would be returning to Fredericksburg and working back in the town that started it all.

Anne Darron now works as the Executive Director for the Washington Heritage Museums in downtown Fredericksburg, and she is living her dream job. “UMW prepared me in every way, but especially in being a member of a community and in organizations where you depend on volunteers. It’s very important to know how to communicate well.” Washington Heritage Museums oversees four local historic homes in downtown Fredericksburg, including the Mary Washington House, the Rising Sun Tavern, the St. James House and the Hugh Mercer Apothecary. Anne actually interned at the Mary Washington House during her time at Mary Washington College, and had no idea that she would end up back where she started but this time as the Executive Director.

Scott Harris, who is now the Director of the James Monroe Museum, looks back at his time as an undergraduate and is glad that he returned to the place where his career started. “It helps knowing the culture, history, and peers and faculty that are still here,” he says. Having gone through the experience himself, he is glad that he can now be on the other end and help give students opportunities and tools to use as they go out into the world, “The more we can

Both Anne and Scott are testaments to the success of this department, and as it grows they now aid in the education and the hands-on approach of the major today. Both Anne and Scott are excited with how the department is doing and agree that, being a part of what made the department what it is today, has been a joy. These 1983 alumni encourage today’s students to realize that they, too, are now part of something much larger than themselves- an historic preservation program of which they will be proud to be graduates.

-Laura Gilchrist ‘17



*Campus Buildings: New and Old* is a new series that is being started that will provide a short history of a different campus building each semester. Keep on the look out for your favorite building in the coming semesters!

# CAMPUS BUILDINGS: NEW AND OLD

## VIRGINIA HALL: 1914-PRESENT

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Virginia Hall, originally referred to as Dormitory No. 2, was the third building to be constructed on the Mary Washington campus. Charles M. Robinson, the architect, sited Virginia Hall to complete an enclosed “lawn” space in between: Virginia Hall, Monroe Hall, and Willard Hall. While part of the original campus plan, construction on Virginia Hall did not begin until 1914, three years after the opening of the school. With a growing number of students each year and only two structures on the campus, it was clear that a third was desperately needed. Robinson’s design closely resembled that of Willard Hall, the structure was planned to be built in three units, not only due to funding but also the realization of future growth and space requirements. The first unit of the building was completed in time for the 1915-16 school year

Virginia Hall was placed on a north-south axis allowing for the optimum amount of natural light conducive for a good learning environment. The location and orientation of the building also aided in the ventilation of the building. By design, the site received a constant breeze from the north and west for natural air ventilation which was deemed healthier and could be conducted through passive systems.

The first unit of Virginia Hall was to house two floors of residential rooms for students as well as the office of the President, his secretary’s office, the business office, and space for three parlors. In addition the infirmary, located in Willard Hall, would be moved to Virginia adjacent to the matron’s suite.

This structure was very similar, aesthetically, to Willard Hall in which Robinson had designed the initial buildings using Collegiate or Jefferson Collegiate Classicism. The key feature of this design was the application of classical orders. This can be seen with the Greek Ionic columns that are used on the “lawn side” of Virginia Hall which contrasts the high order Corinthian columns on Monroe Hall.

In 1921, six years after the completion of the first unit, President Chandler reiterated the need for additional space and requested the construction of the second unit of Virginia Hall. The second unit was approved, and construction was completed in September of 1923. Following the second, the third and final unit was added in March of 1935.

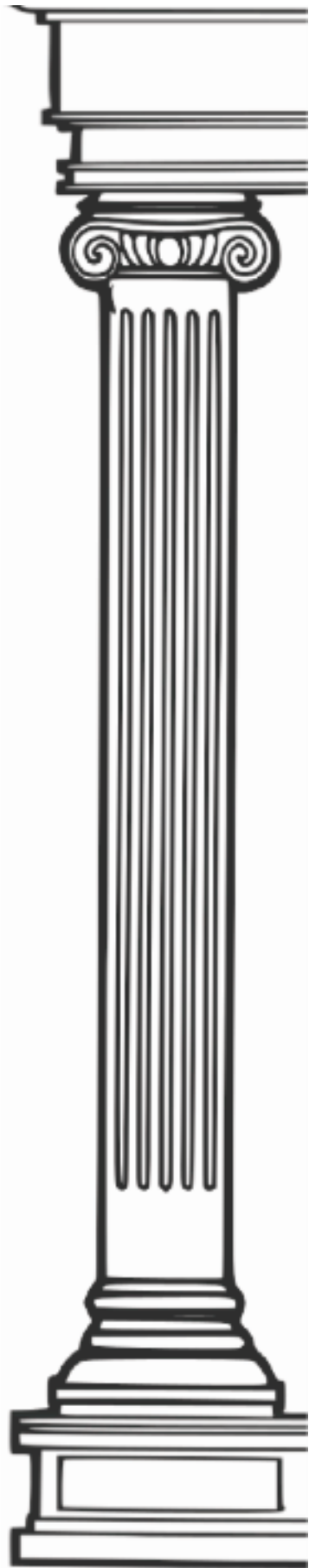
Virginia Hall was an all-female dormitory after the school became co-ed in the early 1970s and remained this way until this Fall, when, for the first time in its history, the dormitory became co-ed. Virginia Hall continues to serve as a residential hall today, housing first year students.

-Laura Gilchrist ‘17



Virginia Hall, Ball Circle Side; 2015; Laura Gilchrist





# THE COLUMN

The Historic Preservation Club is off to a great start for the 2015-2016 school year. The other officers and I are very excited and have a lot planned for the year. One of our main goals this year is to be more involved in local preservation and hands-on activities, as well as to welcome all preservation-minded students into our group.

We had our first club meeting Tuesday, September 1st and had about 30 people in attendance – we really hope this level of engagement continues throughout the year. Our first club event was September 12th – where we volunteered at the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation's Route 1 event. The next weekend, during UMW Family Weekend, we co-sponsored Civil War walking tours with the Reenactor's Club. On September 20th, we went to Ferry Farm for a short day trip. On October 17th, we visited Agecroft, Shirley Plantation, and Maymont. Recently we just presented our 31st-annual Ghostwalk. Last year, we had a record number of attendees and numbers look good this year as well! We've also planned a social event in November for club bonding. The Club is also planning another day trip on November 21st to DC. We're looking forward to a busy semester!

-Sarah Rogers, *President*



Courtney K., Sam B., Sarah R., and Lindsey C. enjoying ice cream at the Department's ice cream social.

# Student Summer Stories

Sarah Rogers is a junior from Greenville, NC. She is a Historic Preservation and Geography double major that is also in the Honors Program. Sarah is also the President of the Historic Preservation Club and plans to graduate in May 2017.

This summer, Sarah had two month-long internships. The first was with the Eastern Branch of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) where she was supervised by Preservation Specialist and Branch Manager, Scott Power, but also worked closely with Restoration Specialists, Jon Wood and Reid Thomas. She helped the SHPO

conduct a survey in Camden County, NC and also went out with the team on field visits to historic sites across Eastern NC. The field visits with the Restoration Specialists were very educational, as she got to see the importance of tax credits (or lack thereof, like in the case of NC) in financing preservation projects. These field visits also showed her the practical side of preservation – what conservation-related issues historic property owners face regularly and how to solve them. Her favorite moment of the internship was when she got to crawl under a 1820s church in Beaufort, NC to see how the building had evolved since it was built. She found a leaky condensation pipe from the air conditioner that was affecting the wooden joists of the oldest section of the building.

The second half of the summer, she worked at The Menokin Foundation in Warsaw, VA, as one of three Preservation Architecture Interns, supervised by the design team working on the Glass House Project. Menokin, where the Glass House Project is located, is the ruin of Francis Lightfoot Lee's house, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. The internship coordinators were Alice French, the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the Menokin Foundation and Nakita Reed, AIA (American Institute of Architects), President of Encore Sustainable Design.

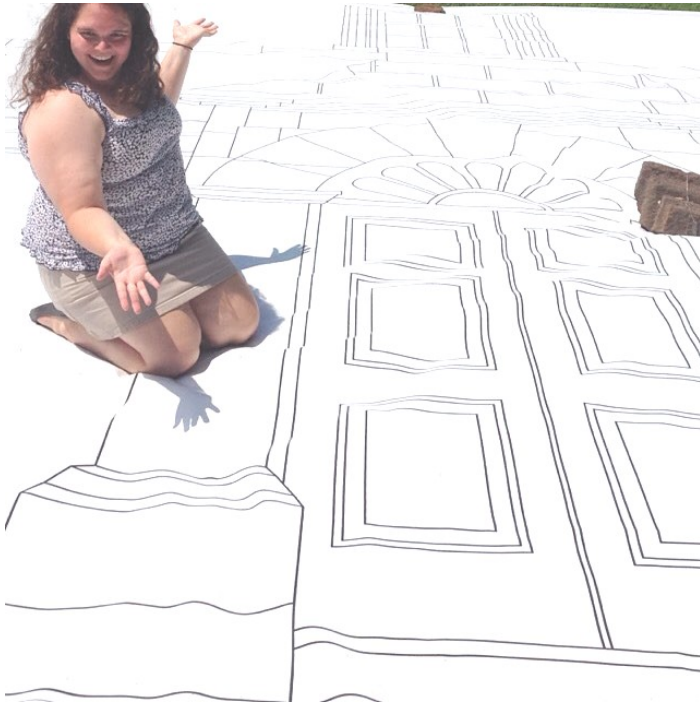
Encore Sustainable Design are the local preservation architects on the Glass House Design Team. At Menokin, Sarah and the other interns were tasked with locating and moving useful, cut stones from a gravel yard that were removed from the house site via archaeology. The goal was to place as many stones as possible on full-size mesh canvases of 1940s HABS (Historical American Building Survey) drawings of the house before the collapse, which occurred in the 1960s.



Sarah (Right) and her fellow interns at Menokin; 2015



The process took 3 weeks before finishing and included a number of steps. First the interns had to walk through the pallets to identify cut stones, their locations, and record the unique catalog number of the stone. Water tables, quoins, and window pieces were the most important. Ashlar stones were also identified but were not moved to the canvases. Then, they had to look up the catalog number in the archaeologist's database to find out what area of the site the stone was recovered from, to determine



Sarah and an elevation canvas at Menokin; 2015

what elevation the stone had originally been placed in. Following this, the interns had to flag the individual stones that corresponded to an elevation. Finally, they moved the stones from the pallets to the identified canvas (one canvas per elevation) with help from a forklift.

Sarah learned a lot about the inner-workings of a small nonprofit, as well the importance of continuity of information when a project has a long timetable. This internship consisted of long, hot days, lots of bug bites, and a lot of trial and error but in the end, it was very rewarding to see the 258 stones that Sarah and the other interns had identified and placed correctly on the canvases. Her favorite moment of the internship was the day that the interns got their own hard

hats to be able to enter the interior of the ruin, as it was a hard hat zone. She still keeps in contact with the staff at the Menokin Foundation and the UMW Historic Preservation Club is planning to visit the site during the spring semester.

Sarah thoroughly enjoyed both of her internships this summer and is so very grateful for the experience, and education they gave her. The work she did this summer solidified her interest in architectural conservation, and she got to see two different sides of the field this summer.

-Sarah Rogers '17



**BE SURE TO CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

Twitter: @umwhisp



Facebook: Department of Historic Preservation at Mary Washington

# Student Summer Stories

My name is Courtney Kuzemchak and I am currently a junior at Mary Washington. I am double majoring in Historic Preservation and Art History, with a minor in Museum Studies. This summer, I interned with the National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC). The museum offers internship positions in different areas of the museum at Quantico, as well as various curatorial departments. Because of my musical background, I was selected to work with the “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band collection; the collection is housed in the Band Library, located the Marine Barracks in Washington D.C. I worked directly with the Marine Band’s Chief Library Master Gunnery Sergeant Jane Cross, as well as the entire Marine Band Library staff.

At my internship, I did it all. With every object, I researched it and its previous owner (if known), photographed it, and compiled all of its information into an acquisition form. Most of the objects I was



Courtney Kuzemchak and the Special Full Dress

working with were found in the Marine Band’s collection during an extensive inventory process. The collection included a vast array of items, from Marine Band uniforms to musical instruments to even a gold razor. Very few had documentation associated with them and so it was assumed that they had never been formally accessioned into the museum. It was my job to start from scratch with each object and create forms that could then be presented to the NMMC’s Collections Committee. The committee was gracious enough to let me present over thirty of the forms I completed at meetings throughout the summer. Along with the work I did for the forms, I also rehoused numerous artifacts and solved a few of the artifact mysteries that had arisen over the years.

In total, I catalogued over two hundred items; a couple of which will stay with me forever. While working on a group of uniforms belonging to a former Marine Band member, Master Sergeant Audrey Cupples, I discovered that her family is from the same small town in Western Pennsylvania that I call home. The moment was made even more special when Audrey made a surprise visit and I had the chance to talk with her about our connection and the work I was doing with her uniforms. By and large, though, my favorite object from this summer was a red Marine Band uniform coat that dates to 1904. When I came across the coat, it was incorrectly identified in the records and was not given much attention because of its odd appearance. Something about the coat struck me and I kept going back to it until the day I discovered its unique history; the coat was a Special Full Dress Coat issued to the Marine Band in 1904, making it the very first Special Full coat ever issued to the unit. My favorite part about my internship was working with these objects and being able to discover their rich histories.

# Student Summer Stories

I also loved being able to work with librarians and the staff at the NMMC, and the opportunity to dive right into the professional museum world as an intern. I have always had a passion for museums, and I chose Mary Washington because of the Historic Preservation department. I knew the education I would receive here would give me the tools to succeed in the museum field, as well as open my eyes to other forms of preservation. Going into my internship with the research skills I learned from classes like Documentation and Field Work gave me a solid starting place while working on the acquisition forms. A few of the topics and field trips from Introduction to Museum Studies gave me ideas on better ways to deal with the artifacts so they will withstand the test of time. Overall, I have called this internship my “dream internship” and that phrase could not be more true. I had the time of my life this summer, and I am so appreciative for all of those who helped me make it happen, from my wonderful professors to the all of the lovely people at the NMMC.



Courtney holding artifacts on the job; 2015

-Courtney Kuzemchak '17

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This summer, we were hired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to document and undertake an investigation into how the vestibule of President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington D.C may have appeared during Lincoln's occupancy. We discovered Pockets in the brickwork under the stairs showed the location of the original floor joists, revealing that the landing was approximately 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches lower than the current landing. We also found pieces of the original baseboard under the stairs. These pieces matched the baseboard on the house's main staircase, allowing us to use measurements from the main staircase in conjunction with marks left by the baseboard in the vestibule to recreate the vestibule stairs. Using the wall paint's colors, photographs, and measurements taken from the surviving paint, as well as marks left by the painters and the baseboard, we were able to replicate the faux-grained paneling digitally using Google SketchUp.



Sam Biggers and Mary Fesak at Lincoln's Cottage; 2015

# Student Summer Stories

By the end of the internship, we had created a series measured drawings including a floorplan and elevations for each of the four interior walls in the vestibule. In addition, we made a 3D model in SketchUp of how the vestibule may have looked during President Lincoln's occupancy that combined our documentation of the space with the information we found during our investigation. Overall, this internship provided us with a special opportunity to undertake a building investigation. We feel fortunate to have taken part in the ongoing studies of President Lincoln's Cottage and exited that our work will ultimately help the Trust decide whether or not to restore the space.

-Sam Biggers '16 and Mary Fesak '16

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## **ATTENTION PUBLISHERS:**

**THE CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON**

### **ANNOUNCES THE 2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOOK PRIZE**

The Center for Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington seeks nominations for its 2016 Historic Preservation Book Prize. The Historic Preservation Book Prize is awarded annually by a jury of preservation academics and professionals to the book with the most potential for positively impacting the discipline of historic preservation in the United States. Entries may come from any discipline that relates to the theory or practice of historic preservation. Nominations may be made by any source.

For more information about the 2015 Historic Preservation Book Prize, please visit the Center for Historic Preservation Website. <http://www.umw.edu/chp/center-projects/book-prize/>