

Center for Historic Preservation
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UMW HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

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Dear Readers,

We welcome you to our Fall 2014 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/ >About > Newsletter and fill out the form.

Thank you for reading!

- The Department of Historic Preservation

CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL CLASS OF 2014



“Four years is a long time, and yet the time seemed to really fly. Being part of the Historic Preservation Department was such a gift. All the hours spent in the drafting lab, while they might have seemed like a curse, were actually blessings in disguise. The time spent with my classmates and professors, working on projects, complaining and commiserating, and asking questions, not only helped me to grow but also gave me friends and connections better than I could have ever asked for.

It took a lot of blood, sweat, and tears (sometimes literally) but we made it through 205, 305, 405, and all the rest and we made it to that special day, graduation. Thank you to all my wonderful classmates, my group members that I had throughout the years, and of course the wonderful professors that I have grown to know and love. We did it!! Now to go out and save the world one historic building at a time!

Congratulations Historic Preservation Class of 2014, I’m honored to know you all and to be a part of something so wonderful.

-Christine Clements ‘14

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

FRANCIS WILLARD HALL 1909-PRESENT

Francis Willard Hall, formerly known as Dormitory no. 1, was the first building to be constructed on campus beginning in 1909 and finishing in time for the schools opening in the fall of 1911. Designed by architect Charles M. Robinson, Willard Hall was one of three initial buildings to be designed for the Fredericksburg State Normal and Industrial School for Women. The other two buildings were Monroe Hall and the President's House, later renamed Marye House. Later in 1914, the first part of Virginia Hall would be constructed creating the space which we now refer to as Palmieri Plaza, named in memory of Richard Palmieri a former geography professor an associate of the Center of Historic Preservation.

Robinson designed Willard Hall to take full advantage of natural lighting and ventilation. This is clearly evident in the siting of the building along a north-south axis as well as the distinct "dumbbell" floor plan, both of which allow for the maximum amount of sunlight exposure for interior rooms. While some electric lighting was incorporated into the plan, Robinson avoided gas lights due to safety concerns, underscoring the impact that natural light had on the overall design. In addition to Willard Hall's plan and siting, double-hung, sash windows, as well as interior transoms provided increased ventilation with the later also contributing to natural light.

Aesthetically, Robinson designed the initial campus buildings, including Willard Hall using Collegiate Classicism, popular in southern states at the time. This style of collegiate design replaced earlier Richardsonian Romanesque buildings made popular by many land-grant institutions in the 1870s and 80s. Key to this design aesthetic was the application of the classical orders. This can be clearly seen with the Greek Ionic columns that are implemented on Willard Hall and which contrast with the higher order Corinthian columns found on Monroe Hall. Willard Hall was not only the first dormitory on campus but it also housed the dining hall, the laundry facility and heating plant.

Willard Hall still serves its original purposes today as a residential hall.

-Laura Gilchrist '17



Willard Hall, October 2014
Laura Gilchrist '17

ALUMNI UPDATE

“Since graduating in 2012, I went straight on to Virginia Tech to complete my master’s in Urban and Regional planning with a focus in land use planning. After graduating in May of 2014, I moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas to work as a city planner.

Shortly after arriving we received a technical assistance grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to host a Complete Streets Policy workshop in September 2014. For this event I was able to utilize some of the Google Sketchup skills I acquired at UMW to make scale models of downtown intersections and what they would look like if they were ‘completed’ (images below). We plan on using this as a visual tool to help sell the idea of such improvements to city residents.

Recently, the city also created a Thermal Basin Fire District in our historic downtown as a way to incentivize bringing structures up to the current International Existing Building Code (IEBC) hereby allowing residents to live in the vacant upper floors of multiple story buildings. Incentives included building permit waivers and property tax freezes. As part of this effort we also received a grant to bring in an expert to teach business owners how to finance rehabilitation and renovation projects, on their historic buildings.

Ultimately Our goal is to create a revived and lively downtown that can stand on its own without the support of the tourist craze in the summer months.

Initially our initiatives have garnered some attention as we wait to hear if we have won a major award from the American Planning Association (APA), for our downtown main street.”

-Daniel Messplay ‘12



Daniel Messplay’s rendering of Quichita Avenue- Left: Current view; Right: Proposed changes

ALUMNI UPDATE

“Shortly after graduation, I was hired at the Fauquier History Museum in Warrenton, VA. The museum is comprised of two buildings, the 1808 and the 1823 county jails. When the 1823 jail was built, the 1808 jail was converted into a house for the warden and his family. A kitchen was added and the warden’s wife was given her own wages to cook for the inmates twice a day.



Museum display of artifacts found on site,
Christine Clements ‘14

I was originally hired part-time, but became full-time in about three weeks. Since then I have worked steadily to re-organize the collection inventory. In addition to this effort I have also worked to plan numerous fundraising events and update existing exhibits. Currently, we are finishing a “Tools for the Trades” exhibit, that features farming equipment, woodworking tools, cigar-making tools, and other small tools from Virginia. Many of these items have been loaned to us from the James Madison Museum, in Orange, VA.



One of the museum’s displays,
Christine Clements ‘14

Along with this exhibit, the museum is working to update an existing wine exhibit. We are working with Philip Carter Strother, a winery owner and wine historian, to update the exhibit and hold a fundraiser in the form of a wine tasting and concert. We are also raising funds to build a replica of the gallows that were used in the exercise and hanging yard of the 1823 jail.

It has been an interesting job so far, and will continue to be as



Museum display of jailhouse artifacts,
Christine Clements ‘14

I enter my third month of work. More exhibits are coming, including a full barbershop, a sheriff and jailer’s exhibit, and a transportation exhibit, that will discuss the change from the use of the canal to the use of the railroads. We are also gearing up for our annual Ghost Tours in October, where we take groups on a walking tour of Downtown Warrenton.”

-Christine Clements ‘14

ALUMNI UPDATE

“As I’m sitting at my new desk, writing this article, I overhear my co-workers talk about the SHPO, Section 106, and NEPA. Working in Washington, D.C., it is common to be surrounded by unknown acronyms. But as I recognize every acronym, it brings back good memories from my Historic Preservation classes at the University of Mary Washington.

Since graduating from Mary Washington in 2011, I have worked in several Washington, D.C. cultural heritage institutions, including The National Archives and Records Administration, The White House Historical Association, and the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum. But my position this summer with the National Park Service’s American Battlefield protection program most closely corresponded with my undergraduate studies in Historic Preservation. During my internship I edited draft easements to protect battlefields with the Land and Water Conservation Fund, planned a social media campaign for the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, and assisted in the grant program sponsoring preservation projects on historic battlefields. I also attended an orientation held at the National Trust for Historic

Preservation’s new headquarters at the Watergate, held on the same day as the 1972 break-in.

My co-workers and I have also had an opportunity to travel taking a trip to Gettysburg on July 1st, 151 years after the battle, for the Civil War Trust’s press conference announcing the new acquisition of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s headquarters.

While meeting people through working on projects and attending meetings, I was surprised how many Mary Washington Historic Preservation Alumni work at the National Park Service Washington Office. One of my co-workers said “I feel like an

outsider of a secret club” because he did not graduate from our program. Even the Chief of the American Battlefield Protection Program is a Mary Washington graduate! When introduced to someone new, I always mention my alma mater and that I am a Mary Washington Historic Preservation graduate, because chances are, they are too!

I am grateful to have had this experience and proud to be a graduate from the Mary Washington Historic Preservation Program. I look forward to my future adventures where I will, no doubt, meet many more Mary Washington Historic Preservation Alumni!”

-Justine Rothbart ‘11



National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program staff in Gettysburg, PA on July 1, 2014.

STRATFORD FIELD SCHOOL

Saying Farewell to the Stratford Hall Plantation Archaeology Field School

The archaeology field school at Stratford, home of the Lee's of Virginia, has been part of the Department of Historic Preservation's history for 20 years now, with this summer being its final hurrah. The field school is an experience for students that is "structured in a specific way for the field of archeology", says Professor Doug Sanford, who founded of the field school at Stratford since in 1993. This program is what he calls a "stepping stone for archeological experience" by having student gain basic notions and fundamental skills, preparing them for future employment and/or graduate studies in archaeology. The students also "live and work together" while recovering the "bigger picture" of Stratford's history and original landscape.

After twenty years of research at Stratford, there is still plenty left to interpret for future generations of archeologists, but the students and field school staff have found an appropriate stopping point. For the past few years the discovery of four buildings that were likely demolished during a Lee family generational change have been the focus of the field school. An overseer's house, a tobacco barn, a kitchen-quarter, as well as an additional slave quarters are believed to have comprised the "Oval Site," which likely dates sometime between ca. 1740 to 1780. Sanford hopes that the discovery and interpretation of these sites will allow for new insights into the lives of enslaved African American workers on the property, particularly since there are no surviving period documents for the site. He says "The story isn't over!" as there still is plenty to learn about not only the lives of those on the property, but what the plantation originally looked like and how it functioned.



Field School Site, Summer 2014

STRATFORD FIELD SCHOOL

Professor Sanford's mission for the field school went beyond educating students as to the proper archeological field techniques, to allowing them to gain from the "logical outgrowth of the research" that occurs after the field school season ends. In this sense, "veterans" of the program have drawn upon the field school's findings to develop individual studies, conference papers, and information for graduate school theses and dissertations. There are many other sites that could be explored among the largest grounds at Stratford, and more work could even occur at the Oval Site, as Sanford is certain that yet another building formed part of the complex. But with the four buildings already discovered and thousands of artifacts accumulated, there is plenty of information awaiting analysis and interpretation for the "indoor" stages of the Stratford archaeological project. As the time at Stratford closes, Sanford and his students will be able to look back and reminisce on the times spent at Stratford.

Beyond residing in Stratford's log cabins and being outdoors on a regular basis, Sanford particularly enjoyed seeing students grow in their archeological education. There is much that will be missed, but even as this chapter closes, Stratford has gained valuable information that has changed how the plantation will be viewed. We certainly owe a round of applause to Sanford, the field school staff, and all the participating students who have added to the knowledge and history of the enslaved African Americans, the Lee family, and the landscape at Stratford over the past twenty years.

-Laura Gilchrist '17



Stratford Field School Class of 2014

THE COLUMN

The Historic Preservation Club is excited to start a new semester. With so many new faces appearing at our meetings this is bound to be a good year. Our meetings are bi-weekly on Monday evenings. At our meetings we vote on our day trip locations, as well as play fun historic preservation games!

The first of our two main events of the year is our annual Ghost Walk. Celebrating our 30th year of historic haunted tours of downtown Fredericksburg, this year is sure to be the scariest yet. The tours were held on Friday October 24th and Saturday the 25th beginning at the James Monroe Museum. Our Ghost Walk chair members have hit the pavement to secure classic sites such as the Mary Washington House, Hugh Mercer's Apothecary and the Free Lance-Star for another year, while welcoming the National Bank as one of the new stops on the tour. For more information and details email UMWGhostWalk@gmail.com.

We are also in the beginning stages of planning our spring event, the Victorian Ball. More information on that will be released in January. However, to keep up to date on what the club is doing be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and join our emailing list. For any questions or comments, feel free to email UMWHistoricPresClub@gmail.com. We look forward to a great semester of Historic Preservation packed fun!

-Erin Clark *President*



Students having fun as ghosts



Student as ghost for Ghost Walk

STUDENT SUMMER STORIES

“The Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC) is headquartered in the East Village of New York City in a historic Ernest Flagg building. As a non-advocacy preservation group, NPC is involved in various projects pertaining to the preservation of physical structures as well as historic districts and neighborhoods.

My internship at NPC not only allowed me to be a part of and learn about current, ongoing preservation efforts, but also the history of historic preservation in New York City. As the summer intern, I was involved in various projects and was assigned tasks including database work, answering research inquires, writing e-newsletters, and conducting archival research. One of my favorite projects was that of helping the organization spread the word about its mission at a street fair. To accomplish that, I was further tasked to research and create a series of handouts titled “Then & Now,” which were case studies of various historic buildings on a particular block. The front of each handout included both historic and current photos of an existing historic structure along with a short history about



Katharine Feilds at the E. 8th Street Fair
East Village, Katharine Fields '15

how the use of the building had changed over time. The reverse of the sheet listed various resources available to the public, and a guide to using those resources for those interested in researching their own building.

The internship gave me the opportunity to interact with professionals in historic preservation, as well as related fields. I enjoyed the opportunity to continue my training outside the classroom while also applying what I have learned as a historic preservation major at UMW to real world situations.”

-Katharine Fields '15



The Neighborhood Preservation Center
New York City, Katharine Fields '15

STUDENT SUMMER STORIES

“My name is Miriam McCue and I’m a junior Historic Preservation major, minoring in Museum Studies. This summer I interned for Emily Williams, Conservator of Archaeological Materials, in the Archaeological Collections lab at Colonial Williamsburg. Over the course of my six-week internship, I conserved mostly iron and copper artifacts that were found on local sites.

At first I scraped corrosion off of small copper objects using a scalpel, but I quickly discovered that I preferred using the air abrasion machine to clean iron artifacts. Air abrasion involves a steady flow of a fine powder over an object to wear away at any corrosion or dirt. After working on some smaller objects like part of a chain and a measuring scale arm, Emily gave me a heavy hunk of dirt and asked if I wanted to give it a shot. After taking an X-Ray, it became clear that the object had some sort of wheel but that was about all we could gather. Once I got most of the heavy corrosion off, I found out that this weird contraption turned out to be a cast-iron pulley from the 19th century. After 170 hours of prying concretions off, finding some fine detailing, gently cleaning around it, and general air abrasion, the pulley was ready for desalinization. I finished it on the last day of my internship and felt so satisfied to have actually finished the first step of preservation myself!



Miriam working with the air abrasion machine, Miriam McCue '16



Cast-iron pulley halfway cleaned, Miriam McCue '16

I’m incredibly grateful to Emily for teaching me so many things during my time in Williamsburg from properly labeling an object to what to do if you accidentally break off a piece of a fragile 18th century buckle made of cheap metal.”

-Miriam McCue '16



ATTENTION PUBLISHERS:

**THE CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON
ANNOUNCES THE 2015 HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOOK PRIZE**

The Center for Historic Preservation at The University of Mary Washington seeks nominations for its 2015 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/>

FALL EVENTS

- Center Book Prize Lecture..... Nov. 5
- The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the
Eighteenth Century Atlantic World..... Nov. 10
- Jack Pyburn Lecture on Preservation on
Historic Campuses..... Nov. 11
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference.....Nov. 11-14
- HFFI Candlelight Tour.....Dec. 13-14

If you haven't already, join our UMW Historic Preservation Alumni Facebook and LinkedIn Groups. And keep an eye out for posts about UMW HISP Alumni happy hours in Washington, D.C!

