

Center for Historic Preservation
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UMW HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

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UMW**

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Dear Readers,

We welcome you to our Spring 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



30 YEARS OF UMW HISTORIC PRESERVATION

By Gabby Lindemann

The University of Mary Washington was the first academic institution in the United States to establish an independent Department of Historic Preservation. After 30 years, the Department of Historic Preservation is now one of the largest of its kind in the nation. Mary Washington College created and approved the program of study in 1979, five years before the department was established, and focused on a multi-disciplinary approach with classes in preservation, museums, archives, architecture, and archaeology. In 1981, the Center of Historic Preservation was created to support the major and provide public education programs and research opportunities for the community. In 1982, students in the major formed the Historic Preservation Club at Mary Washington College, to promote the study of and get involved in the field of preservation.

Finally, in 1984, Historic Preservation became an independent department in Monroe Hall, with an emphasis on historic architecture, building forensics, folklore, archaeology, preservation planning, material culture, and museums. In 1989, Professor Gary Stanton, a scholar of cultural conservation, folklore, historic preservation, and vernacular architecture, joined the department faculty. Professor Stanton is currently the Chair of the Department of Historic Preservation and is in his 25th year with the faculty. In 1991, the department moved to Trinkle Hall on campus. Over the years, the de-

partment developed more opportunities for students beyond the classroom. In 1993, Professor Douglas Sanford, a scholar of archaeology and anthropology, led the first archaeological field school at Stratford Plantation in Virginia, and Professor W. Brown Morton III, an expert in historic architecture, architectural conservation, and international preservation, led the first study abroad trip to Scotland. Professor Sanford became part of the full-time faculty in 1994 and is now reaching his 20th year with the department.

As the department expanded, new space was needed. In 2003, the department moved to its current home in Combs Hall, which included a state-of-the-art archaeology lab, and allowed all classes to be held under one roof. Now in 2014, the Department of Historic Preservation includes a faculty of Professor Andréa D. Livi Smith, who is also the Director of the Center for Historic Preservation, Professor Michael Spencer, and Professor Christina Turdean.

To learn more about the 30 years of historic preservation at UMW, visit Combs Hall and check out the display case on the first floor, which includes a timeline of the history of the department and items including archaeological artifacts, photographs, and historic preservation equipment.

UMW HISTORIC PRESERVATION STUDENTS SALVAGE THE AMPHITHEATER

By Caitlin McCafferty

If you were to ask any historic preservation student what their favorite historic structure on campus is, they would most likely say the amphitheater. On Friday, November 15, 2013, the Historic Preservation department hosted for the second time the Amphitheater Clean-Up event. Students from the Historic Preservation department and their friends gathered behind Trinkle Hall with rakes, brooms, and trash bags in hand to reclaim the historic resource. Over a three-hour period, leaves were raked, debris, trash, and twigs were removed, and seating was put back into place.

The amphitheater was originally built in 1913, making it one of the oldest structures on campus. Since its construction it was used for numerous graduation commencements, class meetings, historic preservation picnics, May Day, and sometimes weddings. Nevertheless, the amphitheater fell out of use in the 1970's.

Because the university does not require the maintenance staff to maintain the amphitheater, it has fallen into disrepair over the years. Four years ago, an accident involving the injury of a non-university student from a collapsed column, brought the amphitheater back into the limelight. As a result, the

University debated whether or not to tear it down. However, when the Master Plan was released in 2013, it was decided the amphitheater would be brought back to its former glory. Thanks to a generous donation from the Jepson family, restoration will begin in 2016.

The amphitheater was also featured on the University of Mary Washington's 2013 Christmas ornament and a portion of the proceeds will go towards the amphitheater's renovation. Not only was the amphitheater clean-up successful, but it helped ensure this historic landmark will be around for future generations to cherish.



MONUMENTS MEN SCREENING: PRESERVATIONISTS VS. NAZIS

By Theresa Cramer

On Sunday, February 16, Professor Smith and thirty Historic Preservation and Honors students filled up half a movie theater to watch the new movie *Monuments Men*. Written, directed and starring George Clooney, *The Monuments Men* tells the story of a WWII platoon who were formed to protect European architectural and artistic works from the Nazi regime. The movie was based on true story and the book, "The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History" by Robert M. Edsel with Bret Witter.

After watching the movie, the students and Professor Smith met to discuss the movie and what preservation issues it brings up. Almost all of the students enjoyed the movie, but students also thought *Monuments Men* had its flaws. Students thought that George Clooney's character Frank Stokes' line, "If you destroy their achievements, their history, it's like they never existed," was a true phrase and embodies historic preservation. On the other hand, the *Monuments Men* movie primarily dealt with the preservation of European artistic works produced in the Renaissance. Students were disappointed that *Monuments Men* did not bring up the issue of preserving European architecture as well. Even though the original *Monuments Men* dealt with architecture and Bill Murray's character, Richard Campbell, was an architect, the movie



seldom discussed architecture. In end, almost all of the students enjoyed the movie and what it states about historic preservation.

From the students:

Does the lack of architecture in the movie indicate lack of interest in preserving architecture or an increased difficulty?

"I feel like the movie could only deal with one issue, either art or architecture. In order for *Monuments Men* to be a focused movie, they had to deal with art. Art is more tangible and easier to handle than architecture and art has more of a mass appeal than architecture." - Catrina Meyer, HISP Student

What will this movie do for preservation?

"*Monuments Men* is a stepping stone to inform the public on Historic Preservation. This movie helps to show people what preservation is and what it does. After seeing this movie, I hope people are more concerned about preserving our history and the history of other nations." - Alaina Haws, HISP Student

As someone majoring in Historic Preservation, what did you think of the movie?

"It's good for the public, but as far as preservationists and art historians, it doesn't add anything to the discussion, except maybe some charming old men." - Joanna Jourdan, HIST and HISP Student

STUDENTS AT WORK:

INDEPENDENT STUDY AT TOBACCO FARM

By Christina Sabol

My independent study is about the early tobacco roads and houses in Virginia from settlement period to the end to the mid 1800s. I first became interested in this topic during Professor Spencer's agricultural preservation class.

The original hope for this study was to define the context and significance of these roads and houses and then by using GIS map these roads and the current roads to see if there were any overlapping areas. In addition to this analysis I was also planning on using Google Sketch Up to show what Fredericksburg might have looked like, as it was an essential port town. Sadly, there is little evidence or records of these roads.

Nevertheless, two book state that there were eleven rolling houses in Fredericksburg, a significant number as Williamsburg only had seven!

Through deed research I have been able to lo-

cate two of these houses and I hope to find more. I will be creating a Sketch Up model of at least these two houses and if more are found I will include those as well.



Fredericksburg tobacco factory image courtesy of the National Park Service

HISP 461 STUDENTS VISIT WILLIAMSBURG BLACKSMITH



Students with the HISP 461 class went to Colonial Williamsburg, where Matt Webster, Director of the Grainger Department of Architectural Resources at Williamsburg, and an alum of the UMW Historic Preservation Department, arranged for a tutorial in blacksmithing.

11 MOST ENDANGERED

By Caitlin McCafferty

In the historic preservation system, demolition based offenses are considered especially heinous. In the United States, the dedicated detectives who investigate these vicious felonies are members of an elite squad, known as the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Every year, they release a list of 11 endangered historic places. These are their stories:

11 Most Endangered Historic Places 2013 Update

1. Gay Head Lighthouse

Location: Aquinnah, Massachusetts

Threat: Erosion

Significance: Built in 1799, the Gay Head Lighthouse was the first lighthouse to be built on Martha's Vineyard. Not only was it one of the first lighthouses to receive a Fresnel lens, but it is also the only lighthouse to have a history with Native American lighthouse keepers. The lighthouse, however, is in danger of toppling over the edge of the cliff.

Update: Currently, the town of Aquinnah is raising money with the hope of moving the lighthouse in the near future.

2. The Astrodome

Location: Houston, TX

Threat: Demolition

Significance: When it opened in 1965, the Astrodome was the first domed, indoor, air-conditioned stadium. Because of its modern engineering and space-age design, the dome was deemed as the "Eighth Wonder of the World." However, after years of disuse, the threat of its demolition is eminent.

Update: Parts of the dome were demolished in 2013. However, because of the development of a reuse plan, the Astrodome might have a brighter future.

3. Worldport Terminal at JFK Airport

Location: Jamaica, NY

Threat: Demolition

Significance: Opening in 1960, this flying-saucer shaped structure symbolized America's transition to the Jet Age. Recently, the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey called for the demolition of the structure.

Update: It is sad to report that the demolition of the Worldport Terminal has begun. It has been sacrificed for an airplane parking lot.

4. Mountain View Black Officer's Club

Location: Fort Huachuca, Arizona

Threat: Demolition

Significance: Built in 1942, this historic structure is the best example of World War II-era military service club for African Americans. Currently, the officer's club faces the threat of demolition by the U.S. Army.

Update: The Mountain View Black Officer's Club still faces the threat of demolition today.

5. San Jose Church

Location: Old San Juan, Puerto Rico

Threat: Deterioration

Significance: Built in 1532, the church is one of the few surviving examples of 16th century Spanish Gothic architecture in the Western Hemisphere.

Update: Today, the church still faces the threat of deterioration.

HISP ON THE WEB

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HISTORIC PLACES 2013

6. The James River

Location: James City County, Virginia

Threat: Inappropriate Development

Significance: In 1607, Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement, was founded along this river. But the river faces the threat of power lines being built over it, which would impact the historic and scenic view.

Update: In November 2013, Virginia State regulators approved the request by Dominion Power to build its lines over the river.

7. Kake Cannery

Location: Kake, AK

Threat: Deterioration

Significance: The Kake Cannery played a significant role in the development of the Alaskan salmon industry and is the only cannery on the National Register. With the departure of the canning industry, the fate of this historic structure remains unknown.

Update: Organizations from the City of Kake are working together to stabilize the building.

8. Village of Mariemont

Location: Mariemont, OH

Threat: Road Construction

Significance: The village is considered one of the most important examples of town planning in the United States. However, the Ohio Department of Transportation is proposing a major transportation project that would disrupt the historic feel and look of the neighborhood.

Update: The threat of road construction continues.

9. Historic Rural Schoolhouses of Montana

Location: Helena, MT

Threat: Lack of Funding

Significance: Historic rural schoolhouses are located all over Montana. Many schoolchildren relied on these schoolhouses for their education. However, as the state has become more urban, residents are leaving these rural areas.

Update: Unfortunately, these schoolhouses are still being threatened.

10. Rancho Cucamonga Chinatown House

Location: Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Threat: Demolition

Significance: Built in 1919, this vernacular structure was used as housing and a general store for the Chinese American labors. This house is one of the last connections to the Chinese Americans who lived in Rancho Cucamonga.

Update: Local preservationists are trying to raise \$1 million to restore the building.

11. Abyssinian Meeting House

Location: Portland, ME

Threat: Lack of Funding

Significance: Built in 1828, the Abyssinian is the third oldest standing African American meetinghouse in the United State. It served as a school for African-American children, a place of worship, and as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Update: Preservationists are trying to raise \$1.5 million to restore the building.

THE COLUMN:

INCLEMENT WEATHER POSTPONES UMW VICTORIAN BALL

By Theresa Cramer

At the start of every spring semester, members of the Historic Preservation Club start practicing the Virginia reel and obtaining hoopskirts and suits for the Victorian Ball. Some club members call this event, "The Historic Preservation Prom," but this dance is not your typical dance.

The Victorian Ball is a dance for students to dress up in Victorian outfits and dance to period dances like Soldier's Joy, the Waltz, and the Quadrille to music performed by the Gilmore's Light Ensemble, a widely recognized Civil War preservation music group.

This year, the Historic Preservation Club was especially excited to be celebrating the fifteenth Victorian Ball, in the Jepson Alumni Center Ballroom. Scheduled for February 15, the event was sadly postponed due harsh weather conditions and for the safety of our performers. The Historic Preservation Club apologized for the cancellation.

The newly elected Victorian Ball chair, Alaina Haws, worked very hard on planning this event and was thankfully able to reschedule it for March 15. The newly



rescheduled Victorian Ball was in the faculty dining room in Seacobeck Hall. Briant and Karin Bohleke, period dance instructors in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania were able to step in at the last minute. Their presence at the dance gave the dance a new spirit. The Bohlekes had the students dancing the Polka, the Cheat, the Coquette Reel, and many new dances.

Overall, the Historic Preservation Club felt this event was very successful because by the end of the night everyone's feet were hurting from dancing all night. Hopefully the sixteenth Victorian Ball will be as successful as this year.



UMW HISP CLUB STUDENTS TAKE ON PHILLY FOR SPRING TRIP

By Theresa Cramer

On the weekend of April 11, the UMW Historic Preservation Club traveled to the historic city of Philadelphia for their Annual Spring Trip. Over half of the club members on this trip had never been to Philadelphia before and were excited to explore this vibrant city. Highlights of this trip included Valley Forge, Independence and Carpenter's Hall, Reading Terminal Market and Eastern State Penitentiary.

Where most visitors are moved by the Liberty Bell, the students on the trip were more ecstatic when they walked into the 1902 Wanamaker's Department store. Wanamaker's was one of America's first department stores and houses the world's large-



Students ready to fight traffic and any other problems on the trip.



Students loved studying buildings so much that they wanted to become one.

est pipe organ. The students who went on the trip were Theresa Cramer, Erin Clark, Catrina Meyer, Alaina Haws, Sam Biggers, Meredith Stone, Katie Finch, and Madeline Fanta.

The club is looking forward to their next big trip in 2015 and hope it is as successful as this year's. Check the club's Facebook page for more photos!



HISP students are column huggers.



Students pointing out improper bench seating at Valley Forge.

BRIDGESTRAVAGANZA TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT BRIDGES IN FREDERICKSBURG

By Gabby Lindemann

On March 23rd, Professor Doug Sanford and Professor Andréa Livi Smith led students on an all-day adventure to historic bridges in Fredericksburg to teach students about bridge construction. The first bridge visited was the last metal truss bridge in Fredericksburg, built by the American Bridge Company in 1949. It is a Warren Truss



Bridge with verticals, built with a series of diagonals that strengthen the bridge. The Warren Truss was designed by James Warren and Willoughby Theobald Monzani in Britain in 1848, and the design is still used today.

The second bridge the group visited was the CSX railroad bridge, a reinforced concrete bridge. The CSX railroad bridge was initially a wooden bridge that was part of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, & Potomac Railroad, which was established in 1834 and played a role in moving goods during the Civil War. An iron truss bridge was constructed after the Civil War. The tracks were elevated in 1927 with reinforced concrete. In 1987 the CSX Corporation was created through the merger of the Chessie System and Seaboard System Railroad, and in 1991, CSX took over the ownership of all RF&P rails.

Falmouth Bridge was the last stop on the bridge adventure. Earlier in history, it was also a



wooden bridge destroyed by Confederate forces in the Civil War. After the war it became an iron bridge that was destroyed by flood in 1937, and rebuilt in 1942 with reinforced concrete. The bridge is now being considered for repair or replacement.

After visiting the bridges, the group went to Carl's Ice Cream for frozen treats. Upon returning to Combs Hall, the students were challenged to make the strongest bridge they could using only popsicle sticks, hot glue, and pipe cleaners. During the judging, no one's bridge broke when tested. Students Demi Naylor and Lindsay Alston won the prize for Prettiest Bridge with their "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

The group agreed that Bridgestravaganza was a very successful event, and the department hopes to continue the tradition next year.



UMW HISP STUDENTS NATIONAL REGISTER RAP GOES VIRAL

By Caitlin McCafferty

Have you ever found yourself fighting to understand the National Register of Historic Places? Or even worse, have you found yourself struggling to explain it to someone else? Well fear no more! Thanks to four students from the Department of Historic Preservation, learning about the National Register is easy as pie.

Nate Dawes, Katie DeCecco, Carol Vinatieri, and Sam Crystal, a.k.a Grumpy Group, created a rap video about the National Register for their HISP 405: Survey and Preservation Planning class. After the class finished in the fall 2013, the video went viral. It was found on preservation blogs, sites, and Facebook pages all over the country. The video is now a legend in the preservation world!

According to Dawes, DeCecco, Vinatieri, and Crystal, the video was created to teach people about the history of the National Register, why it was created, what the processes is for listing a site, and what type of sites can be listed. In other words, the rap is a video for the average joe. The students also

hope the video inspired kids and teens to never give up when saving historic places, even when the process is difficult.

Make sure to check out the National Register Rap on YouTube, and an interview about the rap here at <http://blog.preservationnation.org/2014/02/10/national-register-rap-meet-minds-behind-music/>.

So what is up next for Grumpy Group...a video about Section 106, perhaps?



UPCOMING EVENTS

Infographics! - April 22

Come check out some awesome infographics the students of HISP 469 (Laboratory in Preservation Planning) have been working on all semester! The presentation will take place at 5pm in Combs 237.

HISP Department Spring Picnic - April 24

HISP students are invited to the annual department spring picnic. Food and drink will be available and scholarship winners for next year will be announced.

UMW Graduation - May 10

Congratulations to all of our HISP graduates! You will be missed!

Newsletter designed by Gabby Lindemann
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