

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOL OF DESIGN
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION



STUDENT INTERNSHIPS
SUMMER 2014



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César Bargues Ballester

Heritage Course Praxis, ACL & Western Preservation Institute
Jackson Hole, WY & Mancos, CO 2014



Working hard at Bar BC Dude Ranch, 2014



Removing cement parge at Smith's Homestead, 2014

This summer I embarked on a four-week praxis course based on two different astonishing locations in two different states: Wyoming and Colorado. At both places, the course focused on a hands-on experience supplemented with lectures, demonstrations, and site visits.

The first two weeks the course was held at the Bar BC Dude Ranch in Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole, Wyoming. During this period I participated in the conservation of a log cabin at the Bar BC Ranch, the oldest existing dude ranch in America. My colleague, Lauren Shaughnessy and I were in charge of stabilizing the standing chimneystack to provide a firm base for rebuilding the chimney for future fieldwork. We first performed a condition assessment paired with photos to document the previous state before beginning the process of stabilization. The preliminary work included the excavation of the area, cleaning of the stack, and the removal of plants and loose soil in the joints. During the excavation and cleaning we recovered rubble that was classified by size and shape for the rebuilding intervention. To stabilize the stack we repointed the joints and relaid the loose top stones. The final task was sponge cleaning to remove stains and undesired patinas. It was not my only contribution to the log cabin conservation process; I helped other teams in chinking and in preparing a log for replacement. Site visits to Wyoming included the Yellowstone National Park where our host, the preservation architect Jim MacDonald, showed us and explained with detail, interventions in wooden historic structures such as the Old Faithful Inn.

The last two weeks were based at the Smith's homestead in Mancos, Colorado. The main goal was preserving the main facade of the house, the earliest section of which was built in the 1880s. The course began by conducting a brick masonry condition assessment of the house. The subsequent discussion and the guidance of the instructors revealed the main conditions and the priorities. During my time at the Smith's homestead I participated in raking, cement parge and deteriorated brick removal, mortar preparation, brick laying and repointing. During the training, I prepared mortar samples and I learned in

situ how different binders and proportions give different qualities to the mortar in terms of setting and final strength.

In short, in attending this praxis course I understood the importance of acquiring basic skills in historical masonry and wood construction in order to become an architect in the conservation field, whether as a consultant, prescribing treatments or being involved in an intervention.

Sarah Blitzer

PennPraxis and WHITRAP

Philadelphia, PA and Shanghai, China, 2014



Touring the lilongs, 2014



Speaking with lilong residents, 2014

The main focus of PennPraxis in Shanghai was to first examine Ron Van Oers's cultural landscapes approach to historic preservation and then apply that theory to the traditional lilongs found in Shanghai. Working as a group with other PennDesign students, our job was to set up and then implement a framework for evaluating preservation of the lilongs, not for their financial value, but for their cultural, social, and ecological values. In addition to familiarizing ourselves with the architectural and social fabric of the lilongs, we were tasked with creating and then testing this evaluative framework.

The final product took the form of a report and a presentation to preservation professionals at Tongji University, in addition to a representative from Shanghai's municipal government. We presented our approach to the problem of making a case for preservation that is not founded in economics and also fielded questions. While the project was an early, and productive, test of the cultural landscapes approach to preservation, the experience also demonstrated that preservation is approached differently outside of the U.S.

Eryn Boyce

Historic New England

Waltham, Massachusetts 2014



The Eustis Mansion (1878), 2014



Wild Turkey on top of my car in Milton, MA, 2014

Historic New England granted me the opportunity to work with their Property Care Team for approximately eleven weeks this summer. Formerly known as the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Historic New England is one of the oldest and most respected preservation organizations in the country. The organization owns 36 historic properties in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Maine. Historic New England operates most of these properties as house museums, though the properties also host special events, such as weddings, and contain residential units that Historic New England rents out to the public. The properties ranged in date from the seventeenth century to the mid-twentieth century and, combined, tell the story of New England's built environment, culture, and history. The Property Care Team is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of Historic New England's 36 properties, which include houses, outbuildings, garden structures, and gardens. The leader of the Property Care Team, Ben Haavik, graduated from the historic preservation program at the University of Pennsylvania in 1992. His 24 years of experience working in the field in Philadelphia and New York proved to be an invaluable resource this summer.

Two years ago, Historic New England added a 37th property to their collection. They bought the nineteenth-century Eustis Estate in 2012. The 90 acre estate abuts the Blue Hills Reservation, a Massachusetts state park, and contains a nineteenth-century brick and stone mansion, a late-nineteenth century gatehouse, and three twentieth-century outbuildings. Designed by the celebrated Massachusetts architect William Ralph Emerson, best known for his "stick style" mansions, the Eustis mansion was built in 1878 for William Ellery Channing Eustis and his family. As W. E. C. Eustis's descendants remained in residence in the mansion until they sold it to Historic New England, the mansion and the estate have undergone very few drastic alterations over the years. As such, it represents a remarkably intact example of the large estates established by the upper class in the suburbs of Boston in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Additionally, the Eustis mansion is a

rare masonry structure in New England, where buildings were predominantly built of wood for most of the region's history, and is one of the few masonry structures owned by Historic New England. As such, the organization hopes to transform the mansion into a house museum and a study center for Victorian history and culture.

My primary duty for my internship this summer was to assist the Property Care Team with their initial conditions assessment of the Eustis Estate, to compile the necessary background information for the conditions assessment, and to assemble the findings and observations from the conditions assessment into a report available for use by Historic New England. After Historic New England gained possession of the Eustis Estate in June, the Property Care Team visited the property to survey the physical condition of the property and its buildings. I helped Ben Haavik organize the conditions assessment, which included assembling all of the forms required for the assessment, and assisted the team that examined the mansion. Although the conditions assessment only took one day, it generated a large amount of information that I processed and organized into a report that the Property Care Team will use as a foundation for any preservation and maintenance decisions on the Eustis Estate in the future. In addition to compiling this report, which took several weeks due to all the information and photographs collected on site in June, I translated the information about the damage found on the exterior and interior of the mansion and the gatehouse into a visual format. This consisted of noting the locations and nature of the damaged noted on elevation drawings of the mansion and the gatehouse using Photoshop. In addition to this, I created an excel spreadsheet detailing the size of each area. Both the condition drawings and the spreadsheet will provide the Property Care Team with valuable information that will enable it to more accurately estimate the size and cost of repairs to the damaged areas noted by the assessment. This, of course, will enable the Property Care Team to allocate resources more accurately when they undertake projects at the Eustis Estate. I also got the chance to attend a one-day workshop on historic site management offered by Historic New England at the Codman Estate in Lincoln, Massachusetts. This workshop gave me the opportunity to visit a beautiful historic house and to expand my professional knowledge.

Although I had to drive through Boston rush hour traffic, I greatly enjoyed my internship. Historic New England is a wonderful organization with innovative ideas. The Eustis Estate is a beautiful property, and I look forward to visiting it when Historic New England opens it to the public. It is rare in the preservation field to get a chance to work on a new house museum, and it was a valuable learning experience.

Jocelyn Chan

Gordion Archaeological Site | Heritage Conservation Praxis

Yassihöyük (Turkey) | Grand Tetons (Wyoming) | Mancos (Colorado), 2014



Condition surveying the Gordion Terrace Buildings (left), removing cementitious overgrout from the Megaron 2 (center) and taking Terrace Building data points with a total station (right), 2014.

This past summer I had the opportunity to work as a conservation intern at the archaeological site of Gordion in Turkey, as well as to attend the Heritage Conservation Praxis course held in Wyoming and Colorado. These two experiences taught and honed a range of skills such as documentation, site analysis, conditions assessment, and hands on treatment.

The first half of the summer was spent on site at Gordion in Turkey. Located approximately an hour and a half outside of the Turkish capital of Ankara, Gordion was the capital city of the ancient Phrygian civilization and was occupied from the Bronze Age (2500-1200 BCE) to the present day village of Yassihöyük. The University of Pennsylvania has been working at Gordion since the 1950s through archaeological excavation, and the Architectural Conservation Laboratory later became involved to execute conservation efforts to the site and extant structures. I primarily worked on two projects – continuing the documentation of the sprawling Terrace Building complex and assisting in the conservation of the Megaron 2 mosaic.

Documentation work was performed by first cleaning the freshly uncovered Terrace Building walls so that points could be recorded using a total station. These total station points were then imported into AutoCAD and used to orthorectify high-resolution photographs of each elevation. The physical conditions of the walls, primarily composed of monumental limestone and sandstone blocks, were then recorded onto these elevations. The resulting conditions assessments were then scanned to create digital montages that provide a record of the Terrace Building's current state and to aid in future conservation planning and treatments.

My second project was to assist in the conservation treatment of the Megaron 2 pebble mosaic, generally believed to be the earliest known mosaic pavement in the world. The mosaic had been cut into panels, stored outside for approximately three decades, and then installed in an outdoor display in the Gordion Museum where they still remain today. A thesis project to reback, conserve, and reinterpret the

mosaic was completed in Spring 2014, and we began on its implementation through the summer. Cementitious overgrout of one panel was removed with acetic acid poultices and chisels, while a second lifted panel was rebacked by removing the thick concrete underside, leveling its surface, and adding a new backing support. The aim of this work was to stabilize the panels in order for travel and eventual display in a 2016 Gordion exhibition at the Penn Museum.



Applying new mortar chinking at Bar BC Dude Ranch in Grand Tetons, WY (left), removing cementitious parging at the Smith Homestead in Mancos, CO (right), 2014.

The second half of the summer was then spent at the four week Heritage Conservation Praxis held in the Grand Tetons in Wyoming and Mancos, Colorado. Our conservation class spent two weeks learning about wooden log construction and conserving a log cabin on Bar BC Dude Ranch, the Tetons' oldest extant dude ranch. The work involved replacing the rotten logs, rolled roofing, deteriorated chinking, and creating positive drainage around the site. We then moved to two weeks in Mancos, Colorado to learn about brick and masonry and to conserve the 1880s Smith Homestead by relaying brick, removing old repairs, and repointing the soft mortar joints.

These summer experiences were invaluable, and it was incredibly fascinating to take our classroom into the field. Moreover, I felt that I learned more than just hands-on skills through working at both Gordion and Praxis. Indeed, it was equally important to see how field projects were managed on site, whether internationally or domestically, and how a team mobilizes when a project's plans inevitably change. Lastly, perhaps one of my favorite takeaways of the summer was seeing the human impact of historic preservation and conservation projects. We learn in class that each site and project has its stakeholders, but that idea is keenly illustrated when working so closely with either the village's residents or the homestead's owners – ultimately, the impact of our work is that much more tangible and gives the technical nature of conservation a context.

Mary Feitz

National Park Service

Omaha, Nebraska, 2014



Attic of the Charles Young House, a newly-designated NHL dedicated to Charles Young, the highest-ranking African-American in the military at his death in 1922. July 29, 2014.



The Wyandot Burying Ground in Kansas City, Kansas, a proposed National Historic Landmark that I helped document as part of my internship. June 22, 2014.

This summer I worked for the National Park Service at their Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska. I was sponsored by the National Council for Preservation Education and worked in the National Historic Landmarks division of the office. I completed 3 main projects: 1.) I produced a 12-page newsletter to be distributed to the stewards of each of the Midwest region's National Historic Landmarks 2.) I completed phone-based conditions assessments for over 150 sites, and 3.) I created 13 PDF maps for use in future publications and on their website.

For the newsletter, I had the responsibility of writing the front-page featured article. I had the option of picking any topic that I chose, provided that it related somehow to a National Historic Landmark or the program as a whole. I chose to write my article on the representation of women's history at National Historic Landmark sites. Many NHL sites have done a good job of representing the ways that women participated in their history, especially ones run by the National Park Service. Other sites, such ones that are privately-funded or not largely staffed, may have fewer resources or may not know where to turn to get advice. Furthermore, there are still many themes that are not often mentioned in museums and in tours, and many demographics of women who are sorely underrepresented at historic sites. My article touched on these issues and more. I also designed all 12 pages of the newsletter from scratch, compiling all the other articles and developing an innovative and visually appealing layout. My supervisors mentioned that it was one of the best-looking newsletters they had ever had.

The second main task I completed this summer was making phone calls to as many of the National Historic Landmark sites as possible. There are over 400 individual sites and districts within the 13 states of the Midwest region. The NPS is required to do periodic conditions assessments on each of the sites; however due to funding they had not done it for about 6 years. Therefore the majority of contacts I had for each site were outdated, so part of my responsibility was to find the new contact for each site. I made cold calls to contacts for nearly 300 sites—a combination of NPS-run parks, local historical societies, corporations, and private homeowners. Of those, I got adequate responses from about half. For each site I called, I gave them a brief survey in which they discussed current conditions at their site, any problems they are facing from a maintenance or preservation standpoint, and any recent or planned projects that might affect the historic character of the site. In addition to the phone surveys, I visited several sites in person—two in Nebraska, one in Michigan, and six in Ohio. The site visits in Ohio and Michigan were part of a trip that the NPS office sponsored for me. During the week of July 25-



Nebraska State Capital in Lincoln

August 1, I traveled to southern Michigan, Dayton, and Cincinnati, Ohio. Among the sites I visited were the Cincinnati Union Terminal and Music Hall, both on the National Trust's "11 Most Endangered Places" list and the Charles Young House, the currently vacant home of a buffalo soldier and prominent figure in African-American military history.

Lastly, I put together 13 maps—one for each state in the region—that can be used by the NPS for their website and future publications. I started with GIS maps created by the past year's intern and made them more comprehensive to the public, designing layouts that pinpoint and label the locations of each NHL in the region. This project taught me a lot about using GIS and certainly made me more comfortable with using the program. I also became much more comfortable using Adobe Illustrator and InDesign during the course of the

internship.

In addition to these three main projects, I also photographed a site for which my supervisor was writing a National Historic Landmark nomination. This site was the Wyandot Burying Ground in Kansas City, Kansas. It is significant due to it being the final resting place of hundreds of members of the Wyandot tribe, who were displaced to the narrow strip of land between the Kansas and Missouri Rivers in the 1840s. It rose to national prominence in the early 1900s when Lyda Burton Conley, a lawyer of Wyandot descent, fought to save the burial ground from development. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court and was argued by Conley herself, making her the first Native American woman to appear before the Court. She was one of the first people to argue on such a prominent platform for the rights of Indian tribes to have autonomy over their burial sites. Due to the proximity of my hometown to Kansas City, I had the opportunity to go out and photograph the site during my weekends at home. I went back on two different occasions to document the changes that have recently taken place in and around the cemetery.

Nathaniel Hammitt

Taller Paralelo

Bogota, Colombia 2014



El Centro Cultural Textura, our project site - 2014



Cristian, my co-worker at Taller Paralelo - 2014

This summer I had the chance to travel to Bogota, Colombia and spend two and a half months in South America working on the conversion (through adaptive reuse) of an abandoned textile factory into offices and studio spaces. Working in Colombia proved to be a learning experience in itself, not just for the challenges of learning and speaking a new language but also for the differences in architectural practice, conservation/preservation (called ‘patrimonio’ in Colombia) and construction. At times our project seemed to be rushing headlong into the unknown as construction changes were made on-site during our building visits and project meetings. Taller Paralelo was a wonderful company to work with, however, for the opportunities they gave me to work on design and construction documents as well as client renderings and exposure on the job-site. My interest after graduation is the pursuit of architectural design and construction projects following adaptive-reuse principles, and the Centro Cultural Textura building is the largest such project I have worked on to date (over 100,000 sq. ft.).

While in Colombia I also had the opportunity to travel to Medellin and Cartagena for a summer studio with the PennDesign Department of Architecture. Medellin is a hub for South American contemporary architecture and industrial design and Cartagena is a bastion of colonial-era spanish architecture. In addition to meeting world-renowned architects like Giancarlo Mazzanti, Daniel Bermudez, Simon Velez, Felipe Uribe, and Felipe Mesa our summer studio also took part in a week-long workshop with Los Andes University’s school of architecture in Cartagena.

I kept a running sketchbook of my experiences from this summer studio as well as my personal travels (you can scan the QR code to the right for a direct link to my sketchbook). The striking contrast between Spanish-influenced colonial architecture in Cartagena and the contemporary design philosophy of Medellin was stark to say the least, but it was thrilling to see first-hand the advancement of contemporary design in historic contexts. Special thanks to Cristian Rincon, Eduardo Rega, and Juan Rincon for their expertise and guidance during my time abroad.



Meredith Leep

Concord School House Board of Trustees
Germantown, PA, 2014



The Concord School House, late 19th-early 20th c;
courtesy of the Germantown Historical Society



The Concord School House Cellar, 2014

My summer internship involved the documentation, recording, and conditions assessment of the wood and masonry components of cellar of the Concord School House, in Germantown, PA. The Concord School House was built in 1776 by the Mennonite Carpenter, Jacob Knorr, whose other extant work includes Cliveden, the Old Mennonite Meeting House, and the Johnson House, all in Germantown, PA. The first few weeks of my internship involved researching of the history of the school house building, its architecture, and its wider position in the context of Germantown history. I assembled an annotated bibliography of both primary and secondary sources, obtained from the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Germantown Historical Society, the University of Pennsylvania's library system, scholarly journals and interlibrary loans. I also converted many of the primary sources available in the historical societies into PDF form, for use by later researchers. The Concord School House possesses records from the majority of the meetings of its trustees between 1776 and 1945. From these records, I compiled a list of all mentioned repairs and alterations to the building between the years mentioned.

The second part of my internship was to document the cellar. With the assistance of Alice Sloan, my supervisor, I measured the interior elevations of the cellar and recorded them in a CAD drawing set.

For the final part of my internship, I surveyed the conditions of the wood and masonry components of the cellar, which I recorded in CAD drawings. Furthermore, I created an illustrated conditions glossary of the conditions, based on my research of masonry and wood pathologies. I also took mortar and wood samples from the two distinct sections of the cellar, which will be analyzed in order to determine the mortar's aggregate makeup and the species of wood used in the framing.

My findings will be compiled in a report to be completed in late September, and will be used in my thesis, which will also be investigating the Concord School House.

Samuel Loos

Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2014

Heritage Conservation Praxis, Colorado and Wyoming, 2014



Biogrowth removal at Mt. Pleasant, June 2014



Mortar repointing of Smith farmhouse, August 2014

I worked for seven weeks this summer with the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust in Philadelphia as a conservation intern. The Trust is a non-profit organization which manages the building stock and other city owned properties of the Fairmount Park system. This includes leasing as well as preservation and restoration work on the buildings and objects.

I performed a myriad of tasks during my time with the Trust all focused on conservation or maintenance. Each day seemed like a new adventure where I'd be whisked off to work on another landmark building from Philadelphia's past. One day I'd be painting grand window shutters from Strawberry Mansion and the next resetting marble tile at Lemon Hill. I repointed, cleaned, painted, and of course, performed window re-glazing. Prior to each task, I was given a thorough breakdown of the deterioration mechanisms and conservation methodologies by one of the staff conservators. Through this, I gained a greater knowledge of historic material and possible treatment options. Finally, as a kind of restful end to my internship, I represented the Trust at their information booth for the Forum 2014 conference held in University City from July 16-20.

I also spent four weeks out West attending the Heritage Conservation Praxis course with some of my fellow classmates. Two weeks were spent working on a log cabin at the Bar BC Ranch in Moose, Wyoming and another two weeks at the Smith Homestead near Mancos, Colorado, working on a brick farmhouse. At the Bar BC, I worked with Jocelyn Chan to replace and repair the cabin's deteriorated chinking while on the farmhouse I worked on various tasks including brick replacement, mortar repointing and parging removal.

Both portions of the summer were quite memorable and were great learning experiences. The two coupled together provided me with a very 'hands-on' summer full of acquiring practical skills and implementing treatments. They allowed me to get down and dirty, to work with my hands, to do physical labor on historic buildings! It was a nice change of pace from just observing, assessing or documenting them. After five years of preservation academics, this summer was incredibly cathartic.

Courtney Magill

Meadors, Inc. | Participant in the Summer Conservation Praxis
Charleston, South Carolina | Jackson, Wyoming & Mancos, Colorado | Summer 2014



Patching a block using Jahn terra cotta repair mortar, 2014



Resistance drilling a support beam under a piazza in the Battery, 2014



Testing anti-swelling agents on schist stone underneath the back stairs of the Aiken-Rhett House, 2014

For the first part of this summer I had the opportunity to work with Meadors, Inc. in Charleston, SC. The conservation department within the company was led by recent graduates of the University of Pennsylvania's Historic Preservation Program. Meadors was originally construction-based and now incorporates a variety of departments including architecture, design, conservation, and its own artisan woodshop. They work on a great deal of active projects throughout the city and surrounding areas of Charleston. Through this wide reach, I was able to participate in many projects that required a range of skill sets.

During my time with Meadors, I was able to work on several projects around the Aiken-Rhett House, a prominent historic dwelling from ca. 1820. Meadors oversaw the repointing of the perimeter wall with a lime-based mortar, similar to the original material, with oyster shell matter included to mimic original shell-slaking. Over the seven weeks I was with the company, we made weekly site visits to record the process and ensure that the mortar batches were cohesive and properly matched. Additionally, we researched treatments for delaminating schist stone on the underside of the back staircase of the house. We tested anti-swelling agents in patches, and later this summer they applied consolidation treatments to the stone as well. Meadors also recently acquired a thermal imaging camera for use in assessing the delamination patterns of plaster on the interior walls of the house, so we were able to test this piece of equipment on various walls around the property.

Meadors has an ongoing project that concentrates on creating a sand library documenting samples taken from various quarries across the Southeast, particularly focusing on the lowland areas around Charleston and Savannah. Once complete, this library can make matching sand for mortar restorations much more accurate and accessible. I researched and updated a master list of quarries to sample from in the future as well as created a map displaying the quarries in the area. Additionally, I was able to add samples I collected from the Northeast region of Georgia. By conducting sieve analyses on these samples as well as those previously collected, I was able to add to the quickly growing library.

I also worked on a variety of research projects, creating a historical report for an upcoming project to restore the Garvin House as well as a source for a future paint study of the historic properties owned by the Historic Charleston Foundation. The Garvin House is a freedman's cabin from the late 19th c. located in Bluffton, SC that Meadors will be restoring due to its highly unstable state. The Historic Charleston Foundation owns over four hundred properties throughout the city and surrounding areas. The conservation department at Meadors is interested in conducting a paint study on a sampling of these properties, so I extensively researched their holdings and created a database to help in the selection of sites. Additionally, I researched possible grants for the funding of this project.

Additional projects that I worked on during my time with Meadors included experimentation in the lab with patching a terra cotta block using Jahn terra cotta mortar manufactured by Cathedral Stone, resistance drill testing on a support beam underneath a 18th century single house's piazza to determine its extent of rot, archival research on the same house to create a history for a tax credit application, examination of the marble in an historic bank building for proper stone matching for the addition of a wheelchair-accessible ramp, investigation of a recently stuccoed property for damages, paint sampling in an 18th c. single house located in the Battery, construction monitoring for a new events pavilion at Historic McLeod Plantation, and development of a social media presence for the conservation department.



The team working on the Eastern façade of the Smith Homestead, 2014



Driving reinforcement spikes into the logs of the cabin, 2014

During the last month of the summer I attended the Conservation Praxis course based for two weeks in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming and two weeks in Mancos, Colorado. While in the Tetons, we worked with the Western Center for Historic Preservation to stabilize and partially restore one of the original guest cabins at the Bar BC Dude Ranch, founded in 1912, to serve as a model for future restorations on the site. My team focused on the timbers of the log cabin; we tested each to determine their structural stability, extent of rot, and which members needed to be patched or fully replaced. In working on this cabin, we learned many skills dealing with timber framing including on-site wood testing, log selection, chiseling, and preparing Dutchman patches. While in Colorado, the class focused on the Smith Homestead, a brick house initially constructed in the late 19th c. in Mancos. We assessed the entire structure and then worked on stabilizing and repointing the eastern façade. During our restoration efforts, we also experimented with different masonry skills such as slaking lime, mixing different kinds of mortars, and laying various brick bonding patterns. Our time at both sites taught invaluable hands-on skills for both types of historic construction methods.

Sarah Moses

KieranTimberlake

Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2012



Dunster House Dining Hall, 2012



Dunster House Typical Dormitory, 2012

I was fortunate to find an internship that addressed both the architecture and historic preservation aspects of my dual-degree education. The position entailed management of a six-person team to document and assess conditions at Dunster House, a Harvard University student residence built in 1930. One of the Georgian “River House” dormitories, Dunster House is 170,000 ft² and contains about 460 rooms. Documentation tasks included labeling and photographing all interior walls; confirming or revising room dimensions and ceiling heights against extant plans; noting alterations and the placement of soffits and chases; creating a window and door schedule with accurate dimensions; noting visible damage; and generating a comprehensive set of images of the exterior and grounds, all in preparation for an extensive renovation by KieranTimberlake, a Philadelphia-based architecture firm whose dormitory renovations I experienced firsthand while a student at Yale University.

As a graduate-level intern, I managed four undergraduate student interns from the Wentworth Institute of Technology; KieranTimberlake staff worked with the us to plan the scope of the investigation and to outline particular tasks, and met with me to monitor progress once a week.

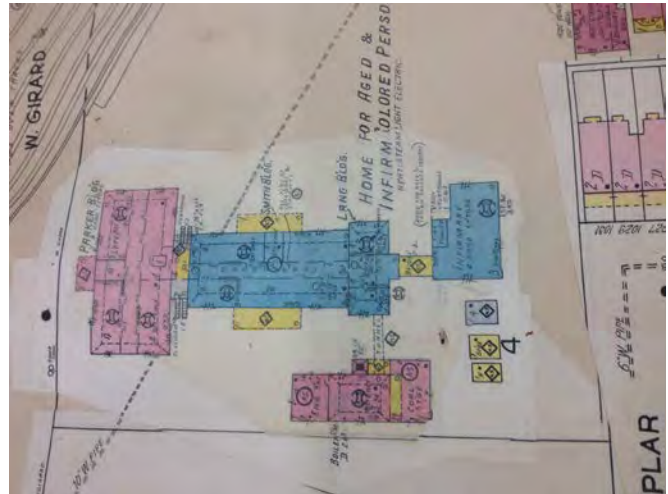
The internship had a profound influence on the development of my thesis topic: employees at Dunster House would share stories of their students seeing ghostly apparitions, hearing noises, or holding séances centered on room H-21 where, in 1995, a Harvard undergraduate murdered her roommate before committing suicide. With the knowledge that particular attention would be paid to the space by KieranTimberlake, who had plans to move walls to reorganize the space, I began to wonder whether architectural intervention would be enough to extricate the site from its violent past. The problem of places with a stigma of “negative heritage” is central to my proposed thesis topic.

Grey Pierce

NPS-NHL and Preservation Alliance
Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia



*Reading and Researching by the Pool
in Washington, D.C., 2014*



*Fire Insurance Map that Jim Duffin from University Archives
Found of the Stephen Smith Home, 2014*

I worked two full-time internships this summer one with the National Park Service's National Historic Landmark department in Washington, D.C. and the other with the Preservation Alliance in Philadelphia. Each position was a reading, research, and writing job. With the NPS I worked as a contracted intern to write a landmark nomination related to the new LGBT initiative launched this summer by the NPS and the National Trust. The specific NHL that I focused on for 10 weeks was a home of late gay poet, James Merrill, who won every major poetry award in the United States. Merrill was famous for his use of an Ouija board to inspire his poetry. During the internship I met the Keeper of the National Register, William Murtagh the former Keeper of the National Register, and the Secretary of the Interior. I will be presenting my nomination to the NHL review board this fall and awaiting approval in the spring.

With the Preservation Alliance I worked on several odd projects as well as two nominations. Because the Statewide Conference for heritage was hosted in Philadelphia I helped do some research before the conference started. In addition, I worked on two nominations. The first one was the Stephen Smith Old Age Home, the first black nursing home in Philadelphia. The second nomination was the Church of the Gesu, a magnificent architectural specimen associated with St. Joseph's Prep in North Philadelphia. With both of these jobs I learned how to better use national and local archives as well as kept my writing skill sharp. Both of these jobs offered tremendous flexibility to do work outside of the mundane office space. When I was not in a cubicle or archives I was in a coffee shop, in a library, on a porch, or by the pool side researching and writing.

In addition to these internships I attended a conference and worked a few other odd jobs. Thanks to Robin Becket I was able to attend 2014 Forum (the conference in Philadelphia). The other jobs included managing the digitization of University of Pennsylvania's LGBT Center Archives, blogging for Penn as a student ambassador, and helping around the Historic Preservation Office.

Kaitlin Pluskota

Maine Preservation & Preservation Timber Framing
Maine, 2014



Pennell House ell erection, 2014



Fixing the sump-pump at a revolving fund property, 2014

I spent nine weeks of my summer in Maine (around Portland) working for two organizations. The first five weeks I was an intern at Preservation Timber Framing. PTF is a small company who does restoration projects on timber-framed buildings. The project I worked on the most in my time with PTF was a house in Brunswick, Maine – The Pennell House. Here I learned traditional timber-framing carpentry techniques. Much of my work was done with hand tools- chisels and handsaws. I believe that preserving construction techniques is an important part to preservation, so I was happy to be able to learn some of these skills first-hand. Another project I worked on was the documentation of a timber-framed barn the company bought which was to be moved. My favorite part of the summer (though less preservation related) was learning to make some furniture. I used the chisel and saw skills I had acquired working at the house on a smaller scale to make a dove-tail joint drawer for a client's bathroom sink base.

I also worked with Maine Preservation, a preservation advocacy organization. They do work all over the state. Some of the work they do involves main street programs, a most endangered list, an honor award list, steeples projects, a revolving fund, tax credits, preservation easements, and general field service advice. My time at Maine Preservation was spent using my Digital Media skills to produce graphic content to be distributed to Maine Preservation Members. I created fact sheets about the Most Endangered properties, a map showing the tax credit projects throughout Maine that MP was involved in, another map that showed all of their work for the past three years, a layout for a magazine to be distributed at the end of the year, and a booklet with pictures and a plan drawing of a house in the revolving fund to show potential buyers.

Both parts of this internship were extremely educational. With Preservation Timber Framing I was able to witness the inner workings of a small business doing large-scale hands on work in the name

of preservation. The practical hand skills I picked up with PTF will be helpful to me for the rest of my life. With Maine Preservation I saw a preservation advocacy organization from the inside. I was able to witness the struggles, successes, and day-to-day rituals. This helped me understand some of the concepts we have learned in classes in a real setting, and will help me shape my ideas about preservation as I move further into the working world.

Jennifer Robinson

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia
Philadelphia, 2014

For my internship with the Preservation Alliance, I had the opportunity to write three nominations for the Philadelphia Register for Historic Places.

I researched a 1929 Art Deco style automotive repair shop built by architect Brian Baylinson, and worked to justify its inclusion on the local register for its unique contribution to the architectural landscape of Philadelphia.

I also worked on a nomination for a commercial building in the 700 block of Chestnut Street, built in 1896 for Philadelphia scholar and businessman Henry Charles Lea. The building is a uniquely designed structure by architecture firm Collins & Autenrieth, the style of which would later be used on the National Historic Landmark Lit Brothers Department Store. The building serves as the single remainder of a prolific partnership between the architectural firm and Lea.

Finally, I wrote a nomination for the stunning neighborhood gem called the Conkling-Armstrong House. Built in 1898 for co-owners of the Conkling Armstrong Terra Cotta Company, the home served as a living catalog for the firm. Located about two blocks from their plant, this North Philadelphia treasure is in poor condition but its owner is passionate about its rehabilitation.

Beyond the scope of my internship, I've partnered with the owner to start a non-profit organization called Friends of the Conkling Armstrong House. We're doing advocacy, fundraising, and volunteer days. Through this partnership, I've become involved in assisting with some larger neighborhood issues such as improving communication with elected officials, gaining access to resources for cleanup days, and helping owners connect to various preservation resources.



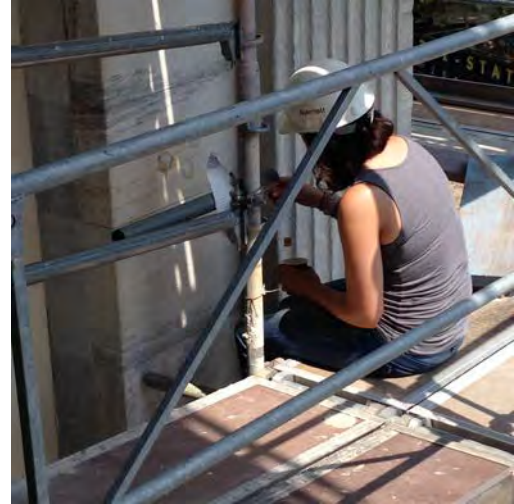
Lauren Shaughnessy

Dan Lepore & Sons Company

Conshohocken, PA 2014



Column capitals after consolidation and cleaning, Merchants' Exchange Building, Philadelphia, PA, 2014



Applying mineral coating to Jahn patches to match historic marble veining

During the summer, I interned with Dan Lepore & Sons Company, just north of Philadelphia. Lepore is a masonry contractor specializing in restoration, new stone and unit masonry construction. I worked mostly in the restoration department and also helped others when divisions combined on large-scale projects. The office environment was always very active and encouraging towards open collaboration between project managers, estimators, owners, and masons.

While with Lepore, I was fortunate to be involved in some way on eleven restoration jobs located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. I worked directly under a recent HSPV alum from the UPenn program who was a fantastic and inspiring mentor. The team trained me to combine my



Terra cotta baluster pinning and replacement, Sulgrave Club, Washington, DC, 2014

in-office construction management skills with hands-on masonry conservation techniques. I had the opportunity to assist in bid proposals, On-Screen estimation work, labor rate worksheets, documentation, submittal preparation, shop drawings, project site walk-throughs, and day-to-day project management duties

Lepore introduced me to the technical aspect of the masonry field that incorporated spot cleaning, biological growth removal, graffiti removal, matching repointing mortar ratios, Jahn patches,

and masonry staining for stone and brickwork. I was fascinated learning about the intricacies and sometimes challenging properties of working with historic brick, marble, limestone, and terra cotta. I look forward to continuing my thesis on documenting the conservation methods of a landmarked New York City 1850s ruin Lepore stabilized.

I finished off the summer with the month-long Heritage Conservation Praxis. I worked with another HSPV student to clean, rebuild, and repoint the masonry stack of a dude cabin at Bar BC Ranch in Jackson, Wyoming. Once we completed the task, we helped the team finish chinking along the sides of the cabin. In Mancos, Colorado the students collectively removed failed mortar, bricks, and cement parging and repointed open joints on the main façade of a brick ranch house.

Lepore Projects: 20 Washington at Princeton University (NJ)
Amtrak 30th Street Station, Bishop Shanahan High School, Lafayette College Oechsle Hall,
Merchants' Exchange Building, Pennsylvania Archives Harrisburg, Peirce College, University
of Pennsylvania, Woodlands Cemetery (PA)
Maryland State House – Old Senate Chamber (MD)
The Sulgrave Club (Wash DC)



Sulgrave Club | Washington, DC | 2014

R. Lindsey Uhl

Heritage Consulting Inc.

Philadelphia, 2014



East Main Street in Georgetown, DE, 2014



Interns at NJ History and HSPV Conference, 2014

I am an architect and certified LEED professional with hands-on experience in design, construction, and landscape preservation. Given my background and experiences, I was looking for an internship in which I could tie my fields of architecture, sustainability, and historic preservation together. I wanted to look for the synthesis between these related but artificially separated fields, to learn about all of them from a perspective which I had not yet explored. Consulting turned out to be exactly that. My multifaceted position as researcher, copy-editor, photographer, etc. has proven to me the necessarily interrelated nature of the built environment and the human mind.

I was lucky that in March 2014, Donna Ann Harris, principal of Heritage Consulting Inc., was looking for an intern to begin a project that would extend into the summer. The project was to construct a design guideline document for the East Market Street neighborhood of historic Georgetown, Delaware. We worked with a team of city officials, business owners, and residents to examine the existing conditions and to synthesize a pictorial rhetoric. This document, recently finished, will be presented to Georgetown in September, to help them reclaim the neighborhood's historic feel and to revitalize the community.

A second project emerged in early summer, whereby Heritage Consulting was asked to help mediate discussions between the Preservation Alliance of Philadelphia and Hidden City Philadelphia. These two preservation associations in the city wished to explore their collaborative potential, and how together they could extend their missions and gain further support for preserving historic Philadelphia. I was one of two note-takers in three focus group meetings, after which I merged and examined our data. I was looking for the big picture trends to emerge while maintaining critical details that also surfaced, in order to produce a cohesive document that could aid the continued discussions. Our work continues this fall through an online survey, the study of which will be my next task.

Donna Harris is very interested in the professional advancement of her interns. In addition to our work summer, she took her interns to two professional conferences, the New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference and the Philadelphia FORUM. These emersions with other professionals, discussing such pertinent issues as how to save shoreline historic fabric after a natural disaster, proved to me that historic preservation is a modern profession. We are not stuck dreaming about the past, but rather we are actively striving to pull our material heritage to transcend time and proceed into the future along with humanity.

I hope to continue to intern with Heritage Consulting Inc. through my second year, as this work has reshaped my understanding of my fields and continues to provide me with eye opening experiences.

Mengjia Wang

Institute of Urban Planning and Design of Nanjing University

Nanjing, 2014



Rendering showing the context of the site, 2014



Picture taken at the lobby of the firm, 2014

This summer I interned at the Urban Design Department of the Institute of Urban Planning and Design. The Institute of the Urban Planning and Design is a multidisciplinary firm operated under the Nanjing University. Though historic preservation is not its major focus, a lot of the design and planning projects conducted by the firm actually are related to cultural preservation and historic site rehabilitation. During the time of the internship, I had the opportunity to participate in a project they were currently working on, which is the landscape design for a resort within the planning zone of the Niushou Mountain Scenic Zone. It is a district with enriched history and strong Buddhism impact. The famous Porcelain Tower of Nanjing was built in this area but was destroyed during the war. Recently the tower was rebuilt and this initiated a large-scale reconsideration of the Nishou Mountain Scenic Zone. This project site is located right within this large planning zone, and also located next to an important cultural feature on site, Li Ruiqing Tomb. The tomb has been relocated to another place, but the designers believe that its original history should be preserved. Therefore, the concept of the project is to design a resort district in the scenic zone that could accommodate the Buddhism culture from a larger picture while also preserving the history of the tomb. While I was an intern, the work I helped with included data collecting and research on the history of the area, on-site water system research, analysis and case study of other similar projects, designs of the built landscape structures on site, SketchUp-model making, rendering of concept designs, and English translation work on booklets and emails.

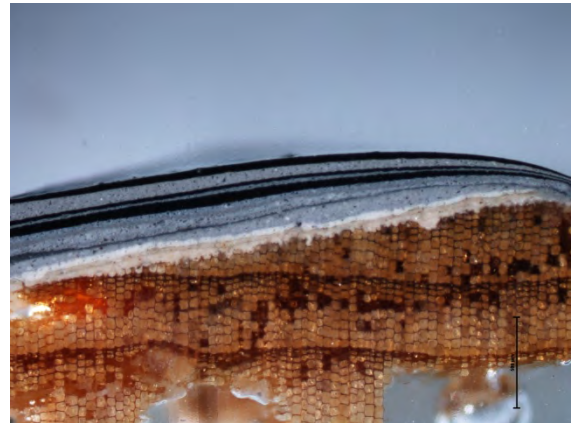
Julianne Wiesner-Chianese

Building Conservation Associates, Inc.

Philadelphia, PA, 2014



Condition Survey, Union Station, Washington, D.C., 2014



Photomicrograph, Paint Sample, 2014

In the summer of 2014, I had the opportunity to work as an intern with Building Conservation Associates, Inc. (BCA), a preservation and conservation consulting firm with offices in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. As Conservation Technician Intern, I assisted with various on-going preservation and restoration projects for such buildings as Union Station (Washington, D.C.), Wrigley Field (Chicago), 430 E Street/D.C. Court of Appeals (Washington, D.C.), and Schwab Auditorium (Penn State Campus). My tasks ranged from performing condition assessments and surveys to paint analysis, including preparing samples, taking photomicrographs, and creating a summary of findings, to using AutoCAD and Adobe Suite to prepare drawings, documents, and images for use in the field and in final reports. I was excited to have a first try at analyzing paint samples under the microscope, creating stratigraphy sheets that list all the different layers of paint, and performing a color matching test. There are two projects in particular on which I was able to take the lead. The first was learning to use a program called Bluebeam Revu, which allows architects, engineers, and contractors to make edits and changes to construction drawings in the field. For our project, we needed an easy way to track and document the conservation treatments we recommended for the windows on 430 E Street. I designed custom treatment tags with embedded images and created a document that can be used in the field to document the work as it is completed. It can also serve as a template for similar, future projects. I also tested a series of paint strippers to determine which one would be used in specifications for the contractors who would be performing the cleaning. I presented the results, along with before and after images, safety data sheet information, and a testing timeline in a summary of findings report.

When I applied for summer internships, I was particularly interested in working on a variety of projects and getting a sense of the work-flow and deliverables produced by a preservation consulting firm. Working with BCA I was able to explore each of these areas as well as travel to project sites in Washington, D.C. and to the New York office, where I completed most of my lab work. I used all of the skills introduced to me in my first year in the Preservation program and realized how much of them are

used on a daily basis in a work environment like that at BCA. I am grateful for the experience and feel better prepared to tailor my resume and job search to my specific interests within the conservation field.

Blair Winter

University of Jordan

Amman, 2014



CRM Field School, 2014



Archaeology Field School, 2014

Over the summer, I had the opportunity to carry out research on how Cultural Resource Management (CRM) is taught at the University of Jordan, and prepared an audit of issues, resources, and conditions. I was particularly interested in learning about their curriculum, how students acquired skills, their main interests, qualifications, and job prospects after graduation. I also wanted to see what effects the presence of international organizations, foreign funded projects, and research centers focused on preservation and archaeology had on students' academic and professional development. Jordan has some of the best strategies for classifying and monitoring sites in the region, and depends heavily on its archaeological resources to attract visitors from abroad. Rarely, however, do students enter professional fields related to archaeology or heritage.

Students participate in summer fieldwork where they gain hands on experience much as we do in our Praxis courses. I was fortunate to learn about mosaic restoration, wall consolidation, and excavation from enthusiastic undergrad and graduate students. For most of them, their interest in CRM and archaeology increased dramatically with fieldwork. While I often think of archaeology as something unknown that needs to be discovered, one student told me that in Jordan archaeology is everywhere. "The mystery is not what we find, but what to do with everything that is around." Some of the greatest challenges students face after graduation is the seasonal nature of preservation related work, the unavailability of PhD programs within Jordan or opportunities for further specialization, and the low status attributed to social sciences. Professors, on the other hand, constantly need to adapt to soaring enrollment numbers, students' limited foreign language abilities, and reduced funding and time for research. The University of Jordan has the added advantage of close proximity to sites, and a museum on campus where spectacular objects from student digs are on display. If you ever go, be sure to visit it.

Wenwen Xia

Fairmount Park Preservation Trust
Philadelphia, PA, 2014



Repair and paint the historical windows, 2014



Paint removal wearing respirator, 2014

During this summer, I had the chance to work as an intern at Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, which had really excited me and impressed me from last summer. The trust is an institute committed to the preservation of the properties and facilities in Fairmount Park system

It is a more hands-on praxis than other kinds of internships I have done. I was taught about paint removal, masonry repointing, historical sash window philosophy, and also how to reduce the pest and liana destructive to the structure. At first I felt a little nervous because I had no idea what kind of job I would be assigned. As a student focused on Conservation Science all the tasks were exactly what I was interested in learning. There were also other interns from different schools and backgrounds, even carpenters school. They were more experienced and sophisticated when working with the material that they are familiar. Actually, I find that the skill has most to do with experience. If you practice more, then everything will be under your control, including the implements and all the tools.

At the very beginning the supervisor, Nicole Matchette, helped me a lot with how to do the work. We renovated the guard box in the center of Rittenhouse Square. It is not an authentic "historic" structure, but the procedure follows the same principles in the conservation of wood materials. Because of the damage of rainwater and other kind of deteriorations, the wood needed to be fixed by putty and Poxy-chemicals. Then we tried to fill all the little gaps and cracks, as well as the little holes. After that, we used sanding paper to make it as flat as possible. The last step is to give it a coat of paint to protect it and give it a fresher look. It is simple but lots of fun. It was a really a good exercise for me. Most of the work is simple, but patience and care is definitely needed.

The work guideline is another thing got my attention. Sometimes it is not safe to work with weird odors, sharp objects, or hot air. As OSHA and other documents point out, having some protection is advisable, to be fully protected for the potentially dangerous task. I needed to use respirators, gloves and other safety devices to protect myself.

These hands-on praxis are sometimes dull, however, if I am absorbed and patient, I find it is the most effective way to learn about the characteristics of a specific material. The structural knowledge of the partitions of a historic house are also charming, namely the sash window. The mechanism is a really intelligent one. With mastery of the principles of different sash windows, you are more likely to detect what is wrong with a broken piece in a real case. I really appreciate my experiences this summer at the Fairmount Historic Preservation Trust.