UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOL OF DESIGN
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS
SUMMER 2017
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This summer, I worked independently for the University City Historical Society. Before I started, their board voted that the trolley barn located on 4100 Chestnut Street was the highest priority for nomination on the Philadelphia Register. I completed thorough deed research and was able to date the property back to 1860. Thanks to a Hexamer Survey, I realized that the original building on the site was built in 1864. I visited the Philadelphia City Archives, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in hopes of finding more resources. Throughout the summer, I searched for historic maps, historic photographs, and other clues to better understand this property. I completed extensive research on horse drawn trolleys, streetcars and the transportation expansion in Philadelphia. My research on transportation was later woven into the narrative description for the property’s nomination. I took a detailed survey of the property which included notes on each of the window openings, filled in windows, brick patterns, door styles, areas of newer brick, and many photographs. This detailed survey was rewritten for the property’s physical description in the nomination. I created handouts with historic maps and presented the progress of my research at the University City Historical Society’s Board Meetings in the beginning of July and August. The Philadelphia City Railway Property, which was later renamed the Philadelphia Transportation Company, owned this property from 1860 to 1944. According to the Hexamer Survey, this property originally had a trolley barn and stable that spanned the length of the block along Sansom and Chestnut Streets. It was helpful finding historic maps to understand how the site transformed after it was used for transportation purposes. In 1940, part of the trolley barn was dismantled and a gas station was added. Then in 1941, a parking lot was created on the site and the Giant Tiger Market used the buildings. The property has an original section of the trolley barn along Chestnut Street, a rebuilt stable along 41st Street, and additions on the southwest sides which were built for Graphic Arts Incorporated. Recently, there have been articles published stating that this building will be used for an Amazon Warehouse. Many of the windows have been redone, and the interior was recently gutted. This alludes to the constant changes along Chestnut Street and thankfully this building will be repurposed.
This research was very interesting for me, since I often walked by this building last fall and was curious about its history. Understanding the building’s past use provides more meaning for the site. Researching transportation in Philadelphia gave me a greater understanding of how local citizens commuted and were able to travel into Center city with ease.

My second internship was working on a project for the Concord Schoolhouse in Germantown, Philadelphia PA. Back in May, I had contacted Dr. David Young, the Director of Cliveden, to see if he had any projects I could help him complete. Dr. Young is also very involved with the Concord Schoolhouse which is a block from Cliveden. The Concord Schoolhouse was built in 1775, on part of the Upper Burying Ground of Germantown which was started in 1692. The Schoolhouse is a stone, two story building which was used as a school until 1900. Recently, the board for the Schoolhouse received a grant for restoring a privy. The privy is located behind the schoolhouse, and is frame structure. Dr. Young also hopes to have a compostable toilet installed in the privy so that this structure has a ‘new’ purpose. He assigned me a project of creating interpretive material for this privy. Dr. Young wanted to know about the construction of privies at schoolhouses, who cleaned them, what were the health implications of these structures, and if design of these buildings evolved during the Concord Schoolhouse’s use. Research for this project has been more difficult than I originally expected. Many sources will specifically discuss early education, and schoolhouses. Some sources I found generally describe how privies and outhouses were built. A large amount has been published on artefacts found in privy dig projects. I have found a few sources which describe the need for privies at early schoolhouses, but unfortunately, these articles have not focused on sites in Pennsylvania. I will continue working on this project and will hopefully find answers to Dr. Young’s questions.
This summer I had the opportunity to work with two organizations that focus on different aspects of preservation: Heritage Consulting, Inc. and The Concord School House and Upper Burying Ground, both of which are in Philadelphia.

At Heritage Consulting Inc. I worked with the owner, Donna Harris, on projects predominantly focused on revitalizing downtowns and Main Streets in the area. I attended board and consultation meetings in Ardmore, Narberth, and Olney, where I heard first-hand the difficulties local downtowns face (pushback from local business associations, prioritizing budget expenditures between events and preservation projects, creating new advisory boards, etc.), and the solutions and compromise that are established in the pursuit of healthy and successful communities.

I am also assisting Donna with the Camden County Historical Society in New Jersey and their organization of a Heritage Walking Tour, which will include 30+ historical sites in the area. Initially, a survey was created over a series of meetings that asked important questions, including the size, opening hours, and organization/management of the sites. This survey has been distributed to the sites, and when the answers are all in, I will have the task of compiling the data into a readable document for the sites that will show how each site views themself, including their historical relevance, so that walking tours can be arranged accordingly.
The other site I worked with, the Concord School House and Upper Burying Ground, contains a 17th-century cemetery and the first English-speaking schoolhouse in Germantown from the late 18th century. I proposed the site create a digital repository of the collections, which consists of over 200 objects, some from the site and many from various donors. My work includes photographing, measuring and documenting any known information about the item, including its accession and function. The Germantown Historical Society has generously provided me access, and a tutorial, to their PastPerfect account, so that the information I’m gathering is available to them, and any interested parties. The aim of this project is greater accessibility to the material at Concord, and to develop interpretive themes and exhibits for the site once a list of quantifiable information is collected.
This summer I interned with Main Street America. Main Street America is a subsidiary of the National Trust that works to revitalize historic commercial districts throughout the United States using a community-driven approach. They have more than 1,000 designated programs in rural, mid-size, and urban areas.

I was hired to research and write case studies on 11 rural Main Streets. While rural communities across the nation are experiencing distress, many rural Main Streets are thriving. I was tasked with uncovering what these communities do differently to better understand why they have been so successful.

I studied 11 communities that ranged in population from <1,000 to 25,000. I researched demographic data using the census and other online databases, collected business data from ESRI using ArcGIS, and performed over 45 interviews of Main Street managers, board members, mayors, and other city leaders.

I then composed case studies to record the unique features and findings in each community. I also compiled an overarching meta-analysis denoting commonalities across multiple communities.

For the duration of this project, I worked in the Main Street America office in the historic Monadnock Building in downtown Chicago, IL. While this project was largely self-directed, every member of the Main Street America staff, including the CEO Patrice Frey, was available for questions, feedback, and guidance along the way. It was a fascinating project and afforded me the opportunity to learn more about community development and about the intersection of historic preservation, planning, and economic development.
My summer was spent interning with the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach in Palm Beach, Florida. I was one of the two Anthony Baker interns for the Foundations this year. The Foundation is a nonprofit organization primarily focused on safeguarding the history of Palm Beach. The internship was outlined to encompass several different aspects of preservation such as restoration work, public meetings regarding historic properties, adaptive reuse, landscape architecture regarding public parks and private properties, and contemporary design in historical context along with one major project.

This year’s project aim was to update and put together information from Barbara Hoffstot’s book called *Landmark Architecture of Palm Beach* into a digital surveying platform so that it becomes more easily accessible for preservationists, historians, and architects working on them. The goal was to lay out the initial framework for the Foundation to publish the fourth edition of the book. Other than the primary project, the internship included rotational shadowing of various reputable architectural firms located in Palm Beach County. The architects worked closely with us during the time we shadowed them and visited several early 20th century villas that were under restoration, had been restored, and several new contemporary designs in the historical setting of the island. The on-field experience was enriching as
the architects explained their thought process and design concepts and how they implemented them in practice. During the summer, we also attended several public meetings held by the Historic Commission of both Palm Beach and West Palm Beach, Architectural Review Commission and Town Council.

Other than the internship, the island itself was a beautiful location to spend your summer in. Close to West Palm Beach City for weekend plans and far enough for some solitary time at the beaches, the setting was ideal.

The internship concluded with an updated digital database (still under further work) and a luncheon where all the architects and preservationists we worked with were invited and the local news (Palm Beach Daily News, also known as Shiny Sheet) covered it.

(Link: http://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/lifestyles/preservation-foundation-palm-beach-honors-interns-and-mentors/2Y0gnvbPnP0bBwtA18fUl/)
For my first internship, I traveled to Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado with the Architectural Conservation Laboratory to carry out the field work for a Historic Structure Report (HSR) on two Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-era buildings within the park’s Administrative Loop: Quarters 5 and Quarters 6. Both buildings are truly vernacular in design and were constructed using locally accessible materials (they are located on the top of a mesa, after all). Workers also mimicked many construction details employed by the Native Americans who erected the cliff dwellings that are today located within the park. Both buildings presented an interesting challenge. The interiors were partially intact; park maintenance staff removed floors, cut out joists, removed the majority of the plumbing, and removed plaster and wire mesh from walls, leaving only studs. For the duration of our time in Colorado, I focused on documenting the interiors. With a partner, I photographed overall views of the spaces, captured the relationships between rooms, and took straight-on photographs (often multiples) of each wall to create rectified elevations in Photoshop. I also photographed construction details, evidence of changes to each building, paint schemes, phases of electrical wiring, hardware, windows, and doors. For both buildings, I sketched and measured windows and doors to create schedules in AutoCAD. We also took paint and mortar samples from both buildings to test at a later date.

At the end of the summer, I returned to my former position as an Architectural Historian at WSP, an engineering firm. I wrote determinations of eligibility for several National Register-listed historic properties in Kalamazoo, Michigan, noting any changes to these properties since their listing, and reevaluated a Mid-Century Modern-era office building in Los Angeles, California that was previously listed in the California Register of Historic Places and determined eligible for listing in the National Register of...
Historic Places. I determined a portion of the overall complex noncontributing to the building due to its loss of integrity. During my time at WSP, I also began writing a NEPA Effects Assessment report as part of Section 106 compliance associated with the project in Los Angeles.
During the summer, I interned at Historic Building Architects (HBA) in Trenton, New Jersey, an award-winning architectural firm led by Annabelle Radcliffe-Trenner and specializing in preservation plans for historic architecture. HBA is a team of architects and preservation professionals working closely with consultants to carry out projects primarily in the New Jersey area.

As part of my internship, I took part in multiple projects which allowed me to gain experience of a cross-section of the different phases of development, all of them within the State of New Jersey. I assisted the firm’s principal in the walkthrough of the request for proposals for the Greek Revival Ocean County courthouse, and I helped with the drone surveying and drew rectified photographic elevations of the Victorian Gothic Stuart Hall at Princeton Theological Seminary as preliminary work for an impending stone restoration project.

At Hennessey Hall in Fairleigh Dickinson University, a former Vanderbilt estate built by McKim, Mead and White and once (as Florham) one of the ten largest private homes in America, I participated in the exterior and garden condition survey and prepared and organized the condition assessment for an upcoming exterior and garden restoration. I also collaborated in the analysis of mortar samples and learned mortar matching at HBA’s in-house laboratory. I was given the responsibility of completing a similar, but more modest, condition survey on my own as a companion for the nomination of the MacLeod-Rice House in Monmouth County, once visited by President Woodrow Wilson, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Finally, I drew up construction documents for the Pretty Brook Tennis Club in Princeton, a 1920s Colonial Revival building being rehabilitated to continue its function while meeting current needs, and the Bloomfield College in Westminster, where the notoriously complex roofing of the Richardsonian
Romanesque main building is soon going to be restored. At the latter, I had the opportunity to observe and assist in the bidding process.
It was a great experience working in the Cultural Heritage Conservation Center for two months. The main project is the Urban Design program near the Music Hall on Kulangsu, which is a new world heritage site on the list. The task of design on a world heritage site is serious and challenging, during which I have learned a lot about practical rules and methods of preservation.

The internship involved documentation, research, recording, and design. In the first three weeks, I concentrated on archival organization, having a brief understanding of the site, and the history of the whole island before taking a field trip. It’s not only about knowing the history and the planning of the site, but also figuring out the site and its relationship with others on Kulangsu, both in past and future.

I then worked on the site with my colleague for a whole week, communicating with local residents, tourists, and government officials, recording the context around the site, and diagnosing the defects of the hall building. The real life and commercial model that we observed in research lay the foundation of the future orientation of the site.

The design work started after the field trip and initiated with case studies. Inspired by many creative cases, I completed the design work in the following weeks and built a 3D model to illustrate my design work. The main challenge was to solve the conflicts between modern building and its historic context, the World Heritage and its future orientation, and local life and tourism.

Though there is still a little work to be finished in the future, I am glad to have had this chance to follow the whole design process on heritage and bring all my theoretical knowledge to a practical project.
This summer, I worked with PennPraxis research associate Molly Lester to survey a National Historic Landmark district in Paterson, NJ. The National Park Service contracted Penn’s Center for Research on Preservation and Society to determine integrity changes to structures within the district that have taken place since the 1976 NHL nomination, to provide recommendations for a potential boundary expansion, and for changes to the statement of significance.

Molly and I made two trips to Paterson, surveying ninety resources that included industrial buildings, bridges, and infrastructure. We photographed each resource and made notes of integrity levels and condition. Back on campus, I wrote physical descriptions and researched the history of each structure. Since we began with a GIS shapefile, we had some sense of what we had seen in the field, although much of the information was inaccurate or incomplete. We filled in the gaps through HAER documentation, historic aerials, and a large collection of more recent reports.

I also served as a conservation technician intern at the Fairmount Park Conservancy. In this role, I helped with projects at the Woodlands and at other sites throughout the city. In addition to the hands-on work, I completed a window conditions assessment for Mount Pleasant mansion, which is administered by the Philadelphia Museum of Art. On rainy days, the full crew of interns (including four from Penn) deglazed windows back at Thomas Mansion, where the Conservancy’s conservation department is based.
My internship consisted of creating a draft report on the **Urban Parks and the National Park Service of the Future** Symposium held at Penn in 2015. I used digital recordings from the symposium to summarize discussions and presentations in the several symposium sessions. Additional research was necessary to frame out and fill in the details of the symposium summaries to prepare for publication. Several of the programs mentioned in the symposium were ongoing and I was able to find more information about them online.

The symposium focused on Urban Parks both locally and nationally. Speakers from the National Park Service, several park conservancies, and city parks departments were on hand to speak about their efforts to engage communities and bring new programming to their organizations. Charitable organizations, sponsoring programs in the arts and community outreach, also had the opportunity to promote their work. Some of the programming was led by park rangers while others were organized by consultants and designers. One of the panels featured students from PennDesign who had held internships with the National Park Service.

After each session moderators opened the floor for lively question and answer discussions. Some folks in the audience had input from their sites and programming which added to the general themes of the sessions and provided a variety of voices to the conversation.

One of the more remarkable aspects of this internship was seeing the depth of programming the NPS has undertaken recently. Concern for community engagement, especially of youth and city populations (conventionally left out of the NPS target audience) was especially evident. But listening to the sessions proved slightly worrying because initiatives started under the previous administration may not receive the support speakers assumed would continue in the future. I was glad to have this opportunity and learned a great deal about the National Park Service (added bonus - my typing got faster!). The completed volume will be published in a few months, providing a tangible product of my work.
My summer was divided into three segments: an internship at Materials Conservation, the summer Praxis Course, and an internship at the Fairmount Park Conservancy. All of these experiences focused on expanding upon the academic knowledge I gained during the first year of the program with relevant treatment solutions and hands-on applications.

Materials Conservation is a firm comprised of many graduates of the Historic Preservation program at Penn, alongside professional craftspeople including painters, sculptors, as well as wood and metal workers. The firm operates as historic preservation contractors providing services ranging from documentation and condition assessment, testing and analysis, conservation treatments, monitoring and maintenance strategies, to art handling and installation. Projects encompass conservation of architecture, in-situ art and moveable objects. During my time with Materials Conservation, I assisted conservators on several projects, including removing a polyurethane coating from the woodwork of a historic mansion, preparing masonry repairs at Benjamin Franklin’s grave, exterior restoration of masonry at a historic high-rise bordering Rittenhouse Park, paint conservation solutions at Philadelphia’s City Hall, and cleaning and restoration of the Catholic Total Abstinence Fountain on the 1876 Centennial grounds in West Fairmount Park. The majority of my time was spent at the Catholic Total Abstinence Fountain, where my duties ranged from repointing joints, patching cracks and losses of the Tyrolean marble, cleaning and removing biogrowth, and finishing with a sacrificial lime wash over the cleaned masonry.

Upon returning from the Architectural Conservation Praxis course in Jackson, WY, I began an internship with the Fairmount Park Conservancy as a conservation technician intern. The Conservancy is tasked with performing historic preservation efforts, architectural conservation of historic structures, promoting neighborhood park stewardship, and developing programs throughout Fairmount and other
neighborhood parks in Philadelphia. I worked with the hands-on conservation branch of the organization both at their current shop in historic Thomas Mansion, as well as on-site at several project locations including outdoor sculptures in Pennypack Park and Penn Treaty Park and the stable building at The Woodlands. The majority of the work I performed consisted of sanding, caulking, glazing, patching, glass cutting, consolidation and epoxying, preparing woodwork for Dutchmen repairs, and paint stripping historic windows and doors.

Overall, I received an amazing range of experience working on masonry, finishes, and wood conservation projects with two of the largest hands-on preservation organizations in the Greater Philadelphia area. My exposure to the many treatment implementations used in day-to-day preservation work with these organizations has greatly expanded upon the classroom learning from the first year, and will likely shape how I approach my studies in the second year of the program.
Removal of biogrowth and incorporation of cast replacement pieces at the Catholic Total Abstinence Fountain, 2017
The summer internship experience in the Historic Preservation program is an essential part of professional development. It is a chance to directly network and build a professional community and to critically explore one’s goals. As someone with an architectural background, I hope to be rather directly involved in explorations of buildings in particular as material expressions of society and culture. Since I also have an interest in working for the National Park Service, and love the western parks in general, the opportunity to work at Mesa Verde ticked every box on my wish list. This experience gave me the chance to get a little closer some of the general issues involved. For example, what kinds of work is available in the parks? What do park politics look like up close? How do park professionals interact with each other, other units and departments, with visitors, and how does all this affect the visitor experience and protect cultural resources?

Of course, the specific project was the main issue at hand, which amounted to a survey of an architectural resource, analysis of its condition, and provision of corrective recommendations. We were tasked with documenting two of a group of buildings built for housing park staff living functions. What was described as “mission creep” gone terribly wrong led to significant and irreversible damage to a historical asset of the park, some of which was constructed by Civilian Conservation Corp. Since these structures did not constitute the main feature of the park, namely the ancient cliff dwellings, their historical value was misunderstood by maintenance staff.

Adding to the big-picture questions above, what specifically does this kind of work look like? What are daily tasks like? How do considerations like weather, sunlight, and access affect the work at hand? How does a team prioritize and schedule tasks throughout the day or the week? What tools or technology is appropriate for the task, and what is realistically available? These are the kinds of key questions we explored. In the end we used standard survey techniques learned in classwork from the first two semesters. We went about creating detailed measured drawings and a strong set of analytic photography. We recorded conditions using pencils and graph paper, paying close attention to clues about construction sequence and change over time. This allowed us to prepare CAD drawings and the beginnings of a report to present to park staff.
Anthony R.C. Hita  
Materials Conservation Collaborative  
Philadelphia, July-August 2017

For my summer internship, I had the opportunity to do hands-on conservation work through Materials Conservation Collaborative. Because MCC has many ongoing projects in the Philadelphia region, working with them gave me exposure to a variety of conservation techniques on several different sites and materials. Though I studied many of the materials and conservation techniques during my first year in the Historic Preservation program, working with MCC gave me a crucial opportunity to apply classroom and laboratory skills to real-world hands-on situations.

For the first few weeks, I worked with a crew on the restoration of the Catholic Total Abstinence Fountain in Fairmount Park. Constructed for the 1876 Centennial Exposition, the fountain, constructed of marble and carved by German-born sculptor Herman Kirn, features Moses atop the rock, referencing a story wherein God provides water to the Israelites from a rock in the desert. The fountain also has four sculptures and depicting important American Catholics, and is ringed by cameos of Catholics who fought in the Revolutionary War. Equipped with 16 drinking fountains, the Catholic Total Abstinence Union hoped to encourage people to drink water instead of alcohol. MCC completed an aesthetic restoration of the fountain. As part of this, I learned how to properly apply lime wash, the ins and outs of blending replacement pieces to original fabric, and how to operate several pieces of machinery.

During my time with MCC, I also had the opportunity to work on at least three other sites. Because of confidentiality agreements, I cannot go into specifics on the exact places or nature of the work in a medium that will be publicly published. But I can say that I had the opportunity to assist in structural masonry repair at one important Philadelphia landmark, treat and clean biogrowth off of a prestigious estate in Wilmington, DE, and learn how to restore architectural woodwork at a historic private home.
undergoing restoration and modernization in a historic neighborhood of Northwest Philadelphia. I spent the most time working on the woodwork restoration, learning how to clean, sand, fill, wax, buff, and blend repairs in such a fashion as to both undo previous damage and inappropriate surface treatments, while making the final product look both historical and presentable as part of a home.

I am very grateful to John Carr and the other staff of Materials Conservation for their guidance, patience, and comradery this summer. I asked a fair amount of questions and tried to make every opportunity connect to things we have learned at Penn or are going to be learning. I believe the connections and skills I have forged and practiced with MCC will help to refine my future conservation education and career.
The internship position at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, sponsored by 2017 Adolf Placzek Fellowship, required a commitment of 35 hours per week. My responsibility was to assist the LPC’s Research Department, splitting time between supporting an ongoing research project, and working on the LPC’s Historic Building Data Project.

The research project related to the Woman’s Suffrage Movement in NYC, 1848-1920. Since it is the 100th anniversary of women gaining their rights to vote in New York State, the site-specific study of the movement not only offers a great chance to commemorate the history, but also draws attention to both historic and cultural value of buildings in current historic districts. I used Ancestry.com, New York Public Library, Penn Library, NYCMap, and NYC Landmarks map as main resources to research those suffragists who lived and worked in NYC during the movement. In the last two weeks, I got chance to visit some of those sites and took photos.

The Historic Building Data Project is about researching some of the agency’s earliest designation reports of historic districts, and enhancing information on each of the 36,000 buildings and sites in existing GIS database. When completed, the database will be publicly released for the purpose of making accurate historic building data transparent, accessible, and usable for the public. Specifically, my job was to read historic reports, pull down key information of each building, and enter the data into the GIS database.
During my internship, I finished three historic districts including Chelsea Historic District, St. Nicholas Historic District, and South Street Seaport Historic District.

Besides research, I also attended staff meetings and public hearings, from which I got to know how the whole agency is organized and how to nominate a building in NYC. My summer experience has deepened my understanding on preservation work in the real world, and I have learned a lot from each staff member here.
Prior to my internship I found myself in the unfortunate majority of Philadelphians who had never visited the historic properties of Fairmount Park. Thankfully, this summer I took a position with the Fairmount Park Conservancy. The FPC is the largest nonprofit that works to champion Philadelphia’s parks through capital projects, community outreach, and historic preservation efforts. There are two arms of the organization. One tucked way out near the Wissahickon that tackles architectural conservation projects and property management, and their main office in Center City that takes care of everything else. As the Historic Houses and Properties intern I straddled both offices for the summer; my time was split between assisting the Senior Director of Preservation and the Historic House Coordinator with all things historic houses.

The most substantial task I undertook was conducting and writing the yearly inspection reports for the 15 historic properties that the FPC manages and rents out under long term lease agreements. Every year the FPC inspects these properties to make sure they are well cared for and to identify any important maintenance needs that require immediate attention. I was immensely grateful for this project because it allowed me to better understand Philadelphia’s vast park lands and the wealth of resources scattered throughout them. I am embarrassed to admit I was woefully uneducated on just how much architectural history still stood in our parks; after a summer with the FPC I not only know this history but have now personally passed through many of the properties.

My other projects for the summer centered around marketing and event planning for the six historic house museums that the FPC helps manage. The FPC works with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation to advertise and organize programing for these six houses under the brand the Charms of Fairmount Park.
The biggest project was a community focused ice cream social at Historic Strawberry Mansion. In recent years the FPC has been making an effort to better engage with the communities surrounding Fairmount Park and to encourage the properties to be used as more than just house museums. In addition to this summer’s ice cream social, I also helped with organizing an upcoming cider fest, and planning for the holidays.

The most important component I was looking for in a summer internship was the ability to connect with Philadelphia and its civic minded organizations on a deeper level than I had been able to as a student. The FPC allowed me to do just this. They are a wonderful organization that was immensely supportive of my interests and the perfect environment in which to find a balance between preservation and my interests in public green spaces.
Liz Reynolds
Architectural Conservation Laboratory / Fairmount Park Conservancy
Mesa Verde National Historic Park, CO / Philadelphia, PA 2017

I spent the first month of my summer working with PennDesign’s Architectural Conservation Laboratory in Mesa Verde National Park. We are producing a Historic Structures Report for two park ranger housing units within the park, Quarters 5 and 6. These buildings were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s under the direction of park superintendent Jesse Nusbaum, and are revered as some of the earliest examples of locally-stylized “park-itecture” in the National Parks. While on site, we worked to document the two structures to complete a full drawing set, reconstruct the construction sequence of the buildings, and represent current conditions. The final report will include recommendations on how to preserve and adapt these structures for future use. My individual project deliverables will include a full drawing set, rectified photomontages, and a conditions survey of all exterior elevations. In order to complete this work, skills acquired in HSPV 624 (Digital Media for Historic Preservation), HSPV 600 (Documentation: Research, Recording, and Interpretation I) and HSPV 601 (Research, Recording, and Interpretation II) were employed. The team will continue to work on the report until the completion date in May of 2018.

I spent my second internship of the summer working with Fairmount Park Conservancy. I worked primarily on a conservation project at the Woodlands Cemetery alongside several other PennDesign students. The project included conserving and restoring the woodwork on the Carriage House structure on site. I performed tasks such as stripping, sanding, and repainting wood, and applying epoxy and wood filler when necessary. I also worked on a few other projects in the Philadelphia area for Fairmount Park Conservancy, which involved window restoration and repointing masonry. This internship also offered a great opportunity to become familiar with a lot of historic properties in the Philadelphia area, which supplements our understanding of the properties from our first year coursework.
As part of a four-person team, under Frank Matero and supervised by John Hinchman, I worked on Historic Structure Reports for National Park Service (NPS) housing within the historic Spruce Tree Administrative District at Mesa Verde National Park. The two stone and timber residences that we studied were built circa 1926, with CCC additions in 1935. Both the structures were in a dilapidated state, with all their floors and most walls and doors removed for a previous maintenance intervention, that left the buildings structurally unsound and with very little original fabric. NPS hired the Architectural Conservation Laboratory (ACL) to document the two structures, study their design and construction, carry out condition assessments, produce drawings, rectified photographs, and subsequently provide a suitable treatment plan for their rehabilitation.

My tasks primarily focused on recording the interiors of the two buildings — analyzing the chronology of changes in the historic fabric through the various paint layers, flooring and wall systems. I was responsible for producing rectified photographs for all the interior spaces, mark interior conditions, produce a door and window schedule as well as one for fixtures. Furthermore, I’m working on section drawings for both the structures, illustrating the relationship between the interior and exterior areas. We spent 4 weeks on site gathering data for the deliverables and are currently continuing work towards the completion of the report.
The Vanishing Treasures (VT) program is a National Park Service program that supports the preservation of traditionally-built architecture in the Western United States and the perpetuation of traditional building skills. VT consists of two parts: a technical assistance office at the National Park Service Intermountain Region office in Santa Fe, which helps in the assessment, management and care of historic resources, and an educational program at the Western Center for Historic Preservation (WHCP) in Grand Teton National Park, which facilitates workshops and field projects that address both materials and preservation philosophy.

In my time as the technical conservation intern, I rotated amongst these branches of VT. In Santa Fe, I assisted the materials conservator in writing a conditions assessment and treatment recommendations report concerning a panel of polychrome terracotta tiles at Pecos National Historical Park. In so far as field assessment, I was responsible for photographing and recording the conditions of the feature and the surrounding environment. To inform our subsequent diagnoses and recommendations, I reviewed historic documentation and existing reports for the site, identified relevant materials literature and researched methods of repair. For the Western Center for Historic Preservation, I developed introductory presentations for two materials workshops (Traditional Finishes on Wood, Wood and Windows) that incorporated historical background, industrial history, and material characteristics. I also stepped into a two-week position as an interim training coordinator during my time at Grand Teton National Park during which time I helped to facilitate a joint NCPTT and WCHP workshop on Traditional Finishes for Wood. My other responsibilities included coordinating schedules and expectations with guest lecturers and creating itineraries for two workshops.
Liz Trumbull  
Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site  
Philadelphia, PA 2017

This summer I interned at Eastern State Penitentiary (ESP) to explore the possibility of hosting hands-on preservation workshops. As an 11-acre site preserved in a state of ruin, the conservation work at ESP is seemingly endless. There are miles of stone masonry to repoint, swaths of plaster to stabilize, and dozens of wood windows and doors to conserve. Though a hired contractor could readily complete the backlog of maintenance and repair issues, ESP recognized an opportunity to open its gate and provide a unique training experience to the surrounding community.

I began the summer with market research to identify potential audiences, skills to teach, and organizations to collaborate with. I worked closely with the President and CEO of ESP, Sally Elk, to interview leaders of Philadelphia youth programs, trade and technical schools, and local conservation groups. These informational interviews illustrated that there is a need for workers trained in preservation hand-skills but the opportunities to learn those skills in a paid work environment are limited. After considering the maintenance needs of ESP, we decided that the site is best poised to teach masonry restoration to aspiring masons and wood window conservation to students and professionals.

With these subjects in mind, a few workshop models emerged such as a one-day workshop for design professionals, a one-week workshop for students of trade schools, and a ten-week pre-apprenticeship program for students seeking union apprenticeships. The feasibility of hosting a pre-apprenticeship program at ESP was the focus of my research during the final weeks of my internship. We looked closely at the Preservation Training program at Woodlawn Cemetery as a model and visited the Bronx to see
the program in action. We also explored the possibility of employing returning citizens in the pre-apprenticeship program to provide a path to long-term employment and fulfill the larger mission of ESP.

By the end of the summer, we identified a spectrum of workshops that are viable models for ESP. I plan to continue my work at ESP during the school year to further develop the programming and begin logistical planning. In addition to my workshop research, I sat in on many of Sally’s meetings to learn more about the preservation work at ESP and historic site management.
This summer I had the opportunity to work with two organizations, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Woodlawn Cemetery and Conservancy. While each organization was unique in its setting and task, both internships brought together important skills learned over the course of my first year at Penn.

As a Preservation GIS Data Fellow at New York City Landmarks I was tasked with creating and populating a GIS-based database. The goal of the project was to create a cohesive database that captured and spatially geo-locate Landmark’s Historic District data in order to create a public, user-friendly web map. This involved analyzing and sorting through 52 years of Historic District data that compromised over 33,000 buildings, identifying and verifying architectural styles, building materials, as well as, critically analyzing any important patterns within each individual Historic District. The end product was to create a new system for individual Landmark buildings as well as all the buildings that reside within Landmarked Historic Districts in the hopes of cross-department and cross-discipline use of data in preservation, research, and the likes. Once this ongoing project is completed, the data will be accessible to the public through LPC webmaps and the City’s Open Data Portal.

As the Summer Program Coordinator at Woodlawn Cemetery I created a curriculum for a group of High School senior interns that exposed the students to the wide range of opportunities in the preservation and conservation fields, within the context of a historic 19th century cemetery. Through collaboration with NYC’s Department of Education and the World Monuments Fund, I led lectures on topics of architecture, urbanism and New York’s history, preservation, and conservation. As the “preservation specialist” I organized and facilitated workshops that discussed research method skills and documentation techniques that provided the knowledge needed in order for the students to record, document, and properly clean one of the most historic plots within the cemetery. By partnering with New York City Landmarks Conservancy, I organized field trips to sites such as the Woolworth Building.
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, Governor’s Island, and many more, that allowed the students to be exposed to some of the exciting and challenging issues within the field of preservation.
This summer I interned at Strahov Monastery, located in Prague, Czech Republic. Strahov is a Premonstratensian abbey founded in 1143. Sitting on the Prague Castle Hill, the monastery complex consists of the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady, the famous baroque library, the convent building, the Strahov Art Gallery, the summer refectory, the monastery brewery, and a viewing terrace overlooking the city of Prague. As the main seat of the Premonstratensian Canon in the Czech Republic, Strahov looks after several abbeys and churches in the rest of the country.

This summer I worked in their Interiors Department, mainly focusing on documentation and restoration work that needed to be completed in the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady. The monastery is in the midst of digitizing their entire collection, which consists of building and object catalogues, over 60,000 books, and several thousand prints. Their building and object catalogue for the Basilica had not been updated since the 1960s, and I was tasked with doing so. I photographed the entire collection of the Basilica interior, which includes ten side alters separating the nave from the transepts, the main alter, an organ, two side chapels, a choir, several oil paintings, eight confessionals, and several hundred smaller objects such as chalices, statues, candlesticks, plates, crosses, glassware, and religious robes. In addition to photographing these items, I documented their dimensions, their appearance, as well as their current condition. If they needed restoration work such as for mold growth, chipped gilding, or the accumulation of dirt, I noted the degree to which they needed this work done.

Additionally, my supervisor brought me to the church, Kostel sv. Jana Křtitele, in Velká Chyška, which applied for a grant from Strahov to repair its baroque organ as well as to restore the dilapidated baroque clergy house across the street. We documented the condition of both the organ and the house to determine the extent of repair required and hence the associated costs. These projects will be completed in the coming years. Overall, I learned a great deal about the criticality of good
documentation procedures in the historic preservation field. I now understand how this work helps maintain historic buildings and objects in the best condition for all their users, such as church-goers and tourists, to appreciate them.
The Collective for Culture, Community and Environment responded to a call for proposals from the Stamford Purchasing Development [on behalf of the Land Use Bureau] to produce the South End Neighborhood and Historic Preservation Plan or [SENHPP]. This plan is set to address the political, social, economic and environmental impacts of the South End. Penn Praxis is charged with the Preservation portion of the proposal and this summer I had the privilege of working with Penn Praxis as a student researcher.

My position was based in Philadelphia and the schedule was super flexible. I was able to make my own hours and work from where I needed to. I sent a weekly memo to my supervisor, Randall Mason, at the end of each week highlighting what I had completed that week and what my goals were for the next week. From there, he would respond and let me know if there was anything he wanted me to research further or on the contrary if something was not relevant to the scope of the project.

I was responsible for preliminary preservation research- so anything you would need to know about a place before beginning work there. My research included scouring online libraries and databases for contemporary articles on the South End Historic District and the city of Stamford, secondary histories of the South End and map research to name a few. After being in the program for a year, this was a good time to take on an internship such as this. I had gained research techniques from various core courses during my first year in the program but I also picked up a few more resources I had never explored or heard of, strengthening myself as a researcher.
Overall, the information that I gathered was very interesting and the research got more fun and I became more confident in presenting my findings to Randy as time went on. One of the greatest challenges was researching a place that I had not only never visited, but a place that I was not sure I would have the opportunity to visit during the duration of the internship. This was a challenge due to the fact that I had to rely heavily on one resources or books. I could not go to visit the local State Historic Preservation Office or other Neighborhood Preservation offices as I could if the district was in Philadelphia. It was a joy to work with a real life project that was in progress with a Preservation Organization right under the roof of Penn Design.
Over the summer, I had a 10-week internship at Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown. Designed by A.J. Davis, the picturesque Gothic Revival mansion was the home of former New York City mayor William Paulding, merchant George Merritt, and railroad tycoon Jay Gould. I worked under the supervision of the Restoration Project Manager, Tom Richmond, with other four interns from other parts of the country. Moreover, there are two interns from France who worked on landscape and museum collection. We, seven interns in total, lived together in the Green House Service Building, originally the residence of gardeners of the mansion.

My work was mostly hands-on restoration and repair of historic fabric, including but not limited to masonry, carpentry, painting, and casting. The photo on the left shows us restoring the brick floor of the Root Cellar. Originally there was a huge gap in the center of the Root Cellar. In order to reveal the original brick pattern, we cleaned the floor and filled the gap with bricks. It helps with the interpretation of the site, as the Root Cellar is part of the backstairs tour presented to the public. In the photo on the right, we were installing shakes for the Bowling and Recreation Pavilion. Since some of the shakes on the exterior had been deteriorated, we stained the new shakes and installed them to the spots where needed.
Furthermore, I had the opportunity to work in the site office with the associate director at Lyndhurst, Krystyn Silver. Lyndhurst has just secured a grant for restoring historic landscape, including historic paved ways, gardens, and plants. I was instructed to produce a Request for Proposal for Landscape Architect to conduct the work. As a result, I have been familiar with the procedures of conducting a project at a historic site, and the obligations it has to meet.

Overall, the internship has provided me with both hands-on and office experiences, which will be very helpful for my future career. Living on site for more than two months also gets me familiar with the site and how a National Trust site operates. Besides, I have built close connections with other interns nationally and internationally. It has been a great experience to do practical work preserving a historic building with a group of people who have the same passion.
Over the summer I worked as an architectural intern at Fairmount Parks Conservancy. The majority of my work involved restoring windows, but I did have a few opportunities to work with masonry. The Conservancy primarily works on buildings within Fairmount Park, but this summer they also had contracts with the Woodlands Mansion, Old First United Church of Christ, Penn Treaty Park and Penny Pack Park.

I deglazed the windows from Woodlands and Old First and stripped their lead paint using heat guns, scrapers, or sand paper, usually a combination of all three (left image). If the windows needed new glass panes, they would be cut in the workshop and fitted to the sash. However, we tried to reuse as much glass as possible. With either its original glass panes or new in place, I then glazed the windows, which is the process of securing the panes to the wood with glazing putty. Once the putty cured to form a hard seal around the glass, I would paint both the wood and the glazing.

When we worked on site at the Woodlands, I did the same process of window restoration but with the added steps of epoxy and wood fills. Because we were in situ, we had to restore the window frames as well as the window sash. I would treat any holes, scratches, or weathered wood with consolidant, which permeates the wood and binds it to the epoxy (right image).

Aside from window restoration, I also learned how to repoint concrete joints at the monument in Penn Treaty Park and to remove graffiti and biogrowth from Penny Pack Park’s deer blind and Thoreau Hut.