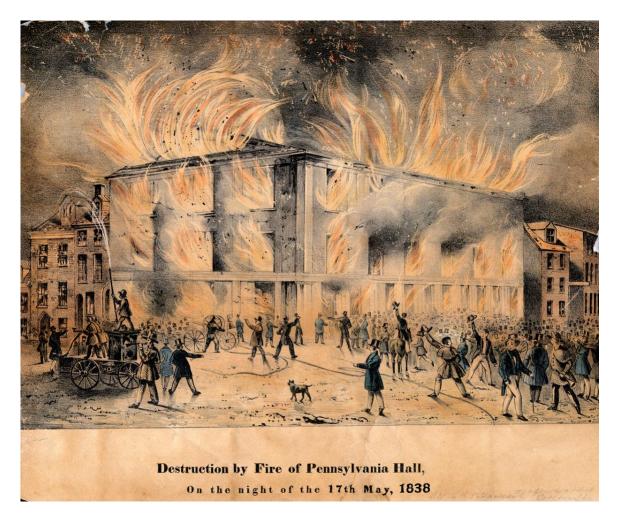
# Public History of the Built Environment: Theory and Practice [DRAFT SYLLABUS]

HSPV 534 – Spring Semester 2021 Class Time: Thursdays, 1:30-4:20 PM Location: online but with a possible field trip

## **Instructor: Aaron Wunsch**

Email: <u>wunsch@design.upenn.edu</u> Mobile: 434-607-5733 Office Hours: Generally, Wednesdays, 2-5, *but please schedule in advance via email*. TA: **TBD** 



This seminar explores ways of bringing histories of place before the public. It grapples with the manner in which individuals, communities, and nations remember and forget. It acknowledges that while buildings and landscapes are in one sense simply large forms of material culture, they work differently than smaller objects and collections, forming frameworks for public and private life. The seminar's foregrounds interpretation and dissemination through multiple media – everything from signage and monuments to websites and exhibits. It is not, however, an introduction to the technical aspects of those media but a chance to reflect critically on their strengths and weaknesses in different contexts. In addition to discussing readings in history, historic preservation, sociology, anthropology, geography, public art, and material culture, students will design and conduct original research projects that may involve:

- exploration of a particular landscape feature, building, or object.
- archival research involving architecture, planning, infrastructure, civic culture, and historical commemoration.
- interviews with Philadelphians from diverse backgrounds about their experiences of various urban landscapes.
- conceptual design of monuments, installations, public events, and other forms of commemoration.

## **Required Texts (available at Penn Bookstore)**

- Barber, Sarah and Corinna M. Peniston-Bird, (eds.). *History Beyond the Text: A Student's Guide to Approaching Alternative Sources*. Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2009.
- Cresswell, Tim. Place: A Short Introduction. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.
- DuBois, W.E.B., *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study* [1896] (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996).
- Kaufman, Ned. *Race, Place, and Story: Essays on the Past and Future of Historic Preservation.* New York: Routledge, 2009.

## **Participation & Classroom Conduct**

Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings, and *you must come to class ready to discuss assigned readings*. Over the course of the semester, each student is permitted one unexcused absence without a doctor's note and/or written permission from one of the course instructors. Students are responsible for any work missed while absent.

Classroom use of laptops, tablets, or smartphones is prohibited <u>unless</u> in-class exercises explicitly require laptops, <u>or</u> you've obtained a written exception from your professor.

## **Expectations for Written Assignments**

Grades will reflect the content and persuasiveness of your argument, your ability to advance new ideas, your analysis and synthesis of supporting evidence, your grasp of the course's themes, your use of scholarly apparatus (footnotes, bibliography, etc.), and your familiarity with the mechanics of writing (e.g., spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure). All written submissions must abide by the conventions of academic citation unless the professors explicitly state otherwise. We will discuss common glitches to avoid, e.g. excessive use of the passive voice and first person in academic prose.

Written assignments must employ the following formatting:

- 12-point type, with 1" margins all around
- page numbers at bottom
- footnotes (not endnotes) following the Chicago Manual of Style

The Initial Findings and Final Project write-ups (see below) should be submitted in hard copy, in Aaron's mailbox (Preservation Office, Meyerson 115) <u>AND</u> electronically, in our course folder. The Weekly Observations should be brought to class for use therein.

# Assignments

**Weekly Observations & Questions**. Beginning in Week 2, bring one single-spaced, typed page of reflections on the readings to class. Though we will collect these at the end of our meetings and look through them, their primary function is to foster discussion during class. Accordingly, please make sure to include two to three brief questions at the bottom of your page. These submissions and class participation count for 30% of your final grade.

**Assignment 1: Close Study.** For this assignment, you will pick an object, building, or site as a focal point for in-depth research. Although you should make this choice with an eye to Assignment 2 (see below), we recognize that your subsequent research may shift or broaden your focus, e.g., from a building to a building type, a single monument to "Remembering the Lenni Lenape in Tacony," or an object to an industry. In any case, expect to relate your chosen subject to the project you undertake in the final assignment (a substantial amount of your research should carry over). For this first assignment, you will write a 8-10-page paper (length does not include images, footnotes, and bibliography) that explains what you have learned through archival research and close physical analysis of your chosen "thing." **Due March 18<sup>th</sup> by 5pm; counts for 30% of your final grade.** 

Assignment 2: Going Public. Since a major goal of this course is to encourage creative forms of interpretation, your final project may take the form of an On-the-Ground Tour, an On-Site Interpretive Program, a Site-Based Curriculum, an Exhibit, a Monument (broadly defined), or a Website. An extensive, well-researched article or blog post for a venue such as Hidden City or History@Work (https://ncph.org/history-at-work/about-history-at-work/) may also be acceptable. In any case, you should expect to provide 15 pages of double-spaced text accompanied by scholarly apparatus (footnotes or endnotes), and supporting materials (e.g., floor plan and case layouts for an exhibit, specifications and drawings for a monument). While neither the supporting materials nor the scholarly apparatus count toward the official length of the submission, they are integral to its success. Due May 6th, at 5PM; counts for 40% of your final grade.

# **Academic Integrity**

*Everyone, at all times, is expected to abide by the academic honesty principles set out in the University's Code of Academic Integrity—see* https://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/13/code-of-academic-integrity.

# **Course Calendar**

# Week 1 (January 21st) Introduction

• Overview of course syllabus, objectives, sites, tools, & repositories.

# Week 2 (January 28th) Public History of the Built Environment – What, Where, Why

- Rosenzweig and Thelen, "The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life," chapter 2 in Kean and Martin, eds., *The Public History Reader*, 30-55.
- Labrador and Silberman, "Introduction: Public History as Social Practice," in *The Oxford Handbook of Public Heritage Theory and Practice*, 1-17.
- Gary Nash, *First City: Philadelphia and the Forging of Historical Memory* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002), chap. 1.
- Paul Groth, "Frameworks for Cultural Landscape Study" in Paul Groth and Todd W. Bressi, eds., *Understanding Ordinary Landscapes* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997), pp. 1-21.

# Week 3 (February 4th) Possible Field Trip with virtual corollary.

# Week 4 (February 11th) Place and People

- Cresswell, *Place*, 1-51.
- Dolores Hayden, *The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1995), 14-29.
- Elijah Anderson, *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999), 15-34.
- Katie Day, *Faith on the Avenue: Religion on a City Street* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), chap. 2. Available online through Franklin.

# Week 5 (February 18th) Story and Memory

- Ned Kaufman, *Race, Place, and Story: Essays on the Past and Future of Historic Preservation* (New York: Routledge, 2009), 38-74.
- Corinna M. Penniston-Bird, "Oral History: The Sound of Memory," in Barber & Penniston-Bird, 105-121.
- David Young, *The Battles of Germantown* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2019), 43-88.
- Thomas E. Clemens, *Quaint Old Landmarks in East Germantown* (East Germantown: printed for the author, 1939), 6-48.

# Week 6 (February 25th) Material Culture and History

- Cary Carson, "Doing History with Material Culture," in Ian Quimby, ed., *Material Culture and the Study of American Life* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1978), 41-74.
- Jules David Prown, "Mind in Matter: An Introduction to Material Culture Theory and Method," in Robert Blair St. George, ed., *Material Life in America*, *1600-1860* (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1988), 17-37.
- Dell Upton, "The Power of Things: Recent Studies in American Vernacular Architecture," *American Quarterly* 35, no. 3 (1983): 262-279.
- Laura Keim, "Remembering the Olden Time: John Fanning Watson's Cultivation of Memory and Relics in Early National Philadelphia," in George Boudreau and Margaretta Lovell, eds., *A Material World: Culture, Society, and the Life of Things in Early Anglo-America* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019), pp. 289-315.

• Harry M. Tinkcom and Margaret B. Tinkcom, *Historic Germantown From the Founding to the Early Part of the Nineteenth Century: A Survey of the German Township* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1955) – **skim**, examining maps and floor plans.

# Week 7 (March 4th) Groups and Identities, Buildings and Stories [LCK away]

- Dolores Hayden, *The Power of Place*, 44-48, 53-62.
- Ned Kaufman, *Race, Place, and Story: Essays on the Past and Future of Historic Preservation* (New York: Routledge, 2009), 75-92.
- Sam Otter, *Philadelphia Stories: America's Literature of Race and Freedom* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), 3-24.
- Noel Ignatiev, *How the Irish Became White*, chap. 6 (pp. 148-176 in 1995 edition).
- DuBois, Philadelphia Negro, ch. 15.
- Mark Pfeifer (interviewer) and Elizabeth Geary (interviewee), "Of Life in McNabbtown and East Germantown," *Germantown Crier* 69, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 32-42.
- J. Gordon Baugh, Souvenir of Germantown (1913) digital scan.

# **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS March 11th**

## Week 8 (March 18th) Industry

- Philip Scranton, *Proprietary Capitalism: The Textile Manufacture at Philadelphia, 1800-1885* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983), 224-271.
- Society for Industrial Archaeology, Oliver Evans Chapter, *The Workshop of the World: A Selective Guide to the Industrial Archeology of Philadelphia* (Wallingford, PA: Oliver Evans Press, 1990), II-2 through II-8 and 3-1 through 3-15.
- Martha C. Halpern, "Germantown, Philadelphia: An Émigré Textile Settlement, c.1680-1960," *Textile History*, vol. 29, Issue 2 (January 1998): 157-176.
- Spencer, *Historic Germantown*, chapter 8, 62-68.
- Betsy Hunter Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 25-83, **skim**.
- Contosta and Franklin, *Metropolitan Paradise*, "Industrial Powerhouse, 1690-1830," v. 1, pp. 104-148, skim. Copy on reserve in Fisher Fine Arts.
- Peruse Adam Levine's website, especially on creeks: <u>http://www.phillyh2o.org/creek.htm</u>

# Week 9 (March 25th) Suburban Landscapes, Suburban Lots – ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE

- John R. Stilgoe, *Borderland: Origins of the American Suburb, 1820-1939* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988), 1-17, 129-138.
- Paul Groth, "Lot, Yard, and Garden: American Distinctions," Landscape 30:3 (1990): 29-35.
- Marina Moskowitz, "Backyards and Beyond: Landscapes and History," in *History and Material Culture: A Student's Guide to Approaching Alternative Sources*, Karen Harvey, ed. (New York: Routledge, 2009), 67-84.
- Sources on Pulaskitown; Wiese on Af-Am Suburbs

# Week 10 (April 1st) Houses

- Thomas Carter and Elizabeth Cromley, *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2005), 45-64.
- Heidi Aronson Kolk, "The Many-Layered Cultural Lives of Things: Experiments in Multi-Disciplinary Object Study at a Local House Museum in St. Louis," *Winterthur Portfolio* 47, no. 2/3 (2013): 161-195.
- John A. Herbst, "Historic Houses," in Warren Leon and Roy Rosenweig, *History Museums in the United States: A Critical Assessment* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1989), 98-114.
- Neil Harris, *Building Lives: Constructing Rites and Passages*, 1-5, 130-152 plus endnotes.
- Daniel Bluestone, *Building, Landscapes, and Memory: Case Studies in Historic Preservation* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2011), 78-103 (on Dutch homesteads).

# Week 11 (April 8th) Nature Remade – IN CLASS: Choose a Reading from Next Week's Student Picks.

- Tom Williamson, "Landscape: The Configured Space," in Barber and Penniston-Bird, 136-154.
- Theodore Steinberg, *Nature Incorporated: Industrialization and the Waters of New England* [1991] (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1991), 1-17.
- Matthew Gandy, *Concrete and Clay: Reworking Nature in New York City* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002), 19-59.
- Anne Whiston Spirn, "Landscape Literacy and Design for Ecological Democracy: The Nature of Mill Creek, West Philadelphia," in Henrik Ernstson and Sverker Sorlin, eds., *Grounding Urban Natures: Histories and Futures of Urban Ecologies* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2019), 109-136.
- Adam Levine, "The Grid Versus Nature: The History and Legacy of Topographical Change in Philadelphia," in Brian C. Black and Michael J. Chiarappa (eds.), *Nature's Entrepot: Philadelphia's Urban Sphere and its Environmental Thresholds*, 139-159 and notes, 320-326.

# Week 12 (April 15th) Tourism, Recreation, and Promotion

- Will B. Mackintosh, *Selling the Sites: The Invention of the Tourist in American Culture* (New York: NYU Press, 2019), 1-21.
- Neil Harris, Building Lives: Constructing Rites and Passages, 91-97.
- Philip Stevick, *Imagining Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996), 40-54.
- David R. Contosta, "Philadelphia's 'Miniature Williamsburg': The Colonial Revival and Germantown's Market Square," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 120, no. 4 (October 1996): 283-320.
- Townsend Ward, "The Germantown Road and Its Associations," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 8 parts, (1881-1882).
- Then each student picks one of the following to present:
- Charles F. Jenkins, *Guide-Book to Historic Germantown* (Philadelphia: Innes & Sons for the Site and Relic Society of Germantown, 1902).

- *Germantown Past and Present: Business Men's Parade Souvenir* (Germantown: Germantown Independent Gazette, 1896).
- Francis Burke Brandt and Henry Volkmar Gummere, *Byways and Boulevards in and about Historic Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Corn Exchange National Bank, 1925), "Route 3: Founding and Founders of Germantown," 41-49.
- Cornelius Weygandt, "Thank God for Germantown," speech excerpt from University of Pennsylvania Archives, pages 1-3 and? 118-120.
- Alfred Bendiner, *Bendiner's Philadelphia* (New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., 1964, originally pub. 1961), 76-83.

## Week 13 (April 22nd) Monuments and Public Art Invited Speakers: Paul Farber and Ken Lum

- Erika Doss, *Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 313-349.
- Kirk Savage, *Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997), 162-208.
- Dell Upton, "Why Do Contemporary Monuments Talk So Much?" in David Gobel and Daves Rossell, eds., *Commemoration in America: Essays on Monuments, Memorialization, and Memory* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2013), 11-35.
- Paul Farber and Ken Lum, eds. *Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2020, preface and "Battle is Joined," x-xv and 147-154.

## Week 14 (April 29th) Final Presentations

## **COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY** (a work in progress)

#### **Public History Practice**

- Adair, Bill, Benjamin Filene and Laura Koloski, eds. Letting Go?: Sharing Historical Authority in a User-Generated World, 2011.
- Barber, Sarah and Corinna M. Peniston-Bird. *History Beyond the Text: A Student's Guide to Approaching Alternative Sources*. London: Routledge, 2009.
- Blatti, Jo, ed. *Past Meets Present: Essays about Interpretation and Public Audiences*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1987.
- Cauvin, Thomas. Public History: A Textbook of Practice. New York and Oxford: Routledge, 2016.
- Cresswell, Tim. Place: A Short Introduction. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.
- Fellows, Will. A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2004.
- Frisch, Michael. A Shared Authority: Essays on the Craft and Meaning of Oral and Public History. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1990.

- Gallas, Kristin L. and James DeWolf Perry, eds. *Interpreting Slavery at Museums and Historic Sites*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015.
- Hurley, Andrew. *Beyond Preservation: Using Public History to Revitalize Inner Cities*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2010.
- Kean, Hilda and Paul Martin, eds. The Public History Reader. New York and London: Routledge, 2013.
- Labrador, Angela M., and Neil Asher Silberman, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Public Heritage Theory and Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Levy, Barbara Abramoff, Sandra Mackenzie Lloyd, and Susan Porter Schreiber, *Great Tours!: Thematic Tours and Guide Training for Historic Sites*. Rowman Altimira Press, 2002.
- Loewen, James W. Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong. New York: The New Press, 1999.
- Lyon, Cherstin, M., Elizabeth M. Nix, and Rebecca K. Shrum. *Introduction to Public History: Interpreting the Past, Engaging Audiences*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.
- Chad, Randl and Gregory Donofrio (eds.) Preservation Education and Research 10 (2018).
- Ritchie, Donald A. *Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide [to] Using Interviews to Uncover the Past and Preserve it for the Future.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Storey, William Kelleher. *Writing History: A Guide for Students*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999 and subsequent reprints.
- Van Balgooy, Max. Interpreting African American History and Culture at Museums and Historic Sites. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015.

#### **Buildings, Landscapes, Memory**

- Alanen, Arnold R. and Robert Z. Melnick, eds. *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.
- Bluestone, Daniel. *Buildings, Landscapes, and Memory: Case Studies in Historic Preservation*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co, 2001.
- Foote, Kenneth. *Shadowed Ground: America's Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997.
- Harris, Neil. *Building Lives: Constructing Rites and Passages*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.

- Jackson, J.B. *The Necessity for Ruins and Other Topics*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1980.
- Kelman, Ari. A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Pres, 2013.
- Longstreth, Richard, ed. *Cultural Landscapes: Balancing Nature and Heritage in Preservation Practice*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.
- Schama, Simon. Landscape and Memory. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995.
- Wilson, Chris. *The Myth of Santa Fe: Creating a Modern Regional Tradition*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997.

#### Houses

- Butcher-Younghans, Sherry. *Historic House Museums: a Practical Handbook for Their Care, Preservation, and Management.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Clark, Clifford E. "Domestic Architecture and an Index to Social History: The Romantic Revival and the Cult of Domesticity in America, 1840-1870." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 7, no. 1 (1976): 33-56.
- Donnelly, Jessica Foy. Interpreting Historic House Museums. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press, 2002.
- Hague, Stephen. The Gentleman's House in the British Atlantic World, 1680-1780. Palgrave, 2015.
- Howe, Barbara, et al. *Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History*. Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1987.
- Nancy A. Holst, "Pattern books and the Suburbanization of Germantown, Pennsylvania, in the Mid Nineteenth Century," University of Delaware Ph.D. thesis (2008), ch. 1 & 2.
- Hubka, Thomas C. Houses without Names: Architectural Nomenclature and the Classification of America's Common Houses. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2013.
- Turino, Kenneth C., and Max A. van Balgooy, eds. *Reimaging Historic House Museums: New Approaches and Proven Solutions*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

#### Memory

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London and New York: Verso, 1983.
- Bruggeman, Seth C. Here, George Washington Was Born: Memory, Material Culture, and the Public History of a National Monument. Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 2008.

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- Hobsbawm, Eric and Terence Ranger. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.
- Janney, Caroline E. Burying the Dead but not the Past: Ladies Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2008.
- Jordan, Jennifer A. *Structures of Memory: Understanding Urban Change in Berlin and Beyond.* Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006.
- Kammen, Michael. *Mystic Chords of Memory: The Transformation of Tradition in American Culture*. New York: Vintage Books, 1991.
- Ladd, Brian. *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1997.
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- Weeks, Jim. *Gettysburg: Memory, Market, and the American Shrine*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.

## Tourism

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#### **Material Culture**

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