A Year in Review...

Mother Emanuel
AME’s Cemetery

Hard Bargain Farm
with the V.A.F

On the Road
Contributing Writers
Nathan Betcher
Sam Biggers
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From the Director . . .

Dear Friend of the MSHP Program,

Who knew that this school year would find me on a Maryland farm petting a goat while holding a total station prism pole, but that’s the kind of eclectic and interesting year we’ve had. During our second year in our new labs, studios, and offices in the historic Cigar Factory, we pursued familiar courses but most of them took us to new places and new challenges. That goat? We met at Hard Bargain Farm, a Depression-era retreat in Prince Georges County which a small group of us documented for the Vernacular Architecture Forum’s 2018 annual conference field guide. What we did and what we saw at Hard Bargain is one of the field research and documentation projects described in the pages that follow.

Our year began, as it always does, with Prequel, a week made more memorable by the total eclipse of the sun that passed directly over us. Amalia Leifeste and her new First Year students completed documentation drawings and a conditions assessment of Strawberry Chapel in Berkeley County, the first of the remote places we visited through the year. An invitation to conduct a mitigation study of Abbeville, SC preceded completion of documentation drawings for circa 1725 Brickhouse ruin on Edisto Island. Wrapped around these projects were materials analyses at 5 East Bay, finishes assessment and stone conservation at St Mary’s Church on Hasell Street, and cultural landscape reports on Charleston’s railroad landscape, the city’s shift from graveyards to cemeteries, and the important mid-twentieth century garden at the William Rhett House. Reports on these, and other projects pursued through the year, reveal that we have tackled an interesting range of projects.

You’ll also see that we have adopted a new name for our newsletter. We left 292 Meeting Street, our cozy home in Ansonborough, two years ago, long enough that the old title of our newsletter, 292 Preservation Brief, no longer resonated with our new location. We tried a number of possibilities and have, after considerable good-natured disagreement, settled on the Lowcountry Preservationist as both place specific and descriptive of what we do. We hope you enjoy this first edition of an old newsletter with a new name.

Follow our achievements here and through our webpage:

http://www.clemson.edu/caah/departments/historic-preservation/index.html and on Facebook too!

Come see us!
On the Road.
The Lowcountry and Beyond

1 // Cimitero Monumentale di Staglieno, Genoa, Italy. May 2017. Photo by Sam Biggers.


3 // Fall trip 2017, at the fountain in Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA. November 2017. Photo by Carter Hudgins.

5 // Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1st year preservation studio Beaufort, SC. March 2018. Photo by Amalia Leifeste.


Genoa skyline. Photo by Sam Biggers.
In the fall semester, students in HP 8250: Mitigation in Historic Preservation focused their efforts on Trinity Episcopal Church in Abbeville, South Carolina. The church served as the case study for the course, which centered around the identification and implementation of preservation solutions when resources are limited. Trinity Episcopal's spire, rising over a hundred feet in the air, is one of the most distinctive elements on the Abbeville skyline. Deterioration of the spire has caused other major structural issues which have forced the congregation to move out of the building. Interested in feasible steps to rehabilitate the church, the congregation contacted Professor Amalia Leifeste, who designed our class to develop a mitigation strategy.

To understand the church and its problems, our class began with documentation of character-defining features. Following documentation, we researched a range of options for the church like removing the spire and stabilizing the church or a full-scale renovation. Our work culminated in a final presentation in Abbeville, in which members of the congregation and town heard our range of options and treatments first hand. We were all grateful for the opportunity to provide useful options for a congregation in need.

Over the course of the Fall 2017 semester, First Year students completed documentation, conditions investigation, and gravestone conservation at Strawberry Chapel as part of the Investigation, Documentation, and Conservation class. Located near Moncks Corner, South Carolina in Berkeley county, Strawberry Chapel is a unique chapel of ease. The study of Strawberry chapel offered a chance to explore the contextual landscape of rural chapel architecture. After many Friday trips out to the chapel to collect information and measurements, the students completed a book full of the history, drawings, and recommendations for future repair that will serve as a resource for the stewards of Strawberry Chapel.

Throughout the class’s time at Strawberry Chapel, students documented the chapel both by hand and using AutoCAD to create a record of the chapel. After documenting and analyzing the current conditions of the chapel, the class created recommendations, to aid future work done to this chapel in the name of preserving the structure against the aforementioned vandalism as well as age-related deterioration. The class also created a site plan using a Total Station survey to record significant features including fence lines, gravestones and the Harleston Family receiving vault at the south entrance of the chapel. The students also worked on gravestone conservation while on site. In the graveyard, each student chose at least one gravestone to conserve by way of cleaning, restoring stones to be plumb, or replacing missing pieces of the stone.

The students worked with a member of the Ball family, who acts as the current steward for the church. The Ball family historically owned the plantations this chapel served. The most significant challenge the church faces is vandalism. Unfortunately, unfounded ghost lore and mystery surrounding the rural chapel makes it a popular destination, resulting in harm to the building from the people trespassing. The students’ goal was to mitigate the vandalism that has increased the process of deterioration. Strawberry Chapel is one of the only remnants of the nearby historic town of Childsbury that never fully developed after the planning stages, and stands as a reminder of the rich heritage of eighteenth century life in the lowcountry- First years are grateful for the opportunity this class offered to work with the Ball family and preserve the chapel!
Over Fall Break in October, a contingent of five students joined professors Carter Hudgins and Amalia Leifeste to document Hard Bargain Farm in Accokeek, Maryland. Students Matt Amis, Sam Biggers, Rucha Kamath, Lauren Lindsay, and Dana Marks flew up to Maryland for the long weekend with Carter and Amalia to complete documentation work for the Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) for the May 2018 conference, A Shared Heritage: Urban and Rural Experience on the Banks of the Potomac.

Located in Prince George's County, Hard Bargain Farm will be included in the conference's field study tour of Maryland's lower western shore. Hard Bargain Farm is situated directly across the Potomac River from George Washington's Mount Vernon and is an important venue for environmental education programs sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. The farm and its mid-twentieth century buildings is protected by its location within Piscataway National Park which Congress established to protect the viewshed from Mount Vernon.
The team was responsible for documenting three main areas within the property: the main house and its gardens and outbuildings, the farm, and the nineteenth century tobacco complex. In each area, students produced building plans for every structure and an overall site plan. More detailed floor plans were drawn for the main house and a large dairy barn.

At Hard Bargain Farm, the main house with its surrounding gardens and ancillary buildings are situated on top of a hill with the Potomac River to the northwest. Through the viewfinder of the Total Station used to gather data points for the site plan, one could spot George Washington's Mount Vernon while standing on the edge of the gardens! The farmyard includes over ten separate buildings that follow the curve of the road down a hill, as well as fenced enclosures for goats, pigs and cattle. The tobacco complex is further separated from the other two sites. The complex is no longer used for tobacco farming and the large barn at the site is now used for hay storage.

Using a Total Station, measuring tapes, and other documentation tools, the team was able to gather all of the information and measurements needed to come back to Charleston and compile everything into complete site plans and drawings for the VAF to include in their conference field guide. A small group from the program will attend the VAF Conference in May, where these drawings will help attendees understand Hard Bargain Farm.
The Advanced Conservation class in the Fall of 2017 conducted studies and conservation work at Mother Emanuel AME’s Cemetery. The church has two cemeteries and they are listed in the National Register Nomination as “New Emanuel AME Church Cemetery (1926)” and “Calhoun AME (Old Emanuel Church) Cemetery (1874),” and for this project, the New Emanuel Cemetery was the case study. Students conducted surveys to identify which gravesites needed the most care and to create future conservation plans for the rest of the gravesites. During the surveying process, students uncovered many sunken and missing headstones, which they raised and returned them to their correct location. In addition to hands-on conservation work, the four students completed individual projects for the class. At the end of the semester, the students presented their findings and compiled a report for members of Mother Emanuel AME. The report contained their gathered information, maps, survey sheets and recommendations for additional conservation work continue preservation work in the cemetery.
Katie Martin's task was to write a more detailed history of the cemetery. She found that the New Emanuel AME Cemetery, set between Lemon and Pershing Streets, was purchased by Emile T. Viett in 1919. He requested that a plat be made of the property that showed divisions, some of which were later sold to the congregation of Mother Emanuel. Mother Emanuel purchased the land from Viett in March of 1926, officially creating the Mother Emanuel Cemetery.

Mary Fesak researched the life of Louis B. Middleton, an African American interred with an official Confederate Soldier's headstone. Middleton served as a cook and camp attendant for his owner Robert Bentham Simmons during the Civil War. After the war, Middleton became a brick mason, married, and had two daughters. One daughter, Ruby Middleton Forsythe, graduated from the Avery Normal Institute and became a nationally-recognized educator. In 1935, Middleton passed away and his family applied for the Confederate veteran gravestone which stands prominently in the cemetery today.

Diana Inthavong conducted a survey of the iconography of the headstones and found that ivy, crosses, and evening primrose motifs were the most common carvings. These motifs symbolize strength, rebirth, faith, and life everlasting. There were also elements that distinguished this as an African American cemetery. African American cemeteries are distinguished by the use of concrete horizontal slabs, metal piping used as plot borders, and concrete headstones. Visitors also left behind mementos like shells, pottery, or glass.

Nathan Betcher’s task was to create a new map of the east end of the cemetery. Using the Total Station, he created a survey of the headstones, slabs, boundary markers, vegetation, and other objects of cultural significance. The data from the survey was then used to create a scaled map of the area in AutoCAD. This new map revealed many items that were not represented on the hand drawn map from 1993, including missing gravestones from people interred after 1993 as well as sunken or illegible headstones.
During the Spring Semester, the class of 2019 studied the Brick House Ruins on Edisto Island in Colleton County, South Carolina. As part of Preservation Studio, they documented the ruins in their current condition, and created mitigation plans for the site. Brick House was constructed in 1725 by Paul Hamilton on land that had been acquired from the Lord Proprietors of South Carolina. At the end of the eighteenth century, the property was sold to the Jenkins family who still own it today. The Jenkins family recognized the importance of this early-eighteenth century structure and have put much time, energy, and love into maintaining the ruins. Currently, plans are underway to further stabilize the ruins, and our class documented the condition of the structure to support the legacy of Brick House.

Our work started with researching the history of the structure, applying what we learned in our research methods class. This included trips to the South Carolina Room in the main branch of the Charleston Public Library, the South Carolina Historical Society, the Register of Deeds Office for Charleston County, the archives at the Historic Charleston Foundation, and other historic repositories. We were able to piece together a complete timeline of the house.

We then documented the ruins which was important because drawings of the structure had not been updated since the 1930s. In the field, we hand measured the ruins and took careful documentary photos of areas we could not easily measure. Once our field measurements were completed, we were able to document the current state of the ruins with AutoCAD drawings, capturing any deteriorated or missing pieces. These drawings were used to document the current conditions of vegetation growth, cracks, stucco, brick and mortar, plumbness, and wood and metal used in construction.

The final step in our project was for each student to research a unique feature of the ruins. The features researched were: wall structure, brick, mortar, stucco, metals, framing, window casework, chimneys, foundation, landscape, and the well. The information gathered about the individual features allowed for a deeper understanding of early-eighteenth construction methods and the changes of the building over time. While much of the building had been lost in 1929 fire, the research helped piece some of the story of Brick House together. As the Brick House Ruins continue to undergo more changes and stabilization, our documentation and mitigation recommendations will aid in the rich history and preservation of Brick House.
As part of Professor Frances Ford's Spring Advanced Conservation class, Second Year students took on several projects at the St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Charleston. Part of the first Roman Catholic parish in the Carolinas and Georgia, the current building is the third church on the site. The congregation constructed the building after their second church burned in the fire of 1838. Claire Bushemi created a Historic Structure Report for the parish hall building next to the church. Through the examination of the different phases of construction and modifications carried out on the building, Claire was able to trace the evolution of the parish hall in response to the congregation’s changing needs of the congregation. Mary Fesak undertook an analysis of the interior finishes in the sanctuary and vestibule. During her investigation, she took paint samples from the walls, doors, and trim. After examining the paint samples under microscopes, Mary identified paint colors used in the church over time. The most prominent external feature of the building are the faux-marble columns. Sam Biggers followed up previous investigations conducted on the historic exterior paint scheme to determine when the columns were first faux-painted marble. Sam was also instrumental in carrying out digital documentation of the church by using a laser scanner on both the exterior and interior to provide a 3D record of the current building. He created a flythrough video clip of the attic space. Finally, Nathan Betcher and church volunteers worked in the cemetery to create a digital map of the cemetery. Using the laser scanner, they inventoried and assessed the condition of the gravestones. Students also carried out some repairs on some of the gravestones including resetting a headstone and mending cracked tablets on box tombs.
Matt Amis: Reconstructing the Past for the Future: Denmark Vesey’s Charleston as a Case Study in Building a Sustainable Digital Model
Alix Barrett: Out of the Woods: Facilitating Stewardship of Historic Resources in the National Forest Service
Nathan Betcher: Mission (66) Accomplished: Retaining Historic Integrity in Mission 66 National Park Service Visitor Centers
Sam Biggers: Orson Fowler’s Influence in the Shenandoah Valley: The Gravel Wall Plan in Augusta County, Virginia
Claire Bushemi: Island Identities: Analysis of South Carolina Barrier Islands
Andrea Cooper: Structural Failure Patterns of Mid-Nineteenth Century Masonry Buildings of Charleston
Mary Fesak: Thoroughbred Training Landscapes of Aiken and Camden, South Carolina
Kate Gallotta: Who Will Save the City: A Comparative Study of Public Policies for Revitalization in Greenville, SC and Macon, GA

Katie Martin: Waves of Change: An Analysis of Protective Measures at Historically African American Beaches and their Application to American Beach, Florida
Diana Inthavong: Come Hell or High Water: Flood Mitigation and Resilience in the Holy City
Lauren Lindsey: Fostering Community: Spatial Arrangements of Early Nineteenth Century Camp Meeting Grounds in South Carolina
Steven Lyles: Investigating Seismic Successes and Failures in 1866 Charleston
Kristina Poston: It’s Not All Water Under the Bridge: Reevaluating Early Methods of Survey with a Case Study in St. John’s Parish

Alumni

Kendy Altizer (2014) is a PhD candidate and a teaching associate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Amber Anderson (2015) has moved to Salt Lake City where she now holds the title of Tax Credit and Revitalization Specialist with Utah SHPO where will work alongside Alena Franco (2017).

Caglar Aydin (2013) is currently a PhD student and Research/Training Assistant in the Department of Architecture at Karadeniz Technical University, Turkey.

Meagan Baco (2009) was a member of the inaugural class for Preservation 50 ARCUS Leadership Training and led Preservation Maryland to its coveted status of posting season one of the world’s most popular historic preservation podcast, PreserveCast.

Laurel Bartlett (2013) is a PhD candidate in Clemson’s Planning, Development and the Built Environment program where she is focusing on historic preservation and visitor impact on historic sites.

Jeremy Bradham (2009) is still living in the Raleigh area working as Preservation Specialist for Capital Area Preservation, Inc. and where he has started a side business consulting through a new website, oldhouselife.com, coming online soon.

Lindsay (Lanois) Crockett (2014) won an award in 2017 from the Tennessee Historical Commission for her accomplishments as a planner for the East Tennessee region.

Alena Franco (2017) moved back to Utah following graduation to accept a position as public outreach and certified local government coordinator.

Kirsten Freeman (2017) accepted a new job as Architectural Historian at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks, Alaska. Kirsten also published an article in the Winter 2018 edition of the Alliance Review, the quarterly journal of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.


Adrienne Jacobsen (2006) reports that she has worked with Glenn Keyes Architects in Charleston for thirteen years. Her favorite renovation projects include 44 South Battery, McLeod Plantation, and the Charleston City Market. Adrienne is co-hosting a new history/architecture podcast called Scandal Sheets with her friend Caroline Wilson that chronicles infamous crimes in famous buildings.
Meg Richardson Pagán (2008) reports that she gained a new last name when she was married last November.


Jessica (Golebiowski) Richardson (2009) continued her work with Louisiana’s SHPO as its National Register Coordinator and welcomed her first child, Wright, in March, 2017.

Karl Sondermann (2013) was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in November 2017 and selected for battalion command. He is currently operations officer for Arlington National Cemetery. He and Susan, Hailey (10), Ethan (5), and two dogs and a cat will move in March 2019 to Kaiserslautern, Germany to assume command of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command Special Troops Battalion.

Brittany Lavelle Tulla (2012) was named by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to its 2018 40 Under 40 list of movers and shakers in historic preservation. Brittany read a paper based on her research on CCC crews at Kings Mountain National Military Park at SESAH in October.

Amy Elizabeth Uebel (2013) will leave her position with the Historic Architecture, Conservation & Engineering Center of the National Park Service to accept a new job with Conservation Solutions, Inc in Washington where her title will be Conservator.

Rebecca Quandt-Ziegler (2013) gained new last name and a new title, the former after getting married in January and the latter as Downtown Revitalization Urban Development Manager for the City of Salem, Oregon.

IN MEMORIAM. Jason Grismore (MSHP ‘08), a native of Greenville, South Carolina and resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, passed away on November 29, 2017 at the age of 35 after a three-year battle with a rare cancer. Jason was an avid college football fan, lover of the outdoors, and dedicated to his work in historic preservation.
http://www.clemson.edu/caah/historic-preservation/
Keep up with us throughout the year by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!