A Year in Review...

Historic Structures Report: Millford  //  Morris Street Cottages  //  GPR at Hyde Park Plantation
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MSHP classes of ‘21 & ‘22 / Photo by Amanda Tucker

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@CharlestonMSHP @MSHPGradProgram
Dear Program Family and Friends,

I write to you (a bit late) at the exciting beginning of another academic year. Looking back at my letter from last year, I thought I’d be able to say that my second year as director was comparatively calm. Interestingly, I am happy to say that the year was not placid, not due to crises, but for good reasons that kept the students, faculty, staff, and me quite busy. As a common theme I am sure we all can relate to, “Adaptation” was the mantra that allowed us to have a successful year.

In adapting to COVID, we began the year virtually. Our brilliant faculty devised ways of teaching that stayed true to our hands-on curriculum by translating learning to remote delivery. For example, Amalia creatively employed 3D laser scanning of our IDC project building as a basis for teaching measured drawing to students online. We also tried to hold class outdoors as much as possible, which provided my history and theory class with a beautiful (albeit slightly cold and very windy) learning experience on the Cigar Factory roof. Our second-year students also deftly negotiated their thesis research despite the challenges posed by COVID. That all produced sound theses while dealing with reduced hours and closures at libraries and archives and a lack of university travel support. Thanks to modern science beating back COVID in the spring, we were fortunate to be able to host an in-person commencement ceremony for the class of 2021 at McLeod Plantation Historic Site. This was made even more wonderful by the presence of class of 2020, who had to settle for a “drive-by” graduation last year.

As is tradition, this newsletter reports on many of the projects that first- and second-year students completed this year. The pieces are all produced by students, and the work compiled and edited by Bernie O’Brien and Ben Thomas. I am incredibly proud of the work you will read about in this issue. I am also incredibly grateful to our community partners who continue to see the value of historic preservation and who work with us to give our students learning experiences that are so crucial in our field and in their lives.

As we start our fall semester with the continued uncertainty that COVID brings, I am confident that our students, faculty, and staff will continue to adapt and will continue to demonstrate the same kind of resilience and passion for learning that defined 2020.

Regards,

Jon

Regards,

Dr. Jon Marcoux
1 // First year students in Francis Marion National Forest. Spring 2021. Photo by MSHP.

2 // Second-year class on the Battery in Charleston, SC. Spring 2021. Photo by Craig Bennett.

3 // Student Sarah Clifton surveying the enslaved cemetery at Hyde Park Plantation in Berkeley County, SC. February 2020. Photo by Ben Thomas

4 // First-Year students on site at the Morris Street Cottages in Anderson, SC. January 2021. Photo by Amalia Leifeste.
First-year students working on measured drawings at Mt. Zion AME Church. Fall 2020. Photo by Ben Thomas.

Student Riley Morris running a plaster detail in the Conservation Science Laboratory course.

Second year graduate students in the Historic Preservation program for Clemson and the College of Charleston had the opportunity to take an advanced conservation class at Warren Lausch Conservation Center. This class was taught by Dr. Stephanie Cretté and professor Johanna Rivera-Diaz. This course gave students an opportunity to learn about how museums are created, managed and sustained. The class also taught students how to best manage collections, and a basic understanding of the chemistry behind organic and inorganic items that can be found in museum collections. Second year graduate students benefited from learning the fundamentals in conservation targeting collections that could be found in historic houses and museums.

Students were taught the best way to store inorganic materials such as metals, and the best way to store organic materials like fabrics, pictures, ivory and bone. Students were able to view the inorganic and organic collections at Warren Lausch to see first hand how these items should be separated and cataloged. The organic collections at Warren Lasch includes actual clothing items worn by the crew of the H.L. Hunley, the first submarine to successfully sink an enemy ship in 1864. Students also learned how to repair items in a collection, and had the opportunity to reassemble broken porcelain.

In February, students were asked to write their own collections management policies. These policies are put in place by museums to determine their code of ethics, their mission statement, their goals, what items that will or will not be accessioned into a museum, and also who will be involved in decisions for museums. Because a collections management policy is a crucial part of the success of a museum, by writing their own students gained valuable experience.

The final project for conservation students was an assessment of the collections within the Nathaniel Russel house museum in Charleston. Students were required to select one room within the house and examine the condition of the collection. Students were encouraged to utilize their knowledge of conservation to rate the condition of each item within the collection, explain why each item was in good or bad condition, and give suggestions on how to improve the longevity of the collection. Student’s new understanding of organic and inorganic chemistry, how to document and assess a collection, and how to repair museum pieces will help them to be assets to future employers.
The Advanced Conservation class focuses on performing a preservation and conservation project of historic materials and objects. The class had the opportunity to work with the Lowcountry Land Trust, a non-profit organization that focuses on land conservation within the coastal plain of South Carolina at Hyde Park Plantation in the Fall semester of 2020. The project included establishing boundaries of a now-abandoned cemetery used by the enslaved people at Hyde Park and creating a preservation and conservation plan for the cemetery. To focus our study, we chose to concentrate around known areas where graves, marked with wooden and stone markers, were located. A site map of the area was created using a Nikon total station. Then, a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) study was conducted to locate unknown graves.

Ground penetrating radar is the process of gathering radar data through scans of the ground. The radar pulse sends a signal through the ground and measures the amount of time it takes for the signal to return to the antenna. The measure of time that it takes for the radar signal to hit an object in the ground and return to the antenna signifies the depth of the anomaly.

Our results concluded 18 potential burials between the two survey areas with 9 located in each area. Based on the historic research and the location of 18 potential graves, we believe that there are likely more graves present in the surrounding area. This conclusion was reached based on the large volume of enslaved people that were living on the plantation and so few graves located.

In the end, we recommended creating a strong relationship with cemetery preservation organizations to help in prolonging the presence and integrity of the gravestones and wooden markers. These organizations can also offer the right preservation techniques for the maintenance of the cemetery.
During the Fall semester as a part of our Investigation, Documentation and Conservation course, our first-year cohort had the incredibly immersive opportunity to study and actively document both the interior and exterior conditions of Mount Zion AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church on Glebe Street. Mt. Zion stands as a major staple in Charleston's African American ecclesiastical history, and conversations with the Church’s parish leader, Pastor Jerome Middleton provided us with insight into the community’s deep-seeded legacy in the city. Our class was charged with the responsibility of creating a record of the building and landscape with aspects such as material conditions assessment, measured drawing, AutoCAD interpretation and paint analysis of the church’s interior paint campaigns over an approximate 160-year timeframe. As a result, our class was able to compile an in-depth report on the structure as it stands today, but importantly, in reference to its illustrious history. Upon the completion of our report, we were given the humbling opportunity to present our work and findings to Mt. Zion parish and community leaders.

This project was impactful in a number of different ways given its immersive nature and hands-on duties. Our work stands as our introductory exposure to not only our program, but also to the foundational practices of the preservation field. Our time on Glebe Street and relationships created with Parish members will certainly stand as foundational in our graduate-level journey moving forward.
Paying for Preservation was a new and exciting course offered in the Fall of 2020. The course was led by Amalia Leifeste, Associate Professor of Historic Preservation, she along with other professionals brought insight into the financial side of historic preservation work. Throughout the semester professionals met with us virtually or in person and discussed how they earn a living in the field of historic preservation and how they raise money to execute preservation projects. The course was broken up into three different sections; entrepreneurs/consultants, small organization/non-profit organization, and real estate and redevelopment. In the first section of the course, we had a virtual panel discussion with Monica Hendricks, Emily Ford and Rebecca Ziegler all of whom shed light on how one goes about starting their own business- extremely helpful coming out of the school environment into the professional world. Moving into the second portion of the class we had an intense but worthwhile discussion with Carter Hudgins, who ran me and my fellow classmates through the theory and mechanics behind nonprofit organizations. Lastly towards the end of the semester we met at the Cigar Factory with Jeffery Roberts who discussed his various redevelopment projects both past and ongoing in Charleston. This section and Jeffrey Roberts’ presentation, illustrated how we as preservationists can have a significant impact on the built environment through redeveloping historic buildings.

The course included field trips to various locations throughout the semester too. On one of our trips out into the field we visited Roper House located at 9 East Battery and met with Lauren Northup. While taking in all the amazing sights Roper House has to offer, Lauren discussed how social media outreach can be an invaluable tool when promoting preservation to professionals and to the general public who are a critical part of any preservation project succeeding.

For historic preservation as a field to succeed, professionals need to be willing to find alternate ways of using historic buildings or structures than just another museum. Having an understanding of how a historic property can be reused in an appropriate manner and the best way to finance the preservation or restoration process is crucial. I know my fellow classmates as well as myself got a lot out of this new course and enjoyed our time with Amalia and all our guest speakers. I hope this class continues to be offered to future MSHP classes so that they may come out of this program with an understanding of what kind of opportunities are available to them after graduation!
First year students’ spring semester in Preservation Studio class, taught by Amalia Leifeste, began with a documentation project in Anderson, South Carolina. Students were tasked with documenting, researching, and dating the four structures, which were formerly thought to be enslaved cabins. This project was made possible by a number of individuals, including Dr. Rhondda Thomas who connected the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation to the board (advocates and stewards of) Anderson’s Slave Dwelling Project through her own work, the “Call My Name” project. Students were able to work with Rhondda as well as other members of Anderson’s community and preservation professionals (such as a virtual critique of observations made at the cottages with Carl Lounsbury, Cameron Moon, and Carter Hudgins) who provided valuable insights related to Anderson’s history, dating construction methods, and similar structures.
During two site-visits to the cottages in Anderson, students documented the four buildings with measured drawings, producing plans and exterior elevations drawn to HABS standards. Throughout the documentation process, careful assessments of construction methods, building conditions, and notable features were taken to aid in the understanding of the structure’s histories and phasing. A total station was also utilized on site, allowing the buildings to be placed in their correct context within the property boundaries. Research was conducted both in person and virtually, utilizing the Anderson County Courthouse to conduct deed research and websites such as the South Carolina Genealogical society and Ancestry.com. Other important research collected was on related buildings. Students visited buildings in and around Charleston that resembled the Anderson cottages to compare their construction methods and dates of construction to observations made in Anderson.

Investigation of the cottages led to discoveries of construction methods that included circular sawn lumber, machine-molded brick, and balloon framing typical of the late-nineteenth century. There were instances of hand-molded brick and diagonal brace framing in some cabins, suggesting that materials were likely reused from an earlier era. Many phases of interior finishes were noted, including multiple campaigns of historic wallpaper.

The results of students’ investigation and documentation meant a change in the cottages’ period of significance. Students determined that the cottages were likely constructed between the late 1870’s to the early 1890’s, later than previously believed. As Freedmen’s Cottages, the buildings represent the lives of formerly enslaved people and their descendents. The cottages have maintained much of their historic integrity, and the phasing in construction that was documented highlights both the architecture of the reconstruction era and the resilient, resourceful adaptations of those who occupied the buildings for over a century.

The MSHP program’s work was showcased in the local Anderson newspaper, The Electric City News. The article was written by students Isabella Gordineer and Patricia Ploehn and can be found on the paper’s website.

Check out: The Electric City News April 15, 2021: "Morris Street Dwellings"
https://109803af-26c8-456f-8f82-61fe7330519c.filesusr.com/ugd/195faf_fa2cc97bfa14e5292340295d922843e.pdf
In the spring semester, the students of the Historic Structures Report course had the privilege of working with Classical American Homes Preservation Trust (CAHPT) and studying Millford in Pinewood, SC. Built in 1841 by John Laurence Manning and Susan Frances Hampton, Millford is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the U.S. The house stayed in the Manning family through 1902, when Mary Clark Thompson bought the property. The Clark family made numerous changes to the property, particularly the surrounding the buildings and landscape on the property. Mr. Richard Jenrette was the third generation of ownership, purchasing the property in 1992 and restoring the property to its period of construction. The modifications from each era have been well preserved and show the multiple generations of ownership. Given the stewardship of Millford through its generations, particularly through Mr. Jenrette, the remarkable home maintains a high level of integrity.

The report follows the National Park Service HSR structure, and it serves as a first step for long-term preservation planning. During the three site visits, students photographed the house, collected measurements, and analyzed the spaces at Millford in respect to their integrity and historic use. The report includes the history of the house through Pinewood, SC by Darcy Neufeld
each period of ownership, combining known history with some new findings. Amongst the discoveries was a photo album depicting the buildings, landscapes, and individuals occupying Millford circa 1910. With the architectural descriptions, students analyzed the integrity of the spaces and illustrated the different public or private functions of each room. The report also contains a significant assessment of the main property’s current conditions both in the interior spaces and the exterior facades. In performing the conditions assessment, the students discovered the doors on the first floor are veneered. With the silver hinges, the discovery shows the Mannings spared no expense in the collaborative design of the house. The report concludes with recommendations for CAHPT and the future preservation of Millford.
During the spring semester, four students in Professors Frances Ford and Moby Marks’ Conservation Science Lab course, led by Shea McEnerney, Daniel McKnight, Patricia Ploehn, and Maria Short, conducted paint analysis at the Hutchinson House on Edisto Island. The house, completed in 1885 by Henry Hutchinson as a wedding gift to his wife, Rosa Swinton Hutchinson, has undergone recent stabilization and restoration efforts funded by the Edisto Island Open Land Trust (EIOLT), and while the interior has been painted with a white topcoat, paint delamination throughout the house has revealed several paint campaigns and a variety of colors. EIOLT executive director John Girault provided information pertaining to the Hutchinson family and site as well as facilitated two site visits, during which paint sample locations were surveyed and marked, and samples later taken.

After sample collection, the students compiled methodologies describing the steps taken to collect each sample, then placing the samples in resin cubes marked with each sample’s predetermined label. Samples were then cut using an IsoMet™ Low-Speed Precision Cutter, and cross-sections examined under a Nikon 80i microscope using the CRAIC Spectrophotometer for photomicrographs, where stratigraphies were compiled labeling paint colors, thicknesses, dirt layers, and more. These were then combined into an overall report highlighting conditions assessments, general history of the house, and each student’s paint methodologies and stratigraphies.

This report serves as a large component of this course that immerses students within the built environment of Charleston and the surrounding areas. The paint samples gathered from the Hutchinson House exemplify a diversity of interior decoration that adds a further layer of detail to the story of the Hutchinson family's home.
In the spring semester, the first year class established the foundations of a Cultural Landscape Report for the Caw Caw Interpretive Center in Ravenel, South Carolina, as part of Dr. Marcoux’s Cultural and Historic Landscape Preservation course. The purpose of a Cultural Landscape Report is to document the history and conditions of landscapes in order to evaluate their significance and provide management and treatment plans to ensure their longevity. The first year students were split into three teams, each tasked with compiling a site history for Caw Caw, recording existing conditions, and analyzing the historic and natural integrity of the present-day features of the landscape.

Students compiling the site history focused on various periods of significance, compiling archival research with existing reports to document the historic significance of the site. These periods, including the prehistoric, colonial, late-colonial, and early 20th century, featured distinct characteristics of the landscape that pointed towards specific land usage and the evolution of the site from a rice plantation to a tea farm. The existing conditions team traveled out to Caw Caw to document various site features, including natural systems, vegetation, buildings and structures, land usage, etc. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, team members created maps that show overall existing features and landscape changes over time. Combining the history and conditions data, the analysis team studied the periods of significance and the landscape features associated with each, evaluating the integrity of every feature listed by the conditions team to calculate the overall integrity and significance of the site.

This Cultural Landscape Report provided students with an introduction to the basic functions of writing a document of this kind. Using National Park Service guidelines and an existing Fort Moultrie & Fort Sumter report, students facilitated the foundations for the Caw Caw Interpretive Center report, enriching the existing documentation of the site.

Sarah Clifton: The Graveyard Shift: Treatment Of Gravesites Over Time At Bethel And Old Bethel Churches In Charleston, South Carolina.

Gabe Cristofari: Change In Charleston’s Built Environment: A Study Of Building Footprints Comparing Primary Dwellings To Secondary Buildings In Harleston Village.

Lisa Gardiner: Defending A Nation: Synthesizing Geographic Information System Analysis And Ground Penetrating Radar To Locate Battlefield Features Associated With The 1780 Siege Of Charleston.

Darcy Neufeld: Crossroads Of Development: Considering Gullah Geechee Communities As Traditional Cultural Properities.


MSHP Class of 2021 Thesis Topics

Alumni News

Rebecca Ziegler (2013) Promoted to Senior Project Manager for the Urban Renewal Area with the City of Salem. In June 2020, Rebecca and her husband, Jason, welcome a new baby girl, Claire Doris Ziegler.

Kymberly Mattern (2017) Graduated from Teachers College in October 2020 with a Master of Arts.

Dana Marks (2019) is working as the Preservation Officer for the Maryland Historical Trust and is set to get married this October.

Brent Fortenberry (2016) is the new Director of Preservation Studies and Christovich Associate Professor of Historic Preservation at Tulane University.

Jane Ashburn (2016) is working as a Research Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation at Tulane University.

John Bennett (2020) was appointed to the City of Charleston’s Board of Zoning Appeals in October.

Kendy Altizer (2014) graduated with her Ph. D. in Anthropology concentrated in Historical Archaeology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Also, she has started her own consulting firm, KMA Consulting and has accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position with Sewanee,

Brittany Lavelle Tulla (2012) was featured as one of ten women from across the nation in the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America’s “Power in Preservation: Women Making An Impact” year-long exhibit at the Dumbarton House in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to all the new parents!

Jason and Rebecca Ziegler welcome Claire Doris Ziegler

Laura Burghardt Tenen welcomes Vivian Tenen

Matt and Kristen Amis welcome Lily Amis
Sada Stewart Troutman (2019) was married to her husband Preston in May. She is currently serving on the statewide Preservation Honor Awards committee for Preservation North Carolina and continues to work for Historic Salisbury Foundation.

Lindsay Crockett (2014) continues to serve as the Preservation planner for the City of Knoxville and Knox County and received her AICP certification in November 2020.

Lauren Lindsey (2018) is recently engaged and works for Studio 3 Design Group.

Kate Howard (2019) was promoted to Economic Development Officer at Baltimore Development Corporation.

Mary Fesak (2018) graduated with her MA in History and advanced to Ph. D. candidacy in the American Civilization program at the University of Delaware.

Melanie Weston (2015) promoted to Operations Manager at Heritage Restoration, Inc.

Laura Burghardt Tenen (2009) Laura and her husband welcome their second daughter, Vivian, last summer.