



PRESERVATION IN PINK

JUNE 2009

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..flamingos, that is



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From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the June 2009 issue of Preservation Pink. This is year three of the newsletter, and the fifth issue. To be cliché, it has come a long way and my how time flies! This issue, similar in style to the last, addresses preservation in every part of our lives, from work to traveling to theories, research, theses, and even comic strips. The articles have a geographic range that includes North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, Washington D.C., Kentucky, New York, and Scotland!

As always, I am inspired by the writers and the contributions from everyone. The interest in Preservation in Pink is phenomenal and continues to provide proof that the preservation community is supportive, intelligent, and a wonderful place to be.

The blog, www.preservationinpink.com, remains a daily blog with series of posts by guest writers. This summer the blog will take a different format – stay tuned!

Thank you for reading. Please share Preservation in Pink with your colleagues, friends, and anyone who might be interested. Write a post, share a comment, send a picture!

Yours truly,

Kaitlin

June 2009 Notes on Contributors,

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News from the National Register

By Paloma Bolasny

Hello from the world of federal preservation! As a National Conference for State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) employee working at the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) I have taken part in the National Register's current efforts to simplify completing and submitting National Register nominations. There are several changes I'd like to share that will assist many in preservation, from consultants to SHPOs to students alike.

An updated National Register registration form debuted last month as a Word document on the National Register's website, <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/>. This new version doesn't require any new information, but instead has some rearranged sections. This rearrangement ensures that preparers provide correct and sufficient information to SHPOs and the National Register. The major differences are required summary paragraphs for sections 7 and 8. This is supplemental to the narratives written on continuation sheets. Additionally, section 8 requires at least one paragraph to summarize each area of significance, separate from sections on developmental history and

historic context. It is the National Register's hope that these short summaries will help preparers to write nominations that more appropriately address the National Register criteria.

Additional changes include more space to section 3 so that State Historic Preservation Offices and Federal agencies can more easily check all appropriate boxes and sign the form before submission to the National Register. Yes, sometimes this seemingly easy task is often overlooked! And while photo labeling or a photo log was required on previous nominations, the new form includes a formal section for providing the required photographic information. This new section is located in the "Additional Documentation" section of the form.

To be clear, the National Register still accepts the old form. However, the new format was developed to avoid a pattern of issues arising from use of the old form. The National Register will begin accepting electronically submitted nomination forms in the next few years, and a standard form will be mandated. Until then, check out the new form and see what you think of it. I hope to continue to see great submissions, and perhaps more focused nominations as a result of the new format!

Roadside America at Risk: Robert E. Lee Motel in Abingdon, VA

By Elyse Gerstenecker

The Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors voted on April 15 to proceed with demolition of the Robert E. Lee Motel, situated off US Route 11 (Lee Highway) between Abingdon and Bristol, Virginia. The motel has been steadily deteriorating since the mid-1990s, when the owners of over 40 years closed the motel and sold it. At the meeting, neighbors told of the dilapidated building's growing rat infestation and continued decay.

Although the motel is situated along a route abundant with examples of "Roadside America" (as seen on a May 13, 2009 Preservation in Pink blog post), it stands out from its contemporaries.

The two-story motel features a flat, red-painted roof and walkways, a curving wall with glass block window, and a heavily fenestrated second-floor restaurant that may have once housed one of Colonel Sanders's early fried chicken restaurant ventures. The building's iconic metal and neon sign is the same height as the building and extends in an upside-down L-shape from the roadside to the rooftop. The hotel's namesake is painted in profile amidst the neon tubing and decorative elements.

At the April 15 meeting, several individuals spoke about the need to save the sign from destruction, and the Washington County Board voted to look into its preservation, a positive footnote on the unfortunate decision for the building's fate.



The Robert E. Lee Motel on US-11, March 2009, as seen from the neighboring property. Photograph courtesy of Kaitlin O'Shea.

SCENES ON THE ROAD: NORTH CAROLINA AND OHIO



An unknown church near Hamlet, North Carolina sits on a trailer awaiting its move as US Route 1 is slated to be widened through Richmond County. Photographs and information courtesy of Jeff Irwin.



Mt. Olive is an old iron furnace dating to the 19th century that operated from about 1846 to 1907. Southeastern Ohio and eastern Kentucky were prominent iron producing regions in the 19th century, particularly in iron production for the Civil War efforts. In this area, iron furnace ruins are common. They were constructed with local stone, but without mortar. Maria notes that only the chimney survives on this one, which is the case of all iron furnaces that she has seen. This Mt. Olive furnace is located on private property on the west side of Route 93 in southeastern Ohio. More information about Mt. Olive Furnace can be found here: <http://www.irontonfurnaces.com/>

Photograph and information courtesy of Maria Gissendanner.



The pumpkin water tower is located in Circleville, Ohio, home to the annual Circleville Pumpkin Show, which began in 1903.

The apple water tower is located in Jackson, Ohio, home to the annual Jackson County Apple Festival. The Apple Festival began in 1937, halted during WWII, but now draws tens of thousands of people for the week long county celebration at the end of September.

Maria Gissendanner shot these photographs on her way back from Wayne National Forest (where she was documenting a CCC bathhouse facing demolition).

REFLECTIONS ON A FIELD TRIP: POTTERY AND THE NATIONAL REGISTER

By Elyse Gerstenecker

As I sat in the front seat of the car and peered through the rain-soaked windshield at the small house and surrounding outbuildings, I began to wonder if this was such a good idea after all.

A local couple involved with the museum where I work and fans of folk art had offered to educate me in contemporary folk art and craft, and the first stage of my education incorporated a field trip to Hickory, North Carolina and the Catawba Valley Pottery Festival, a large craft show largely for modern potters. We had decided to attend that evening's Friday night preview reception, so that we could be sure to see all of the potters' work, as some fairly popular artists sell all of their work the first evening. When we found some spare time in between tours and the preview reception, the couple offered to take me to a few kiln sites, and I agreed.

At this first kiln site, with the orange soil in front of me quickly turning to soup and images of stereotypical Southerners with shotguns flashing through my brain, I hesitated to step outside the warm, dry safety of the car. However, after my guides enthusiastically hopped out, I, not wanting to appear ungrateful or skittish, crossed the grass and stood underneath an outdoor shelter to look at a large arched brick and clay structure known as a "hedgehog" kiln. My first glimpse of the kiln, appearing almost ancient Roman in its simple shape and arched openings, peaked my interest and wiped away all (or most) of my paranoia in favor of learning more about this craft.

North Carolina is famous for its historic, traditional, and contemporary pottery, and, while perhaps not as well-known as Seagrove, the Catawba Valley region is one of the major areas of pottery-making in the state.

My first site visit was to a place known as the Craig Home Place, and it once was the home and workplace of Burlon Craig, a modern potter who worked in the traditional methods passed down among generations of craftspeople from the

mostly German settlers in the region. Craig began making pottery at age 14 and continued to do so up until his death in 2002. He taught his son Don and grandson Dwayne the craft. Burlon Craig is viewed as an extremely important figure in folk pottery due to both his talent and his use and encouragement of the use of traditional glazes. His work is in the collections of the Smithsonian Institute. Don and Dwayne now work in "The Shack," the old studio where Burlon himself worked, and use much of the same equipment. We were lucky enough to receive a tour of the site from Dwayne, who showed us the inside of The Shack and told us about October's firing of the kiln, a large festival event.

"Yes, Burlon Craig slept here, but, craft world excluded, he is not exactly a famous founding father."

When Dwayne mentioned that The Home Place is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, I was intrigued. While I know, deep down, that the National Register includes a variety of sites and structures, I could not help but feel proud of historic preservation, as a field, for including a site that had, in a crude, strict sense, little architectural interest, was not especially old, and was not attached to a person one might typically consider a candidate for filial piety like so many other sites. Yes, Burlon Craig slept here, but, craft world excluded, he is not exactly a famous founding father.

I know that I have grossly underestimated the National Register, but I also feel that this is the public's perception of the list – that, and the false idea of it as the annoying status that prevents people from making changes to buildings. I have seen the tiny chapter house of the League of Women Voters in my hometown, delighted in the Brooks Catsup Bottle water tower's inclusion, and was happily surprised to learn that my favor-

ite movie palace, the Moonlite Theater, was recently added to the National Register and is one of only three operational drive-ins to be listed. While some may be dismayed at the diversification of the National Register, I believe that these sites' status demonstrates the need for preservationists to think beyond the barn, the school, and the famous founding father/author/artist's birthplace.



Jugtown, NC, known for its pottery tradition that dates to the 18th century. Photograph courtesy of Kaitlin O'Shea.

YES, VIRGINIA, HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY IS PRESERVATION

By Brad Hatch

How often do serious archaeological questions come up between two people on a CRM crew? If you've ever worked CRM you know the answer to that is not very often. However, that's just what happened to me when my partner, David, and I were discussing the recent influx of emails he had received from the historical archaeology ListServ. It turns out that somebody had posted a question on the ListServ about Marco Polo and whether he learned Chinese in his travels or used an interpreter. Well, a bunch of archaeologists got up in arms about this, essentially saying that it was a history question and not for archaeologists to answer (despite the fact that they had featured an article about the archaeology of Marco Polo in China prior to this).

This got the gears turning in my head, particularly since I had been trying to think of an article topic for this newsletter. Does historical archaeology always have to be about the little trinkets that people left behind or can it be something with a broader focus that pulls from many disciplines? This question is particularly relevant to my life at the moment. I recently completed my MA thesis in historical archaeology at the College of William and Mary (which I should actually be preparing the defense for at this time rather than writing) on the meaning of the decline of subfloor pits in Virginia slave housing. In my work I relied just as heavily on the historical record as I did on the archaeological, not to mention the fact that this thesis could easily be seen as a treatise on an architectural element of slave houses. That's three disciplines already.

Now to this you can add the part that many archaeologists would see as sacrilegious. I never dug a single pit for this thesis. I used other peoples' data and looked at it in a different way using statistical tests to determine the significance of the decline of these features over time (Statistics, yet another discipline that is incorporated into historical archaeology).

Like most things we write, this thesis has actually told me as much about myself as it has about my topic. It perfectly reflects my attitude on what historical archaeology should be and where it should go. Historical archaeology is absolutely multi-

disciplinary. As historical archaeologists we should know history, material culture, anthropology, architecture, statistics, folklore, museum studies, and the list goes on. Above all, however, we must have a preservation mentality if we want the field to carry on. One of the first things we learn in archaeology 101 is that it is a destructive process. Once we dig something up it's gone forever. Clearly, we do our best to record it in a systematic way so that people can learn from it in the future, but there is always the question of what we missed. Our current research goals may not be those of somebody even 10 years in the future. Therefore, when we can do

archaeology without digging we are obliged to. This may seem counterintuitive, but if you think about it the idea makes perfect sense.

For over 50 years historical archaeologists have been collecting data and most of it has just been sitting around gathering dust. I believe now is the time to go back and take a look at all of that work they did. We have an opportunity that no historical archaeologists have had before, we have enough data to begin to look at change over time and

larger processes that acted, and are still acting, on people in America and throughout the world. If historical archaeologists could get away from the digging mentality and get in touch with their inner preservationist the discipline could truly grow in its interpretation of material (which, by the way, is the most important part of archaeology). Not only will a shift in mindset allow historical archaeology to continue into the future, it will make its practice more ethical.

With that being said, I will now step down from my soapbox and reveal my biases toward this way of thinking. I should mention that I came out of the Historic Preservation program at Mary Washington rather than a traditional anthropology or history program, which has strongly influenced my outlook on the world and archaeology. Thinking about historical archaeology as multi-disciplinary and as a form of preservation is as natural as breathing for me.

I should also say that archaeological excavation has kept me employed for 6 summers and for most of the past 6 months.

(Continued on page 7)

...the first thing I think about when I see a site is 'how can I not dig this?' ... perfectly sums up what historical archaeology should be.

The Sense of Touch at Historic Sites

By Stefanie Casey

Hand grease. It's what I inevitably end up cleaning virtually every morning. Sounds glamorous, doesn't it? As Mount Vernon's Restoration Specialist, part of my job is to clean the architectural features of the Mansion...hand grease and all. Not only does my time "put in" at the Mansion allow me to recognize 'problems' before they occur—was that plaster really bubbled like that before?—but it also has put a new perspective on the sense of touch.

Before I started cleaning oils, grease, and dust associated with thousands of people trampling through the Mansion (upwards of a million per year), I never realized exactly how much a single person touches anything when they enter a specific space. Whether it's leaning on a doorframe, taking a second to feel the texture of the paint along the visitor's path, the dust your shoes bring along with you, grabbing a handrail as you make your way up a staircase, or even your black leather purse brushing up against a chair rail...all of these things leave a mark on our historic resources. It seems as though I clean the same features on a weekly basis (there are too many to clean daily) and they just can't be cleaned enough because so many people do the same thing.

The million-plus visitors' gripping of the Central Passage staircase's handrail (which is largely comprised of original fabric) has started to take its toll on the feature in a variety of ways—in fact, the Restoration Department just undertook a building-wide staircase survey to assess the condition of all elements. Projects like this are necessary, but a lot of the smaller projects that are undertaken, such as repairing a baluster that someone grabbed and broke nearly in two, would not be necessary if people were more aware of their actions in such a building. Even if one person out of every twenty did not touch a doorframe, the paint coating would last significantly longer.

There is one particular doorframe in the Mansion that, even with our harder, more modern paints, would wear through in 4 days as a result of hand contact. If there is a particular feature that you *have* to touch, just think that probably a thousand other people have done the same thing—and that what you're touching and feeling probably isn't the true texture, but rather one that has been altered by the thousands' body oils. That's enough to turn virtually anyone into a germ-o-phobe!

Even the same thing can be said for the natural environment. There are lots of records from soon after George Washington died in 1799 and the early years of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association that describe the grounds of the Estate as being in deplorable conditions—largely due to visitors would snap off a tree branch to 'take part of George home' with them. One tree branch is not such a big deal—but with hundreds, and now thousands, of people doing the same thing...it starts to take an aesthetic toll.

If people in the Mansion—employees and visitors alike—were more conscious of what they were touching, the amount or degree of damage to a historic feature could be curbed. There are several other people in the Mansion in the mornings with me (although they clean the furnishings) who, before these types of things were brought to their attention, would run their hand up along the banister as they made their way upstairs every morning. Raising awareness of these, the most basic actions, would give visitors a greater appreciation for the things that they are seeing that they are so close to. Yes, folks—George and Martha Washington gripped that same handrail... And by raising awareness we would be fulfilling the most basic preservation tenet of safeguarding these historic resources for future generations to enjoy.

Note: Stefanie Casey now works for Dovetail Cultural Resources Group, Inc. in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

(Continued from page 6)

So, it is certainly not in my interest to call for a moratorium on digging. Clearly, CRM has to and should be done. I simply believe that it is necessary to think before we excavate, and think like a preservationist. A colleague, and fellow Mary Washington alumni, has said to me before "the first thing I think about

when I see a site is 'how can I not dig this?'" I think this statement perfectly sums up what historical archaeology should be. If we can take a preservation stance we can further cultivate our multi-disciplinary nature through coming up with new and exciting ways to do archaeology without having to destroy our bread and butter.

3D Scanning & the Built Heritage: Doocot Case Study in Aberdeenshire

By Dr. Jonathan Scott and Dr. Richard Laing

INTRODUCING SCANNING DOCUMENTATION

3-D scanning has a simple premise – to scan, document and display space and objects in an editable, 3-d environment for use with, for example, a software programme (note the UK spelling) such as AutoCAD (or similar). It works very much in the same way as you would use a laser measuring tape obtainable from B&Q (Lowe's would be the U.S. Equivalent). The difference would be, however, that the Leica HDS 3000 scanner can do 500,000 measurements a minute and create, using appropriate hardware and software, a 3-D visual representation (called a 'point cloud') of a space or object. A very powerful tool, used in industries such as Entertainment (the Harry Potter series, The Golden Compass, Catwoman, to name but a few) and the Oil & Gas industries. It has only been in the last decade that the technology has been used in the Building Industries in the U.K., but only usually in Surveying contexts. It's only the past five years that it has been adopted into the Heritage aspect of the built environment, used to document and display cities such as Rome, Italy and Glasgow, Scotland in full 3-d glory. The Robert Gordon University will not stoop to that expense, therefore we contained our efforts to documenting smaller structures, such as, in this case, doocots. But more on that later.

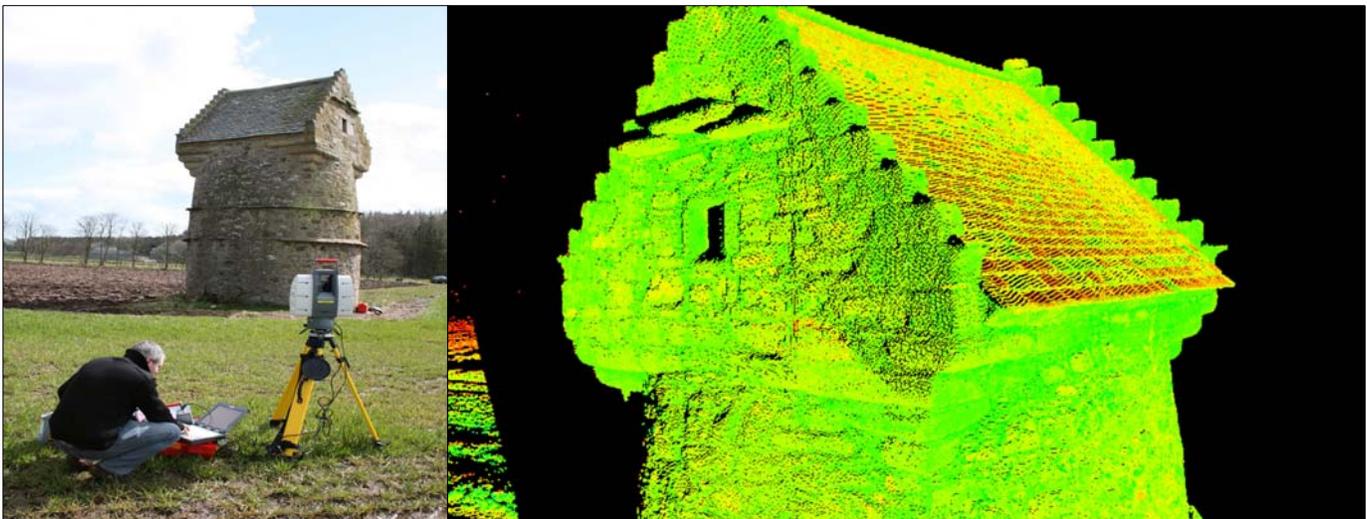
The study used a Leica HDS 3000 laser scanner to undertake the field work, probably the best tool of its sort in the world today. As already stated, with a high degree of accuracy, this

product can render 'space' immediately and into a 3-D representation. The central aim was to collect geometrically accurate data pertaining to selected doocots in rural locations in Aberdeenshire. The scanner itself collects a 'point cloud', which is assembled using scans taken from selected locations on site (usually four or more). This dataset of point clouds can then be manipulated to create a full, 3-d representation of the space or object for use with a whole range of different software programmes (the project used AutoCAD)

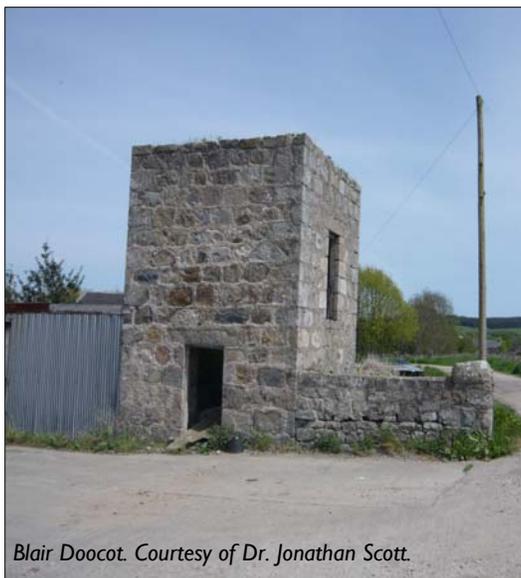
AIM OF PROJECT

This project was a feasibility study, to explore the potential for using a high-definition 3D scanner to improve the efficiency of architectural recording and design in existing, fragile environments. The study concentrated specifically on the recording of historic local doocots (or 'dovecotes') to explore how the technology and associated software can be used to gather information about the surface and appearance of structures, and how this can then be utilised to rapidly develop both a record of the existing situation, whilst providing a permanent and accurate (to 2mm) 3-dimensional model.

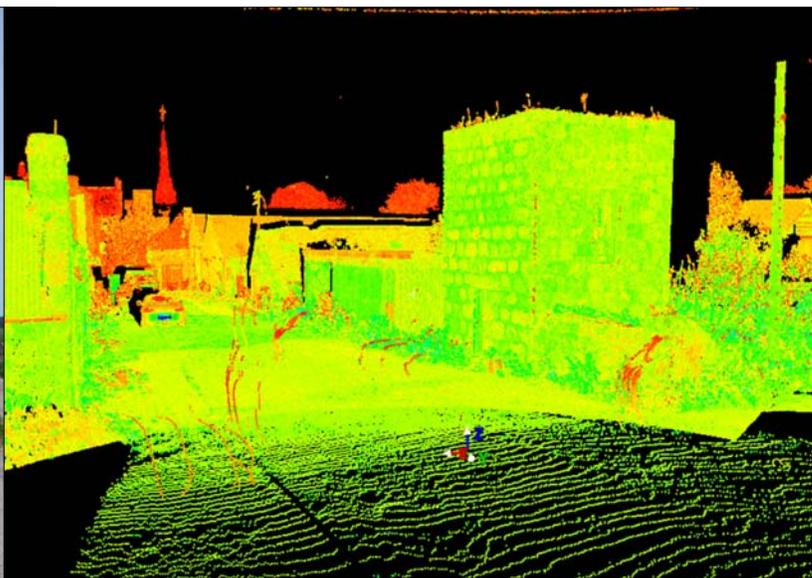
Doocots have significant intrinsic value, including the importance of material and detail to the built heritage, and the fact that they are sufficiently small and contained structures to support a full scale recording of manageable size within this study. It is also true that they each represent historic buildings at risk, and that the task undertaken here is of genuine wider value within conservation studies.



Auchmacoy Doocot. Courtesy of Dr. Jonathan Scott.



Blair Doocot. Courtesy of Dr. Jonathan Scott.



DOOCOTS

There are known to be around 100 historic doocots in the Aberdeenshire area, but there was probably very many more. They vary in size, shape, form and age and reflect a 500-year period of history. For example, the earliest 'beehive' types can be found at Auchmacoy, near Ellon and at Findlater, near Sandend; simple rectangular forms can be seen at Grandholm and Logie near Pitcaple, whilst a few lean-to or 'lectern' types are found at Hatton and Gight Castle; grander examples of circular or hexagonal towers in the landscape are seen at Belhelvie, Montcoffer and at Pitsligo, whereas later examples of doocots incorporated into farm steadings remain at Aden and Meldrum. Doocots are amongst the oldest farm buildings in Scotland. Doocots range from the architecturally significant to simple structures, most reflecting local building characteristics or the local builders. They survive as prominent features in the landscape in many parts of the country and sometimes offer a tantalising glimpse into the architectural style and philosophy at a given time.

Until the introduction of new farming methods, and sometimes concurrently with these improvements well into the 19th century, doves provided a source of delicate meat. In addition, their feathers were used to stuff mattresses and pillows, while their droppings were a valuable fertiliser, used in the production of gunpowder and the tanning of leather. The birds were also believed to have medicinal properties and a rather more suspect use for their droppings was as a cure for gout and baldness! Thus, doocots have considerable significance, not only in terms of their architecture, but also in the wider con-

text of agricultural, economic and social history.

However, as the trend for rearing pigeons for food diminished, so doocots increasingly became redundant across Scotland, with many falling into serious disrepair. Since not all doocots will survive long-term, it is important to make a comprehensive record of them for future generations and to identify those that are most important to the nation's heritage. In the past, the recording of doocots in Scotland has been spasmodic. Unusually this single type of building offers a wide variety of form, construction period (medieval to 20th century), material and condition, is of historic interest, and is sometimes known nationally, though usually associated with local estates, families or parishes.

SUMMARY

The project successfully completed by scanning two doocots, Auchmacoy (a category A-listed building, Scotland's highest accreditation for a Heritage building) and Blair's Doocot, (a category B listed building, but part of a complex of buildings). These doocots were fully scanned on the exterior and on the interior (Auchmacoy only). They now have a lasting, accurate documentation of their state and style. Further, they have been converted orthographically to create elevations, plans and sections. This is particularly poignant for Blairs doocot, whose estate has been recently purchased for the conversion to a golf course and housing development (another one in the same area!) where the longevity of this building may, quite feasibly, be only digitally. It demonstrates the power and need to record and document fully these unique and interesting agricultural buildings.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MAKES COMMON CENTS

By Maria Gissendanner

In the past year (2008), two proposed historic districts failed to pass in Lexington, Kentucky. One argument made by opponents was that the added restrictions on exterior changes to the property would decrease their home values. This did not seem to make sense to me. Usually places where the character



South Hill historic district in Lexington, KY. These houses are zoned commercial. Photograph courtesy of Maria Gissendanner.

of the neighborhood is preserved, where people take pride in their homes by making well designed changes while preserving the character of the home and by conserving old trees and maintaining landscapes, people find the area more

desirable and home prices rise, not fall. So why do people think that historic districts decrease property values? I wanted to prove that preservation makes economic sense so I made this the focus of my master's thesis. This article will give a brief summary of my research.

Lexington has 14 local historic districts and I decided to choose a few examples and test my theory that the districts



Woodward Heights Historic District, Lexington, KY, restoration in progress. Photograph courtesy of Maria Gissendanner.

cause an increase of home values, not a decrease as the opponents to historic districts claimed.

In my research, I was happy to find that many studies have already been done on the topic of eco-

nomics in historic preservation across the country in communities of all types and sizes, the most notable done by the famed preservationist and economist Donovan Rypkema.

These studies were done by a variety of different people for different reasons and using several different methods but all of them had similar results, that in residential areas, property

values in historic districts either increased at a higher rate than properties not in districts or they increased at the same rate. All of the studies I looked at concluded that preservation was a good economic investment, not one concluded that preservation was a bad economic decision. I did not look at exclusively commercial studies since all the historic districts in Lexington are residential, although some do include some small commercial areas.



Woodward Heights Historic District in Lexington, KY. Photograph courtesy of Maria Gissendanner.

I decided on using two different methods to analyze the data on property records to show that no matter how the numbers are run, the results are the same. My data came from the Public Value Administrator (PVA) which is in charge of keeping

tax and property records. I looked at my data set over a 10 year period, 1997-2007, and ran data for both tax value increases between the years and for back-to-back sales data. Back-to-back sales data shows how the market value of the house fares between sales, this data set shows not only what the house is worth, but what people are willing to pay to live at that location, as not all properties sold twice in the 10 year period, this data set was much smaller.

I ended up researching 4 of the 14 local historic districts in Lexington, as time constraints demanded that I narrow the

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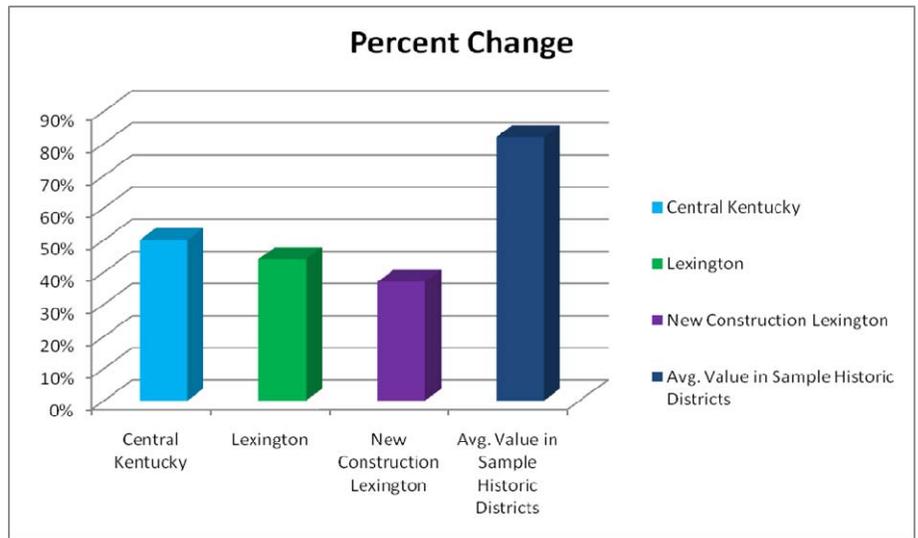


Western Suburb Historic District in Lexington, KY. Photograph courtesy of Maria Gissendanner.

(Continued from page 10)

data set. The four districts were: Woodward Heights, Bell Court, Western Suburbs, and South Hill. For Woodward Heights, a neighborhood of about 100 properties, I ran a complete tax value analysis and back to back sales analysis, for Bell Court, a neighborhood of about 120, I looked at one street for the tax value analysis (about 20 properties) and the entire district for the back-to-back sales analysis, for Western Suburbs, I looked at a single street, about 20 properties, and for South Hill I also looked at a single street. All of the districts in my study were also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, meaning that they were also eligible for both state and federal tax credits, and as local historic districts they are governed by the architectural review board for any exterior changes made to the property, and all of them were located close to the city center and comprised of modestly-sized homes. The street I choose in South Hill differed from the other areas as it was zoned for commercial use, even though the district itself is mostly residential, I wanted to see if that had any effect on my results. The other three areas I sampled were almost entirely residential.

My thesis proved what I had expected, that property values in historic districts increase. All four districts surveyed had a positive increase over the ten year period using the tax value analysis method and both areas where back-to-back sales data was used showed similar results with the increase of property values. Woodward Heights, Western Suburb, and Bell Court all had an average increase well above the average value increase in Lexington, together they averaged a 82% increase in value while Lexington only averaged a 44% increase. South Hill averaged a 21% increase, which was below the average for Lexington but not factored in these numbers were two properties that sat vacant for a number of years and have recently been restored but have not been reappraised. This number will most definitely increase next year. When looking at the back-to-back sales analysis, Woodward Heights increased at an average of 84% with a 16% median increase in average price per annum while Bell Court increased on average by 44% with a 10% median increase per annum.



Average Value Increase Between 1997 and 2007. By Maria Gissendanner.



Back to Back Sales Analysis Numbers. By Maria Gissendanner.

The average increase per annum for Lexington was only 2.4% in the same time frame.

These numbers prove that the added protection of historic districts leads to an increase of property values within those areas. Woodward Heights was large enough that I was able to isolate house types, I looked at new construction, duplexes, vacant lots and the traditional historic single family home to see if property type made a difference, all showed an increase in value above that of Lexington as a whole. Investing in a property in a historic district is a good economic investment. Similar studies across the country have come to the same conclusion; local historic districts are a good economic tool for increasing property values.

The Pres-Mobile: A Few Thoughts About Your Vehicle

By Andrew Wilkins

We all use our cars and trucks to get from one place to another, go to work, run errands, etc. But as a student of material culture, I thought it worthwhile to wax philosophical for a few lines about how these 4-wheel buggies work for preservationists. We need them to get to the places where we do our work, plain enough. Yet, some preservation work requires the vehicle for more specific tasks: the “windshield survey” comes to mind, where researchers drive through a study area and make note of possible cultural resources. Hauling equipment is always essential to fieldwork: architectural, archaeological, and so on. I’ve packed more than few pick-ups and SUVs full to the brim with shovels, screens, tarps, levels, field forms and all the assorted paraphernalia of archaeology. So, a few observations, tips, and tricks for the pres-mobile in your life:

- Keep that oil fresh, every 3,000 miles, religiously. You can’t save the world one building at a time if your pistons are shot.
- A box of a few very common tools in the trunk can save you tail. Couple of vice grips, screwdrivers, hose-clamps, fuses, sockets, tape, etc. can ought to do the job. These bits and pieces also come in handy for fieldwork: if you need to fix a screen or jerry-rig a datum.
- Hot coffee, tea, Chai Latte (whatever that is), Mountain Dew, or whatever your caffeinated poison of choice can keep your eyes open and your car between the lines. Cool Trick: I was in an ice storm in West Virginia once and everything was frozen over. The windshield washer fluid was doing a good job of keeping my windshield and wipers clear, until the little ports on the hood froze up. I pulled over, poured out the rest of my pipin’ hot Joe into the ports to melt the ice and I was back in business.
- A big engine doesn’t make you cool, it just makes you pump more gas.
- Take your time, what’s the rush? Stopping along the way lets you stretch your legs, take in the views, and mix it up with the locals. I like to get off the highway and eat at

diners if possible. The food is better and you usually catch some good people-watching or eaves-dropping.

Finally, let’s consider some ways that we as preservation-types can construct and communicate our identities through vehicular personalities. In general, most of my young preservation friends deal in small cars, usually preferring economy and a small carbon-footprint. This invariably speaks to our low pay scales and dedication to causes such as environmental conservation. There are a few exceptions to this generality:

Let’s consider some ways that we as preservationists can construct and communicate our identities through vehicular personalities.

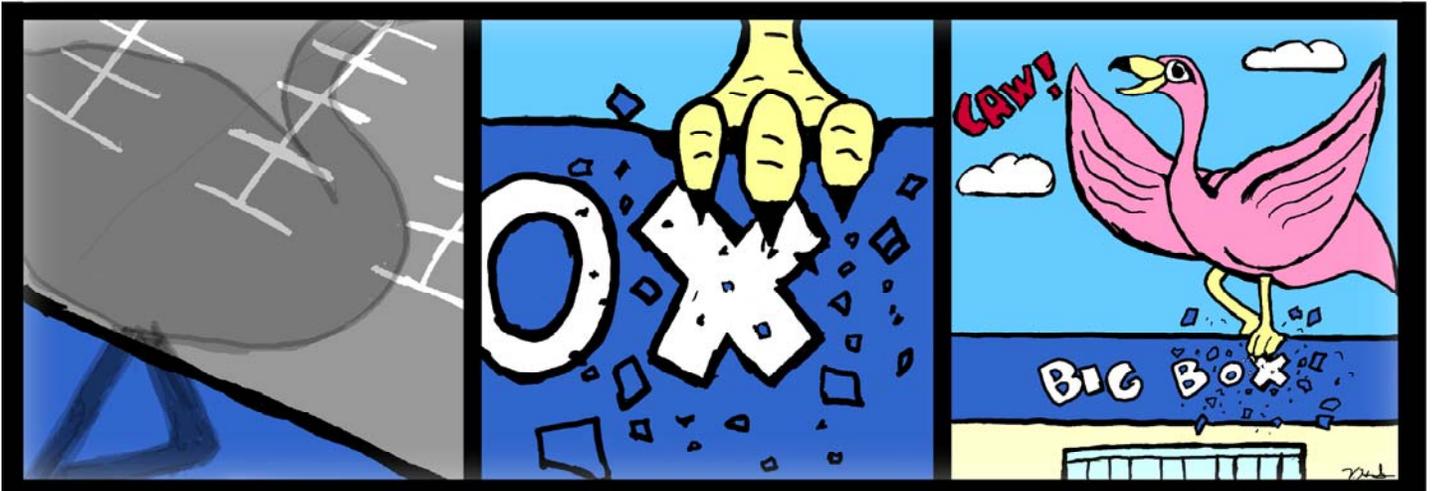
- Archaeologists: pick-up trucks rule the roost in this department, the bigger the better, and preferably covered with a layer of dust and the bed full of gear and artifacts.
- CRM front-office types and Pres-law professionals: the only milieus where luxury and sporty models will crop up. Let’s face it, they’re wining and dining clients, and if anybody is making the big bucks, it’s them.
- Fiddle-playing folklorists: Volvo wagons with clever vanity plates (sorry Professor Stanton, I couldn’t resist).

Motor vehicles allow us to do the work of preservation, and even tell the world a little bit about who we are in the process. So, keep your hands at 10 and 2 and your eyes on the road.



Unmistakably an archaeologist’s vehicle.
Photograph courtesy of Andrew Wilkins.

The Amazing Adventures of Pip the Flamingo



Vinny Healy

[HTTP://WWW.PRESERVATIONINPINK.COM](http://www.preservationinpink.com)

EXPLORING HISTORY BY BICYCLING

By Laurel Hammig and Joe Swartz

Our first long distance bike trip was along the rails-to-trails path that followed the Washington and Old Dominion railway (W&OD). Rails-to-Trails is a nonprofit that assists in transforming dormant railway corridors into bike and pedestrian trails promoting the creation healthier communities. The alignment of these trails along the old railways naturally takes them by historic communities.

Exploring some of these communities was the motivation for our first ride on the W&OD trail. It took us through the historic Virginia towns of Leesburg and Purcellville. Exploring these communities by bicycle gave us a unique and exciting new perspective, not to mention a good workout. Because we were on two wheels instead of two feet, we were able to see much more of the communities. The time savings allowed us to go beyond just the downtown area and venture into less touristy residential neighborhoods with grand Victorian and even Antebellum houses.

Traveling by bike also practically eliminates the problem of

trying to find parking for your car. There were several park and ride locations along the trail with plenty of capacity making parking quick and painless. Downtown parking can often be a headache, but bike parking in the towns is easy as a bike can be safely locked to a myriad of different objects. Reducing the need for parking helps communities lower their parking space requirements leaving more of the historic character in tact.

The rails-to-trails paths often link to already existing paths within a community. These paths lead to parks and other local attractions outside of the downtown. This brings the biker and the community members in closer contact and allows you to get a better feel for the area. And trust us, recommendations for places to grab lunch are usually much more reliable coming from the locals.

Biking around a historic community provides a unique perspective. We found it to be a superior way to explore the area and one that provides the added benefit of getting a lot of exercise as well. After one trip, we have become addicted to this type of sightseeing.

Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC): www.railstotrails.org. Find a program, learn how to build a trail, promote the organization. RTC began in 1986 with a mission "to create a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors to build healthier places for healthier people."

Preservacation: Interpretation at Somerset Place

By Brad Hatch

The one advantage of my girlfriend going to graduate school 250 miles away at East Carolina University is the opportunity it creates for us to get out and experience the cultural attractions of a place other than Virginia. Now, experiencing culture to most young couples involves going to concerts, participating in local nightlife, or even seeing a performance or two, but to two preservation nerds like us it can only mean one thing... historic sites. Luckily for us eastern North Carolina is loaded with old buildings, historic districts, and archaeological sites. In addition to being preservationists, Lauren and I are also historical archaeologists, therefore we are always interested in



The main house at Somerset Place in Creswell, NC. Photograph courtesy of Brad

sites that base a good deal of their interpretation on archaeology. This very idea is what first drew us to Somerset Place.

We were so excited to see this plantation that we woke up early (which is a real feat for Lauren) and drove the

80 miles to Creswell from Greenville to see it on a Friday, which we had set aside solely for this trip. Somerset is literally in the middle of nowhere today. Once you leave the highway it becomes very easy to get lost due to the fact that eastern North Carolina is all flat farmland as far as you can see, which is very unsettling to a Northern Necker like me, who is used to just a little topography. The plantation itself is located a literal stone's throw from the shores of Lake Phelps, a 40 square mile body of water that is no deeper than a couple feet.



Transportation canal at Somerset Place. Photograph courtesy of Brad Hatch.

The plantation was in operation from 1785 to 1865 and toward the end of its use was one of the largest in the Upper South with over 100,000 acres of land being worked by more than 150 slaves harvesting rice, corn, flax and operating a

sawmill. The key to the growth and prosperity of the plantation was its system of canals, which are still clearly visible on the landscape today, linking the property to the Scuppernong River. After the Civil War the plantation was neglected, losing most of its outbuildings, until it was acquired by the state in 1939 and made a historic site in 1969. Today, the main house survives along with 7 other original outbuildings.



The big quarter with the garden patch at Somerset Place. Photograph courtesy of Brad

Interestingly, the interpretation of Somerset does not revolve around its original buildings, but those

reconstructed with the help of archaeology, particularly the slave houses. There are two reconstructed slave houses at Somerset along a row, similar to Jefferson's Mulberry Lane. One of them is a two story frame structure, of which there would have been two, and the other is a one and a half story frame building, of which there would have been several. These buildings are also furnished with materials that slaves may have used in their everyday lives, including hats, shoes, ceramics, tools, and an interesting African style wood carving. Our tour of the plantation spent the majority of its time in these two buildings with stories of individual slaves and peeks into the daily lives of laborers.



Table setting in the two-story quarter. Photograph courtesy of Brad Hatch.

However, I found the interpretation to be very one-sided.

Interpretation of enslaved life focused on

how dependent slaves were on their masters for food, shelter, and materials and how they were subject to the master's every whim. As an archaeologist focusing on African American slavery in the Upper South, this interpretation really stuck in my craw. I believe this sort of interpretation dehumanizes the enslaved and makes them seem almost fatalistic in regards to their bondage. The fact is that slaves resisted their masters every day, but these forms of resistance were subtle. They

actually did not rely on their master for the majority of their food; indeed, much of it was purchased, caught, or grown by them. This point was actually shown in the structures with a deer skull decorating one house and a garden behind the other, but never mentioned in the interpretation. It is clear that the site is doing this to make up for years of either not interpreting slave life or of interpreting the loyal slave, like in *Gone with the Wind*. Their hearts are in the right place, but they continue to mislead people by offering the polar opposite view of what they are trying to combat.

This focus on trying to atone for old interpretations of slavery has also led to another problem at the site, the preservation of the main house. The Collins family home is a two story Federal style house with a two story porch. It is furnished, like many house museums, with period furniture and artifacts, some of which belonged to the owners of Somerset, the Collins family. Unfortunately, this aspect of the plantation was only given a cursory mention in our tour and there was no signage or material to tell us any more about it. In addition to this lack of information, the real problem at Somerset became evident. The



The slave quarters and the hospital at Somerset Place. Photograph courtesy of Brad Hatch.

Collins house is starting to deteriorate. The porch was leaking badly, which raises a question about the rest of the roof, the plaster was cracked and the paint outside was peeling. All of this seems to point to poor upkeep, which is disheartening

since this is one of the original buildings, and made me wonder if too much was spent on reconstruction instead of preservation.

Having said all of this, our trip to Somerset was definitely worth it. Like every historic site, it has flaws. However, I think our visit got both of us thinking, considering it has been months since we visited and we still bring it up in conversation. Therefore, despite its shortcomings, I think that Somerset Place is successful as a historic site because

it raises questions and sparks debate. It makes us look at how preservation is done, or not done, and ask ourselves why it is that way as well as offering a peek at the history of site interpretation and changing views. I was very surprised by it and was certainly happy that it was not another plain vanilla plantation house. With a few adjustments I think it could be a great historic site, but until then, you have to start somewhere.

SUMMER: THE BEST TIME TO BE A PRESERVATIONIST

By Missy Celi

Ahh summer! Skirts and sandals now dominate my wardrobe, my garden is bountiful, my lawn becomes a jungle if I don't mow it constantly, it's hot, there are bugs everywhere, and as I sit in the cool shade I can't help but wonder, is there a better time to be a preservationist?

I have a theory that humans were not meant to live in cold climates. Winter is good for only one thing, hibernating (though feel free to wake me for Santa). But summer, to be in summer is to be alive. This world was made for summer, and as such, you can't truly appreciate life (or for the purposes of this article, the built environment) until you experience it in summer.

As a child, my father dragged me to numerous car shows. He would gaze lovingly at the restored engines, the custom paint jobs, the softness of the leather seats, but always his ogling would end with a simple question, 'how does she run?' For he knew that for all the staring and admiring, a car could not be

truly appreciated until you experienced it as it was meant to be experienced; in this case burning rubber on hot asphalt. This bit of wisdom, so true, holds for that which we preservationists gaze lovingly at.

Just like the bright, beautiful flowers I've been waiting for months to see, suddenly downtown Charlottesville is in full bloom. And not only is it blooming, it's thriving, just as it was meant to do. Vendors sell their goods in the market place; there are sidewalk displays and street performers; people from far and near congregate. The place to see and be seen is downtown. Commerce flows, cultures mix, and I think the buildings downtown are smiling in the sunshine. Downtown is alive, and even people who have never thought of the words historic and preservation in the same sentence can tell that this is how it is meant to be.

It is not only our urban spaces that shine in the summer sun. Trips through the countryside will also invoke the feeling

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HISTORIC SITES AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF ORKNEY

By Amy Miller

After living in Scotland for an extended period of time, you get used to some things, like the greenness of the grass, the abundance of sheep, and the unpredictable weather. You become a bit complacent about the beauty of the world around you because you see it every day. This past May, I had the luxury of taking a break from mainland Scotland to explore a different place that takes the beauty of this country to the extreme. Welcome to Orkney, a group of islands that takes almost everything about Scotland's environment, both good and bad, and multiplies it exponentially.

Orkney is not an island; rather, it is a group of 70 islands (20 of which are inhabited), ten miles off the northern coast of Scotland. These islands are unique in that they are home to hundreds of different species of birds, an innumerable amount of prehistoric archaeological sites, and a very long and multinational past that rivals any soap opera for drama and entertainment. The islands have been continually inhabited by humans for at least 5500 years. For us Americans, that number is almost inconceivable. Orkney's heritage is important not only to European history, but to the world's history, a fact that has been recognized by UNESCO in listing a large part of the



The Catamaran Ferry from Gills Bay. Photograph courtesy of Amy Miller.

were to pick up our next mode of transportation: a catamaran ferry. If you have never been on a ferry, it is an experience not to be missed. It includes such highlights as carefully driving your car onto the boat (along with tractor-trailers, motorcycles, and campers), sitting on the open deck and trying not to freeze in the wind, or chowing down in the boat's enclosed cafeteria.

Once on dry land, Jonathan and I spent

the next few days exploring the "mainland." We started with the World Heritage Site area, which is comprised of the Stones of Stenness (massive stones and altar), Maeshowe (a Neolithic chambered cairn i.e. tomb), the Ring of Brodgar (another larger circle of smaller stones and a big "henge" or ditch), and the more famous Skara Brae (a stone neolithic settlement with built-in furniture). The first three of these are located within eyesight of each other and probably comprised a giant ceremonial complex. The last is located a few miles

away along the coast, but within traveling distance (for Neolithic people, that is). While visiting these, it's impossible not to see the other unexcavated chambered cairns



Skara Brae, a stone Neolithic settlement with built-in furniture. Photograph courtesy of Amy Miller.

and burial mounds covering the surrounding landscape. There is enough material there to keep archaeological field schools busy for many years to come.

Aside from these internationally recognized sites, there many



Maeshowe, a Neolithic chambered cairn (tomb). Photograph courtesy of Amy Miller.

main island as a World Heritage Site in 1999.

It was for this last reason that my fiancée Jonathan and I made the trip across land and sea to this place. Jonathan

was attending a professional conference in Kirkwall, Orkney's main town, addressing the affects of climate change on World Heritage Sites. Since his University was paying for him to attend, we decided to make a mini-vacation out of it.

other smaller and locally-operated archaeological attractions to visit (Historic Scotland maintains the World Heritage Sites). Two industrious local farmers decided to capitalize on the large humps and bumps on their properties by having them excavated and turning them into tourist attractions. The first of these, Mine Howe, is basically a stairway into a man-made hole in the ground. The round chamber extends 20 feet down and has two narrow, long horizontal chambers (which once housed the bones of ancient people). Our visit to this site was notable for its "visitor center," a trailer manned by the farmer's wife and filled with mold (the roof leaked over the winter), and for the fact we were forced to wear hard hats and take a flashlight on our self-guided tour (as the place is so small only 2 people can go down at once!). Our other notable visit was to the Tomb of the Eagles, a Neolithic chambered tomb in which 16,000 human bones and 725 sea eagle bones were found. The entranceway into this tomb is so low that visitors have to lower themselves belly-down onto a human-sized skateboard and pull themselves through the tunnel via a rope. As you can see (in the photograph), it was a humorous experience, especially if you got wedged in the tunnel!

The amount of archaeology in Orkney is unbelievable. Jonathan and I also visited the sites of brochs (fortified Iron-Age settlements), an early Christian monastery, a bishop's palace, and even Viking settlements. Despite this abundance of history, though, the current-day residents of Orkney have their lives firmly planted in the 21st century. The two main towns in Orkney, Kirkwall and Stromness, are filled with small independent shops, groceries, cafés, art galleries, and inns. While walking the small, narrow streets, it was evident that Orkadians are determined to go about their daily lives despite the fact that they live on an island and have one of the oldest histories in the world. I often saw residents stopping to talk with one another while doing their shopping, hanging out at the local coffee shop, and taking the time to enjoy life. I even saw a white-haired lady in a skirt go by on her bicycle with her basket full of bags from local shops.



*The author stuck in the Tomb of Eagles!
Photograph courtesy of Amy Miller.*

There are very few places where you see something like that in the 21st century.

While Orkney epitomizes the amazing beauty of Scotland's environment, it is also the focus of some of the most urgent threats against it. Jonathan's conference, which concentrated on the effect of climate change on the World Heritage Sites, didn't have a positive message. Kevin Anderson, a climate change specialist and the Director of the Tyndall Centre at the University of Manchester, was blunt in his assessment: climate change is continuing to happen despite our half-hearted efforts to stop it. It isn't a matter of if the earth's temperature is rising, but a question of by how much. According to the centre's research, there is a 50% chance the earth's temperature could

rise 1.8 to 3.6 F, causing the ocean's to rise 2-3 meters (6.5 - 10 feet) and a 50% chance that it could rise even more with a rise of approximately 5-7 meters (16 - 23 feet). With this news in mind, the goal of the conference was to brainstorm

ways to find funding from government-funded global warming initiatives to safeguard and save the World Heritage Sites.



Stromness, a town in Orkney. Photograph courtesy of Amy Miller.

During our short visit, it was quite clear that Orkney's heritage under threat. Many of the sites are on the coast, near coastal bodies of water, or barely 3-4 meters above sea level. At Skara Brae, a retaining wall has been built to help prevent coastal erosion, but other unexcavated archaeological sites just feet away have already fallen away, with nothing but flat rocks that once formed walls left in piles on the beach. At the Orkney Museum, one exhibit displaying Viking burial artifacts explained that the excavation was prompted when half of the site fell into the sea, exposing some of the evidence to view. The

exhibit also explained that less than a year after the dig, the entire site had washed away in brutal winter storms. Global warming will not only raise ocean levels, but also intensify and prolong weather patterns and increase the number of damaging storms. When this happens, what will become of these

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islands' heritage and, more importantly, its people and economy?

For Jonathan and me, we found the conference to be a bit pointless. According to the terrifying information and projected scenarios given by the climate change experts, by 2050 global warming is going to cause world-wide natural catastrophes, food shortages, dramatic changes to settlement patterns and locations, and the forced adoption of a totally different way of life for us all. With this to face, it's foolish to expect the government to save archaeological and heritage sites when they will be more concerned with finding ways of saving its citizens' lives. We aren't cynical enough to think that these sites aren't important and worth saving, but as the world stands on the brink of one of its most drastic periods of change, governmental priorities will change and lean towards the more imminent needs of its citizens. Funding for saving heritage will have to come from elsewhere.

As our trip came to a close and Jonathan and I once again boarded the ferry to the real mainland, I left with mixed feelings of our journey. I was amazed by the amount of natural beauty, history, and archaeology this small place contains, as well as the way its residents have adapted to life on an isolated island while maintaining a vibrant cultural scene. At the same time, I felt genuine fear that this would be the last time we would see a flourishing Orkney. With an uncertain future, these islands may be facing some of the biggest challenges in its history. Will the land and its people be able to cope with rising sea levels and intense, ferocious storms? Only time will tell.

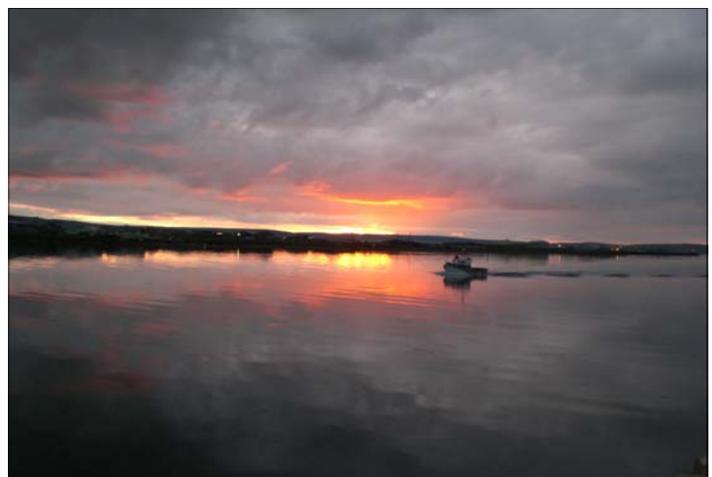
In the meantime, I encourage everyone who can to visit this gem of Scotland and experience this unique and diverse island kingdom.



Scapa Flow (that is the name of the bay) in Orkney. Photograph courtesy of Amy Miller.



Jonathan at Broch of Gurnness. Photograph courtesy of Amy Miller.



The sunset in Orkney. Photograph courtesy of Amy Miller.

The Way I See It: Digital Media and the Evolution of Consumerism

By Vinny Healy

Almost every Friday night when I was a kid my mother would take my brother, my sister and me to the local video store to find a movie that we could watch together. The store was small, often crowded and the selection was very limited. There were typically only one or two copies of all new release movies, and if we didn't arrive by the early afternoon they were sure to be gone. Sometimes we would add our names to a waiting list, other times, we'd simply wait until enough people had seen the film that it was relegated to the rear of the store and classified by genre. But the idea that we didn't always get what we wanted never really seemed to bother us. In fact, most of the time, I was disappointed to find that we'd arrived early enough to rent a new release.

There was always something excited about having to find an alternative. We would disband about the store, each peering about the shelves for something that looked entertaining and agreeable. When we'd all made our selections, we would haggle over which movie was to be taken home. The process was often exhausting, sometimes frustrating but it was also rewarding in its own way, especially when it was *my* movie that earned the right to be watched.

Then there was Blockbuster video, the first movie rental chain in our area. Blockbuster was much more polished than our local store, and my parents enjoyed the extended rental duration, larger selection and the handy drop box. Blockbuster was

We stopped going to the little store, and within two years it closed its doors for the last time.

much cleaner and offered coupons; within a few months, we stopped going to the little store, and within two years it closed its doors for the last time. As a kid, I doubt that the socioeconomic implications of this hit me, but I missed the character of the local place and the hunt for an alternative movie to watch. Blockbuster kept several VHS tapes of new releases on hand, and more often than not, we would leave with a copy of exactly what we'd planned on renting. The advent of DVD fol-

lowed shortly thereafter. Then Netflix was conceived, making it possible for the average consumer to rent from a massive online library of film from the comfort of his own home. We never did open a Netflix account, partially due to distrust of the internet, but mostly because the next big thing followed so closely on its heels.

Digital Cable made things even more expedient and convenient. Now, we rent movies from the comfort of our own living room. It is instant gratification. But you can only rent new releases. The Apple Store provides a larger selection, but that doesn't really matter.

It seems that digital media is a reflection of the evolution of consumerism. We're not really willing to accept alternatives anymore. Advertising determines our purchases more than ever. We don't buy CDs because we only really want the one song we heard on the radio. But then aren't we potentially missing out on a really great album? On the other hand, I will always remember "Tubthumping" as the worst \$14 investment I have ever made.

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that all is right in the world. Farms were meant to do one thing: farm (quite a plot twist, I know). How can one appreciate a farm house or its outbuildings in the context of barren fields? Only in the summertime do landscape and built environment come together in a glorious union. And since no trip is complete without a stop at some great American roadside architecture, ponder this: in the summer, there will be many others on the road with you, so a stop at a roadside motel lets you experience the feeling of automobile manifest destiny. Stop at that same motel in the desolate winter, and all you are going to be experiencing is a first hand account of a Hitchcock classic.

Now I know there are some out there who were born without what I like to call the 'warm chromosome,' and as a result, prefer to be cold. But I challenge you to think of an exception to what I am proposing. All I could think of is an historic ski lodge/resort; obviously, that is an experience best felt in winter. As for the farmhouse that stands like a castle in a field of alfalfa, and the homeless man who sings sad French love songs on the corner for spare change while I shop the downtown farmer's market, I will celebrate and appreciate them as I get my daily dose of Vitamin D, and I will smile because I am a preservationist and there is no greater time to be one!

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Kaitlin O'Shea, editor



Why I Love Historic Preservation

By Kaitlin O'Shea

I love historic preservation. That's an obvious statement. After all, I write the Preservation in Pink blog about five days per week and twice per year I spend countless hours and days working on the newsletter. And, I have an obsession with flamingos (rooted in historic preservation, of course). What do I get out of these hours of blogging and editing and layout (and the many flamingo gifts I receive)? Let me start at the beginning.

Years ago, before I discovered such a thing as historic preservation existed, I never really knew what I wanted to do. I loved writing and I loved history, but choosing a major in college probably would have been difficult had not a Mary Washington College brochure arrived in my mailbox during my junior of high school. Something clicked when I first read the term "historic preservation" and with a bit of research about the major, I knew it was what I was meant to do. I never looked back.

You see, of the many lessons in college, I learned that historic preservation can save the world. Most people scoff at the theory, but the truth is that there is not one singular solution to the world's problems. Thus, we save the world bit by bit. Historic preservation is not just about historic buildings and battlefields. Preservation strives to improve the economy and

the quality of life with existing resources, heritage tourism, community identity and pride, cultural identity, landscape architecture, urban planning, and more. And these factors can all be tied to the sub-fields and connecting fields to preservation including archaeology, architecture, folklore, environmentalism, museum studies, anthropology, and conservation.

So, what I do receive from all of my various preservation jobs and conversations is a strong sense of community, one that cares about the past, present, and future. Wanting to improve quality of life does not mean that the life we have now is unpleasant, it just means that there is always room for improvement. Historic preservation is a challenge, an uphill battle, and a puzzle, but it is an eternally optimistic field because we all believe in the broad tenets of preservation. As preservationists, we believe that our efforts will triumph in the end, even if indirectly. And we are all working towards the same goal of better communities, of a better world, whether we are archaeologists, oral historians, or planners.

Historic preservation is not my only my profession; it is my passion and my lifestyle and I cannot imagine it any other way. I love historic preservation because it's never boring, it's always hopeful, it's always inspiring, it adapts to the communities' needs and wants, and the success stories prove that preservation changes lives for the better.

