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**instructor:** Kim Hoagland  
**course title:** Documentation of Historic Structures  
**institution:** Michigan Technological University  
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SS5800: DOCUMENTATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES  
Fall 2006

Prof. Kim Hoagland  
AOB 221  
487-2110  
e-mail: hoagland@mtu.edu

Class meets:  
Tues. & Thurs. 10-12  
  
office hours: MW 11-12

This course concerns the principles and practice of survey and documentation of historic structures. Survey is the process of identifying the salient features of a specific collection of buildings and through that to make sense of the collection. Documentation, which is focused on a single, representative or particularly significant building, includes measured drawings, photographs, and written reports. Both survey and documentation require significant time spent in the field, as well as in-depth research among primary sources.

You will be responsible for essentially two products: documentation of a single building, which you will produce alone (except for help in measuring), and a survey of a neighborhood, to National Register standards, which you will undertake as a team.

More specifically, the documentation package will include:

- measured drawings of floor plans produced in AutoCAD LT. Each student is responsible for two floor plans that indicate periods of construction. Please hand in both a hard copy (drawings printed on paper) and a digital copy;
- field measurements and field photographs;
- documentary photographic prints, limited to six, captioned;
- a written report in HABS format, including both history and description;
- a complete National Register nomination form, with description and significance statements.

The survey package will include:

- a form for every building in the survey area, entered into a database and printed in hard copy as well;
- a digital photograph of every building in the survey area;
- a map that shows the survey area.

In addition, we will start with a practice building, for which you will be responsible for one (simple) drawing.

The buildings and neighborhood we are documenting will provide a mixture of company and private housing. To help you understand the context for these houses, the readings will explore topics such as Copper Country history, company housing, and working-class housing, as well as the basic how-tos of documentation and survey.

We have five texts for this course:

John A. Burns, ed., *Recording Historic Structures* (Washington: AIA Press, 1989).

Margaret Crawford, *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns* (London: Verso, 1999).

Thomas Carter and Elizabeth Cromley, *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2005).

Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984).

Larry Lankton, *Cradle to Grave: Life, Work, and Death at the Lake Superior Copper Mines* (New York: Oxford, 1991).

I will have the Burns book available for \$15; the others are for sale in the bookstore. You will also be asked to read a number of other publications and articles, which I will make available to you.

The grades will be weighted as follows:

10% drawing of first building

40% documentation project

20% survey project

30% participation in class and field

Date	Topic	Reading	Projects Due
Tu 9/5	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thomas Carter and Elizabeth Cromley, <i>Invitation to Vernacular Architecture</i> (Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2005), Intro and ch. 1</li> </ul>	
		<b>PART I: DOCUMENTATION</b>	
Th 9/7	Buildings as Evidence I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John A. Burns, ed., <i>Recording Historic Structures</i> (Washington: AIA, 1989), ch. 5.</li> <li>Edward A. Chappell, "Architectural Recording and the Open-Air Museum: A View from the Field," <i>Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II</i>, ed. Camille Wells (Columbia: Univ. of Missouri, 1986), 24-36.</li> <li>Edward A. Chappell, "Looking at Buildings" (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, n.d.).</li> </ul>	
Sat 9/9	Fieldwork I (measuring 1st bldg.)		
Tu 9/12	Buildings as Evidence II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, <i>Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes</i> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1997), 4-7</li> <li>Carter and Cromley, ch. 2 and 3</li> <li>Travis C. McDonald, Jr., <i>Understanding Old Buildings: The Process of Architectural Investigation</i> (NPS, Preservation Brief 35, n.d.) (also online at <a href="http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief35.htm">www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief35.htm</a>)</li> <li>HAER guidelines, "Evaluating Sites" (1994)</li> </ul>	
Th 9/14	No class		
Tu 9/19	Historical Research; visit to Archives 11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burns, ch. 3</li> <li>NRHP, <i>Researching a Historic Property</i></li> <li>Erik Nordberg, "Sources for Researching Property Histories" (1996)</li> </ul>	
Th 9/21	Drawings		Drawing of first building
Sat. 9/23	Fieldwork II (examining 2nd bldg)		
Tu 9/26	Photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burns, ch. 4</li> <li>David L. Ames, <i>A Primer on Architectural Photography and the Photo Documentation of Historic Structures</i> (Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware, n.d.)</li> <li>NRHP, <i>How to Improve the Quality of Photos...</i> (available from website: <a href="http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications">www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications</a>)</li> </ul>	
Th	Quincy Fire	"Fourth Thursday in History: Documenting Houses on	

9/28	Hall, 7pm	Quincy Hill”	
		<b>PART II: SURVEY</b>	
Tu 10/3	Survey Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRHP, <i>Guidelines for Local Surveys</i></li> <li>• NRHP, <i>How to Complete the National Register Form</i></li> <li>• NRHP, <i>Historic Residential Suburbs</i>, 1-13, 73-134</li> </ul>	
Th 10/5	Fieldwork III (reconnaissance survey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRHP, <i>Historic Residential Suburbs</i>, 15-71</li> <li>• Arnold R. Alanen, “Considering the Ordinary: Vernacular Landscapes in Small Towns and Rural Areas,” <i>Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America</i>, ed. Arnold R. Alanen and Robert Z. Melnick (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), 112-142.</li> </ul>	
Tu 10/10	Intensive survey Dev. of survey forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carter and Cromley, ch. 4 and 5</li> <li>• Virginia and Lee McAlester, <i>A Field Guide to American Houses</i> (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 1-61.</li> <li>• Michigan SHPO, “Ruskin” manual (skim)</li> </ul>	Drawings of 2 <sup>nd</sup> building
Th 10/12	Historic Districts and integrity issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRHP, <i>How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation</i></li> <li>• NRHP, <i>Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties</i> (from website)</li> <li>• Jane Busch, “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Laurium Historic District,” 2004. (also online at <a href="http://www.lauriummanorinn.com/laurium/laurium-national-register-historic-places.pdf">www.lauriummanorinn.com/laurium/laurium-national-register-historic-places.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• Alison K. Hoagland, “Industrial Housing and Vinyl Siding: Historic Significance Flexibly Applied,” <i>Preservation of What, for Whom: A Critical Look at Historical Significance</i> (National Council for Preservation Education, 1998), 117-124.</li> </ul>	
Tu 10/17	Architectural style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book to be assigned from list</li> <li>• McAlester, skim rest of book</li> </ul>	
Th 10/19	No class		
Tu 10/24	No class		
Th 10/26	Determining integrity		Survey forms in database
Tu 10/31	Other kinds of surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRHP, <i>Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering Historic Mining Properties</i></li> </ul>	Plan for survey
Th 11/2	Wrapping up surveys		Complete survey forms
		<b>PART III: CONTEXT</b>	

Tu 11/7	Copper Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larry Lankton, <i>Cradle to Grave: Life, Work and Death at the Lake Superior Copper Mines</i> (NY: Oxford, 1991), esp. ch. 9 and 10.</li> <li>• Erik Nordberg, "Company Houses Along the Picket Line: A Photographic Essay on the Michigan Copper Strike of 1913," <i>Mining History Journal</i> (1998): 63-75.</li> </ul>	
Tu 11/9	Worker housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margaret Crawford, <i>Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns</i> (London: Verso, 1999), esp. Part I.</li> </ul>	
Tu 11/14	More worker housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomas C. Hubka and Judith T. Kenny, "Examining the American Dream: Housing Standards and the Emergence of a National Housing Culture, 1900-1930," <i>Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture: The Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum</i> 13, No. 1 (2006): 49-69.</li> <li>• Lizabeth A. Cohen, "Embellishing a Life of Labor: An Interpretation of the Material Culture of American Working-Class Homes, 1885-1915," in <i>Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture</i>, ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens: Univ. of Georgia, 1986), 261-278.</li> <li>• Alison K. Hoagland, "The Boardinghouse Murders: Housing and American Ideals in Michigan's Copper Country in 1913," <i>Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture: The Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum</i> 11 (Fall 2004): 1-18.</li> <li>• One article to be assigned from list</li> </ul>	
Tu 11/28	More worker housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book to be assigned from list</li> </ul>	
Tu 12/5	Review of progress		HABS documentation due
Tu 12/12	Pres. of documentation		National Register nomination due

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

You will be assigned one reading from each of these categories.

**PART I—Architectural styles**

- Blumenson, John J.-G. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. Nashville: AASLH, 1977, 1981.
- Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. NY: Henry Holt, 1994.
- Carter, Thomas, and Peter Goss. *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940*. Salt Lake City: Univ. of Utah, 1988.
- Gowans, Alan. *Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression*. NY: HarperCollins, 1992.
- Jennings, Jan, and Herbert Gottfried. *American Vernacular Interior Architecture, 1870-1940*. Ames: Iowa State, 1988.
- Longstreth, Richard. *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*. Washington: Preservation Press, 1987.
- Poppeliers, John C., S. Allen Chambers, Jr. *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*. Hoboken: John Wiley, 2003.
- Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. Cambridge: MIT, 1969.

**PART II—Working-Class Houses (Books):**

- Bigott, Joseph C. *From Cottage to Bungalow: Houses and the Working Class in Metropolitan Chicago, 1869-1929*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago, 2001.
- Buder, Stanley. *Pullman: An Experiment in Industrial Order and Community Planning, 1880-1930*. NY: Oxford: 1967.
- Byington, Margaret F. *Homestead: The Households of a Mill Town*. Russell Sage Foundation, 1910; repr., Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1974.
- Coolidge, John. *Mill and Mansion: A Study of Architecture and Society in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1820-1862*. Columbia University Press, 1942; 2d ed., Amherst: University of Massachusetts, 1993.
- Garner, John S. *The Model Company Town: Urban Design through Private Enterprise in Nineteenth-Century New England*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.
- Heath, Kingston Wm. *The Patina of Place: The Cultural Weathering of a New England Industrial Landscape*. Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee, 2001.
- Shifflett, Crandall A. *Coal Towns: Life, Work, and Culture in Company Towns of Southern Appalachia, 1880-1960*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1991.
- Wright, Gwendolyn. *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America*. Cambridge: MIT, 1981.

### **PART III—Working-Class Houses (Articles):**

- Alanen, Arnold R. "The Locations: Company Communities on Minnesota's Iron Ranges." *Minnesota History* 48, no. 3 (Fall 1982): 94-107.
- Blythe, Robert W. "Unraveling the Threads of Community Life: Work, Play, and Place in the Alabama Mill Villages of the West Point Manufacturing Company." *Constructing Image, Identity, and Place: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, IX*, Alison K. Hoagland and Kenneth A. Breisch, eds. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003), 135-150.
- Buckley, James Michael, "A Factory without a Roof: The Company Town in the Redwood Lumber Industry," *Exploring Everyday Landscapes: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, VII* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997), 75-92.
- Garner, John S. "LeClaire Illinois: A Model Company Town (1890-1934)." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 30, no. 3 (October 1971): 219-227.
- Harris, Richard. "Reading Sanborns for the Spoor of the Owner-Builder, 1890s-1950s." *Exploring Everyday Landscapes: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, VII* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997), 251-267.
- Heyman, Josiah McC. "The Organizational Logic of Capitalist Consumption on the Mexico-United States Border." *Research in Economic Anthropology* 15 (1994): 175-238.
- Hubka, Thomas C., and Judith T. Kenny, "The Workers' Cottage in Milwaukee's Polish Community: Housing and the Process of Americanization, 1870-1920," *People, Power, Places: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, VIII*, Sally McMurry and Annmarie Adams, eds., (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000), 33-52.
- MacKinnon, Richard. "Making a House a Home: Company Housing in Cape Breton Island." *Material History Review* 47 (Spring 1998): 46-56.
- Mulrooney, Margaret M. "A Legacy of Coal: the Coal Company Towns of Southwestern Pennsylvania." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, IV*. Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman, eds. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1991), 130-137.