Newsletter of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

Fall 2008
Vol. 25 No. 3

SESAH News

From the Moravian hood to the architecture of hospitality in Portugal….

From foam construction to palaces of corn….

From the brothels of New Orleans to the fire houses of Wilmington….

From gendered interpretations to sensory histories of architecture….

There's going to be something for everyone at the upcoming SESAH Annual Meeting in Greensboro! As you'll see from the preliminary peek at the conference schedule inside this issue, this year's program offers a diverse and innovative array of approaches to the study of architecture.

Greensboro celebrates its bicentennial in 2008, and that historic event has inspired our conference theme, *Old South…New South*. Two keynote speakers will provide interpretive frameworks for understanding the varied landscape of the Piedmont in the contexts of Old and New South. Dr. Louis Nelson (UVa) will offer insights about the Atlantic World context of the piedmont in the colonial era. Dr. Thomas Hanchett (The Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte) will focus on the New South transformations of the Piedmont landscape.

Through several receptions and study tours we offer opportunities to explore the landscapes inspired by Quakers and planters of the Old South and industrialists and modernists of the New South.

At our reception at Blandwood, we will visit a remarkable transformation, from a farmhouse built in 1795 to the trend-setting villa created in 1844 when its owner Governor John Motley Morehead hired architect Alexander Jackson Davis to design a towered Italianate front addition to his home

We'll leap forward to the innovations of mid-20th century modernism at an afternoon reception at the house of architect Edward Loewenstein. The downtown Masonic Lodge with its theatrical Scottish-Rite room will be the location for our business lunch.

Participants have their choice of two Saturday tours led by distinguished scholars. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Professor and Director of Graduate Study in the Department of Interior Architecture at UNCG, will lead our tour of the antebellum landscapes of Caswell County. Drawing upon her work for a forthcoming book, Jo's tour will focus on the architectural legacy of Thomas Day.

A free man of color, Thomas Day was an artisan whose work was in high demand among North Carolina planters during the antebellum era. His artistry as a cabinet maker has been celebrated for its unique design and his furniture is collected by museums and antique lovers.

Jo's work brings long overdue appreciation to Day's stunning architectural woodwork. Participants will have the rare opportunity to visit private homes featuring Day's distinctive woodwork. The tour includes lunch at the Bartlett Yancey House restaurant with a restored Day interior.

Benjamin Briggs, executive director of Preservation Greensboro, Inc., himself a Quaker, and author of *The Architecture of High Point North Carolina*, will lead a tour of southern Guilford County. The tour features a variety of building types—dwelling, barn, commercial building, and meeting house—all documenting the substantial impact of Quakers on the Piedmont landscape. Also included is an early mill village that evokes the character of industrialization in the nineteenth century. A highlight of the tour will be a lunch of homemade chicken pot pie prepared by the members of Deep River Friends Meeting.

We look forward to introducing you to the architectural variety and history of the North Carolina Piedmont. Register early to get your first choice for the study tours! If you have questions or need more information, please let me know. Y'all come!

Lisa C. Tolbert
2008 SESAH Annual Meeting Chair
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends in SESAH,

By the time you receive this newsletter, our 26th Annual Meeting in Greensboro will be just around the corner. It's been my privilege and learning experience to witness the creative thinking and hard work invested by our conference and papers organizers, Lisa Tolbert, Ruth Little, and others. And I'm more grateful than ever for the devotion of the many SESAH members - all volunteers! - taking care of the endeavors that keep SESAH such a vibrant and enjoyable organization.

Throughout the last year, I've been struck by two special qualities of SESAH: its tradition of hospitable collegiality and its gracious accommodation of new ideas and approaches. But in thinking about this column, I've begun to realize that these two qualities are just facets of one basic theme.

Among the traditions central to SESAH is that of graciousness and friendliness, which encourages first-time conference participants to become longtime members, and which keeps us all coming back year after year to see old friends and make new ones. Maybe it's just "Southern hospitality," but I think it's more than that - a culture of an organization that has valued this collegial and hospitable spirit since its earliest days.

Tied to this is a tradition of welcoming and supporting participation of students and other young members in the SESAH "family." Our conference program highlights an important aspect: eight of our paper presenters are graduate students, representing five universities. They address lively issues and diverse topics from Cherokee houses in Georgia to medieval castles in Fascist Italy.

Crucial to encouraging the invigorating influx of fresh ideas and younger members is SESAH's student fellowship program, which helps pay conference expenses for students giving papers. We will be hearing news about plans for our endowment campaign, which will assure the long-term support of this and other vital programs. Meanwhile, if you're especially interested in encouraging students, consider making a donation to the student fellowship fund (see below).

Speaking of students, our conference locale this year is close to many universities. It's not too late for professors to encourage this fall's students to consider attending. The student registration fees are reasonable, and the content of papers, study tours, and special events will be a great educational benefit.

Finally, there is a tradition of openness to new ideas and approaches - tempered by a proper respect for familiar ways. Recently we've seen our conference presentations technology shift from slide projectors to digital presentations - and we still have slide projectors for those who need them. We have a terrific website, through which we can present our organization effectively to the larger world - and it complements our excellent journal *ARRIS* and our *Newsletter*.

Looking ahead, we have a committee chaired by our vice president Michael Fazio exploring ways of making even better use of the web - to further complement our existing modes of communication.

So it seems that along with our tradition of Southern graciousness, our efforts to encourage new scholars and new approaches may be one of our most resilient and vital traditions. Thanks to all who contribute in every way.

Catherine W. Bishir
Raleigh, North Carolina

To enhance support of the student fellowship fund or other SESAH programs, send a donation to Robert M. Craig, Treasurer, SESAH; College of Architecture; Georgia Institute of Technology; Atlanta, GA 30332-0155. SESAH is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization; all donations are tax-deductible.

Ely Merheb-Emanuelli (left) with her parents Maria and Naim Merheb during the 2007 SESAH Study Tour in Nashville. The family traveled from Puerto Rico to support Ely of Washington, DC, who presented a paper on preservation of the Paseo de Diego in Puerto Rico.

Did you know that Dolley Madison (1768-1849) was a "Greensboro Girl"?

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the *SESAH Newsletter* contains much information about our upcoming meeting in Greensboro, including a tentative schedule of paper presentations. We hope this whets your appetite and that you will share this information with your colleagues, students, and other professionals so that they too will come to the North Carolina Piedmont. The schedule also appears on our website along with all the registration materials.

You will also notice that this issue contains two feature articles, one on the much anticipated unveiling of the "new" Montpelier in Orange, Virginia. If you haven't had an opportunity to witness this extraordinary $26 million restoration firsthand over the past few years, you need to go see the soon-to-be completed project. The national landmark has been meticulously restored to depict how it would have appeared when James and Dolley Madison lived there in the 1820s.

The other article is on the recent uses of the science of dendrochronology and how it is helping to rewrite the architectural history of one state - Tennessee. In the spirit of full disclosure, I should note that I supervised two of the dendrodating projects, both at The Hermitage. Dating vernacular log buildings has always been a guessing game, but that is not necessarily true anymore. The mysteries surrounding the age of some of the state's earliest historic sites may have indeed been solved.

If you have articles that you would like to contribute, please let me know. We want the *SESAH Newsletter* to become a venue for distributing reports, studies, and the latest information from the field.

Robbie D. Jones
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Send correspondence and submissions for publication to the *SESAH Newsletter* editor. Deadline for submission of material for the Winter 2008/Spring 2009 issue is **December 10, 2008**. Contact the editor about format preference.

The *SESAH Newsletter* has been published three times yearly since 1983. Visit www.sesah.org to download recent issues of the *SESAH Newsletter*.

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At-Large (2009)
Sara Butler, Roger Williams Univ., Rhode Island

SESAH paper sessions, Annual Meeting 2008

Updated August 7, subject to change

Thurs. 2 October

10:30-12:00: paper session 1

Readings in Architectural Iconography **chair: Richard Guy Wilson, University of Virginia**

The Moravian Hood.
John Larson, Vice President of Restoration, Old Salem Museums and Gardens, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Indians at the Corn Palace: A Post-Colonial Reading of Projection, Reception, and Participation.
Pamela Simpson, Professor, Washington and Lee University.

"Fearful and wonderful to Behold:" Four Depression-Era Log Buildings in Mecklenburg County.
Stewart Gray, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission.

Gendered Approaches to the Study of Architecture **chair: Margaret S. Smith, Wake Forest University**

Feminine Designs: Elizabeth Allen and Bacon's Castle.
Virginia "Gigi" Price. HABS, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Searcy Clinic for Women. Wendover: A Study in Class, Culture and Community.
Rachel Miller, UNCG graduate student and Elissa Miller, Nurse Practioner.

The Women's Building at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Design and Feminine Space at a Masculine University.
Sarah Parris, UNCG graduate student/Historic Hillsborough.

Architecture Schools: Educating Architects/Changing Landscapes **chair: Mark Reinberger, University of Georgia**

The Architectural Education of Alexander Jackson Davis.
Julia King, Consultant Historian, U.S. and U.K.

Henry Leveke Kamphoefner, the Modernist, Dean of the North Carolina State University School of Design, 1948-1972.
David Brook, Director, Division of Historical Resources, Office of Archives and History, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

Modernism Invades the Loveliest Village of the Plains: Architectural Education at Auburn University in 1962.
Michael Fazio, Emeritus Professor of Architecture, Mississippi State University.

2:00-3:30 paper session 2

Tools, Materials, and Technologies **chair: Travis McDonald, Jefferson's Poplar Forest**

Building with *Bousillage:* Creolization and Perpetuation of an Antiquated French Technique in Louisiana.
Laura Blokker. Southeast Preservation, Elm City, North Carolina.

Alside Homes: Prefabricated Housing and the Limits of Invention.
John Schlinke. Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island.

"Blow Me a House:" Felix Drury and Experiments in Foam Construction, ca.1968-1974.
Richard Hayes. Architectural Historian and Architect, New York.

Modernism comes to the Carolinas **chair: Laura Phillips, Winston-Salem, N.C.**

A Bastion of Modernism in the Southern Part of Heaven.
Claudia Brown, N.C. Historic Preservation Office and Diane Lea, Properties Chair, Preservation Society of Chapel Hill.

Usonian Antecedents to Loewenstein's Carter House: An Idea Born on the Prairie comes to the Piedmont.
Cynthia de Miranda, MdM Historical Consultants Inc., Durham, N.C.

The Progress of Modernism in South Carolina.
Alfred Willis, Assistant Director for Collection Development, Harvey Library, Hampton University, Hampton, Va.

3:45-5:15 paper session 3

The Nineteenth Century South: Preservation and Documentation **chair: Lena Sweeten, Gray & Pape, Inc., Richmond, Va.**

Saving The Hermitage: Tennessee's First Historic Landmark, 1854-1860.
Robbie Jones, Senior Architectural Historian, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Nashville, Tennessee.

Landscape and Legacy: Social Aspirations in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.
Emilie Johnson, PhD candidate, University of Virginia.

Images of a Vanished Urban Cultural Landscape: Charleston in 1812.
Ashley Robbins and Jonathan Poston. Clemson Center for Historic Preservation, Clemson University, South Carolina.

Constructing Race Relations in the New South **chair: Robin Williams, Savannah College of Art and Design**

Wilmington's Consolidated Fire House #4: Building Civic Authority in Jim Crow North Carolina.
William Moore, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of North Carolina Wilmington.

A Full and Complete School Plant: Rural High School Complexes in Mississippi, 1920-1955.
Jennifer Baughn, Chief Architectural Historian**,** Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History.

Racial Segregation on North Carolina Military Installations during World War II.
Lauren Miller, Architectural Historian, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program.

Urban Landscapes: International Contexts **chair: Julia Smyth-Pinney, University of Kentucky**

Great Expectations: The Puerta de Visagra in Toledo and the Imperial Ideal.
David Gobel. Professor of Architectural History, Savannah College of Art and Design.

The Depiction of Medieval Vernacular Buildings in the Ideal City Panels at Urbino, Baltimore, and Berlin.
John O'Brien, Adjunct Professor, University of Tennessee, College of Architecture & Design.

Recreating the Past. The controversies surrounding the refashioning of the medieval castle of Castelvecchio in Verona under the Fascist regime. Maria D'Anniballe PhD candidate, University of Pittsburgh, Department of History of Art & Architecture.

The Architecture of Hospitality at Torre de Palma, Portugal.
Sarah P. McNabb. PhD candidate, University of Louisville.

Friday 3 October

9:00-10:30 paper session 4

Political and Philosophical Balancing Acts in Modern Architecture **chair: David Sachs, Kansas State University**

Shedding the Political: European Modernity and America: The Case for Peter Eisenman and Aldo Rossi.
Michelangelo Sabatino, Assistant Professor, Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, University of Houston.

Mr. Stone Goes to the Fair: The United States Pavilion for Expo '58 and Its Influence at Home.
Ethel Goodstein-Murphree, Professor of Architecture, University of Arkansas, School of Architecture.

Between Fire and an Open Corner: Richard Neutra's Idea of Ecology.
Jin Baek, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, Pennsylvania State University.

The Many Meanings of Modern: Architecture in the New South **chair: Thomas Little, Surber Barber Choate & Hertlein Architects, Atlanta, Ga.**

An Atlantan in Rome: Joseph Amisano at the American Academy, 1950-52.
Jeffrey Jensen, General Services Administration, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Modern is As Modern Does:" Technology and the 'Modern' House.
Leslie Sharp, Director of Special Projects, College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Mid-Century Modernism in the South.
Elizabeth Moore, Fieldwork Coordinator, Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University.

Region and Ethnicity: The House as Evidence **chair: Elizabeth Dowling, Georgia Tech**

Ga-ne-tli-yv-s-di (Change) in the Cherokee Nation: The Vann, Ridge and Ross Houses in Northwest Georgia.
Jennifer Elliott, MA candidate, Architectural History, University of Virginia.

Interpreting Remnants: The Cultural and Physical Changes in African American Housing from 1830-1880 in Rural Tidewater Virginia. Laura Russell Purvis, MA candidate, Architectural History, University of Virginia.

Constructing Free Identity: The Invention and Adaptation of the Charleston Freedman's Cottage.
Paige Wagoner, Architectural Historian, Brockington and Associates, Charleston, South Carolina.

10:45-12:15 paper session 5

Southern Accommodations to Modern Architecture **chair: Gavin Townsend, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga**

The Tall Building, Southerly Considered: hotels and commercial towers of Francis Palmer Smith.
Robert Craig, College of Architecture, Georgia Tech.

Modernism at Home in the South: Samuel G. Wiener House.
Guy W. Carwile, Professor of Architecture, Louisiana Tech.

The Stone Architecture of Frank Murrell, African American artisan in Forsyth County, North Carolina.
Heather Fearnbach, Architectural Historian, adjunct faculty, UNCG.

Rethinking Architectural Evidence from Unexpected Sources **chair: Carol Flores, Ball State University**

"You learnt to spin and you learnt to hear:" Architecture, Sensory History and the Lives of Southern Mill Hands, 1915-1940.
Gerald Fitzgerald Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health, New York University.

Architecture and Music: A Brief Interdisciplinary History of.
Mikesch Muecke, Associate Professor, College of Design, Iowa State University and Miriam Zach, Assistant Professor, Honors Program and School of Music, University of Florida.

Encroachment: Re-conceptualizing the Urban Interstate.
Michael McCulloch, Assistant Professor of Architecture, Drury University, Springfield, Missouri.

From the Gay Nineties to the Depression: New Housing Types for Town and Country **chair: Marvin Brown, URS Corporation, Raleigh, N.C.**

With All Modern Conveniences: Apartment Buildings and Social Landscape in Greensboro, 1920-1940.
Rebecca Spanbauer, Preservation Specialist, Capital Area Preservation, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina.

A Mule, A Plow and a House: The Architecture of Arkansas' Plum Bayou Houses.
Gregory Herman, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas, School of Architecture.

Sex, Money and Buildings: The Connection between Advertisement and Architecture in New Orleans's Red-light District.
Kelly Bressler, MFA Candidate- Architectural History, Savannah College of Art and Design.

26th SESAH Annual Meeting
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 1-4, 2008

Schedule

(subject to change)

Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians
26th Annual Meeting : Greensboro, NC : October 1-4, 2008

Wednesday, 1 October

3:00-6:00	Conference registration
5:00-7:00	No-host bar reception at the hotel
5:30	Board meeting at Marriott
	Dinner on your own

Thursday, 2 October

8:00-9:00	Conference registration
	Breakfast on your own
9:00-10:00	*Opening plenary session*
	"Modernizing Piedmont"
	Dr. Thomas Hanchett
	The Levine Museum of the New South
10:30-12:00:	*Paper session 1*
12:00-1:30	Lunch on your own
2:00-3:30	*Paper session 2*
3:45-5:15	*Paper session 3*
5:45	Modernist tour + tea
	Loewenstein Residence
	Dinner on your own

Friday 3 October

	Breakfast on your own
9:00-10:30	*Paper session 4*
	Coffee break
10:45-12:15	*Paper session 5*
12:30-2:00	Business lunch
2:30-4:00	*Plenary session 2*
	"Colonial Piedmont"
	Dr. Louis Nelson
	University of Virginia
4:15-5:30	Presentation on Thomas Day
	Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll
	Downtown walking tours
6:00-7:30	Blandwood open house and reception
	Dinner on your own

Saturday, 4 October

Study Tour A: Guilford County Quakers and Oakdale Mill Village, 8:30am-3:00pm
Tour led by Benjamin Briggs, Executive Director of Preservation Greensboro, Inc., himself a Quaker, and author of *The Architecture of High Point, North Carolina*.

By some estimates, 60,000 Quakers migrated to North Carolina during the eighteenth century in search of affordable land, a warm climate, and religious freedom. Many Quakers settled in Guilford County in and around the communities of Deep River and Jamestown. Explore the impact of Quakers on the built environmnet, including brick "Quaker-Plan" houses, a Pennsylvania-style bank barn, two nineteenth-century Meeting Houses, an early commercial building, and an early mill village.

Lunch : Deep River Friends Meeting homemade chicken potpie.

Study Tour B: The Architectural Legacy of Thomas Day in Caswell County, 8:30am-4:30pm
Tour led by Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Professor and Director of Graduate Study, UNCG Department of Interior Architecture, and co-author of a forthcoming book on Thomas Day.

During the 1840s and the 1850s, free black Thomas Day and his shop crafted architectural woodwork for fine houses throughout Caswell County and beyond where planters, flush with new tobacco wealth, built big new homes or expanded old ones. Day combined his cabinetmaking talents with a personal interpretation of the fashionable Greek Revival architectural style to create a distinctive woodworking idiom. On this tour of Caswell County houses, experience the power and energy of Day's bold architectural legacy.

Lunch : Yancey House Restaurant (in the Bartlett Yancey House, with a restored Day interior)

2008 SESAH Annual Meeting : Greensboro, NC : October 1-4, 2008

Registration

Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians
26th Annual Meeting : Greensboro, NC : October 1-4, 2008

Registration Fees: $_____

Advance Registration (postmark before August 31)	**$125** (after Sept. 1- $150)
Students (with photocopy of valid student ID)	**$ 65** (after Sept. 1 - $75)

Registration fee includes access to all paper sessions and plenary sessions, a copy of the paper abstracts, reception at Blandwood, and business lunch & awards ceremony. Saturday study tours are optional with additional fee.

SESAH Membership: Renewing? **Y / N** $_____

Individual	**$35**
Student	**$20**
Institutional	**$40**
Contributing	**$50+**
Life	**$500** (payable in installments)

All conference attendees and participants must be members of SESAH. Membership dues are for one calendar year. All SESAH members receive the annual journal ARRIS *as well as the society newsletter (3x/year). Please circle above if you are renewing.*

Saturday Study Tour: **$50** (after Sept. 1 - $60)
Students (with photocopy of valid student ID) **$35** $_____

Please rank your choices below. Both tours include lunch and access to museums, historic landmarks, etc.

_____Tour A Guilford County Quakers and Oakdale mill village
(8:30-3:00, homemade chicken pie at Deep River Friends Meeting)

_____Tour B Thomas Day and Caswell County plantations
(8:30-4:30, lunch at the Bartlett-Yancey restaurant, with a restored Day interior)

TOTAL **$**_____

Visit www.sesah.org for more information.

2008 SESAH Annual Meeting : Greensboro, NC : October 1-4, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

Please write your name and institutional affiliation and/or city as you would like them to appear on your badge and in the participant directory:

Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

City: _____

Mailing Address: Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Dietary Restrictions/Preferences: _____

SESAH member? _____ How many SESAH conferences have you attended? _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE (from page 1): **$**_____

Date: _____ Please make checks payable to SESAH.

Send completed registration form, along with payment, to:

Lisa Tolbert, Conference Co-Chair
SESAH 2008 Registration
608 Longview Street
Greensboro, NC 27403

(336) 334-3987
lctolber@uncg.edu

THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA GREENSBORO

Visit www.sesah.org for more information.

THE 2008 SESAH CONFERENCE HOTEL

Greensboro Marriott Downtown | 304 N. Greene Street | Greensboro, NC 27401
Phone : 1-336-379-8000 (toll free 1-800-228-9290 | Fax :1-336-275-2810

The Greensboro Marriott Downtown is within walking distance of many downtown landmarks and restaurants. All conference paper sessions will be held at the Marriott. [www.marriott.com]

Make your reservations directly with the Downtown Marriott under the "**SE Society of Architectural Historians Block**" to receive your special group room rate of $105/night (single). This special rate is good only until **September 1**, so book your room early! On-site parking fee is $10 daily.

Alternate Hotel: For conference attendees who will be driving, we have reserved a small block of rooms at the Proximity Hotel. The Proximity is an interesting experiment in green design and we thought that some conference participants might be interested in the architecture. **Please note that this hotel is not within walking distance of the conference hotel and no shuttle service will be provided to the conference hotel.** [www.proximityhotel.com]

Proximity Hotel | 704 Green Valley Road | Greensboro, NC 27408
Phone : 336-379-8200 (toll-free 1-800-379-8200) | Fax : 336-478-9117
proxinfo@proximityhotel.com

Proximity Hotel, a LEED-accredited facility, is part of the Quaintance-Weaver Restaurants and Hotels. To receive the special rate of $139/single and $149/double occupancy, make your reservation before **September 1** and ask for the group name, **UNCG-SESAH Annual Meeting** when making reservations.

TRAVEL

The **Piedmont Triad International Airport** (PTI) is served by 7 commercial airlines including American, Continental, Delta, United, and US Airways. PTI is located about 11 miles from downtown Greensboro. Visit the airport website at www.flyfrompti.com for airline information. An airport express shuttle to the downtown hotel is about $18 one-way. Visitors can also take taxis (about $25 to downtown). To make shuttle reservations or for more information, contact Central Piedmont Transportation at 877-796-5466 or visit their website at www.ptiairporttransportation.com.

Three Amtrak trains (*Carolinian*, *Crescent* and *Piedmont*) stop in Greensboro each day. You can bring your bike along on the Piedmont line! Visit North Carolina's DOT Rail Division website at www.bytrain.org for timetables and tickets.

For those who prefer to drive, Greensboro is centrally located and served by Interstate-85 North/South and Interstate-40 East/West.

ARRIS

JOURNAL OF THE
SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

CALL FOR PAPERS

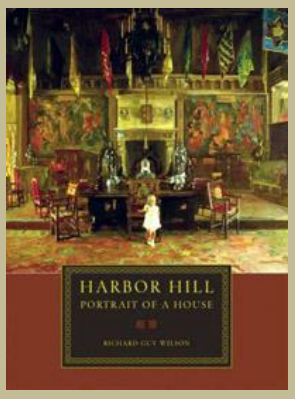
ARRIS is now soliciting papers for Volume 20, to be published in October 2009. The journal welcomes original scholarship on all aspects of the history of architecture and landscape. The deadline for submissions is **January 30, 2009**. They will be blind reviewed and the authors notified in April 2009.

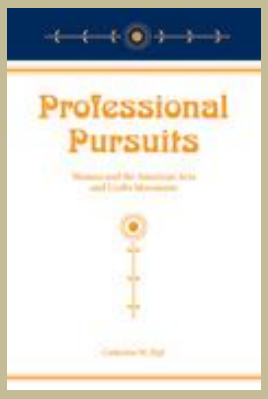
Papers should conform to the submission guidelines, which can be found at www.sesah.org. Further information may be obtained from the editor at the address below.

Stephen James, *ARRIS* Editor
Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture
122 College of Architecture Building
University of Houston
Houston, Texas 77204-4000
arris@uh.edu

MEMBER NEWS

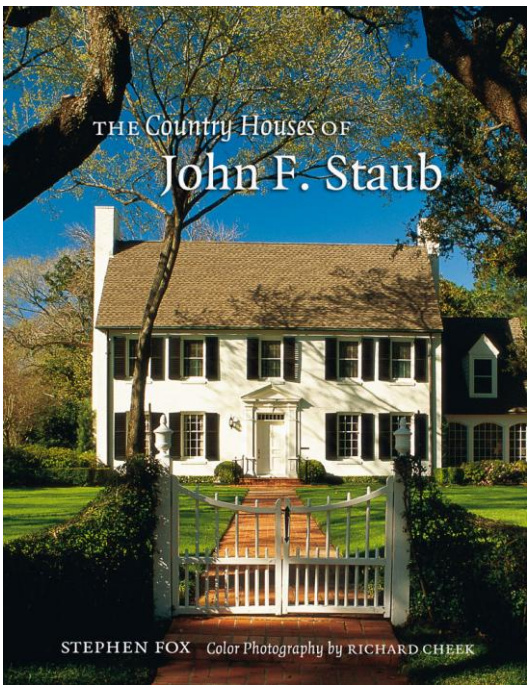
Richard Guy Wilson's *Harbor Hill: Portrait of a House* (WW Norton, 2008) is the multi-dimensional story of one of most opulent houses built on the East Coast in the early twentieth century. And, Wilson is curator for an upcoming exhibit of Thomas Jefferson's design for the University of Virginia (and an accompanying book) at the UVa Art Museum in the fall of 2009. Wilson teaches at UVa.





Catherine Zipf's *Professional Pursuits* (University of Tennessee Press, 2008) chronicles a very significant, little-understood aspect of the development of Victorian capitalism: the integration of women into the professional workforce. Zipf teaches at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island.

Stephen Fox's *The Country Houses of John F. Staub* (Texas A&M University Press, 2007) chronicles the architecture of one of the most influential architects in Texas. A Tennessee native and graduate of UT-Knoxville and MIT, Staub (1892-1981) worked in New York City for Harry Thomas Lindeberg before moving to Houston in the 1920s where he established one of the city's most prominent architectural firms. He specialized in classically styled country manors built in Texas and other southern states from the 1920s through the 1950s. Fox is a Fellow of the Anchorage Foundation of Texas.



Ann Roberts of Nashville retired on August 31 after serving as the Executive Director of Metro Historical Commission since 1982. She worked at the MHC for over thirty-two years and was instrumental in the preservation of countless architectural landmarks in the Music City. Under her leadership, Nashville now has nineteen historic overlay/zoning districts, thirty-three local landmarks, six National Historic Landmarks, and thousands of National Register-listed properties. Ann served on the host committee for the 2007 SESAH Annual Meeting and helped give several tours around Nashville.

Laurie Ossman of Miami, Florida, was recently appointed as Director of Woodlawn Plantation and Pope-Leighey House, a National Trust Historic Site in Mt. Vernon, Virginia. Laurie has a Ph.D and a Masters degree in American Architectural History from the University of Virginia. She is presently completing a book on the historic homes of the South.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

American Association for State & Local History
2008 Annual Meeting
Rochester, New York
September 8-11, 2008
www.aaslh.org

Preserving the Historic Road 2008
Albuquerque, New Mexico
September 11-13, 2008
www.historicroads.org

Society of Commercial Archeology Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico
September 11-14, 2008
www.sca-roadside.org

2008 Southeastern College Art Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
September 24-27, 2008
www.unc.edu/~rfrew/SECAC/annual_conference.html

26th SESAH Annual Meeting
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 1-4, 2008
www.sesah.org

American Society of Landscape Architects
2008 Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
October 3-7, 2008
www.asla.org

SAH Study Tour
E. Fay Jones: Architecture in Arkansas
October 8-13, 2008
www.sah.org

Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation and the Association for Preservation Technology
Montreal, Canada
October 13-15, 2008

Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts & Landscapes
40th Annual Meeting
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
October 16-18, 2008
www.pioneeramerica.org

American Studies Association Meeting
2008 Annual Meeting
Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 16-19, 2008
www.theasa.net

2008 National Preservation Conference
Tulsa, Oklahoma
October 21-25, 2008
www.preservationnation.org

12th Annual Salve Regina University Conference on Cultural & Historic Preservation
Newport, Rhode Island
October 23-25, 2008
www.salve.edu/chp2008

Society of Architectural Historians
62nd Annual Meeting
Pasadena, California
April 1-5, 2009
www.sah.org

American Planning Association National Conference
Minneapolis, Minnesota
April 24-29, 2009
www.planning.org

Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference
Butte, Montana
June 10-13, 2009
www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org

2009 National Scenic Byways Conference
Denver, Colorado
August 23-26, 2009
www.bywaysresourcecenter.org

Future SESAH Annual Meetings

Jackson, Mississippi - Oct. 28-31, 2009
Chattanooga, Tennessee - Oct. 20-23, 2010

Send your Event Calendar announcements to:
Robbie D. Jones: jonesro@pbworld.com

SCIENTISTS SOLVE TENNESSEE'S ARCHITECTURAL MYSTERIES

Robbie D. Jones, Nashville

Dendrochronology – the method of scientific dating based on the analysis of tree-ring growth patterns – is not new to architectural historians. For years, scientists have been dating architectural landmarks on the East Coast, helping to solve architectural mysteries surrounding the age of structures thought to have been built in the Colonial era. Sometimes they were, but oftentimes they weren't.

This technique was originally developed during the first half of the twentieth century by the astronomer A.E. Douglass, founder of the renowned Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona. This science is geared primarily for studying forest ecology.

But in Tennessee, this technique was rarely used to date historic buildings. However, that changed in 2000 when the University of Tennessee hired Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer, who had worked at the University of Arizona, to run a new dendrochronology program there.

Since 2000, Dr. Grissino-Mayer and his students have helped date several historic log buildings and structures in Tennessee and surrounding states. They have made some remarkable discoveries that are solving age-old mysteries and helping rewrite the architectural history of Tennessee.

Swaggerty Blockhouse
Newport vicinity

Built over a natural spring, this three-level building was long thought to have been a frontier military "blockhouse" constructed in 1787. The 16' square oak log crib features a 21' square cantilevered loft. Using dendrodating and archaeological excavations, UTK scientists were able to determine in 2002 that it was actually a multi-purpose agricultural outbuilding dating from **1860** and therefore has no affiliation with the state's frontier history.

Marble Springs, John Sevier's Farmstead
Knoxville vicinity

Courtesy Wikipedia.

Restored in 1941, this state-owned historic site contains a log farmhouse (right) thought to have been the home of John Sevier (1746-1815), the first governor of Tennessee, between 1796 and 1815. Last year, a dendrodating study completed by UTK and funded by the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) revealed the cabin was built of oak logs in **1835-1836** and therefore has no affiliation with John Sevier or the state's early history.

Alfred's Cabin at The Hermitage
Nashville

This log cabin is located behind Andrew Jackson's Hermitage mansion. Although occupied by former slave Alfred Jackson (1815-1901) after the Civil War, its early history was a mystery. The State purchased this site in 1855, turning it over to the Ladies' Hermitage Association (LHA) to operate as a historic site museum in 1889. Previous archaeological excavations indicated a possible 1840s construction date, but were inconclusive.

A dendrodating study completed in 2006 by UTK and funded by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation determined the double-pen log cabin was built of cedar logs in **1843**, two years before Jackson's death. This information will help guide a future restoration of Jackson's slave cabin.

Andrew Jackson's First Hermitage
Nashville

Located on the grounds of The Hermitage, these two log buildings were the subject of extensive studies between 1996 and 2004. Purchased by the State in 1855 and restored by the LHA in 1889-1896, the log buildings were thought to have once been occupied by Andrew Jackson and his family and later altered by use as slave cabins. Jackson purchased The Hermitage in 1804, but no one was certain when the cabins were actually built. Archaeological excavations documented two construction periods, but were inconclusive regarding building dates.

A dendrodating study completed in 2001 by a retired Virginia Tech professor and funded by the THC and LHA determined the farmhouse (left) was built in **1798-1800** by the previous landowner Nathaniel Hays and the detached kitchen slave cabin (right) was built in **1805-1806** under the direction of Andrew Jackson. Both were constructed primarily with "Tulip Poplar" logs. This information was pivotal in the $1.1 million restoration of these buildings as Jackson's slave cabins in 1999-2005.

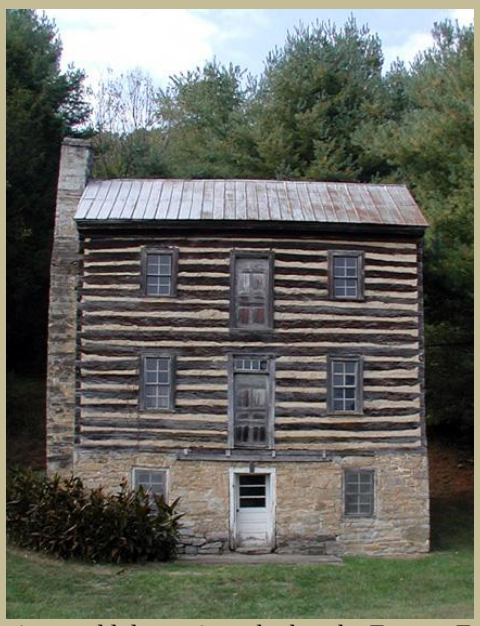
Rocky Mount, William Blount's Home
Johnson City vicinity

Courtesy Dr. Henry Grissino-Mayer.

A state-owned historic site since 1959, Rocky Mount is a two-story log farmhouse with Federal period interior detailing thought to have been built in the early 1770s and occupied by territorial governor William Blount in the early 1790s. Dendrodating studies completed in 2005 and 2008 by UTK determined that it was built of oak logs in **1826-1830** and therefore it has no affiliation with the state's frontier history. An architectural study and structural analysis completed by a former staff member in 1981 also concluded it was likely built in the late 1820s.

In the future, dendrodating studies by UTK may be performed at other historic sites with mysterious origins, including Wynnewood near Hendersonville, the Tipton-Haynes House in Johnson City, the Hodge House in Nashville, the Earnest Fort House near Greeneville, and the Christopher Taylor House in Jonesborough.

Visit http://web.utk.edu/~grissino/ltrs/ to download final reports, theses, and learn more about this science.



Dendrodating could determine whether the Earnest Fort House was built by Swiss immigrant Henry Earnest in 1779-1784.

The Tipton-Haynes house (right) features a two-story log core, thought to have been built in the 1780s. Or was it?

All photos courtesy Robbie D. Jones, unless noted.

MONTPELIER RESTORATION

On September 17, 2008, the Montpelier Foundation will celebrate the unveiling of the Montpelier Restoration. Operated and managed in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Montpelier is the lifelong home of James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, author of the Bill of Rights, and fourth U.S. President.

Located near Orange, Virginia, Montpelier was the Madison family estate since the 1740s. James Madison spent nearly his entire life here. He died at Montpelier in 1836; his wife Dolley lived here until 1844. The mansion passed through six owners and became the home of industrialist William duPont and his wife, Annie, in 1901.

After the duPonts encased the structure in pink stucco and added more than 30 rooms and 12 bathrooms, the 2,650-acre estate became a training ground for champion horses. The Montpelier Hunt Races, founded in 1924 by the couple's daughter, Marion duPont Scott, are still held here each November. Scott transferred it to the National Trust in 1984, which took over financial management in 2000.

The goal of the seven-year, $24 million Montpelier Restoration was to return the home to the way it appeared in the 1809-1836 period when James Madison and his wife Dolley lived here. Funding was provided by a variety of grants and donations from both public and private sources.

In 2001, the foundation initiated a $750,000 investigation, managed by architectural historians from Colonial Williamsburg, to see if the house could be restored. Then in 2003, the foundation undertook an 18-month, state-of-the-art archaeological and architectural investigation, which revealed that much of Madison's home was still intact within the walls of the duPont-era additions.

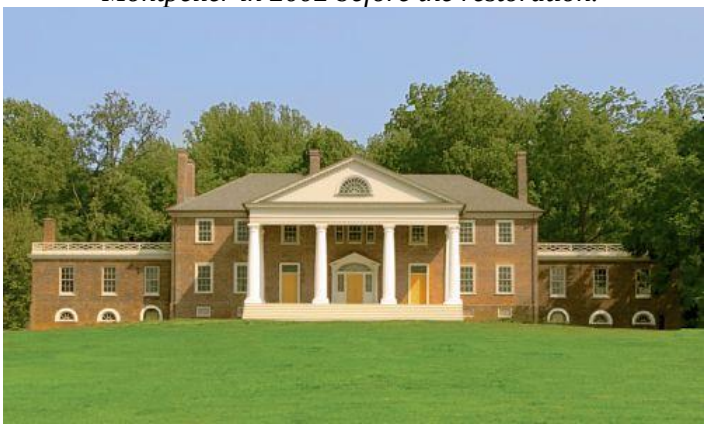
This evidence included nail holes that showed the original location for walls, the identification of re-used Madison-era windows and trim, plaster outlines showing the size and location of missing mantels as well as many other elements that survived the duPont renovations and additions. The restoration advisory committee included SESAH board member Travis McDonald, Director of Restoration at Jefferson's Poplar Forest.

The restoration removed alterations made to the Montpelier mansion after President Madison's death in 1836. The major removal involved taking off the two large wings that had been added onto the mansion by the duPont family in the early 1900s, thereby reducing the mansion from 55 rooms to 22 rooms. Remarkably, a total of 37 doors remained from Madison's home.

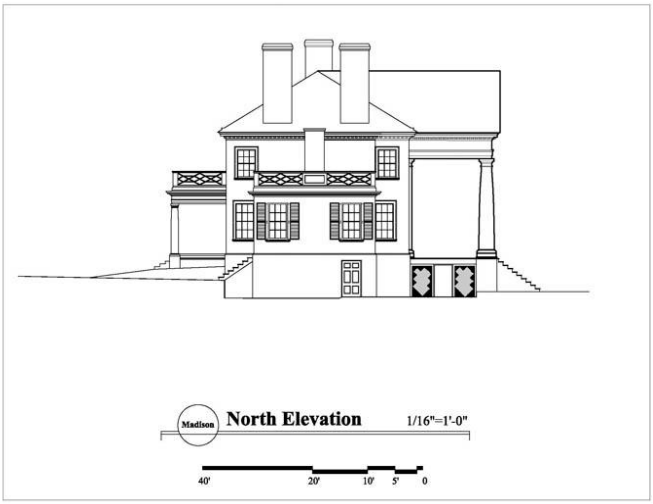
Portions of the home were open to visitors during restoration, providing guests with an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the restoration of the lifelong home of an American president and patriot.

Visitors are able to see Madison furniture, as well as vignettes from the restored house - the Madison dining room - at special exhibits in Montpelier's Education Center, located just beyond the back lawn of mansion. Visit www.montpelier.org for more information and an online restoration blog.

Montpelier in 2002 before the restoration.



Montpelier in 2008 after the restoration.



Images courtesy of The Montpelier Foundation.

ABOUT SESAH

The Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) is a regional chapter of the national Society of Architectural Historians and includes twelve states - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

The nonprofit organization holds an annual meeting, publishes a quarterly newsletter and an annual journal, *ARRIS*, and presents annual awards, including the "Best of the South" preservation award.

SESAH was founded in 1982 at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta to promote scholarship on architecture and related subjects and to serve as a forum for ideas among architectural historians, architects, preservationists, and others involved in professions related to the built environment. The annual meeting features scholarly paper sessions, business meeting, study tours, and a keynote lecture by a national leader in the field. SESAH members come from across the U.S.

www.sesah.org

Have You Registered Yet?

26th SESAH Annual Meeting
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 1-4, 2008

Parsons Brinckerhoff
1900 Church Street, Suite 203
Nashville, TN 37203

Please notify the Treasurer of address changes.