HP860 Historic Preservation Field School

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Course Description:

A workshop for graduate, undergraduate and continuing education students involving intensive field experience in documenting, interpreting and preserving the built environment and the historic landscape.

Students will receive hands-on field experience in documenting, preserving and interpreting the built environment and the historic landscape, including work with standing structures and historic sites. Authentic 18th and early 19th century buildings in the Felix Valle State Historic Site will serve as learning laboratories, providing hands-on investigation of Ste. Genevieve’s rare vertical log structures. The goal of the Field School is to acquaint students with the broad array of skills and techniques affecting historic preservation issues and historic site management. Students will learn to gather and record architectural data, utilizing library and archival collections in researching history as tools for understanding historic structures. (3 credit hours)

Objectives of the Course:

1. To provide field experience in the documentation and preservation of the built environment.
2. To familiarize students with various methods of gathering data and understanding past cultures, including material culture and historic archaeology.
3. To deepen students’ understanding of the historic landscape.
4. To strengthen students’ skills in field observation and historical research.
5. To develop a basic understanding of the operation of historic sites.
6. To broaden student understanding of past human behavior from a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural perspective.

**Expectations of students:**

Students are expected to: attend all sessions, read assigned materials, participate in all field trips and field studies, conduct themselves as professionals, participate fully in group projects, and complete any written assignments. In addition, graduate students will have additional readings and be responsible for leading portions of discussion.

**Proposed Schedule:**

Meet daily, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Wednesdays 9-5, 6-8) at the Creole House, 339 St. Mary’s Road, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.

**Monday, May 17**

Introduction and Orientation  
Tour Bauvais-Amoureux House  
Lunch  
Planning Process for Historic Sites  
Presentation of Interpretive Plan  
Tour Felix Valle House State Historic Site

**Assignment for Tuesday:** Read Interpretative Plan

**Tuesday, May 18**

Meet at Creole House  
Tour: Ste. Genevieve Interpretative Center  
Bolduc House  
Guibourd-Valle House  
Ste. Genevieve Memorial Cemetery  
Ste. Genevieve Museum

**Assignment for Wednesday:** Read *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture*, Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. xiii-18)

**Wednesday, May 19**

Sanborn Map exercise  
Lunch  
Document Transcription  
Discuss Ste. Genevieve Museum interpretative plan  
Break into teams to work on interpretation projects

7 pm evening event: Creole House – Screening and discussion of *Under These Same Stars: The Céladon Affair*, a film about an episode in Ste. Genevieve’s history.
Thursday, May 20

Behind the Scenes tour of Bolduc House
Tour of Jean Baptiste Valle House and Garden
Lunch
Bousillage/Lime Wash project, Bolduc House

**Assignment for Friday:** Read *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture*, Chapter 2 & 3 (pp. 19-62)

Friday, May 21

Measured Drawings (Richard Young, Southeast graduate student)
Francois Bernier (1839) house, 48 South 8th Street

Monday, May 24

Timber framing workshop, Durand Cabin (Jesse Francis, St. Louis County Parks Department)

**Assignment for Tuesday:** Read *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture*, Chapters 4 & 5 (pp. 65-95)

Tuesday, May 25

Green Tree Tavern tour
Lunch
Work on Museum Project

Wednesday, May 26

Photography workshop (Booker Rucker, retired DSP historic sites)
Francois Bernier (1839) house, 48 South 8th Street
Work on Museum Project

7 pm lecture – Creole House – James Baker, Site Administrator Felix Valle State Historic Site, “From Missouri to West Point: Native Sons of Upper Louisiana.”

Thursday, May 27

Work on Museum Project
Field Assignment: Find 2-3 variations of a mortise and tenon joint at the Guibourd-Valle house and sketch them. Time: TBA
“What the Tour Guides Won’t Tell You” walking tour
Friday, May 28

Groups Present Interpretive Plans (future directions for Ste. Genevieve Museum)
Individuals present transcribed documents
Tour Museum to evaluate completed projects
BBQ lunch – Lion’s Club Park, Market Street

Textbooks

Various additional readings will be assigned to enhance student understanding of observations made in the field and to relate to the particular projects being pursued.

Basis for Student Evaluation

Grades for undergraduates will be based on performance in field exercises (50%), written assignments (30%), and class participation (20%).

Graduate students will be evaluated on field exercises (50%), written assignments (20%), and class participation (30%), including leading portions of discussion of additional readings.