

**Thursday, May 23**

**An Erased Landscape (paper)**

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The present landscape of Northwest Ohio is primarily rural with a significant focus on agricultural production. However, the area had drastically different resources and environments only two centuries ago. Land use and Native American policies during the early and mid-nineteenth centuries sought to erase the Great Black Swamp, which formerly encompassed a large portion of the northwest quadrant of the state. The expansive wetland developed during the Wisconsin glaciation, approximately 10,000 years ago. As the glacier progressed and retreated through the present-day Great Lakes region, the ice leveled the elevation and created glacial ridges and lakes. The resulting low elevation and shallow bedrock left behind from the glacier created an immense wetland environment.

Euro-American settlement largely avoided the area as the nation expanded in to the Old Northwest Territory during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, viewing the landscape as uninhabitable. The Treaty of Greenville in 1795 delineated the region as Congressional land reserved for Native American use; the newest, ever-moving boundary between Native American territory and white settlement. Following the War of 1812, the American government created smaller, defined Native American reservations for the Shawnee, Odawa, Wyandot, and Seneca nations throughout Northwest Ohio to assert further political control over these native groups. The state and federal governments soon began to view Euro-American habitation of the region as necessary to impose cultural assimilation and encourage Native American removal. These entities enacted land-use policies for the reservations to erase cultural identities and encourage the spread of white American settlement. Additionally, the surrounding land was sold at low values to further encourage expansion. Native Americans were faced with the decision to assimilate or relocate. However, once all tribes were removed by the 1830s, the area's new residents continued to struggle with traditional methods of agriculture. The State of Ohio viewed active and "productive" occupation of the region as a vital step to lay claim to the land, and the Maumee River headwaters, over the territory of Michigan; a boundary dispute that culminated in the mid-1830s when Michigan applied for statehood. Early efforts to drain the land were unorganized, often resulting in just displacing the water in to neighboring farms. As a result, the Ohio state government enforced several public works legislation to promote accessibility and profitable settlement throughout the region. After decades of political action and funding, the state drained the swamp and transformed the wetlands into a mass-producing agricultural environment. By 1880, Ohio's northwest counties became the nation's leading producers of grains.

By examining the progression of Northwest Ohio's landscape, historians can study the transformation of a borderland created by uninhabitable land between Euro-American and Native American settlement and then the State of Ohio and Michigan territory. The local, state, and federal efforts taken to create a political and cultural claim to the region created landscape features that allude its complicated past. Discussions of the topic could include impacts on Native American policies, as well as current efforts of landscape preservation and wetland reconstruction.

**Plantations, Planning, and Patterns: An Analysis of the Interplay between Landscape and Surveillance on Rice Plantations in the ACE Basin, SC (work in progress)**

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This paper explores patterns of the rice plantation landscape of the ACE River Basin during the period of 1800-1860 to locate a model planters' created while surveilling enslaved workers. This work is significant because this physical analysis corroborates current scholarly understanding of slave surveillance and management, but the ramifications on the contested landscape. The research consists of a GIS map study of historic plats of the 20 rice plantations, distilled from the 91 plantations in the region, viable during the height of rice production in South Carolina, with the next level of analysis being ArcGIS viewshed and line of sight studies. These studies will yield maps that offer the ability to analyze how planters arranged plantations to optimize surveillance. In a system inherently driven by the few, the plantation owners, that wielded complete power over the many, the enslaved, there is a sharp inequity in the number of enslaved Africans to the number of overseers on every rice plantation.

Questions for discussion:

- How did planters' shape landscape, and establish lines of sight?
- How does this system remain viable from the standpoint of power and control; that is, how does constant surveillance, or its threat, from the overseers over the enslaved workers manifest from the physical environment into a control mechanism?
- What are common patterns to layouts and configurations (of plantations) that are derived to allow white overseers to surveil enslaved workers in order to maintain control as a minority party on a rice plantation?

**Friday, May 24****Post-Rural Landscapes in Ontario: An Historic Farmstead Typology Study (paper)**

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For almost 200 years, Southern Ontario municipalities were predominantly rural, characterized by farmstead properties along concession lines and sideroads. These municipalities evolved with mid-20th-century suburban growth; they are now characterized by residential, industrial and commercial development. Provincial land-use policies virtually ensure that this trend will continue: many rural areas are positioned for future densification and adaptation to service growing cities.

Historic farmsteads carry cultural heritage value in their landscapes, buildings and intangible associations. The Historic Farmstead Typology Study examines multiple perspectives to better understand these complex properties with the goal of developing bespoke tools for their conservation.

**Discussion Questions**

- Historic farmsteads will not remain frozen in time: typical features like large lot size and topographic simplicity contribute to heritage character, but also enhance development value. If this character should be conserved, what is the farm lot's highest and best use? How is that use reconciled with heritage conservation?
- What lessons can we learn from farmstead redevelopment in jurisdictions with different farmstead forms (eg. Detroit River ribbon farms)?
- The Ontario Heritage Act provides for the legal protection of individual properties and heritage districts; can these measures appropriately address this unique typology, which incorporates built and landscape features and carries intangible cultural heritage value?
- How might municipalities leverage the tangible and intangible cultural heritage value of historic farmstead properties to achieve key strategic goals for future economic/cultural/social development?
- How might we advance rural community sustainability by engaging public policies and private initiatives for the future of farmsteads?

**Grappling with Mission 66 Design: A Case Study of Pea Ridge National Military Park (paper)**

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Pea Ridge National Military Park is located near the present-day town of Pea Ridge, Benton County, Arkansas, at the foothills of the Ozark Mountains. The park was established on July 20th, 1956, to commemorate the Battle of Pea Ridge, a Civil War conflict that occurred in early March of 1862. It was founded under the Mission 66 federal initiative that was instated during the 1950s to significantly expand and improve the National Park Service (NPS) in time for its 50th anniversary in 1966. Design through Mission 66 focused on the scenic experience for the park visitor, emphasized in its circulation, overlooks, and the iconic visitor center. After WWII, the mass production of the automobile and a rising middle class led to a culture that was dominated by the car and the new accessibility that came with it. This was reflected in Mission 66 design as well, with the main program of the parks via a tour road being focused on the convenience of the visitor through the comforts of the automobile. Treatment of the landscape reflected the prevailing attitudes of the NPS during this time, where concerns for natural resource conservation overshadowed the preservation of cultural resources and focused on rebuilding the landscape to a pre-European-settlement condition. The design of Pea Ridge National Military Park embodied Mission 66 principles, offering an automobile-centric experience that told the narrative of the Civil War battle in a sanitized agrarian and naturalistic landscape. As a result, a substantial amount of the battlefield was accessible to all, and the design provided updated infrastructure and maintenance facilities that could manage the park much more effectively than in the past. The design imposed a new character and experience to the landscape, however, which removed almost all farms, structures, and historic circulation patterns in favor of a seven-mile, one-way tour road that linked a visitor center and stops that marked significant areas during the battle and scenic overlooks.

*Grappling with Mission 66 Design* culminates undergraduate research over three semesters through a Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) and design solutions discovered through a capstone studio project in a case study at Pea Ridge National Military Park. The HALS report demonstrated the significance of the Pea Ridge cultural landscape palimpsest, including Mission 66 and other layers such as the Trail of Tears. The capstone studio project attempted to directly address the controversies with Mission 66 design for national parks by exploring two solutions that attempted to find a balance between retaining Mission 66 character at Pea Ridge National Military Park and enhancing the narrative of the Civil War battle and the many layers woven into the cultural landscape. One design focused on a realistic approach that focused on the retention of Mission 66 design; and another was an exercise that explored a hypothetical situation with the park landscape without Mission 66 intervention. Each solution was framed by the Secretary of Interior Standards but, in numerous cases in each design, they both significantly departed from treatment guidelines and instead explored creative mitigation strategies that utilized innovative technologies and new design programs that cohesively tied cultural narratives together.

**Kansas Pleasure Grounds: The History of Kansas Parks (1850-1920) (paper, scholarship recipient)**

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Though parks of the 19th century, also known as “pleasure grounds,” were seen at the time an antidote to unhealthy high-density urban living in cities such as New York City, they were embraced by small towns and cities that experienced none of the issues associated with big city living. Instead, parks were seen as sophisticated and a sign of modernity. Kansas, for example, surprisingly was listed third for the most newspaper articles using the keyword “pleasure ground” (after New York and Pennsylvania) in the Historical Newspaper Archive. When Europeans arrived in what would become the state of Kansas, they encountered vast plains, the home of the Kaw people. Kansas became the 34th state on January 29, 1861. Its new settlers made great efforts to develop their new home by creating public parks, or “pleasure grounds,” for their communities.

This study investigates the story of shaping and developing pleasure grounds of Kansas between 1850 to 1920 and the attitudes that people had about them. The primary research question focuses on why and how the early parks or pleasure grounds were introduced to Kansas communities between 1850 to 1920. Preliminary investigations show that the cities who put extensive effort into developing pleasure grounds are Topeka, Kansas City, Wichita, Junction City, and Lawrence. There are also more than forty other smaller cities which embraced the idea of improving their man-made landscape through developing pleasure grounds.

**Competing Values: Historic Viewsheds Matter, Too (paper)**

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Granted, no landscape remains exactly the same over time. New buildings, land use changes, and natural forces can all greatly alter the appearance and functional qualities of a landscape. Yet preserving or restoring landscape features and viewsheds are often essential to effectively interpreting a place, event or even a person of historic significance. When competing land use values arise from proposed landscape alteration within an historic viewshed, how can those who care about the viewshed ensure its value is adequately considered by decision-makers?

Two historic sites in the Detroit Metropolitan area have recently addressed this dilemma of historic viewshed protection when other values instigated landscape modifications. At one of the sites a land use change was proposed by Federal, State and County environmental agencies on adjacent property that once was part of the original estate grounds, but still contributes significantly to interpretation of the historic home and its original owners. The modification involved constructing an 800-foot long channel around an historic powerhouse dam to accommodate fish migration. Although the land use change would benefit the fishery environment, it required the removal of over one hundred trees, many of which were planned by noted landscape architect, Jens Jensen. The process used to plan the new channel created challenges for all interested parties; however, historic viewshed impacts appear to have been mitigated with extensive tree plantings currently underway. The conference presentation will discuss lessons learned such as the importance of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the benefit of staying involved throughout the planning process.

The other historic site to be discussed in the presentation is currently undergoing a major building project within the estate's property boundaries. Some of the competing values balanced with protecting the historic viewsheds have included providing adequate building square footage to meet desired programmatic needs, allotting for parking and vehicular circulation needs, and fulfilling stormwater management requirements. Because this project was sponsored by the historic site itself, which greatly values the historic landscape and its role in fulfilling the estate's mission, viewshed protection was of equal importance to other concerns and influenced building location and other site design matters. Nevertheless, challenges occurred throughout the design process and required landscape champions to be engaged throughout planning and construction.

**Questions for Discussion:**

- Given changing landscapes over time, what factors should be considered when determining the period of significance for landscape restoration or preservation?
- What techniques best communicate the anticipated and desired natural changes in a landscape, especially when those changes will occur over an extended time period?
- Which has the greater value: returning a landscape to its natural pre-settlement condition or after it has been altered by a person or event of historic significance?

- How do land use practitioners who care about historic viewsheds make a case for their protection when up against those who value other concerns more?

**Saturday, May 25**

**The Smokey Hollow African American Community Historic American Landscapes Survey (paper)**

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The Smokey Hollow Historical American Landscapes Survey commemorates a vibrant African American community set apart within boundaries of racial segregation in Tallahassee, Florida.

Following passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, Jim Crow laws compelled African Americans in Florida to live in segregated enclaves.

Smokey Hollow was a vibrant segregated community of hundreds of African American residents living in sub-standard houses closely spaced in densely developed rental quarters on roughly 85 acres within sight of the Florida state capitol.

Smokey Hollow was a garden, and this Historic American Landscapes Survey reveals the tapestry of daily domestic and social life in a segregated community, its houses, churches, grocery stores, cafes, juke joints, laundries, auto-repair shops, barbers, and beauty shops. Trees and shrubs producing edible fruit were common, sprawled along roadsides, and hung from arbors in yards, both eaten and sold to the local groceries and vendors at the Saturday Curb Market, intermixed with ornamental flowers.

Domestic yards functioned as an extension of the house, providing outdoor space for overlapping functions with one area used for washing, rinsing and hanging clothes on lines to dry, another sorting and burning waste, another for tending a vegetable garden for the kitchen, and a shady location beneath a tree used for canning fruit and soap making. Domestic work included social aspects of visiting with extended family and friends.

Yards contained coops for chickens, geese, ducks, and rabbits. Fences protected yards from wandering dogs and demarked boundaries. Multiple gates provided social access.

Houses lacking water indoors had work areas surrounding a water faucet on a pipe riser in the yard or on the porch. Those with indoor water installed a wash-sink on a back porch, and the other half of the porch enclosed an indoor toilet. Outdoor privies converted to tool sheds and coops.

In 1947, the "Florida Capital Center Report" proposed redevelopment of the city surrounding the state capitol, with sights on taking Smokey Hollow through eminent domain to expand government office buildings and parking. The demise of Smokey Hollow began in 1954 with construction of Apalachee Parkway to the front of the state capitol building, cutting through the heart of the community. In 1960, the State Capitol Complex Master Plan implemented "slum clearance" and urban renewal "swallowed up the historic community" infused with domestic and public spaces and heritage African American cultural traditions, forcing residents to vacate.

This Historic American Landscapes Survey recorded the Smokey Hollow cultural landscape in a set of measured and interpretive drawings, a written history, and large format photography. Ethnographic methods of data collection and analysis relied on aerial photography, surveys, plat maps, similar geographical data, and oral histories from the memories of former residents reflecting back sixty years to their youth, and the researcher recording their memories through sketches of their homes, yards, and of the neighborhood.

This research provided foundational documentation to create the award-winning Smokey Hollow Commemorative Plaza. In combination with the John G. Riley Center/Museum of African American History & Culture and associated Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network, this HALS documentation is helping to infuse African and African American history into mainstream museums across Florida, and equip network museum directors to become involved in the African diaspora historical preservation movement.

**For the Culture: A historical investigation on the cultural and social impacts, if any, of Detroit's public school garden landscapes on Black and Brown school age children (paper)**

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Historically, gardens throughout the West have been created for landscape beautification and sustenance. Within the last decade, urban agriculture has and continues to surge as a potential solution for combatting rising food insecurity and vacant land use issues within large metropolitan cities including Detroit. Detroit has been challenged with abandoned lots and Detroit Public Schools (DPS) mirror this issue with vacant properties that could be leveraged for school gardens benefitting all students.

School gardens were historically used as a means to help feed low-income children and to offer them a productive, social activity outside of the classroom. Currently, as a result of Betti Wiggins's work in founding the Detroit School Garden Collaborative (DSGC- a farm to school program) in 2012, Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the Right to Farm Act, there are currently close to 100 school gardens throughout the Detroit Public School System. Additionally, entrepreneurs Kimball Musk plan to spend \$5M on building 100 learning gardens by 2020. While both funding and private/public interest largely agree on installing more of these landscapes, there is ample room to develop performance metrics. This current study seeks to measure the social impacts of school gardens, if any, on Black and Brown school age children who make up most of the 83% of DPS students qualifying for free/reduced lunch. If gardens are in fact spaces for community-building, food producing, and learning, how does the design of these gardens impact Black and Brown children? According to Carolyn Finney, author of *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*, African Americans share a conflicted and somewhat collectively traumatic relationship with land and wilderness that deters the embrace of public spaces such as school gardens if they do not feel welcomed. Thus, a new approach on the impact, if any, of school garden landscape design on children most likely to be disconnected from nature is needed.

**Understanding Contested Space: Analysis of the San Diego-Tijuana Border Region (work in progress, scholarship recipient)**

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This project questions what happens to landscape when we implement politicized infrastructure. How does politicized infrastructure impact the utility and quality of space within a region? How do these politicized spaces drive the cultural narrative? The aim of this project was to examine the effects of the infrastructure along the US/Mexico border that equates peace with security, conflict, and disparity. The disrupted dialogue between the two nations has shifted and disturbed the social and ecological systems of the region around the border. More specifically, this project sought to spatially analyze and represent how these systems are disrupted on a series of different scales.

Exploring this landscape at various scales allows us to analyze the border with a holistic lens that is not traditionally used. In doing so, we can begin to question the patterns and significances associated with a region characterized by division, conflict, and surveillance. The goal of this project is to open a dialogue within the profession about the future of our environments along borders and other contested spaces. This project understands these landscapes through their constant evolution under political pressures. It is important to study this evolution and question spatial repercussions of a narrative driven by a conflict between two nations.

**Cultural Landscape Frameworks: Re-Assessing Lower Ninth Ward Heritage Significance (work in progress)**

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This proposal outlines ongoing work to create a framework to evaluate significance in cities whose landscapes have been altered as a result of natural disaster or human intervention. The specific object of the study is the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans, one of the most badly damaged neighborhoods by Hurricane Katrina in 2006. This geographic area represents both natural disaster and human intervention, and it represents different stakeholder groups who understand the landscape differently. The area now deserves to be assessed as a cultural landscape because it is a spatial representation of the broken levee, demonstrating humanity's failure to control environmental forces. I propose a significance framework which includes evaluation of the historic importance of the levee, the sudden destruction of an entire physical and social community, and the geographic relationship between land and water. This becomes vital to understanding society's measures to counter unavoidable environmental conditions, and considering a new layer of significance associated with altered landscapes. The Lower Ninth Ward could most easily be understood as a cultural landscape which embodies a fluidity between land and water, fostering an appreciation for the landscape itself instead of a constant fight for land control. Some questions for discussion could include: What role does community fabric play in cultural landscapes? How do shifting environmental conditions contribute to the significance of a place? Is the spatial representation of culture, disaster, and human intervention important for the future of heritage landscapes?

**The Gambacorta or Town Marsh in New Castle, Delaware: Harnessing and Transforming a Natural Resource (work in progress)**

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This project explores the shifting relationship of humans to marshland over time in Delaware. It links the development of the city of New Castle, Delaware to the Gambacorta/ Town Marsh, which includes the urban, industrial site of the historic Tasker Iron Works and neighborhood of Dobbinsville. Proximity and access to marshland have profoundly influenced settlement and land use patterns in New Castle, and human development and attitudes towards nature have in turn affected the marsh. While current attitudes recognize that, as a functional ecological system, tidal marshland provides a myriad of ecosystem services, such as habitat provision, storm surge protection, and carbon sequestration, humans have not always looked so favorably upon the marsh. By its very nature, marshland acts as a barrier, and does not lend itself to ease of development; humans are required to put in significant effort to manage this landscape and marshland has dictated land use patterns. Through interdependent relationships, based on input and extraction, and diking, banking or filling, agricultural and industrial practices in Delaware have harnessed and transformed this abundant natural resource.

Historical research using the scholarship of vernacular architecture guides this investigation, including the establishment of a typology of marsh management. As a historical repository for industrial waste, the marsh represents environmental injustice and segregates neighborhoods of the town. Methods of management and notions of stewardship have reformed over time, and the current trend of marsh restoration and environmental sensitivity, especially in the face of resiliency concerns, should be examined in a historical context.