

CHSA NEWSLETTER

In just another few weeks (May 20-22) we gather for our second biennial meeting at the University of Pennsylvania. I would urge you to join us there. Registration is now open at the website together with a meeting program. We have some excellent hotel rates which are good until April 20th.

Due to an excellent response to our call for papers, 24 have been selected for presentation in two concurrent sessions. These are listed later in this newsletter and cover a wide range of construction history subjects. In addition there will be three keynotes delivered by Professor David Billington, Dr. Donna Rilling and Dr. Grace Palladino.

A few tours to points of interest to construction historians are being organized for the afternoon of the 22nd. So, go to <http://www.constructionhistorysociety.org/events.php> to register and find accommodations.

All 2009 members should have received by now their copy of Construction History, the Journal of CHS. For a change it includes an article by one of our members, Lynne Lancaster (Ohio University) on Terracotta Vaulting Tubes in Roman Architecture. This was presented at the international Congress in Germany last year. The editors of the Journal are very anxious to receive submissions for publication, especially on American subjects.

Since our last newsletter a nascent construction history interest group has been formed in Chicago. Contact Tom Leslie (tlelie@iastate.edu) if you would like to be on the mailing list. Rumblings are also occurring in New York and Washington, DC to start similar groups there.

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THANKS TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE

- * Associated General Contractors of America
- * Auburn University
- * Canadian Centre for Architecture
- * Construction Management Association of America
- * Georgia Institute of Technology
- * Levine Construction Company
- * Minnesota State University, Mankato

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*Paul Revere House, Boston, MA
Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Collection*

- * Old Structures Engineering
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- * Texas A&M University
- * Turner Construction Company
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FROM INDIVIDUAL TO ENCOMPASSING: THE HISTORY OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Historic Preservation in the United States has developed over two centuries from an elite activity to a professional practice involving a variety of fields, including planning, real estate, architecture, archaeology, environmental conservation, construction, and more. In the first half of the nineteenth century, preservation primarily focused on individual buildings with historical and patriotic associations. Much of this early activity was supported by private individuals or local organizations. Today, historic preservation is an expansive movement that involves government at all levels, neighborhoods, not-for-profits, and individual property owners and includes all types of historic resources from single monuments to whole communities.

Some early documented preservation efforts included the saving of the Old Philadelphia State House (1732, also known as Independence Hall) by the City of Philadelphia in 1816 and William Strickland's 1828 reconstruction of its tower; the 1820s restoration of the Touro Synagogue (1765, designed by Peter Harrison) in Newport, Rhode Island; and the 1850 purchase of the Hasbrouck House, George Washington's Revolutionary War headquarters, by the State of New York. These initial projects have been overshadowed by what has been considered the beginning of the preservation movement—the

saving of President George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. South Carolinian Ann Pamela Cunningham is credited with preserving the Virginia estate when it was threatened by development. She did this by creating the Mount Vernon Ladies Association in 1859. Her determination and extraordinary organizational skills would save Mount Vernon and establish a network of supporters and benefactors in every state. Other people tried to emulate Cunningham's success to preserve George Washington's Headquarters in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and Andrew Jackson's home the Hermitage outside of Nashville, Tennessee. Cunningham remains characteristic of the earliest period of saving individual buildings with national historical significance from specific threats and, oftentimes, spearheaded by a woman.

By the late nineteenth century, two trends emerged. The first was the shift in focus from preservation based on historical associations to that of architectural merit; and the second was governmental involvement to preserve natural landscapes based on beauty. Several New England examples demonstrate how the United States' colonial roots as reflected in its early building traditions became more appreciated. These include the 1898 preservation of the modest John Whipple House (1740) in Ipswich, Massachusetts, as representative of English colonial architecture; the 1905 restoration of the Paul Revere House in Boston to its pre-Revere appearance because it was the oldest frame building in the city rather than its association with Revolutionary War hero Paul Revere; and the 1910 formation of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA) that introduced a new way of thinking about preservation and restoration based on architectural significance.

The second trend of the late nineteenth century can be seen in a series of governmental actions to conserve spectacular sites and natural landscapes based on the admiration of their beauty and their connection with the American identity. The Yosemite Act of 1864; the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 followed by Mt. Rainer and Crater Lake

parks; the Antiquities Act of 1906; and the National Park Service Act of 1916 all reflect this flurry of federal conservation activity during the Progressive Era in an effort to protect important natural landscapes and create a structure to manage them.

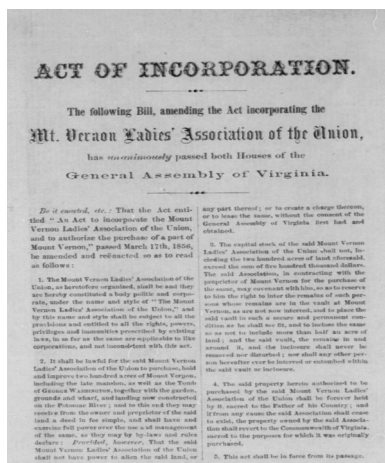


The early twentieth century Candler Park neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia, contains over 1000 houses and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural and historic significance.

Source: Author's Collection

As the United States began grappling with the impact of the automobile and unprecedented development and population growth between the 1920s and 1950s, preservation underwent an expansion in several ways...scale, level, and scope. The first is demonstrated by the 1920s vision of Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Greenfield Village by Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. Both of these projects represented large-scale privately funded preservation activities involving living history; however, Williamsburg was an actual community recreated through careful research, restoration, reconstruction, and even demolition; and Greenfield Village was an imaginary town created through reconstructions and relocations of historic buildings from a variety of periods and places to create a new place—an outdoor museum. Williamsburg foreshadowed the growing emphasis on evaluating and preserving historic resources in a larger context rather than just as discrete buildings or sites.

Secondly during this mid-century period, local and state governments would seek so-



Mount Vernon Ladies Association Act of Incorporation (1856)

Source: Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress

lutions to preserve the historic character of neighborhoods and communities through legislative action. The City of Charleston passed the first historic zoning ordinance in any United States city in 1931; and Louisiana passed the first state landmark preservation designation of the New Orleans Vieux Carré District in 1932. Local and state efforts to protect communities' cultural and historic resources would increase throughout the country and result in the establishment of historic organizations, laws, zoning and ordinances, as well as a growing awareness of preservation, often following the destruction of an important building.

Lastly during this period, and in part influenced by Williamsburg, the federal government got more involved in preservation and documentation of the built environment. This expansion of the government's scope would continue through to the modern period. Some of the 1930s activities that began this involvement included: the creation of Morristown Historical Park (1933) in New Jersey; the placement of the national battlegrounds and parks in Washington, DC, under the National Park Service; the creation of New Deal programs such as Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Historic American Building Survey (HABS); and the passage of the Historic Sites Act of 1935.



Williamsburg, Virginia (1943)

Source: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection

Another important action by the Congress in the mid-century was the chartering of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1949 from the previously founded National

Council for Historic Sites and Buildings (1947). The National Trust was established as a charitable, educational, not-for-profit organization that could accept and operate historic properties as museums, help save properties threatened by demolition, serve as a clearinghouse for preservation information and organization, and facilitate public participation in preservation. The National Trust still exists as a nationwide not-for-profit preservation group with affiliate organizations in each state and in many cities. All of these federal actions from the 1930s to the 1950s involved the documentation and preservation of historic places and provided the groundwork for the federal government's role in preservation that is evident today.

In 1966, the United States Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act, which is arguably the most influential preservation action of the modern period. It redefined preservation at the national level and fostered preservation at the state level through funding mechanisms and the creation of mandated State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) in each state and territory. It remains the legal foundation for federal preservation programs such as the National Register of Historic Places, the Section 106 environmental review process, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Passed during a period of environmental consciousness, grassroots activism, and a response to the destructiveness of Urban Renewal, the purpose of this powerful act was for the federal government to use financial and technical resources to help modern society preserve its past in a spirit of stewardship for inspiration and benefit for present and future generations.

While there have been some changes in the federal preservation laws since 1966, this piece of legislation still shapes how preservation works at the local, state, and federal levels and reflects the breadth of the modern preservation movement. Historic Preservation in the United States has expanded from an individual focus on single resources to a more collective approach, as demonstrated by the nomination of whole towns to the National Register of Historic Places and the establishment national heritage areas that

promote and preserve the historical, cultural, and natural resources of a region. Although now a professional movement governed by federal laws, historic preservation still works at a local level and remains a vital economic development and planning tool used by governments, businesses, and property owners to save old buildings, preserve cultural heritages, revitalize urban areas, promote tourism, recognize significant places, foster alternative development practices; and tell the story of a community and the people who made it.



Leslie N. Sharp, Assistant Dean for Academic Administration and Outreach
College of Architecture
Georgia Institute of Technology

Author's Note on Sources: The above is for the most part a traditional view of the history of historic preservation based on William Murtagh's Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America (2005, 3rd edition); Robert Stipe, A Richer Heritage: Historic Preservation in the Twenty-First Century (2003); and Norman Tyler et al. Historic Preservation: An Introduction to its History, Principles, and Practice (2009). There are more nuanced and encompassing interpretations that show the complexity and depth of this history. Two of these include: Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation (2002) edited by Gail Dubrow and Jennifer Goodman and Giving Preservation A History: Histories of Historic Preservation in the United States (2004), edited by Max Page and Randall Mason.

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS: PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The image is a promotional poster for the CHSA event. It features a background of a historic red brick building, likely a university hall, with decorative black swirls in the lower-left corner. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

CHSA *Construction History Society of America*

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS
SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING

When?
May 20th to 22nd, 2010

Where?
Meyerson Hall, School of Design
University of Philadelphia, PA

Hosted By:
CHSA *Construction History Society of America*
The Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, School of Design

Sponsored By:
Vertical Access, LLC

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AS OUR HOSTS FOR OUR SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING - MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN. THE UNIVERSITY CAN TRACE ITS ROOTS BACK TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S ACADEMY OF 1751, WHICH LED TO THE OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY IN 1791.

PHILADELPHIA ITSELF WAS AT THE HEART OF THE CREATION OF THE NEW REPUBLIC IN 1776 AND CONTAINS SO MANY PHYSICAL REMINDERS OF THOSE EARLY DAYS.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US AT THIS HISTORIC LOCATION AS WE GATHER TO SHARE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE STUDY AND RESEARCH OF THE HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS, TO MEET OLD COLLEAGUES AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS: PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL SESSIONS (CONTINUED)



CHSA *Construction History Society of America*

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS
SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING

Program Schedule

Thursday May 20

6:30 pm *Opening Reception*
Architecture Archives, Fisher Fine Arts Library

Friday May 21

8:00 am *Registration Opens- Meyerson Hall*
8:30 am *Opening Session*
Welcome: Marilyn Jordan Taylor, Dean of School of Design
Welcome: Randall F. Mason, Department Chair, Graduate Program in Historic Preservation
Construction History, A New Discipline in Field of Research: Brian Bowen, Chair, Construction History Society of America
9:00 am *Keynote Speaker*
David Billington, Professor, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Princeton University
Subject: TBA
9:45 am *Break*
10:15 am *Technical Sessions 1A & B*
Two Sessions running concurrently each with three papers
Details below
12 Noon
Lunch on your own- Houston Hall

FRIDAY, 21ST MAY 2010

TECHNICAL SESSION ONE: 10.15 AM TO 12 NOON

TRACK 1. A**Session Chair:** Tom Leslie, Iowa State University, IA**Presenters:**

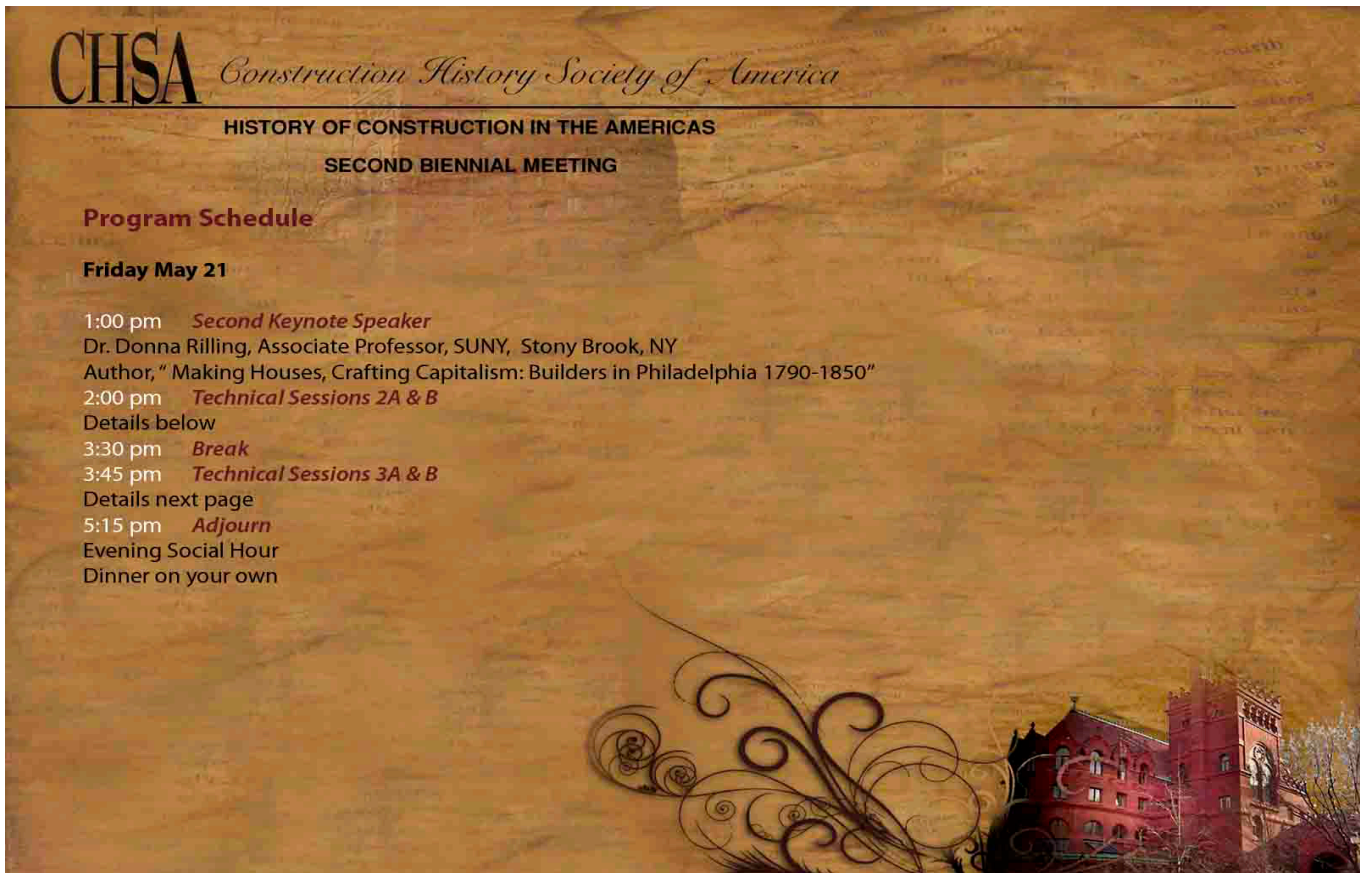
Carlos Martin, Abt Associates, MD

*Building Codes & the Construction of US Cities*David G. Bueche, Hoover Treated Wood Products, GA
*Fire-Retardant Treated Wood: An American Innovation*Donald Friedman, Old Structures Engineering, NY
*Fire and Reaction: American Urban Building Control 1870-1900***TRACK 1. B****Session Chair:** Sara Wermiel, MIT, MA**Presenters:**

Patrick Harshbarger, TranSystems Corp., PA

*Evaluating the Bridge-Building Legacy of the 1950s & 1960s*Leslie N. Sharp, Georgia Institute of Technology, GA
*Constructing the Dixie Highway in Middle Tennessee*James D. Dilts, Baltimore, MD
Building the Thomas Viaduct, B&O Railroad 1835

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS: PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL SESSIONS (CONTINUED)



CHSA *Construction History Society of America*

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS
SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING

Program Schedule

Friday May 21

1:00 pm **Second Keynote Speaker**
 Dr. Donna Rilling, Associate Professor, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY
 Author, "Making Houses, Crafting Capitalism: Builders in Philadelphia 1790-1850"

2:00 pm **Technical Sessions 2A & B**
 Details below

3:30 pm **Break**

3:45 pm **Technical Sessions 3A & B**
 Details next page

5:15 pm **Adjourn**
 Evening Social Hour
 Dinner on your own

FRIDAY, 21ST MAY 2010 (CONTINUED)

TECHNICAL SESSION TWO: 2.00PM TO 3.30PM

TRACK 2. A**Session Chair:** Lee Gray, UNC Charlotte, NC**Presenters:**

Tod L. Benedict, John Milner Associates, PA
The Construction & Maintenance of Masonry Shafts in 18th & 19th Century Philadelphia

Jill Verosek & Lisa Howe, Goody Clancy, MA and Kelly Streeter, Vertical Access, CT
Using Technology to Reveal a Building's Construction History at the U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse, Brooklyn, NY

Edmund P. Meade, Robert Silman Associates, NY
Iglesia San José: Identifying the Architectural & Construction History of a Gothic Church in the New World

TRACK 2. B**Session Chair:** Anat Geva, Texas A&M, TX**Presenters:**

Adam E. Levine, Philadelphia Water Department, PA
The Grid .v. Nature: The History & Legacy of Topographical Change in Philadelphia

Robert Russell, College of Charleston, SC
Building out Back of Beyond: Big City Construction on the Southern Frontier in the 1830s

Marco Antonio Penido de Rezende, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil
History of Construction in Brazil: A New Approach

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS: PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

FRIDAY, 21ST MAY 2010 (CONTINUED)

TECHNICAL SESSION THREE: 3.45 TO 5.15 PM

TRACK 3.A**Session Chair:** Don Friedman, Old Structures, NY**Presenters:**

Ronda Bernstein, Association for Preservation Technology – DC

Concrete Design at Meridian Hill Park, Washington, DC

Meghan Elliott, Meyer, Borgman & Johnson, MN

*Square Buildings & Round Bars: Reinforced Concrete Innovation in the Minneapolis Warehouse District***TRACK 3.B****Session Chair:** Jeff Beard, ACEC, DC**Presenters:**

Richard C. Ryan, Texas A&M, TX

The relationship of Construction History to Heavy Equipment Development in the 19th & 20th Centuries

David Gregory Cornelius, Drexel University, PA

Philadelphia, Perth, Pentonville: John Haviland & the Invention of the Artificial Environment

Lee E. Gray, UNC Charlotte, NC

(Virtual) History and the Early Passenger Elevator in America

CHSA *Construction History Society of America*

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS
SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING

Program Schedule

Saturday May 22

8:30 am *CHSA General Meeting (members only)*
9:15 am *Third Keynote Speaker*
Labor History- A forgotten Corner of Construction History: Dr. Grace Palladino, Co-director, Samuel Gompers Papers, University of Maryland, College Park, MD . Author: *Skilled Hands, Strong Spirits- A Century of Building Trades History*
10:00 am *Technical Sessions 4A & B*
Details next page
11:30 am *Summing up/ General Session*
Chair: Dr. John Ochsendorf, CHSA
12:30 pm *Adjourn & Lunch on Your Own*
1:30 pm *Tours (optional)*
Watch This Space
4:30 pm *Adjourn*

HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMERICAS: PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

SATURDAY, 22ND MAY 2010

TECHNICAL SESSION FOUR: 10.00 TO 11.30 AM

TRACK 4. A**Session Chair:** Leslie Sharp, Georgia Tech, GA**Presenters:**

Jenna Cellini, Robert Sillman Associates, NY

The Development of Precast Exposed Aggregate Concrete Cladding: The Legacy of John J. Earley

Amy Swift, Perkins & Will, NY

The Vulnerability of Curtain Wall Assemblies of Mid-Century Modern Skyscrapers

Terry A. Necciai, John Milner Associates, PA

*From Parting Bead to Grand Parade: Integrating Systemic Information on Historic Construction Detailing into a Holistic Approach to Storefront Architecture and Townscape***TRACK 4. B****Session Chair:** Randy Mason, University of Pennsylvania, PA**Presenters:**

Richard K. Dozier, Tuskegee Institute, AL

Bricks without Straw: Tuskegee Institute's Construction Program 1881-1915

Richard I. Ortega & Jim Dossett, RMJM, PA

Masonry Cladding of Steel Framed Buildings, 1880 to 1940; An Evolving Relationship

Sara E. Wermiel, MIT & Boston Architectural College, MA

An Experiment in Skeleton-frame Construction in the 1850s: The US Marine Hospital in New Orleans

OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST 2010

*Society of Architectural Historians, Chicago, IL 63rd Annual Meeting, April 21-25, 2010 (www.sah.org)**CHSA, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA Second Biennial Meeting, May 20-22, 2010 (www.constructionhistorysociety.org)**Society for Industrial Archeologists, Colorado Springs, CO Annual Meeting, June 3-6, 2010 (www.sia-web.org)**Historical Construction Equipment Association, International Convention & Old Equipment Exposition, Richmond, RI, September 10-12, 2010 (www.hcea.net)**ASCE History and Heritage Committee, ASCE Annual Conference, October 20-22, 2010, Las Vegas, NV (creese@asce.org)**Association for Preservation Technology International, Denver, CO Annual Conference, October 6-9, 2010 (www.apti.org)*

A BOOK WORTH CONSIDERING

“Historical Building Construction: Design, Materials & Technology”

by Donald Friedman, published by W.W.Norton & Co., Inc. (2nd Edition 2009)

A comprehensive guide to the physical construction of buildings from the 1840s to the present. It covers the history of concrete and steel frame buildings, provides case histories and includes useful technical data for all who work with historic structures. Don is the president of Old Structures Engineering in New York and is a member of CHSA's management committee.

A FEW 2010 ANNIVERSARIES

1835 – THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD'S THOMAS VIADUCT OPENS ON JULY 4TH AT RELAY, MD.

Designed by Benjamin Latrobe, Jr. it is the oldest major railroad viaduct in North America and the first built on a curved alignment.

James Dilts, Author of the Great Road, the Building of the Baltimore and Ohio, will be speaking about the Viaduct at our meeting in Philadelphia.

**1935 – THE HUEY P. LONG BRIDGE ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI ABOVE NEW ORLEANS OPENS IN DECEMBER.**

Designed by Modjeski & Masters of Chicago who went on to design the Oakland Bay Bridge, it is a cantilever truss bridge with a center span of 750 ft.

**1935 – THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION IS FORMED BY FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.**

It was the largest New Deal agency employing millions to carry out numerous public works projects all over the country. It was eventually disbanded in 1943.

If any reader would like to write an article about its history for this newsletter please let us know.



CALL FOR PAPERS

HISTORY OF CONCRETE

OCTOBER 5, 2010

STARTING TIME: abstract deadline

MARRIOTT TAMPA WATERSIDE & WESTIN HARBOUR ISLAND, TAMPA, FL USA

SPONSOR(S): American Concrete Institute Committee 120

DESCRIPTION: Papers dealing with any aspect of the history of concrete for a technical session at the ACI Spring 2011 Convention.

REQUIREMENTS: 1) Presentation title; 2) author/speaker name(s), title, organization, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail; and 3) an abstract of 200 to 300 words.

DEADLINE: Abstracts are due by October 5, 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Laurel Dovich
Consultant
PO Box 8426

WHO WE ARE

The Society is dedicated to the study of the history and evolution of all aspects of the built environment—its creation, maintenance and management. It is a forum for scholars and professionals in the field to share, meet and exchange ideas and research.

Membership is open to a wide range of construction related disciplines involved in the planning, development, design and construction of buildings and engineering infrastructure, in addition to those concerned with their operation and preservation.

Members share a passion for examining how our existing structures were planned, designed and built, with the purpose of using this knowledge to better preserve what we have and to guide us in determining future directions.

The US branch of the Construction History Society is a distinct entity catering to the historical studies and interests of its members here in America. Membership in the US branch includes full benefits in CHS at large, including receipt of the Society's Journal and newsletter and links to scholars in the field worldwide.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brian Bowen (Chairman), GA Tech, Atlanta, GA

Anat Geva (Vice Chairman), Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Tom Leslie (Secretary), Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Mohammad Gharipour, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC

Lee Gray, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC

Jeff Beard, ACEC, Washington, DC

Don Friedman, Old Structures Engineering, New York, NY

Frank Matero, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

John Ochsendorf, MIT, Cambridge, MA

Michael Ramage, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK

Linda Ruth, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

CORRESPONDING SOCIETIES

Public Works Historical Society, www.pwhs.net

Historical Construction Equipment Association,
www.hcea.net

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND THE ONLY VEHICLE WE HAVE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ONE ANOTHER.
SO PLEASE USE THIS TO LET US KNOW:

- * your interests in construction history, your current research, précis of recent lectures, etc.
- * books, texts & articles that your fellow readers should know about
- * names and e-addresses of colleagues and friends that we can include on our mailing list
- * if you are willing to write a brief article for us.

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