SAH NOTICES


The program will be generally planned as preparatory to the Bicentennial meeting in Philadelphia in May 1976 and will be largely devoted to building in America through the Revolutionary period. Sessions are being organized on the following topics: buildings of settlers from continental Europe before 1800, chaired by Roy Eugene Graham of Colonial Williamsburg (P.O. Box 953, Williamsburg, Va. 23185); town planning in colonial America, chaired by Dora P. Crouch of California State College Dominguez Hills (158 N. LeDoux Rd., Beverly Hills, Ca. 90211); pre-Revolutionary “high style” buildings, chaired by Morrison H. Heckscher of the Metropolitan Museum (176 W. 87th St., Apt. 8-C, New York, N.Y. 10024); vernacular architecture before the Revolution, chaired by Richard Candee of Old Sturbridge Village (Sturbridge, Mass. 01566); house museums, museum villages and public education, chaired by Horace Hotelkiss, Jr., of Corbit House (Main Street, Odessa, Del. 19730); and the archaeology of colonial sites, chaired by John L. Cotter (Department of American Civilization, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. 19174). In addition there will be a session on the preservation of pre-Revolutionary buildings, chaired by James C. Massey of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (614 S. Lee St., Alexandria, Va. 22314); post-Revolutionary Boston, chaired by William H. Pierson, Jr., Williams College, emeritus (50 South St., Williamstown, Mass. 02176); and a general session, chaired by Dora L. Wiebenson of the University of Maryland (205 North Columbus, Alexandria, Va. 22314).

Those wishing to participate in the program should submit abstracts of no more than 250 words to the chairman of the appropriate session before October 15, 1974.

The local committee is making plans for organized and self-guided tours of Boston and vicinity which will include 18th, 19th, and 20th century buildings. Several exhibitions are also being planned in connection with sessions and tours.

NOTE: All SAH members residing outside the United States and Canada who are interested in attending the 1975 SAH annual meeting should notify the central office (1700 Walnut Street, Room 716, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103) of their interest. The preliminary program and registration form will be sent to them at the end of November by airmail.

1975 Foreign Tour – Denmark (May 26–June 13). Steffen Fisker, Royal Danish Academy of Arts, Copenhagen, is tour chairman. Announcements will be sent to the membership in early September 1974.

SAH Placement Service Bulletin. REMINDER: Position-available listings and member-applicant listings for the Bulletin to be included with the October 1974 Newsletter should reach the SAH central office no later than September 15, 1974.

OBITUARIES

We have just recently learned of the sudden death of HAMILTON BROWN of Carmel, California on July 4, 1973. We also regret to note the recent passing of ROBERT LOCKWOOD, Lubbock, Texas; WILLIAM LUKACS, New York City; SARAH E. M. MORTIMER, Philadelphia; CHARLOTTE K. NEUBURGER, New York City; and MRS. PRESTON PARISH, Galena, Maryland.

ORGANIZATIONS

National Endowment for the Humanities. The NEH has announced a grant of up to $2.75 million dollars to Yale University to support the establishment of the first National Institute for the Humanities. This is the first in a new program of National Institutes designed to encourage interdisciplinary study and teaching in the humanities. Maynard Mack, Sterling Professor of English at Yale, will be the director of the Institute. The Institute at Yale will be one of several to be established at major universities across the country in the next few years. Each Institute will be considered as a national resource and will exist for a specified period of time, approximately four years. During that period it will explore a specific theme, topic, or group of related topics of broad educational and intellectual significance, particularly for undergraduate colleges. During the operational years, ten Senior Fellows and ten Junior Fellows will attend the Institute. So that Fellows can put into practice the knowledge they will have gained at the Institute, the Fellows' home colleges will be eligible to apply to the NEH for small Demonstration grants. These grants will support experimental courses and programs which result directly from the work conducted by the Fellow during his period at the National Institute. Demonstration grants are for a period of one year and will average $20,000.

The Victorian Society in America. At its annual meeting in Philadelphia on March 30th, William J. Murtagh was elected the new president of the Society. Dr. Murtagh is Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and has been a director of the VSA since its founding eight years ago. Retiring president, Henry-Russell Hitchcock, became president emeritus. Other officers elected were Margaret N. Keyes of Old Capitol, Iowa City, Iowa, to fill one of six vacant vice presidencies. Jared I. Edwards, Richard C. Frank, and F. Chason Kyle moved up to become vice presidents from their positions on the Board of Directors. George Vaux, president of The Athenaeum of
Philadelphia, was elected secretary, and Armand J. Thieblot, Jr., of Baltimore, the treasurer. Six new directors were also elected: C. Dudley Brown, Washington, D.C.; Robertson E. Collins, Jacksonville, Oregon; Mrs. David Findlay, Norwalk, Conn.; Mrs. David Mahoney, Kettering, Ohio; and Charles Hall Page of San Francisco. A new publications program has been planned. Those interested in membership in this Society, which was founded in 1966 to promote an awareness of the merits of Victorian architecture, decoration, design and craftsmanship, should contact The Victorian Society in America, The Athenaeum, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.

**MOROCCAN TOUR REPORT**

Under the expert captaincy of John Hoag, backed up by the seasoned and tireless fielding of our inimitable Rosann Berry, the annual foreign tour of the Society flew off from JFK on May 26th for Morocco. The hotels in which we stayed had been selected by Professor Hoag with as much care as the monuments he showed us. Arriving in Casablanca, we were immediately whisked by bus to Marrakech, some 240 miles to the south at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains, where we spent four nights. Jet lag notwithstanding, we were edified immediately with the first of five excellent illustrated lectures given by Professor Hoag.

Sightseeing began the following morning with a visit to the Kutubiyyah mosque and its famous minaret. Here as elsewhere during the tour, however, we could see only the exterior, because in Morocco — if not in some Islamic countries — infidels are not permitted to enter. The extraordinary Saadian tombs made a great impression on us novices, although for John this 16th century work is a bit overripe. We also visited the 19th century Bahia Palace, complete with harem, where courtyard after courtyard repeated the basic unit of domestic construction: a fountain-centered courtyard with four “iwans” (alcoves) placed at the ends of cross axes.

The last day in Marrakech was used for an outing to Tinmal, a Berber village on the slope of the Atlas, where extensive remains of an Almohad mosque (1134), which we were allowed to enter since it is roofless and no longer in use. Luncheon in an olive grove overlooking a mountain torrent and a half-ruined village on the far hillside was all a storybook picnic in Morocco should have been, and the bus trip through steep mountain canyons was spectacular.

On Friday the first of June we were off for Rabat, the capital; with its close ties to Europe, it impresses one as a more familiar Mediterranean-type city. It has a romantic history, however, as a stronghold of the Barbary pirates, and its architectural highlights are a walled medina, fascinating gates to the kasbah, the splendid minaret (1195) of the Hassan mosque, the recent (1966) tomb of the late King Hassan, and the Merinid chellah (14th century).

It was while in Rabat that we were entertained at a very pleasant reception at the home of the Public Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy, Mr. Robert H. Behrens. We were also privileged to visit a traditional house in the old medina, the home of Mr. Jerry Salt, an American architect with the United States Peace Corps.

Our third stop was Meknes, a hilltop city in the heart of Morocco’s richest agricultural region, where our hotel commanded a fine view of the old walled city, with a dozen minarets punctuating the skyline. These minarets were floodlighted at night, the moon was full, and if one were awake at 3:30 a.m., he or she could hear the distant call to prayer (amplified, but live) as it drifted across from distant minarets.

Through John Hoag’s efforts, M. Mohamed Ben Chemsi, Inspecteur des Monuments Historiques, accompanied us on the second day, taking us to the ruins of an early Alawite-dynasty palace not usually opened to the public, whose scale equals that of imperial Rome and whose vistas are Piranesian. After a tour of the public rooms of the royal palace, M. Ben Chemsi took us across the royal garden (two kilometers long, and now containing a nine-hole golf course), which is surrounded by forty-foot-high walls of rammed earth, and was built — according to legend — as a huge artificial lake.

During our stay in Meknes, we were honored by a lavish reception at the home of M. Ben Chemsi — an interesting combination of old and new structures situated in the medina — and one at the home of M. Driso Bouayad, a prominent export merchant. Both parties were attended by His Excellency Moulay Mehdi Alaoui, Pacha (provincial governor) of Meknes.

One of the days at Meknes was spent at Volubulis, the ruins of a provincial Roman capital of the second and third centuries. As the ingredients for concrete were not readily available, construction here consisted of panels of rubble interspersed between piers of large squared stones. The main street was arcaded with covered sidewalks, and many fine mosaic pavements remain from private houses.

Fes, ancient capital and always the cultural focus of Morocco, was our last and most exotic stop in Morocco. We were housed in the Hotel Palais Jamai, a modern enlargement of a 19th-century palace, which is immediately adjacent to the medina. The 300,000 inhabitants are densely packed within city walls, but immediately outside the walls is open country.

*Inside Berber kasbah, Tinmal*  
Photo: Robert W. Anderson
Inside the medina there are no automobiles, since the streets are narrow and stepped, and form a maze and beyond the center radiate like strands of a spider web, but with fewer connections.

Fes is particularly rich in medersas endowed by earlier dynasties. A medersa is a center for Koranic studies and includes quarters for students who come from outlying districts or from poor families. The buildings are basically similar in plan, but there is infinite variety in the rich stucco decoration that covers interior walls. From their rooftops we had good views of courtyards of adjacent mosques. There were also good examples of fondouqs, large courtyard-centered warehouses of Medieval date where merchants from distant places stored goods for limited periods (and sometimes were provided living quarters on the upper floors). Another interesting building type was the small Koranic school where young children are taught religion. No larger than a shop, the room is screened from the street by an elaborate wooden grill, and one can hear students repeating in unison the lesson for the day.

Our last night in Morocco, spent in Casablanca, was a comedown: the medina was tame after Fes, the modern “French town” resembled sections of Rome built about 1910, and the avid shoppers in the group were dismayed to find that items they had purchased in other parts of Morocco can be found in greater abundance in Casablanca and at a fixed price, with no “haggling.” On the next day we were in Madrid within a few hours, and each person went his or her own way, as nothing was scheduled. As always on successful architectural field trips, the return flight was delayed — this time to sit in the plane four hours while a fuel line was repaired. But most people made the last connection at JFK to one of 19 States or Canada, and the exciting Moroccan tour was seemingly over almost before it began.

Contributed by Bainbridge Bunting

BOOKS


REPRINTS AND NEW EDITIONS


BOOKLETS AND CATALOGUES


JOURNALS


Architecture Plus (March/April 1974). Stanley Abercrombie, SAH, introduces this issue's theme of "recycling" buildings. Projects from Europe, Asia and the U.S. are examined.

Historic Preservation (April-June 1974). Thomas P. Parkinson, "'Greatest Show on Earth'—American Circuses Yesterday and Today"; Michael Middleton, "Britain's Civic Trust at Work"; Wilson H. Faude, SAH, "Mark Twain's Connecticut Home"; "Your Own Old House: Firsthand Accounts of Do-It-Yourself Preservation" (seven essays by people who have participated); George McCue, "The Octagon, Town House that Preceded the Town"; Representative John F. Seiberling (Ohio), "The Urgency of Land Use Planning" (an extension of remarks at the annual meeting of State Historic Preservation Officers, January 31, 1974, sponsored by the National Park Service); and Kathleen R. Postle, "Shoring Up Against the Tooth of Time" (discusses the importance of local history exhibits in museums as it examines the view of a foreign visitor to Wayne County, Indiana).


EXHIBIT

Montana Ghost Towns. The School of Architecture of Montana State University offers an exhibit of Montana Ghost Towns featuring photographs by John DeHaas, Jr., SAH. The twenty-panel display describes and depicts many of Montana's interesting historic structures and mining camps. Information on availability and costs may be obtained by writing the School of Architecture, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Reusing Railroad Stations. The National Endowment for the Arts has organized in conjunction with Educational Facilities Laboratories of New York and national and local co-sponsoring organizations, a Workshop on Reusing Railroad Stations. To be held July 22–23, 1974 in Indianapolis, Indiana, site of rehabilitation of Union Station, and it will explore methods for adapting railroad stations to contemporary needs in communities with diminished or defunct rail service. Information and views on legal and financial techniques for rehabilitating stations will be incorporated in a workbook.
which is to be published in the fall for wider distribution. Among speakers to appear in the two-day session are David Meeker, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development at HUD, and John Barnum, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transportation. Copies of Norman Pfeiffer's EFL report, Reusing Railroad Stations, funded by the Endowment, will be made available to participants. Address inquiries to: Miss Eugenie Cowan, Conference Coordinator, Educational Facilities Laboratories, 477 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022; telephone: (212) 751-6214.

Walking Tours of San Francisco. The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage reports that during the past winter Randolph Delehanty prepared a series of Sunday walking tours to examine different periods, types of architecture, and features of San Francisco's townscape. "From Seaport to City," an exploration of Telegraph Hill and the Jackson Square Historic District, alternated with a tour titled "Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Commercial Architecture." Tours of lower Market Street and the Haight-Ashbury district, the Mission, Golden Gate Park, and the Northern Waterfront warehouse district were among later additions to the schedule. For further information about the tours, lectures and other activities of the Foundation, contact: The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, 207 Franklin Street, San Francisco, California 94109; telephone: (415) 441-3000.

Pennsylvania Avenue Plan. The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, established by Congress in 1972, released its development plan for the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol in March. In June, Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton released his evaluation of the plan's compatibility with the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic Site, which overlaps much of the development area. In full support of the objectives of the plan and the variety of uses it proposes for the Development Area, the Secretary stated: "Its mix of residential, retail, office, hotel, and public space development is much needed to restore the area as a vital part of downtown Washington, to establish it as a link between the government city and the private city, and to reassert the historic role of Pennsylvania Avenue as the ceremonial way between the White House and the Capitol." He urged that "the richness of the landmarks and lesser-than landmark buildings as well as remnant street patterns and vistas dating from the L'Enfant Plan be woven into the new urban fabric," Morton commended the plan's "sympathetic treatment" of the landmark Tariff Commission Building and adjacent 19th-century commercial facades on F Street and the "creation of special places" as achieved by preservation of the Evening Star Building. While praising the plan's preference for retention of the Willard and Washington Hotels and the Occidental Restaurant building, he asked that "preference be replaced by commitment and the demolition alternative in the plan be discarded." In other observations, Morton urged that the rectangular space formed by the Pennsylvania Avenue/E Street intersection - a feature of the L'Enfant Plan, be retained rather than negated by a proposed air building across E Street. He suggested further study for the eastern end of the development area bordering the Pennsylvania-Constitution Avenue intersection and requested reconsideration of long-range proposals for a Constitution Avenue underpass and for tunneling E Street under the White House South Lawn.

Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records. The April issue of the Newsletter of the Advisory Council on Historical Preservation reported that the program director of the Architectural League of New York is investigating the possibility of developing a permanent, nation-wide organization to collect and preserve the documents and drawings of American architects and architectural offices. As envisioned, the proposed archives would have the following structure: 1) A National Advisory Board which would appoint an archivist to hire necessary staff; 2) a national center for architectural documentation, to serve primarily as a clearinghouse for information; and 3) regional chapters, located around the country and all sharing standardized formats of registration, collection, preservation, and storage - tasks which could be borne by existing institutions such as state and local historical societies, libraries and museums. The proposal is an outgrowth of a long-felt need on the part of the Architectural League of New York to collect and preserve the documents of the American architectural experience. The League was founded in 1881 as a nonprofit educational organization. Its membership consists of professionals in the fields of architecture, urban design, industrial design, landscape architecture, graphic design, engineering, and other applied arts. By launching its Architectural Documentation Committee, the League hopes to draw attention to the importance of preserving the country's architectural heritage through records.

Federal Property Council. On June 25, 1973, by Executive Order 11724 President Nixon established the Federal Property Council, naming Anne Armstrong, Counsellor to the President, Chairman. The Council is charged with reviewing Federal real property policies and recommending necessary modifications to the President. It is responsible also for continued development of the President's Legacy of Parks program. Other members of the Council are: the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; the Counsel to the President; the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers; the Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality; and Counsellor to the President, Bryce Harlow.

GSA Nominates Additional Federal Properties. General Services Administrator Arthur F. Sampson recently announced the second installment of nominations to the National Register pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 11593 (Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment). "They are not only exceptional examples of American architecture," Mr. Sampson remarked, "but many played an important part in the history of the United States...GSA hopes to preserve these valuable landmarks and recognize their historical significance, especially as we approach the nation's Bicentennial celebration." Those properties nominated are as follows:


Preservation Briefs. William R. Mitchell, Jr., SAH, was named Executive Director of Historic Augusta (Georgia), Inc., in May.

Green Springs Historic District in rural Louisa County, Virginia, was declared a National Historic Landmark by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton following a resolution adopted April 24, 1974 by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. In recommending the action, Advisory Board Chairman Melvin M. Payne called the Green Springs District "an outstanding assemblage of rural architecture dating from the 18th to the 20th century preserved in its original context."

Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan's Wainwright Building (1890–1892) in St. Louis may be saved by the State of Missouri as a result of a purchase option acquired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Under a proposed plan announced by Governor Christopher S. Bond last February, the ten-story prototypal modern office building would be restored at an estimated cost of $3 million for state offices, and the surrounding block would be developed for the same purpose.

The Prudential Building (1896), the fire-damaged Adler and Sullivan landmark in Buffalo, New York, first known as the Guaranty Building, is being considered by Erie County as possible office space. County Executive Edward V. Regan is reported by the Buffalo Courier-Express to have said that informal discussions have produced a figure of $2 million to buy the building, assume the mortgage and repair the damage.

Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright's desert studio (1938) in Scottsdale, Arizona, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in February. Plans by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to build a canal and highway nearby are under review by the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

"Yorklymen" (c.1899) in Merion, Pennsylvania, lately used as the Upper School Building for the Episcopal Academy, was demolished last December for a new school parking lot. The former stone masonry home of John Gilmore was designed by William Lightfoot Price in the late French Gothic style.

Lowell, Massachusetts, the nation's first planned industrial city, is taking steps toward establishment of an urban national cultural park. Local, state and federal concerns are expected to participate in the ambitious project which is aimed at revitalizing portions of the city noted for its 5.6-mile complex of canals built early in the 19th century to harness power of the Merrimack River for the operation of textile mills. One of the most costly of planned projects is restoration of the five-story Boot Cotton Mill (1835) for use as a cultural arts center.

The Victoria Mansion, a Portland, Maine landmark designed in 1859 by architect Henry Austin for Ruggles Sylvester Morse, is undergoing restoration by its current owners, the Victoria Society of Maine Women. The project is being supervised by the Maine State Historic Preservation Commission.

International Seminar. A Preservation Seminar is to be held in Poland, October 7–23, 1974. The theme is "Problems of Preservation in the Context of Urban Design and Planning Needs." Training sessions will be held in both Warsaw and Cracow. Visits to conservation workshops and historical monuments actually undergoing conservation will include the Royal Castle, the Wilanow Palace, and Lazienki Palace in Warsaw. The Wawel Castle will be visited in Cracow, and a one-day tour will take participants to the Pieskowa Skala Castle. Up country tours will cover prime examples of historical wooden buildings. Lectures will cover the systems for identifying and classifying historic properties; broad planning to minimize effects of new development; adapting new construction and modern design to historic districts; and adapting historic structures to modern uses. Participants, some fifteen to twenty in number, will include conservators, building conservation experts, urban planners, environmentalists and/or landscape architects, preservation lawyers, preservation administrators, and architectural historians.

The United States, Belgian, and Dutch committees of ICOMOS are arranging a tour of historic buildings and gardens in Belgium and Holland, September 15–October 8, 1974. The tour will embark from New York for Brussels, September 15. Cost of the tour will be $1,500, of which $300 is a tax-deductible gift to ICOMOS. The tour has been organized under the direction of Mrs. Randolph Burgess, SAH, Dr. Richard Howland, SAH, and Mr. Robert R. Garvey, Jr. For further information contact Ms. Anne Grimmer, SAH, at the offices of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Suite 430, 1522 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Industrial Archaeology. An Institute on Industrial Archaeology was offered by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, June 24-28. Exceptional 19th century industrial features of Troy, Cohoes, Watervliet, and Waterford provided a laboratory environment for participants who were instructed by specialists in archaeological methodology, various branches of technology, architectural history, and historic preservation.

Technical Handbook Update. An illustrated article titled "Rectified Photography and Photo Drawings for Historic Preservation," prepared by J. Henry Chambers for publication in the forthcoming Technical Handbook for Historic Preservation, has been made available in preliminary form by the National Park Service. A limited number of copies are available for distribution at present. However, if needed now to assist a specific project, the article may be obtained from Lee H. Nelson, SAH, or Robert Mack, Interagency Services Division, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Meetinghouse Preservation Act. The January Newsletter of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reported that Senator John Tower (R-Texas) has introduced S. 2877, the proposed "Meetinghouse Preservation Act." The objective of the bill is to enable each State to acquire and restore an endangered or functionally obsolete historic building for the purpose of utilizing it as a public meeting place during the Bicentennial. The bill would make available grants of up to $1 million to each State for planning, acquisition, restoration, and operation of a suitable building, which must be listed in the National Register.

Errata. The subject of Eric McCready's lecture to the Western Reserve Chapter should have read "Goodhue and the Nebraska State Capitol" instead of "Goodhue and the Nevada State Capitol," as reported in the June NSAH. Dr. McCready has written a book concerning this subject, which is being published by the Nebraska State Historical Society.