

# PRESERVATION @BU

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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## Editorial

Jan Haenraets, Acting Director, Preservation Studies Program

Boston University's Master of Arts in Preservation Studies launched in the early 1970s, now half a century ago. In its first decades the program played an important role in training professionals in an expanding historic preservation field, and in addressing the demands of new preservation legislation. Graduates went on to distinguished careers, working for instance as independent consultants, or in firms and governmental agencies, while others took on educational roles. The Preservation Studies program has again had a busy and successful year, and several of our new graduates again step into this exciting interdisciplinary field.

This newsletter shows diverse activities and collaborations at the Program over the past year and some of the remarkable work by our alumni. In the alumni spotlight we celebrate Michael A. "Bert" Berdeau, who recently retired. His inspiring career saw him engage in State Historic Preservation Offices, in South Dakota, Idaho and Nevada, and develop a passion for local roadside history. This year we launched a new alumni spotlight on our website and we invite you to explore some of the other interviews, with new online alumni spotlights forthcoming. This year our alumni and internship hosts took center stage in the fall Preservation Studies Round Table, with a focus on entering careers and internships in historic preservation.

The Preservation Studies Field Trips also created opportunities to connect with colleagues and alumni in the preservation field and hear about their work, experiences and challenges. In the spring we explored historic Quincy, MA, and its open air museum at the former Quincy Quarry; the industrial heritage of the Granite Railway Incline and John Winthrop Jr. Iron Furnace Site; the "Richardssonian Romanesque" Thomas Crane Memorial Library; and the Southern Tide Mill as one of a few intact tidal mill buildings in MA. For the fall field trip we attended the Historic New England Summit in Worcester on Convening Leading Voices. Speakers addressed challenges and opportunities, including approaches to create livable, resilient communities.

Our MA students actively engaged in conferences. The newsletter illustrates David Lewis' research into the history and adaptation of Braves Field Baseball Stadium—now Nickerson Field at Boston University—which he shared at the Historic New England Summit in Worcester. His presentation built on his internship last summer at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and his presentation at the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture. Kristen Dahlmann was in May invited to the Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) conference in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to share her findings on gestures left by pilgrims in the landscape along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. In this newsletter, Ian Stevenson, one of our lecturers, gives a report on the VAF conference.

We have seen again excellent research by faculty, and the MA students for their Capstone research projects, which often connect to ongoing initiatives by external organizations. Gaby Amore developed for the City of Boston's Office of Historic Preservation a framework for a city-wide preservation plan. David Lewis compiled a National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Haverhill Powder House, Massachusetts, while Kristen Dahlmann studied the role of the cultural and social fabric of Boston neighborhoods in preservation today. Esther Yang looked closely into the Shikumen Architectural Style in Shanghai, China, with preservation case studies of Xintiandi and Tianzifang.

The Preservation Studies newsletter includes samples of student course work from the Architectural and Community History Workshop with a focus on Charlestown, Massachusetts, and also the Landscape Design and Preservation Studio, which collaborated this spring with colleagues in Kashmir, India, and envisioned ideas for the redesigns and rehabilitation of Cherry Park at Srinagar's Dal lake. Sara Vermiel, lecturer in the program, updates us on her ongoing study into institutional buildings in Boston.

Thank you everyone for your continued support for the program. We will continue to post news from the preservation field and BU on our Twitter profile and website, with a new Preservation Studies Program website anticipated to launch this fall. Don't hesitate to send us your updates or announcements!

We wish you a pleasant reading.

Cover: The Granite Railway Incline in Quincy, MA. The 100-yard remnants of a 300 ft. incline constructed to carry granite from a quarry down an 84 ft. vertical drop to the first commercial railway in the U.S., now a National Civic Engineering Landmark (J. Haenraets, 2023).

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Spring blossoms on BU campus (J. Haenraets, 2023).



# PEOPLE

*As an interdisciplinary program, we are dependent upon our affiliated team of staff, lecturers, faculty and liaisons in relevant disciplines across the university.*

**Daniel Abramson**  
Director, Architectural Studies  
Professor, American & European Architecture

**Aaron Ahlstrom**  
Lecturer, Preservation Studies

**Sibel Bozdogan**  
Visiting Professor, Modern Architecture & Urbanism

**Kristen Dahlmann**  
Preservation Studies Liaison Graduate Student Association, Social Media & Website Assistant

**Ricardo Elia**  
Associate Professor, Archaeology

**Melanie Hall**  
Associate Professor, Museum Studies

**Jan Haenraets**  
Acting Director, Professor of the Practice, Preservation Studies

**Aimee McCarron**  
Program Administrator, Preservation Studies Program, American & New England Studies Program

**William D. Moore**  
Associate Professor of American Material Culture

**Joseph Rezek**  
Director, American & New England Studies Program, Associate Professor of English

**Ian Stevenson**  
Lecturer, Preservation Studies

**Yesim Sungu-Eryilmaz**  
Director, City Planning & Urban Affairs  
Assistant Professor

**Sara Wermiel**  
Lecturer, Preservation Studies

## MA in Preservation Studies Students

**Victoria Hatchell** (Fall 2023)  
**Hillary Rayport** (Spring 2024)  
**Janessa Dennis** (Spring 2024)  
**Verity Boyer** (Fall 2024)  
**Rachel Burdette** (Fall 2024)  
**Yanjun Hong** (Fall 2024)  
**Meghan Keefe** (Fall 2024)  
**Katherine Kelly** (Fall 2024)  
**Hailey Stebner** (Fall 2024)  
**Gianna Ortiz** (Spring 2026)

### Graduates 22|23

**David G. Lewis** (Fall 2022)  
**Esther Yang** (Fall 2022)  
**Gabriela E. Amore** (Spring 2023)  
**Kristen A. Dahlmann** (Spring 2023)

Right: The Souther Tide Mill in Quincy, MA. Constructed around 1806 over tidal salt marsh, now one of only a few intact tidal mill buildings remaining in MA (J. Haenraets, 2023).

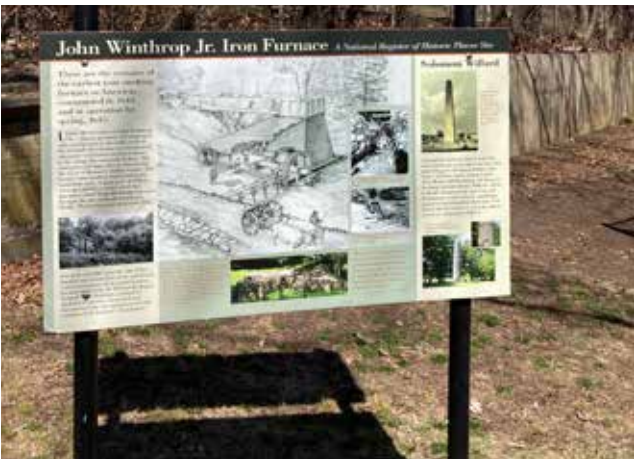




# PRESERVATION STUDIES

## FIELD TRIPS

*On our fall Preservation Studies Field Trip we joined the Historic New England Summit in Worcester, MA, and the spring Field Trip took us to historic Quincy, MA, and was hosted by Bob Damon, Alfred Bina and the City of Quincy. Background on preservation approaches, history and future challenges were studied at the Quincy Quarry and Granite Workers Museum, the Granite Railway Incline, John Winthrop Jr. Iron Furnace Site, Thomas Crane Memorial Library, and Souther Tide Mill and site.*



(Photos: J. Haenraets and K. Dahlmann, 2023).



*Alumni Spotlight*

# MICHAEL A. “BERT” BEDEAU (1989)

*Bert celebrated his retirement from historic preservation in 2022, after having completed his Masters in Preservation Studies in 1989.*

*This Californian native has had a long career working in many State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) across the western states, including South Dakota, Idaho and Nevada. His most recent job entailed working with the Nevada SHPO in the Comstock Historic District, an historic mid nineteenth century mining town in Virginia City. He has a long-standing love of the vernacular architecture of the region. Bert has a particular interest in the local roadside history, such as old structures and signage. He has been a long-time contributor and supporter of the nation-wide Society for Commercial Archaeology (President for one year and on the Board for nine years) and encourages us all to consider joining this interesting and fun group.*

*How do you look back at our Preservation Studies program? Was it practical, hands on or more theoretical in terms of training students to enter the field, and what do you recall as some strengths of the program?*

When I was at BU in the late 1980s our classes were designed as practicums. Each of the core preservation courses worked directly with the Boston community in analyzing and accessing a real-life project. We learned the skills and preservation knowledge by researching and presenting projects. I believe we spent more time together outside of the classroom than in. Richard Candee was our director and he brought tremendous architectural history knowledge to the program but was also a great guy to work with.

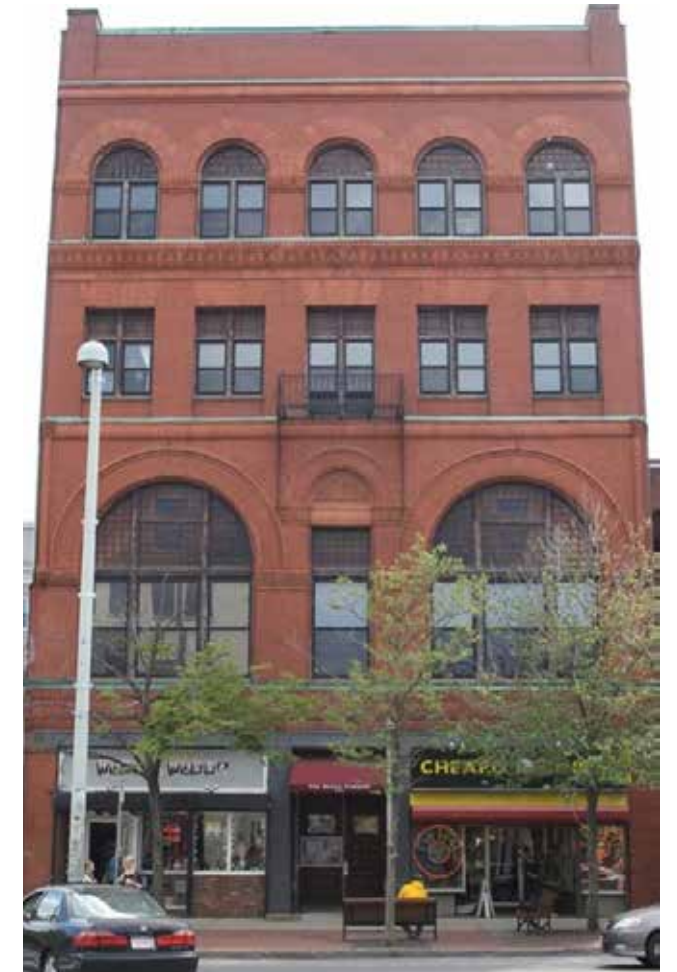
For example, in our Adaptive Reuse class, we were assigned to find a way to reuse the Odd Fellows Building, designed by Hartwell and Richardson's office in circa 1884 in full brick Boston Romanesque architecture. Located in Central Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In the late 1980s it was virtually impossible to create a successful reuse of a structure in the context of the turbulence of the neighborhood. Roger Lang, FAIA called it an "A+ for building, but C- for the location." This assignment was an excellent lesson that sometimes, adaptive reuse is not an option due to the neighborhood pressures. In our assessment of the structure, we determined that the existing dance studio was the best use of the space. I'm very excited to learn it is still being used as such; proof that a dance studio was the best use of the building. In the revitalization of the neighborhood, the Odd Fellows Building remains to this day a remarkable gem.



Old post card view of the Territorial Enterprise Building on South C Street in Virginia City (Source: Bert Bedeau, Date Unknown).



Odd Fellows Building, Central Square, Cambridge, MA (National Register 1982).



*Today, the program has core courses, electives and concentration courses that draw interdepartmentally from many classes, together with an internship and Capstone. Preservation is a continuously evolving field, can you say something about the core courses when you were here?*

There was a core set of preservation classes as a central piece of the degree program, including Preservation 101 (for all first semester students), Neighborhood Preservation, Adaptive Reuse, and Material Culture. For Neighborhood Preservation we studied and visited the Waterfront Historic District in New Bedford, Massachusetts. It was first a significant whaling district, and then later there were extensive textile mills. In the last half of the twentieth century, it was a heavily working class Portuguese neighborhood. It was an excellent place to understand the concepts of neighborhood, preservation, and evolution of place.

Both the hands-on training and the community amongst the cohorts, professors, and the Boston professionals all lead to a solid understanding of preservation practice. One thing that was important to me was my cohort. In 1989 we were a large group – there were twelve of us. We are still close today.

*Which were your favorite courses, or which ones truly resonated in your work?*

Our last semester we took a double-credit Preservation Planning course. Our course worked with the town of Groton, MA to produce an actual, comprehensive town and community preservation plan. One piece of this project was discovering a small community in West Groton of old mill buildings, both industrial and residential. It was remarkably intact, and we were able to document it well enough for it to become an historic district.

*Where did you work for your internship?*

I had an amazing, paid fellowship with the National Endowment for the Arts. They had funded an exhaustive bibliography of New England, one volume per New England state. I traveled all over New England, documenting the resources in various towns and cities.

*Can you educate us a bit on the Comstock Historic District Commission and this mining town?*

I spent 23 years and 2 months with the Comstock Historic Commission. It is a wonderful place with layers of interesting cultural history. Fundamentally it is an old gold and silver mining town that was established in 1859. The entire town burned in a fire and was rebuilt very quickly. Our period of significance was originally 1859-1880, and expanded to 1942. The majority of historic building stock is from narrow window of 1876-1880.

But there are efforts underway to broaden the period of significance to encompass changes made to the town afterwards. I call this the "bonanza-ification" of Comstock; the reimagining of the buildings to match the ideal of the old west as seen on TV. These stylistic changes have left their mark on the town. As did the Hippies of the 1960s and '70s. It is said that the acid test as later manifested in the psychedelic scene in San Francisco was first developed at the Red Dog Saloon in Virginia City during the summer of 1965. My lecture at the Comstock History Centre in April 2019 entitled "Hucksters and Bohos and Hippies, Oh My!" explains much of this history.

*Contributors: Michael A. "Bert" Bedeau, Kristen Dahlmann and Jan Haenraets*



# CAPSTONES

*Recent Capstones looked at a framework for a Preservation Plan for the City of Boston; the Shikumen Architectural Style in Shanghai; the Haverhill Powder House, MA; and preserving the cultural and social fabric of Boston neighbourhoods.*

View NW from Powder House Avenue (David Lewis, 2022).



MA in Preservation Studies students complete in their final semester a Capstone that is the culmination of their work at Boston University. The Capstones are independent research projects.

Esther Yang examined the preservation of Shikumen Architectural Style in Shanghai through the case studies of Xintiandi and Tianzifang. Shikumen architectural style is one of the earliest commercial residential architectural styles that appeared in the early-twentieth century in China, is regarded as the most representative house style, and is considered an attribute of Shanghai's modernization. This sort of building combines the architectural styles of southern China and European countries. Located in the busiest urban streets in the city center, Shikumen has undergone many periods of cultural change. This capstone report aims to explore the initial links between commercial and residential development with Shikumen architectural style and analyze the methods and reasons to preserve Shikumen architecture from legal, political, economic, and cultural perspectives through a comparison of two case studies of Xintiandi and Tianzifang in urban Shanghai.

David Lewis compiled a draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Haverhill Powder House, a gunpowder magazine in the City of Haverhill, Massachusetts, applying the Register's criteria. For the capstone he collaborated with Massachusetts Historical Commission. David examined the history of the property, before detailing how the site was selected and what the benefits of a National Register of Historic Places Listing are. The listing can lead to the the rehabilitation of the structure by the City of Haverhill.

Kristen Dahlmann's capstone focuses on a neighborhood's unique culture and social fabric that creates a sense of place tightly woven with and supported by affordable housing development. How do we preserve a unique place with a special culture in a neighborhood with few historic buildings? How can development, as a newly grassroots effort, can strike a chord in redeveloping a neighborhood through the preservation of a storiyscape, a neighborhood cultural narrative found throughout its streets, as informed by the structures of the community and through rich collaboration with the City of Boston. Two neighborhoods within Boston, Chinatown and Upham's Corner, Dorchester, were examined as rich cultural centers yet significantly economically challenged and historically overlooked by the City of Boston.

Gabby Amore explored a framework for a Preservation Plan for the City of Boston. The City, despite being one of the oldest cities in the United States of America, does not have a Preservation Plan in place to help safeguard the diverse range of historic resources present in the City that may have not yet benefited from further study. The purpose of the document is to provide an outline and guideposts for the future development of a Preservation Plan for the City, acknowledge the needs and challenges, and chart a path forward to protect Boston's historic resources and promote equity for an inclusive narrative. This report's recommendations are based on the research conducted on extant municipal and state Preservation Plans within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Preservation Plans from other cities in the United States of America. Other relevant preservation efforts, such as Citywide Cultural Resource Surveys, were reviewed as initiatives to undertake that are inclusive within Preservation Plans. Data pertaining to the specific preservation planning efforts made by the City of Boston were included in the analysis.

Right: The beautiful arch of Chinatown welcomes Boston to its neighborhood. It is resplendent with community based sayings (Kristen Dahlmann, 2023).

Top left: Street view near Nanking Road, with the entrance sign first from left, c. 1890-1910 (Yixing li).

Bottom: The West End neighborhood of Boston after it was razed during Urban Renewal (Laurence Lowry, 1959).





Student Work

# THE AFTERLIFE OF A BASEBALL STADIUM

David Lewis explores the history and adaptive reuse of the Braves Field baseball stadium, now known as BU's Nickerson Field.

This article is an edited version of David Lewis' student research for the course on Adaptive Reuse and Revitalization. David went on to undertake in the Summer of 2022 an internship at the Baseball Hall of Fame. He presented the findings as a paper for The Society for American Baseball Research 50th Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland in August 2022, and as a poster at the Historic New England Summit in Worcester, Massachusetts, October 2022. An online version of the article with additional images can be found on our website.

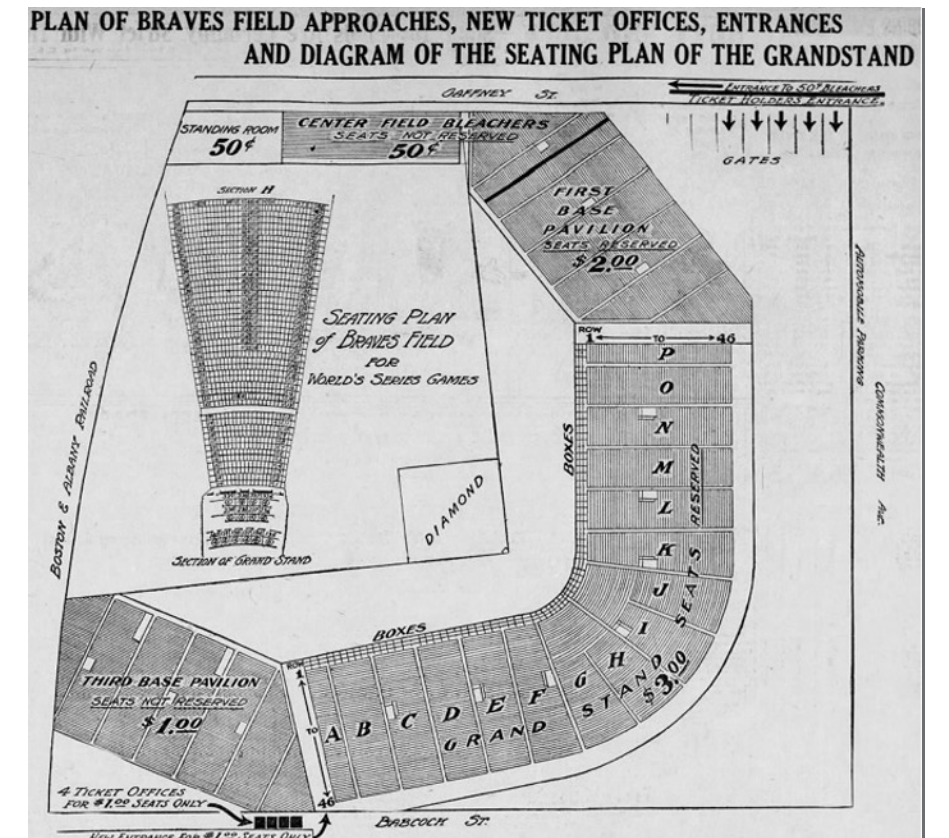
### Braves Field as the home to the National League's Boston Braves

The land and building structures of Braves Field would become, through adaptive reuse, the cornerstone of Boston University's West Campus. It was originally home to the National League's Boston Braves. Opened in 1915 and featuring a capacity of 46,000, the stadium was a phenomenon, simultaneously the first of a new breed of super stadiums, while at the same time, being the last of the old "jewel-box" concrete and steel parks.



1948 World Series, Played at Braves Field (The Associated Press, 1948).

Braves Field seating diagram from 1916 World Series (Boston Globe, 1916).



David Lewis at the Baseball Hall of Fame on his Preservation Studies Internship.

Stadium structures included three large grandstands, and a small bleacher in right field. There was also another building, used as both office space and as an entry point for fans. The building, designed in the Spanish Colonial style of architecture, had office space on its top level, and open archways on the bottom for ticketing. The ballpark saw plenty of history, from World Series games, an All-Star game, the longest game in major league history, and the final home games of Babe Ruth's career. Aside from Babe Ruth, Braves Field hosted baseball legends such as Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays, Rogers Hornsby and Lou Gehrig, among others.

### Boston University acquires the field

After consecutive seasons with the lowest attendance in the National League, the Braves announced their move to Milwaukee on March 13, 1953. The team's exodus proved to be perfect timing for Boston University (BU). Up to this point, Boston University had played their football games at a field in Weston, Massachusetts, about a 30 minute train ride away from Boston. The school and the team came together over the summer of '53 and made a deal for the 10 acre plot of land, which included the stadium as well as the clubhouse building along Gaffney Street. Boston University envisioned the site as the central location for their athletic facilities, planning to host its football, baseball, track, swimming, fencing, wrestling, and tennis teams on the grounds. The school foresaw right away that tearing down most of the existing structures relating to the field would be necessary to achieve their vision for the site.

### Adaptive reuse of an early-twentieth century ball field

The redesign of the field began as an almost grassroots effort, with the Boston University Football players and coaches working around their practice schedule to overhaul the playing surface from a baseball diamond to a football field. Over the next few decades, Boston University transformed the Braves Field site through what Paul Rinaldi, the University's Assistant Vice President for Planning, referred to as "a junk shop of approaches to solve for a very dense campus."

The original right field grandstand is the one structure that has remained mostly unchanged since Boston University's purchase. Walking in the concourse underneath the grandstand feels like a time capsule, as it appears almost exactly as it did when the Braves were in town. A few other minor pieces of the original structure also remain on the grounds, including a small section of the outfield fence, which is near the Nickerson Field scoreboard, and a ramp sloping downwards from the street to the playing surface.





Demolition of Braves Field Grandstand (Leslie Jones, 1955).

After the demolition of Braves Field structures was completed in 1960, and Boston University began to build new structures within the space in order to meet the demands of their growing campus. In 1963 and 1964, Boston University created the first dormitory buildings in west campus, and the biggest at the school up to that point, on the site of the former Braves Field. Sleeper, Clafin, and Rich Hall dormitories were constructed in an angular pattern around the base of the field, resembling from above the layout of the original home plate grandstand.

Students living in these three buildings would have views of the athletic field from their dorm rooms. In 1972, Case Athletic Center opened on the site, housing the majority of BU athletic facilities. Located next to Rich Hall dormitory, Case is located where the original third base grandstand stood at Braves Field. The completion of the Case Center fulfilled one of the University's major original goals for the Braves Field site: to serve as a central location for all Boston University athletic facilities.

The Spanish Colonial-style building along Harry Agganis Way that originally held the Braves' administrative and ticket offices served as the home of BU's athletic offices until the Case Center was completed. After athletic offices moved to the Case Center, the building became the headquarters of the Boston University Police Department (BUPD), which it remains to this day. In 1978, the school completed simple construction on the lower half of the building, walling in the open areas to create more usable space. When this construction was completed, the Boston University Children's Center, a childcare center and preschool for dependents of Boston University faculty and staff, assumed the newly created space.

#### **Boston University West Campus**

The acquisition and transformation of Braves Field had a major impact on the campus and general trajectory of Boston University. In a September 1953 edition of the Boston University News, university president Harold C. Case boasted, "Braves Field is a new source of pride... [the field] stirs our imagination and upgrades our confidence." As time wore on, Braves Field would prove to do more than just improve the confidence around campus. It created the campus. The purchase of Braves Field and its transition into Nickerson Field served to ground Boston University within the city of Boston and along Commonwealth Avenue.



A historic photograph of Braves Field showing the view from the same location on the original grandstand. From this point at Braves Field, the spectator would have been looking straight towards home plate and the third base grandstand. Today, one would see the soccer field and the Case Athletic Center in the distance (David Lewis, 2022).

The Braves Field lot was just the second land acquisition by the school west of the BU Bridge, after what is now the College of Fine Arts, purchased in 1952. Adding Braves Field down the street gave Boston University an end point, something to continue growing towards, and in the years since they have acquired nearly all the real estate on Commonwealth Avenue between the BU Bridge and Braves Field. Boston University had been spread out throughout the City of Boston in its early years. Boston University's Sargent College was located in Cambridge in 1953, but immediately after purchasing Braves Field, the school made plans to move Sargent to the Charles River Campus, where it remains today.

Finally, the purchase of Braves Field dramatically increased the size of the campus. Today, Boston University holds just over 110 acres of land, 10 of which came from the Braves Field. Boston University and other partners have worked to commemorate the history of Braves Field through various interpretive devices. In the concourse of the remaining grandstand, photographs are hung alongside informative placards, depicting Boston Braves and Boston University history.

Braves Field into Nickerson Field and the center of Boston University's West Campus has proved to be an excellent example of adaptive reuse and urban planning. It has solved an issue of housing, while still providing adequate outdoor space for recreational activities. Furthermore, it retained key pieces of the historic structure. Through the adaptive reuse of Braves Field, Boston University was able to buck the trend of urban sprawl and remain a part of the city of Boston. The adaptive reuse of Braves Field may not be what we think of when we imagine the ideal adaptive reuse project, but its results should be what we strive for.

*Contributors: David Lewis (author), Kristen Dahlmann and Jan Haenraets (editors).*

Commencement exercises held at the stadium in 1971. Case Athletic Center under construction in the background (courtesy Boston Public Library, 1971).



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# VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE FORUM

*Ian Stevenson, Lecturer in the Preservation Studies Program, reports from the 2023 Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) in Plymouth, Massachusetts.*

Row of nineteenth-century worker housing, Plymouth, MA.



Jabez Howland House/Stephen Churchill House (1713/1718), Plymouth, MA.



Tihonet Village Shavings House (c. 1930s), Wareham, MA.

This May, the Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) hosted in Plymouth, Massachusetts, its 43rd annual meeting. I had the pleasure of serving on the conference steering committee and editing the conference tour guidebook. The VAF annual conference format consists of two days of field trip tours, followed by a day of traditional academic paper and poster sessions and a banquet. The first day explored the vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes of southeastern Massachusetts and featured three geographies/themes: colonial and 19th century seasonal architecture of Martha's Vineyard, including properties owned by the Wampanoag; the colonial and Federal-era timber-framed buildings of Hingham, Duxbury, and Marshfield; and the nineteenth and twentieth-century cranberry and iron bogs and related buildings of Carver and Wareham, including a Cape Verdean neighborhood. The second day centered on Plymouth itself, exploring the legacy of the Pilgrims both in public memorials and

monuments and in houses associated with their descendants and newer residents to the town in subsequent centuries.

While focused on the everyday architecture of the region and what these buildings and landscapes can tell us about the people who built and inhabited them, the conference resonated with and actively engaged preservationists. Part of this is the way the built environment contributes to public history. Years of planning went into the conference, which was intended to occur in 2021 to coincide with the 400th anniversary of permanent European settlement in New England and the first Thanksgiving, but COVID delayed this by two years. The 400th anniversary raised important questions about the legacy of the Pilgrim story and how it intersects with the ongoing presence of the Wampanoag and their perspective. The steering committee chose to make optional visitation to the reconstructed village of

Plimoth Patuxet Museums (formerly Plimoth Plantation) in light of a boycott inaugurated by the Wampanoag community and also hosted a plenary session featuring Native American, African American, and white speakers to discuss issues of legacy and racial justice in the built environment. These issues are precisely the conversations happening nationally in preservation.

In addition to my contributions, fellow Preservation Studies lecturers Sara Wermiel and Aaron Ahlstrom wrote entries for the guidebook and helped lead the cranberries and iron tour. Former Preservation Studies director Claire Dempsey designed the early buildings tour. Recent alum Kristen Dahlmann presented a poster on the cultural landscape of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. Alum Elaine Stiles hosted the VAF-New England Chapter's Annual Meeting at the conference. And there were many other alums as conference attendees!



National Monument to the Forefathers (1889), Plymouth, MA.

(All photographs: Ian Stevenson, 2023).



Student Work

# PALIMPSEST OF FOOTFALLS PILGRIMS AND GESTURES IN THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Kristen Dahlmann presented in May 2023 her investigation of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela at the Vernacular Architecture Forum in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

For over a millennium, pilgrims have walked in each other's footsteps across the 800 kilometers of Northern Spain to achieve Santiago de Compostela. The Camino is a palimpsest of vernacular landscape layered by form and function from the Medieval times through today. Where the medieval landscape was shaped by the gentry and clergy for the protection of pilgrims seeking salvation in the afterlife, modern-day pilgrims, in the twenty-first century, personally construct layers of the Camino landscape through creative gestures with stone inspired by the simple act of walking great distances on the Camino. These gestures are significant in that they speak to acts of mindfulness, of one's connection to the landscape architecture of place, and to the Camino community overall.

This research has focused on the use of medieval historical resources and more importantly, has been deepened by the interviews with fifteen American pilgrims who have shown verbal and pictorial evidence of shaping way makers, cairns, and the famous Cruz de Ferro. This research is unusual in that it looks at the interaction of pilgrims with small-scale structures. Other Camino literature, ranging from travel guides to UNESCO documentation, focuses on architecture, towns, and the picturesque views offered by the Camino. Within the vernacular landscape, there is evidence of spatial-temporal qualities in the Camino's landmarks. The way markers and cairns serve as agency in communicating to the pilgrim a specific place and time of arrival. The spatial-temporal narrative of the mile marker is a story of stone and a blue and yellow coquille tile, with stones placed on top sequentially and individually over time.



Ephemeral gestures in stone along the Camino (Kristen Dahlmann).

## PALIMPSEST OF FOOTFALLS: Pilgrims and Gestures in the Cultural Landscape of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela

Kristen Dahlmann  
Preservation Studies  
Boston University  
dahlmann@bu.edu

For over a millennium, pilgrims have walked in each other's footsteps across the 800 kilometers of Northern Spain to achieve Santiago de Compostela.

Within the vernacular landscape, there is evidence of spatial-temporal landmarks in that the way markers, and cairns serve as agency in communicating to the pilgrim a specific place and time of arrival.

There is the spatial narrative of the mile marker, a story of stone, a blue and yellow coquille, with stones placed on top sequentially over time. The temporal narrative notes the mileage: to Santiago, as the pilgrim forever counts the miles, to lunch, to the albergue, to Santiago. Noting the pile of stones, one picks up a stone from the ground and adds to the growing cairn.

The story told is, "I was here; greetings from the past, Buen Camino!" "Uterria!" speaks encouragement to the next arrival.

These stone gestures are perennial in the landscape but need to be further researched and documented.

Chief historians with: Michael Abouhalla, Bill Alder, Lydie Allen, Theo Ball, Miss Breckenham, Kristin Cross, Maddie Kiszewski, Bonnie Mondak, Geoff Pagnier, and Sara Trazar; Jennifer Bos, Katy Ferreira, Kathy Wolf, Tony Wolf, and Yui Zhang.

**Medieval waystations**  
Medieval way stations still exist today. The Medieval Camino was marked with stone crosses & waystations for pilgrims to rest on the way to Santiago.

**Gestures in stone on waymarkers**  
Modern waymarkers and stations for pilgrims are heavily marked by pilgrims passing through and leaving a stone. The pilgrim arrives, a ritual, a gesture is performed. Then the pilgrim passes through and onwards.

**Cruz de Ferro, Galicia**  
This ancient cross rises on a spiritual meaning where pilgrims bring stones from afar to enter a token in "prayer."

**Cairns on the Camino**  
Ancient spiritual gestures, pilgrims across the Camino were seen in this region, by building small stone cairns as an expression of gratitude. These cairns are on the last quarter of the Camino.

**Creative Acts in Stone**  
Ephemeral gestures of stone are placed in the landscape periodically. These examples are in the form of stones painting the Way, or small stones forming a labyrinth-like stone found in medieval cathedrals.

**Cairns, found worldwide, speak of a universal human need to mark the passage through the landscape.**

**Topography of the Camino**

The spatial narrative notes the mileage to Santiago, just as the pilgrim that stands there counting the miles in the future, to lunch, to the albergue, to removing one's boots. Noting the way marker, standing like an axis in place and time, one picks up a stone from the ground or one's pocket and adds to the growing pile.

The story told is, "I was here; greetings from the past, Buen Camino!" Or, "Uterria and Suseia!" speak encouragement to the next arrival. These common greetings of the Camino are imbedded in stone. These stone gestures are perennial in the landscape but need to be further researched and documented to better understand their impact on the culture of pilgrims.

These photos seen here serve to support this argument. To orient one to the landscape of the Camino, the topography of the Camino is illustrated in the center of the poster. The columns on top represent, first, examples of structures that remain from the Medieval period of the Camino. The remaining four types of structures are all modern and form the body of this research. Through the interviews of pilgrims, the thoughts and feelings behind the gestures of leaving stone were discernable, both for religious pilgrimages and spiritual/quasi-spiritual pilgrimages. Many spoke of crossing a threshold after placing the stone, that the action was deeply personal but also very tied to the community of the Camino. The gesture has a two-fold, dual purpose.

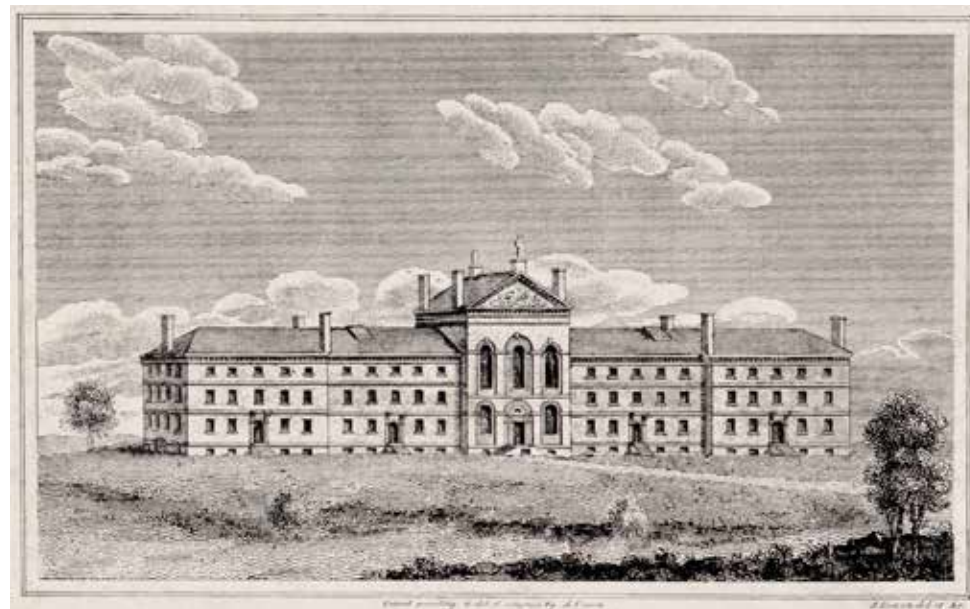
Palimpsest of Footfalls, poster for the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 2023 (Kristen Dahlmann).



# DISCOVERING BOSTON'S NINETEENTH-CENTURY INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

*Sara Wermiel, Lecturer in the Preservation Studies Program, taught Preservation Planning in the spring term, a course she has been teaching for several years. This past academic year, she has been working on two research projects.*

One research project is a study of the nineteenth-century institutional buildings in Boston built to accommodate poor people, all of which disappeared long ago. This research led to the discovery of the widespread use of a particular building form for institutional buildings in the U.S. in that period. She is revising her article on this topic for publication. In April (2023), she presented a paper about the research sponsored by the Massachusetts State Board of Health into drinking and wastewater purification at Lawrence, Massachusetts. The findings of this research were put into effect in the city of Lawrence, which built the first large filter in the United States for a municipal water supply (completed in 1893). Moreover, this was the first filter specifically designed to eliminate disease-causing germs a water supply. She is turning this presentation into an article for publication.



Leverett Street Almshouse, a home for poor and homeless people, which opened in 1800 in Boston's West End (A. Bowen del. et Sc., c. 1825).

# CHARLESTOWN ARCHITECTURAL & COMMUNITY HISTORY WORKSHOP

*In Fall 2022, the Boston Architectural and Community History Workshop with Aaron Ahlstrom, Lecturer in the Preservation Studies Program, delved deeply into the built environment of Charlestown, a vital neighborhood with a storied past.*

During the semester, students used interdisciplinary research methods to interrogate how this neighborhood's architecture and landscape reflected and were shaped by shifting social, economic, and environmental forces over the past three centuries. Highlights of the semester included two site visits to Charlestown, including a trip on the MBTA's ferry to experience the historical approach to the neighborhood via Boston Harbor and a student-led tour of key institutions, such as the Bunker Hill Monument and Training Field. The class also visited the City of Boston Archives, pictured here, and the Harvard Business School Archives to connect documentary evidence with the architectural landscape. At the end of the semester students presented original research projects that covered, among other topics, investigations into the history of public housing, African American homes, tourist views of and from Bunker Hill Monument, and historic preservation and community.



Course visit to the City of Boston Archives, West Roxbury, MA (A. Ahlstrom, 2023).



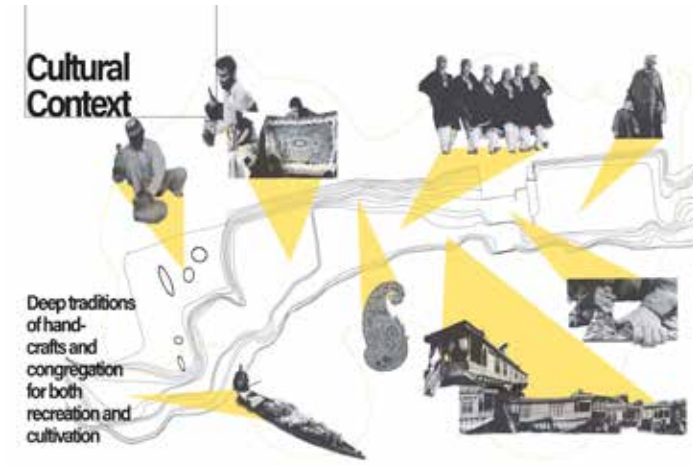
# CHERRY PARK, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

## LANDSCAPE DESIGN & PRESERVATION STUDIO

*This Design Studio embarked this spring on an inspiring journey to Cherry Park, nestled on the banks of Nigeen Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir. Led by Jan Haenraets of the Preservation Studies Program, the studio looked at ways to restore ecosystems, preserve historical elements, and integrate interpretation, all while embracing sustainable practices and native plantings.*

The studio brought together thirteen talented students with diverse academic backgrounds, including architecture, painting, and biology, collaborating to develop ideas to revitalize the park and create a valuable community and visitor experience. Throughout the semester, the students meticulously analyzed the evolution and landscape characteristics of Cherry Park, its surroundings, existing conditions and challenges.

They studied the district's historical background and tradition of seventeenth-century Mughal and later post-Mughal gardens on the banks of Dal lake and Nigeen lake, and presence of British-India era changes to the area. This includes the early-twentieth century establishment of a leprosy hospital in the former Mughal bagh to the south of Cherry Park at a time of promotion of education and healthcare in the valley. The students also reviewed how the subsequent master plans of the 1970s shaped the status of the lakefronts around Nigeen lake. Pomegranates were common on the banks of Nigeen lake and the park earned its name due to the abundance of cherry trees that once adorned its grounds. However, the landscape faced challenges



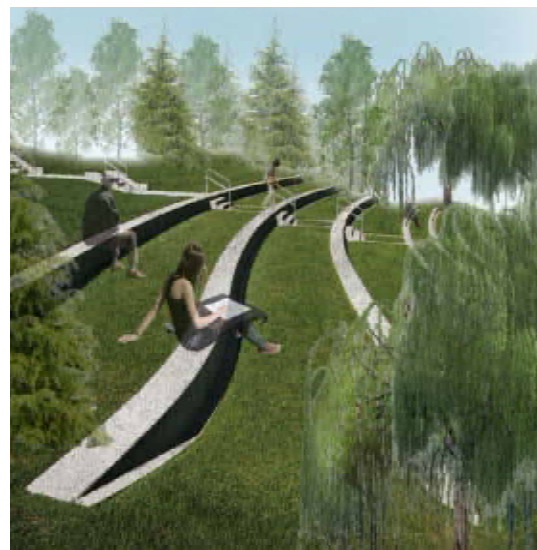
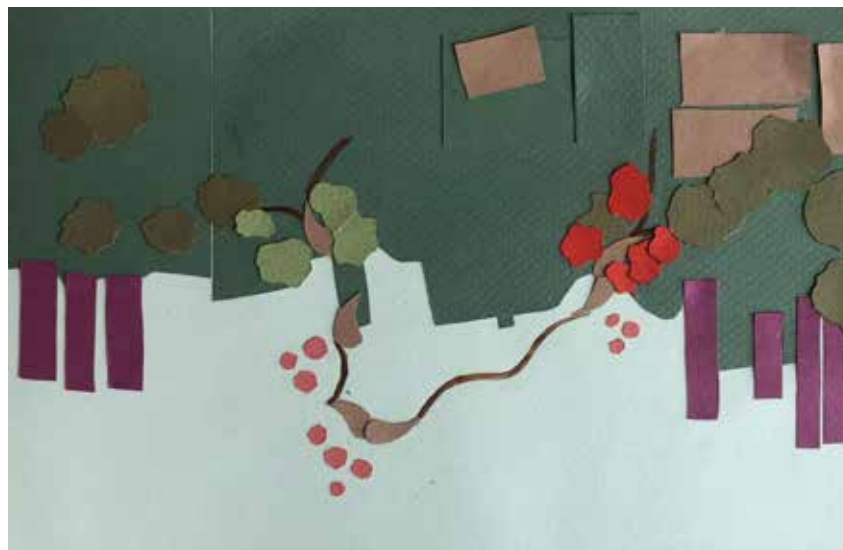
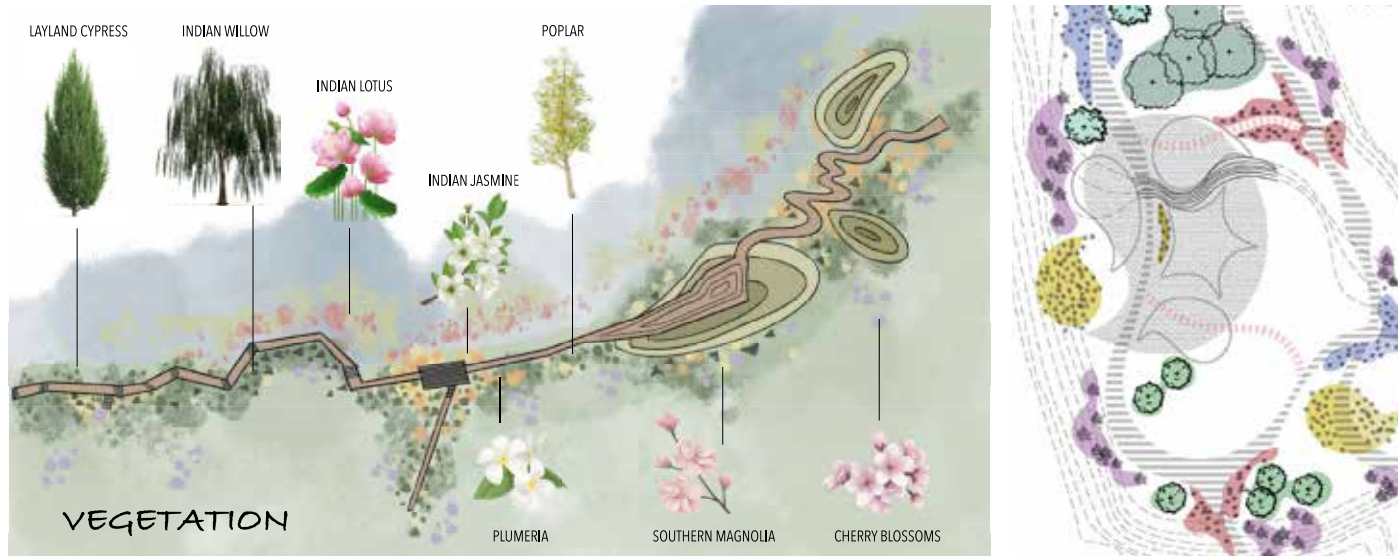
over the years. Illegal removal of soil and orchards has led to significant changes in the topography and vegetation, and dense urban construction encroached on its suburban landscape. Students recognized the significance of preserving the park's historical elements, such as the unique lakefront houseboats that emerged in nineteenth-century Kashmir as the British were prohibited from owning land in Kashmir. These houseboats became iconic symbols of the region's cultural heritage and tourism, and also found their way to Nigeen lake in the twentieth century. The students were dedicated to their conservation. Cherry Park opened its doors in 2009 and quickly became a popular neighborhood park.

Sadly, over the past decade the park fell rapidly into dereliction. Stray dogs and a recent increase of drug use in the park contributed to a sense of unease among visitors, while the lack of commercial activities and nearby food establishments limited the park's amenities. At the heart of the studio's mission was the importance of the process of landscape design with the understanding of historic preservation. Students were introduced to steps of the design phases from initial team work on a study of landscape characteristics and local heritage and craftsmanship, to the creation of individual design suggestions at anchors in the park. Their designs prepared sketch concepts, ideas for material and planting

palettes, sample sections and technical details, and refined final proposals. The studio's vision went beyond restoration and preservation. By incorporating impermanent structures and storytelling, the students sought to deepen the connection between visitors and the park's rich history, ecology, and traditional horticultural and architectural practices. Through their innovative proposals, the students aspired to develop concept ideas to breathe new life into Cherry Park, transforming it into a harmonious blend of thriving ecosystems, preserved heritage, and immersive interpretation. Additionally, students explored sustainable practices and native plantings to enhance







biodiversity and create a thriving habitat that resonates with the local flora and fauna. While significant heritage, the houseboats created a barrier between the park and waterfront and impacted local ecology and vegetation. The students recognized the need to protect the ecology and reintroduce native plant varieties that had been lost. The city's Land Use Plans are considering a degree of relocation of houseboats and students explored creative ideas to address improvements to ecology and the connection between the park and lake. With dedication and passion, the students worked tirelessly to present cohesive design proposals that celebrated Cherry Park's uniqueness. The remote studio format means suggestions are only explorative, and local initiatives are envisioned to build on the studio outcomes. Their designs included

attraction points or anchors, guided pathways, planting suggestions, and innovative landscape architectural elements, all aimed at enhancing the visitor experience, community use, and creating a sense of place. As you peruse images here, you will witness the remarkable work done by the studio's students. Their proposals, illustrated with captivating visuals, offer a glimpse of their inspirational ideas for the revitalization of Cherry Park—a place where thriving ecosystems, preserved heritage, and immersive interpretation intertwine to create an extraordinary destination. Additional information will soon be made available on a new website page under the Preservation Studies Program. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the individuals and organizations that supported the studio's exploration, including Hakim Sameer Hamdani of the Indian National

Trust, Jammu and Kashmir, as local Kashmir-based host and guest lecturer of the studio, and as member of the review panel together with Anas Soufan, Kristen Dahlmann and Aaron Ahlstrom; Alyssa Schwann of Atelier Anonymous—Global Landscape Foundation as guest speaker; and Dana Clancy, Daniel Abramson, and the administrative support at the Architectural Studies major, School of Visual Arts and the Preservation Studies Program. Their expertise and guidance greatly enriched the students' understanding and appreciation of landscape design.

*Text by Colin House and Jan Haenraets; design samples by Anya Sachdev, Candice Lu, Chase Rowe, Colin House, Heidi Cook, Jennifer Fang, Katelyn Reinwald, Leo Parodi Ambrose, Luke Agaisse, Martin Suyang, Rifah Tasnia, Romy Binstein and Smaranda Costiner.*

*Events*

# PRESERVATION STUDIES ROUND TABLE

*On Wednesday, November 9, 2022 we hosted the Preservation Studies Round Table on Entering Careers and Internships in Historic Preservation, as a conversation with practitioners and alumni of the Preservation Studies program.*



**Preservation Studies Round Table**  
**Entering Careers and Internships in Historic Preservation**

A conversation with practitioners and alumni of the Boston University Preservation Studies program.  
*All members of the greater BU community welcome!*

Wednesday, November 9, 2022  
 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm  
 226 Bay State Road, Rm B06  
 Boston, MA 02215

**Panelists**

<b>Joshua Dorin</b> Preservation Planner Massachusetts Historical Commission	<b>Elizabeth A. Sherva</b> Director of Architectural Review Massachusetts Historical Commission	<b>Eric Peterson</b> Executive Director Metropolitan Waterworks Museum
<b>Kathy Kottaridis</b> Executive Director Historic Boston Inc.	<b>Ian Stevenson</b> Director of Advocacy Greater Portland Landmarks	

\*Boston Harbor\* Geo. H. Walker & Co., c.1923. Source: Norman B. Lienthal Map Center, Boston Public Library

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

(Photo: K. Dahlmann, 2022).



# COMMENCEMENT 2023

*The Preservation Studies Program and the American & New England Studies Program (AMNESP) held the Convocation Ceremony on Saturday May 20, 2023.*



## Master of Arts in Preservation Studies

### Gabriela E. Amore

Concentration in Architectural History

Capstone: *A Framework for a Preservation Plan for the City of Boston*

Internship: Employee, Preservation Planner; City of Boston Landmarks Commission, Office of Historic Preservation

External award: City of Boston, Employee Development Scholarship Program

### Kristen A. Dahlmann

Concentration in Architectural History

Capstone: *Preservation Today: Upholding the Unique Cultural and Social Fabric of Boston Neighborhoods*

Internship: Documentation and Rehabilitation Planning of the historic Buttrick Garden, Minute Man National Historical Park

### David G. Lewis

Concentration in History

Capstone: *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Haverhill Powder House, Massachusetts*

Internships: Minute Man National Historical Site; Frank and Peggy Steele Internship Program, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum; Massachusetts Historical Commission; Histoury.org

External award: Keepers Preservation Education Fund, Maine Community Foundation

### Esther Yang

Concentration in Archaeology

Capstone: *The Preservation of Shikumen Architectural Style in Shanghai: The Case Studies of Xintiandi and Tianzifang*

Internship: Curation Assistance, National Park Service Northeast Museum Services Center, Catalog Project Flight 93 National Memorial, Pennsylvania



(Photos: Jacob Chang-Rasclé for Boston University Photography; Photo bottom right: Neel Madan).



# DONORS

*A heart-felt thank you to the following individuals and funds who made contributions to Boston University's Preservation Studies Program activities and student tuition during the 2022–23 Academic Year.*

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Michael A. Bedeau  
William J. Brennan  
Susan M. Ceccacci  
Sara B. Chase  
Kim Lovejoy  
Heli Meltsner  
Nancy L. Salzman  
Sara Wermiel

Keepers Preservation Education Fund, Maine Community Foundation  
City of Boston, Employee Development Scholarship Program  
Historic Preservation Fund, BU  
Menino Legacy Fellowship Fund, BU  
Peggy N. Gerry Graduate Scholarship Fund, BU  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Awards, BU

# WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

*Over the past year our website and social media has received multiple updates and we continue to make improvements. Our Twitter account was launched and feel free to follow us on @buPrStudies. In 2023–24 we anticipate that the Preservation Studies Program website will undergo another transformation to a fresh new look.*

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Preservation Studies students Kristen Dahmann and David Lewis supported in Fall 2022 our Twitter account, and collected news from existing Preservation Studies students' achievements and internships for our website as well as placing a spotlight on the successful careers of our alumni. In Spring 2022, after David's graduation, Kristen continued as our graduate assistant to help with social media and website content development. In Fall 2023 we again make this opportunity available to current students.

We hope that everyone enjoys the updates and please keep sending us new ideas and content.





# 150 YEARS OF ARTS & SCIENCES@BU

*Since the College of Arts & Sciences opened in 1873 in 18-20 Beacon Street, BU's campus relocated to Commonwealth Avenue next to the Charles River Basin and Bay State Road Conservation District, and always had preservation at its heart.*



Intentional opposition and controversial juxtaposition on BU campus, between the architecture and scale of the Bay State Road Conservation District and BU's new 19-floor Center for Computing & Data Sciences (J. Haenraets, 2023).

Top left: The College of Liberal Arts' first home was on Beacon Street (Courtesy of the Howard Gotlib Archival Research Center).

Top right: BU's Center for Computing & Data Sciences will be home to the departments of math and statistics and computer science (Photo: Bob O'Connor).





Thomas Crane Memorial Library,  
Quincy, MA (K. Dahlmann, 2023).

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @BUPRSTUDIES**