

# Charles Ian Stevenson

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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Associate Director (Interim), Preservation Studies Program, Boston University (2025)  
Interim Director, Preservation Studies Program, Boston University (2024)  
Lecturer, Preservation Studies Program, Boston University (2022-present)  
Lecturer, Art History Department, Clark University (2019-2024)

### EDUCATION

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Ph.D., American & New England Studies, Boston University (2019)  
Dissertation: *"This Summer-Home of the Survivors": The Civil War Vacation in Architecture and Landscape, 1878-1918*  
Committee: William D. Moore, Keith N. Morgan, Nina Silber, Sarah T. Phillips, and Louis P. Nelson

M.A., Preservation Studies, Boston University (2013)  
Master's Thesis: *Creating a Maine Railroad Landscape, 1890-1897: Architecture of the Portland & Rumford Falls Railway and the Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad*

B.A., American History, *Cum Laude*, Bates College (2003)

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Book

*Summer Homes of the Survivors: Civil War Vacation Buildings and Landscapes, 1878-1918*  
(under contract with the University of Virginia Press)

#### Refereed Book Chapters

"Restoration's Dark Side: Gentrification and Daylighting the Saw Mill River in Yonkers, New York," in Greg Gordon, ed., *Rewilding the Urban Frontier: River Conservation in the Anthropocene* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2024)

#### Refereed Journal Articles

"Introducing Environmental History into Vernacular Architecture: Considerations from New England's Historic Dams," *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* 24, no. 2 (Fall 2017): 1-21

"Vacationing with the Civil War: Maine's Regimental Summer Cottages," *Civil War History* 63, no. 2 (June 2017): 151-180

“Proving Preservation: Boston Subway Construction Photography, 1894-1897,” *Future Anterior* 10, no. 2 (Winter 2013): 16-31

### **Refereed Encyclopedia Entries**

“Atwood-Higgins House” (Wellfleet); “Salt Pond Visitor Center” (Eastham); “The Dome” (Falmouth); “Hancock Shaker Village” (Hancock); “172-174 Pine Street Three-Deckers” (Attleboro); “Ames Free Library” (Easton); “Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption” (Fall River); “House of the Seven Gables” (Salem); “Beauport” (Gloucester); “November Club” (Andover); “Old Deerfield Historic District” (Deerfield); “Dorsey-Jones House” (Northampton); “Quabbin Reservoir” (Belchertown); “Quabbin Reservoir Administration Complex” (Belchertown); “Quabbin Aqueduct and Headhouses” (Belchertown); “Quabbin Park Cemetery” (Ware); “Boott Cotton Mills” (Lowell); “Nantucket Historic District” (Nantucket); “Independence Fire Engine Company Station” (Cohasset); “Brockton City Hall” (Brockton); “Scituate Light” (Scituate); “Union Station” (Worcester); “The Publick House” (Sturbridge); “Clara Barton Homestead” (Oxford); “Indian Hill Neighborhood” (Worcester); “Liberty Farm” (Worcester); “Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse” (Millville); and “Overview of Massachusetts” (with Aaron Ahlstrom) in *SAH Archipedia: Buildings of Massachusetts*, eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press (2019)

### **Book Reviews**

*War Matters: Material Culture in the Civil War Era* edited by Joan E. Cashin (University of North Carolina Press, 2018), *Material Culture: Journal of the Pioneer America Society* 53, no. 1 (Spring 2020): 68-70

*Heading Out: A History of American Camping* by Terence Young (Cornell University Press, 2017), *Material Culture: Journal of the Pioneer America Society* 50, no. 2 (Fall 2018): 75-77

### **Edited Volumes**

2023 Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference Guidebook, May 2023 (editor/designer)

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

Destination “Magic Town”: Selling Maine’s Idealized Nineteenth Century Industrial City through Railroad Architecture [article]

Military History and Memory: A Case Study of the Fifth Maine Regiment’s Captured Confederate Flags [article]

“This is Not a Wilderness Area”: Cape Cod National Seashore, the National Park Service, and Hybridity [article]

### **Web-Based Publications**

[“The past, present and future of the NPS.”](#) Boston University Public Relations “Expert Commentary,” August 2016

Guest Commentary, [“Dwelling in Landscape” by Daniel Bluestone](#), Friends of Fairsted Lecture Series, December 2014

## **Other Publications**

“Union Veterans and the Making of Weirs Beach,” *The Weirs Times* 28, no. 32 (August 8, 2019)

“The Saw Mill River: An Environmental History,” *Westchester Historian* 88, no. 4 (Fall 2012): 100-129

“The Old Hilltop: The Story of Yonkers Raceway,” *Westchester Historian* 79, no. 1 (Winter 2003): 4-11

“From Rail to Trail: The Transformation of the ‘Old Put’ to a Recreational Byway,” *Westchester Historian* 77, no. 4 (Fall 2001): 112-121

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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- 2019 Keith N. Morgan Dissertation Prize, Boston University Department of History of Art & Architecture
- 2017 PhD Qualifying Exam passed with distinction, Boston University American & New England Studies Program
- 2016 Richard E. Greenwood Young Scholar Award, Vernacular Architecture Forum, New England Chapter

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

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- 2025 P. D. Merrill Research Fellowship, Maine Historical Society
- 2022 Opler Membership Grant for Emerging Scholars and Professionals, Society of Architectural Historians
- 2020 Robert Rettig Fellowship, Society of Architectural Historians, New England Chapter
- 2018 Research Fellowship, New England Regional Fellowship Consortium
- 2018 Summer Research Fellowship, Boston University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- 2018 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar, Visual Culture of the American Civil War and Its Aftermath, Graduate Center, City University of New York
- 2018 John Coolidge Research Fellowship, Society of Architectural Historians, New England Chapter
- 2017 Orlando Ridout V Fieldwork Fellowship, Vernacular Architecture Forum
- 2016 Pamela H. Simpson Presenter’s Fellowship, Vernacular Architecture Forum
- 2013 Student Ambassador Award, Vernacular Architecture Forum

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Boston University**, Boston, MA

Preservation Studies/American Studies

Boston Architectural and Community History Workshop (Fall 2025)

Preservation and the Vernacular Environment (Spring 2025, Spring 2026)

Independent Research Project Colloquium [Preservation MA Capstone Seminar] (Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

Places of Memory: Historic Preservation Theory and Practice (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024)

A Walk in the Park: Understanding Greater Boston through Green Space (Summer 2016)

### Architectural History

Undergraduate Architectural Studies Honors Theses Advising (Spring 2025)

History of World Architecture (Teaching Fellow, Fall 2016)

Introduction to World Architecture and Urbanism (Teaching Fellow, Fall 2015)

### American History

The United States Since 1865 (Teaching Fellow, Spring 2016)

### Student Advisement

PhD Oral Examiner: Mary Snyder (2026)

MA Capstone: Rachel Burdette, Verity Boyer, Siena Idoine, Meghan Keefe, Lea Kolesky, Jieyu Liu, Hailey Manlowe, Hillary Rayport, Hailey Stebner, Kayton Stewart (2024-2025)

BA Honors Thesis: Layali Almoaibad, Mackenzie Izzard (2024-2025)

**Clark University**, Worcester, MA

### Art History

Introduction to American Material Culture (Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2024)

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION**

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### **Papers Presented**

2022 "Rockville, South Carolina's Confederate Vacation Home: A Case Study of Vernacular Architecture without the Building," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, May 21, San Antonio, TX

2021 "Destination 'Magic Town': Capitalism, Corporate Branding, and the Trackside Architecture of the Portland & Rumford Falls Railway, 1890-1897," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, May 22 [virtual]

2020 "Destination 'Magic Town': Capitalism, Corporate Branding, and the Trackside Architecture of the Portland & Rumford Falls Railway, 1890-1897," Vernacular Architecture Forum, New England Chapter, Annual Meeting, November 7 [virtual]

2020 "Race, Memory, and Leisure at the Mexia, Texas, Confederate Reunion Grounds," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, May 9 [virtual]

2019 "Enshrining the Civil War Vacation: Union Veterans, Familial Legacy, and the 103<sup>rd</sup> OVI Campus at Sheffield Lake, Ohio," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, June 1

2019 "Camp Benson and the 'GAR Camps': Recreational Landscapes of Civil War Memory in Maine, 1886-1910," Boston Seminar on Environmental History, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA, January 15

2018 "Surveilling the Civil War Vacation: Architecture of the New Hampshire Veterans Association Campus at Weirs Beach, 1878-1900," Ninth Biennial Urban History Association Conference: "Cities at the Crossroads," Columbia, SC, October 20

- 2018 "Camp Benson and the 'GAR Camps': Commercialized Landscapes of Civil War Memory in New England, 1886-1916," Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, March 30
- 2018 "Camp Benson and the 'GAR Camps': Commercialized Landscapes of Civil War Memory in New England, 1886-1916," Vernacular Architecture Forum, New England Chapter, Annual Meeting, Sturbridge, MA, March 24
- 2018 "'Eight Acres of Heaven': Civil War Memory, Leisure, and the New Hampshire Veterans Association Campus at Weirs Beach, 1878-1898," Wellesley-Deerfield Symposium: "Monumental Narratives," Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA, March 10
- 2017 "From 'America's Oldest Park' to America's First Subway: Hidden Histories of Boston Common," Boston's Hidden Histories Symposium, Boston University Initiative on Cities, Boston, MA, November 14
- 2017 "'This is Not a Wilderness Area': Cape Cod National Seashore, the National Park Service, and Hybridity," New Perspectives in Environmental History Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 22
- 2017 "Where 'Army Tales Told While the Pot Boiled': Civil War Veteran Summer Cottages, 1880-1910," Nineteenth Century Studies Association Annual Conference, Charleston, SC, February 4
- 2016 "'This is Not a Wilderness Area': Cape Cod National Seashore, the National Park Service, and Hybridity," Paul Lucas Graduate Student Conference: "Reframing the Landscape: Historical Visions of Place," Indiana University, Bloomington, October 7
- 2016 "Fraternity, Furlough, and Family: Maine's Civil War Veteran Summer Cottages," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, Durham, NC, June 4
- 2016 "Fraternity, Furlough, and Family: Maine's Civil War Veteran Summer Cottages," Vernacular Architecture Forum, New England Chapter, Annual Meeting, Sturbridge, MA, April 2
- 2016 "'This is Not a Wilderness Area': Cape Cod National Seashore and Redefining the National Park Service," 8th Annual Graduate Student Conference: "Region, Space, and Place in American History," American Political History Institute, Boston University, Boston, MA, April 1
- 2015 "Vacationing with the Civil War: Maine's Regimental Summer Cottages," Objects as Subjects: Material Cultures of the Civil War Era Conference, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, October 17
- 2015 "Contesting Dams: Cultural Preservation vs. Natural Conservation," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, June 6
- 2014 "The American Underground Frontier: Boston Subway Construction and Photography, 1894-1897," Graduate Student Association Conference: "New England and the World," American & New England Studies Program, Boston University, Boston, MA, October 24
- 2013 "Creating a Maine Railroad Landscape, 1890-1897: Architecture of the Portland & Rumford Falls Railway and the Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad," 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Symposium, Society of Architectural Historians, New England Chapter, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, February 23

### **Conferences/Symposia Co-Organized**

- 2023 Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, Plymouth, MA, May 17-20

2016 38th Annual Student Symposium, Society of Architectural Historians, New England Chapter (Hosted by the History of Art & Architecture Department, Boston University), Boston, MA, February 13

### **Panels Organized**

- 2021 "Beyond Words: A Workshop on Material Culture and the American Civil War," Society of Civil War Historians Biennial Meeting, June 18 (with James Broomall) [virtual]
- 2020 "Reconsidering the Architecture of the Vacation, 1865-1945," Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, April 30 (with Willie Granston) [virtual]
- 2019 "Environmental Histories of non-Green Topics" Roundtable, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 6, 2019 (with Zachary Nowak)
- 2018 "Citizenship, Authority, and Refining the Nineteenth-Century Urban Panopticon," Ninth Biennial Urban History Association Conference: "Cities at the Crossroads," Columbia, SC, October 20

### **Discussant**

- 2023 "Constructing Race and Labor," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, Plymouth, MA, May 20
- 2023 "Adapting to Sea Level Rise in Southern Maine's Historic Waterfront Communities," Keeping History Above Water Conference, Portsmouth, NH, May 9
- 2021 "Beyond Words: A Workshop on Material Culture and the American Civil War," Society of Civil War Historians Biennial Meeting, June 18 [virtual]
- 2019 "Environmental Histories of non-Green Topics" Roundtable, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 6, 2019
- 2018 Panel Chair, "Field Notes," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, Alexandria, VA, May 5

### **Papers Committee**

- 2024 Vernacular Architecture Forum New England Chapter Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, April 6

### **INVITED TALKS AND TOURS**

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- 2026 Lecture, "Destination 'Magic Town': Selling Rumford in the Nineteenth Century," Directors Night, New England Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians, March 11 [virtual]
- 2025 Talk, "Union Veterans and the Making of Weirs Beach," New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH, November 15
- 2025 Talk, "Destination 'Magic Town': Selling the Idea of Rumford, Maine, in the Nineteenth Century," Maine Historical Society, Portland, ME, September 30 [virtual]
- 2025 Talk, "New Hampshire Veterans Association at Weirs Beach," NH Civil War Roundtable, Epping, NH, March 21

- 2025 Talk, "Civil War Veterans in Maine," Kennebec Historical Society, Augusta, ME, February 19 [virtual]
- 2024 Talk, "GAR Halls and Civil War Veterans," Whitefield Historical Society, Whitefield, ME, October 20
- 2023 Tour, Peaks Island Historic Resources, Iowa State University Preservation and Cultural Resources Field Trip, Peaks Island, ME, October 19
- 2023 Evergreen Seminar, "Places of Memory - History of Historic Preservation," Boston University Metropolitan College Center for Professional Education, Boston, MA, September 27, October 4, and October 18
- 2023 Guest Speaker, "Historic Preservation Survey Tutorial," South Portland Historic Preservation Committee, South Portland, ME, February 13
- 2022 Guest Speaker, "Preservation 101," South Portland Historic Preservation Committee, South Portland, ME, December 12
- 2022 Panelist, "Preservation Studies Round Table: Entering Careers and Internships in Historic Preservation," Boston University, Boston, MA, November 9
- 2021 Keynote Talk, "The Fifth Maine and the Civil War Vacation," Fifth Maine Museum, Annual Meeting, Peaks Island, ME, August 19, 2021
- 2021 Lecture, "Destination 'Magic Town': Capitalism, Corporate Branding, and the Trackside Architecture of the Portland & Rumford Falls Railway, 1890-1895," Directors Night, New England Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians, January 25 [virtual]
- 2019 Lecture, "Camp Benson and the Civil War Vacation," Newport Cultural Center, Newport, ME, October 26
- 2019 Lecture, "Leisure, Landscape, and Legacy at the NH Veterans Association Campus," Laconia Historical and Museum Society, Laconia, NH, September 16
- 2019 Lecture, "Leisure, Landscape, and Legacy at the NH Veterans Association Campus," Lake Winnepesaukee Historical Society, Laconia, NH, August 14
- 2019 Guest Speaker, Crime and Deviance in the American Civil War Course, Bates College, Lewiston, ME, May 22
- 2019 Field Report, "'This Summer-Home of the Survivors': The Civil War Vacation in Architecture & Landscape, 1878-1918," Boston Athenaeum, Boston, MA, March 18
- 2018 Lecture, "Union Veterans, Family Legacy, and the Architecture of the 103rd OVI Campus at Sheffield Lake, Ohio," Directors Night, New England Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians, Trinity Church, Boston, MA, November 28
- 2018 Brown Bag Talk, "'This Summer-Home of the Survivors': The Civil War Vacation in Architecture & Landscape, 1878-1910," Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA, September 12
- 2018 Lecture, "'Eight Acres of Heaven': Civil War Memory, Leisure, and the New Hampshire Veterans Association Campus at Weirs Beach, 1878-1898," New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH, June 6
- 2017 Tour, Commonwealth Avenue Mall, Consortium of American Material Culture, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 15
- 2016 Guest Speaker, Writing Program Faculty Seminar on Experiential Learning with an Emphasis on Outside-of-Classroom Learning, Boston University, Boston, MA, November 10

2016 Tour, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Maine Memorial Halls, Peaks Island, ME, Vernacular Architecture Forum, New England Chapter, June 11

## **PODCAST/RADIO/TELEVISION APPEARANCES**

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2024 "[Fifth Maine Museum](#)," *Assignment: Maine*, Maine Public Television, December 17  
2024 "[Upta Camp](#)," *Maine Calling* (hosted by Jennifer Rooks), MPBN Radio, May 28  
2022 "[Rewilding](#)," *Under the Radar with Callie Crossley*, WGBH Radio, October 7  
2021 "[Veterans and the Making of Vacationland](#)," *Mainely History* (Interviewed by Dr. Ian Saxine), August 17

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

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Tom Groening, "[Where Civil War veterans gathered, their memories are preserved](#)," *Working Waterfront*, June/July 2025  
Joel Brown, "[One Class, One Day: Reading Mount Auburn Cemetery. Going outdoors to study Boston through green spaces](#)," *BU Today*, June 21, 2016

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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### **Vernacular Architecture Forum**

Board Member (2017-2020)

Chair of Publications Committee (2017-2020)

Chair of Branding and Communications Ad-Hoc Committee (2018-2020)

2023 Plymouth Conference Committee Member and Conference Guidebook Editor (2019-2023)

Nominating Committee Member (2020)

Illustration Editor, *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* (2019-2022)

Editorial Assistant, *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* (2017)

Bibliographer (2013-2017)

### **Vernacular Architecture Forum, New England Chapter**

Nominating Committee (2024)

### **Society of Architectural Historians, New England Chapter**

Secretary (2020-2022)

Board Member (2018-2022)

Graduate Student Liaison (2015-2016)

### **Fifth Maine Museum**

Board Member (2020-present)

Chair, Collections Committee

Chair, Governance Committee  
Chair, Nominating Committee

**Greater Portland Landmarks**

Project Advisory Committee Member (2024-2025)

**Boston University American & New England Studies Program Graduate Student Association**

Dissertation Writing Workshop Coordinator (2018-2019)

Social Chair (2015-2016)

**University of Georgia Press**

Manuscript reader

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION EXPERIENCE**

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**Greater Portland Landmarks, Portland, ME**

Director of Advocacy (2022-2023)

**Preservation Consultant, Cambridge & Somerville, MA; Peaks Island, ME**

39 North St. Stable Historic Tax Credits Feasibility Report, Portland, ME (2024)

CLG Grant Application and Greenwood Garden Playhouse Building Assessment, Peaks Island Lions Club, Peaks Island, ME (2023-2025)

Building Improvements, Fifth Maine Museum, Peaks Island, ME (2023-2025)

Advocacy Plan for Stroudwater River Dam, Stroudwater Neighborhood Association, Portland, ME (2023)

List of Significant Buildings, Town Planning Office, Falmouth, MA (2019)

Peter Tufts House Assessment, Medford Historical Society, Medford, MA (2014-2015)

Summer Fellow, Maine Preservation, Yarmouth, ME (2012)

**PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA**

Assistant Editor for the Humanities; Administrator of the Loeb Classical Library and I Tatti Renaissance Library (2012-2014)

Assistant Editor in the Humanities (2009-2012)

Editorial Assistant in the Humanities (2006-2009)

Editorial Department Assistant (2005-2006)

**Jostens Printing & Publishing, Falmouth, ME**

Yearbook Publishing Representative (2004-2005)

**HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY**

Assistant Publicist (2003-2004)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Society for Environmental History

International Society for Landscape, Place and Material Culture

National Council on Public History

Organization of American Historians

Society for Industrial Archaeology (Northern New England Chapter)

Society of Architectural Historians (National, Landscape, and New England Chapters)

Society of Civil War Historians

Urban History Association

Vernacular Architecture Forum (National and New England Chapters)