

Kentucky Places Session: 36th Annual KHC Archaeology Conference

In partnership with the City of Newport and Northern Kentucky Restoration Weekend

215 E. Southgate Street in Newport, KY

Friday March 1st, 2019 – 6-8pm

Northern Kentucky Ohio River Bridges

Amanda Abner, Historic Preservation Coordinator, KYTC

The Ohio River provides a natural barrier between Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. The construction of bridges beginning in the mid-1800s enabled the growth of Cincinnati's southern suburbs. Ferries and boats allowed connectivity, but could not efficiently carry a high volume of passenger and freight traffic across the river. The Ohio River was also a major shipping channel by the mid-19th century, further complicating matters. The iconic John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge was completed in 1867 and forever changed the landscape of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. This bridge is owned by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and due to its age and historic significance, it presents many maintenance challenges. This presentation will cover the history of the bridge as well as these modern upkeep issues. It will also briefly cover the other bridges connecting Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, which embody the unique history of this area while also experiencing many of the same problems as the Roebling Bridge.

Kentucky Places: Burns Cemetery, Boyd County, and the Ashland Tragedy

Anne B. Lee

The presentation will discuss how a compliance report led to the identification of a grave site associated with the Ashland Tragedy; a horrific crime and series of events that shook Eastern Kentucky in the late nineteenth century. We will discuss the tragedy in detail, research methods used, and the potential significance of the site.

Hardest Job on the Block: The Ludlow Historic Society's Townhouse in Latta Row

Patrick Snadon, Design and Architectural Historian

In 2018, with financial assistance from the Josephine Ardery Foundation and the Catalytic Fund of Northern KY, the Ludlow Historic Society began its first bricks-and-mortar restoration project. LHS strategically chose a small project, one within its resources but that promises a larger impact. It is a little, Victorian townhouse in "Latta Row," a five-unit residential row on Elm Street in Ludlow, built in 1885 by a young woman-developer, Luella M. Latta. The row housed workers and families associated with arrival of the railroad in Ludlow, but its design also acknowledged the town's earlier, pre-industrial, "gardenesque" character.

The LHS townhouse received unsympathetic commercial additions in the 1960s that compromised the architectural unity of the row and deterred private investors. Much interesting information emerged during the restoration regarding the 19th-century development of Ludlow and the materials and technologies that built it. The LHS project is having a positive effect on the row, the block, and Ludlow's main street.

Recollection: Community Voices as a Form of Preserving Places

Emily Skinner

In this presentation, Louisville historic preservation professional Emily Skinner will speak on her graduate capstone: Louisville StorySites. Her project focuses on the use of digital storytelling surrounding place and the importance of creating community partnerships as a means for cultural documentation. By creating digital stories with community members, it offers a more equitable community perspective that allows historic preservation to be a vehicle for cultural sustainability.

Unearthing Resistance through Educational Equality: A Brief Look into Daily Life at the Parker Academy from Personal Correspondence and Material Culture

Liza M. Vance, NKU Public History Student

While the Ohio River was often the dividing line between slavery and freedom, resistance to racial prejudice was not uncommon along its banks. A vision of its founders, Daniel and Priscilla Parker, the Parker Academy fought against slavery with equal education. Established in 1839, it is believed to be the first school in the United States to offer fully integrated and co-educational classrooms. Many of the Academy's lessons crossed racial borders and were boldly implemented in Kentucky through former students. Through a multidisciplinary project funded by the National Science Foundation, research into how daily life promoted equality is obtained from archival and archaeological evidence.