

Throughout the year, the DHPA frequently hosts interns from universities across the state (sometimes even from outside of Indiana). These unpaid positions are an excellent opportunity for the students to learn about real world history and preservation jobs, acquire new skills, and deliver important products for the office. During summer 2011, the DHPA hosted two students from Ball State University, Kellie Kellerhals and Jacob Dobbs. Kellie, a Masters in Historic Preservation student, worked on National Register products; while, Jacob, an undergrad in Public History, worked on research of cemeteries and outreach programs. Each student was asked to write a page about what they learned and what they got out of the internship. If you or someone you know is interested in interning at the DHPA, contact our office at 317/234-1268 or jrdinius@dnr.in.gov.

Kelli Andre Kellerhals

I am not sure what I was expecting when I agreed to spend my summer writing national register nominations for two Indiana courthouses, but I can certainly tell you I was not expecting to learn so much about Indiana's history. I am not from Indiana and I will admit that prior to starting my Master's program at Ball State, I had only been in the state once, and that was just passing through on I-65. But in writing the histories of the Jackson and Shelby County courthouses, I found myself rather impressed with the Hoosier state and its past. Indiana has a unique collection of historic buildings that differentiate it from many states, and as I have discovered, sometimes it takes an outsider to point out the uniqueness of a place to someone who is blinded by familiarity.

The process of writing a National Register of Historic Places nomination goes beyond writing the history of the property, it also involves tracing broad patterns of history statewide and nationally, and connecting those themes with your property. For example, in my research I discovered the Shelby County Courthouse was paid for partially through a grant from the Public Works Administration (PWA). So not only did I uncover the circumstances that allowed Shelby County to apply for PWA funding, but I also learned a great deal about how the PWA worked, what projects they funded, what their contributions to American architecture were, and why the Shelby County Courthouse is a rare example of a PWA Art Deco public building in the State of Indiana.

While research can be a daunting task, it is amazing how much information can easily be found when you know where to look for it. A majority of my research was conducted in the stacks of the Indiana State Library where City Directories and County Histories hold surprising amounts of information. I have always been a big fan of research; I like letting the resources guide my discovery from one book to another, never quite sure what I am going to find. Here's an example: I learned that 85 of Indiana's 92 county courthouses are located on courthouse squares. Courthouse squares are quite commonplace to the average Hoosier, but to an outsider like myself they are a completely foreign concept. I like the idea of a county proudly showcasing their stately courthouse in the middle of town, but as I found, the people of Shelby County have taken a different approach. Unlike most Indiana county seats, Shelby County's courthouse sits a few blocks south of the public square. If you have ever passed through Shelbyville you will have certainly noticed this, but have you ever known why? Simple research revealed that the

courthouse was moved from the central square in 1854 when a lot was bequeathed to the county with the stipulation it house the county courthouse.

My inquiry into the history of the Jackson County Courthouse revealed that the current Neoclassical courthouse designed by renowned architect Edwin May is actually an extensive remodel of a French Second Empire courthouse built in 1870. If you search hard enough you can still find photos of the old building, a beautiful structure in its own right, but deemed too outdated and ornate when it was given a complete overhaul in 1911.

I write all of this in my attempt to say that as I have gone through this summer, I have been continually impressed with how inquiries into the past can explain so much of the present. Whether your familiar or not with the Jackson and Shelby County courthouses, both are worthy of a visit. You might be surprised at what you find when you explore unknown places. Both courthouses should hopefully be listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the beginning of next year; a designation means that the buildings are recognized for their historic importance to their communities and the state. It's a distinction that Hoosiers can, and should, be proud of.

Jacob Dobbs

As I arrived at the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, I was excited for my first day. I knew I would be working in an office setting, otherwise, I was not sure what to expect out of this internship. This internship with the DHPA has taught me skills of the public history profession and gave me the opportunity to get hands on professional experience through various projects throughout the summer.

One of the major projects I worked on involved the use of the State Historical Architecture and Archaeology Research Database (SHARRD). This involved entering cemetery registry data and historic theater data. While the records were already in SHARRD, there was missing information to fill in. My task was to fill in as much missing information as I could. GIS is a program used to overlay maps and mark specific sites such as cemeteries, bridges, theaters, and other sites. Topographical maps along with GIS were very helpful as I could determine the section quads, township, range, and UTM coordinates. For the historic theater records, I read through many documents over movie theaters in Monroe and Vanderburgh counties.

While I was in the office, I also got to go out into the field throughout the summer to visit a few cemeteries. The first area I visited was out in Owen-Putnam State Forest. Along with my site supervisor and one of the archaeologists from the Division of Forestry, we walked through the woods to find hidden gravestones and mark coordinates using a GPS unit.

Another cemetery project dealt with some newly discovered "lost" tombstones. Back in May, there was a cemetery workshop held at the Southport Cemetery in Indianapolis where 15 stones were uncovered, as they were previously buried. I visited the cemetery

to try to determine the original location of these fifteen stones. While I could not determine all the stone locations, there were six stones I could identify and they were placed at the August Cemetery Preservation Workshop

Researching through books, microfilm, documents, and other sources was also an essential part of my internship. For a public program, my task was to research through census records from 1820 to 1860 for prominent residents of Knox County to determine who in that county owned slaves (during a time period when slavery was illegal). The census records back in the early to mid 1800s were more detailed than the census we have today, so it was easy to determine which resident was breaking the State's Constitution by owning people.

Much of my learning occurred during this internship is practical for the history profession. Digitizing photos and documents into databases is a very useful tool as digital history will become more prevalent in the profession in the future. My research skills I have learned during my courses at Ball State University were expanded during my time with the DHPA. This was also an opportunity to get experience in the field and learn how historical work is done outside of an office setting. I have enjoyed my time as an intern as this experience will help me out during my senior year of college and be useful in my career once I graduate.