

26th Annual New England Conference on Industrial Archeology

Hosted by The Southern New England Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology (SNEC-SIA)
at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, Jefferson Academic Center, Room 218
Saturday, February 23, 2013

SCHEDULE

Morning Session

9:00-9:40 A.M.
40 min.

Registration

9:40-9:45 A.M.
5 min.

Marc N. Belanger, Taunton, Massachusetts
Greetings and Opening Remarks

9:45-10:20 A.M.
35 min.

Sara E. Wermiel, PhD, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
Historical warehouses as a building type: Boston and beyond.

Warehouses – structures for the storage of goods – are an ancient building type, one of the first kinds of commercial/industrial buildings humans created. They are found around the world, and notable concentrations developed in many port cities. To fulfill their intended function, warehouses have evolved special features; this is especially true of multi-story warehouses. Yet there has been little research about this kind of building, in any single country or region, or with the aim of putting warehouses of a city – from the standpoint of function or structure – in a larger (national, transnational) context. An introduction to historical warehouses (built before the early 20th century): the locations and types, and distinctive features, of warehouses in Europe and the United States. The history of warehouses in Boston will be covered as a particular case, noting the special warehouse block that emerged in this city in the mid-19th century.

10:20-10:55 A.M.
35 min.

James Klopfer, Somers, Connecticut
Discovery of an industrial center for the manufacture of mechanical nutmeg graters: the Lynn-Saugus connection.

Between ca. 1849 to 1919, more than 250 nutmeg implements were patented and produced throughout the United States. The presentation reports the discovery of the primary industrial center where the mechanical nutmeg grater first originated; followed by a 50 year competition among several manufacturers, all situated within an eight block neighborhood in Lynn, Massachusetts.

10:55-11:10
15 min.

Short break

11:10-11:45
35 min.

Thomas E. Bonomi and Jack Leung, Quincy, Massachusetts
Cathedral in the Woods: The Lyons Turning Mill from 1893 to the Present.

The Lyons Turning Mill, located at Quarry Hills, Quincy, Massachusetts, on the Granite Links golf course, was built in 1893, produced polished columns and spheres, and was one of the largest mills of its type in the United States. The mill fulfilled contracts for many types of granite architectural pieces, some of which were used in historical buildings such as New York's Penn Station and the James Farley Post Office. After the mill went out of business in 1917 for unknown reasons, the site was abandoned and fell into disrepair until preservationists successfully petitioned to have the site placed on the historic register in 1980. The site has been cleared of overgrowth and stabilization efforts are in progress. Using historical and recent photographs, this talk will trace the history of the mill, discuss preservation efforts underway, and describe a potential archaeological survey for the site.

11:45-1:00
1 hr 15 min.

Lunch break

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Afternoon Session

1:00-1:35 P.M.
35 min.

Malcolm Phinney, Wareham, Massachusetts

Update on efforts to establish Iron Heritage Trail in Southeastern Massachusetts.

A brief history of the Iron Industry in SE Mass and its influence upon local, state, national and international culture and economy will be presented. The idea of the Heritage Iron Trail, it's importance, the benefits it can offer to the region, our present status and the goals for the future will be presented. Discussion will be encouraged throughout the presentation.

1:35-2:10 P.M.
35 min.

Johanna Rowley, West Wareham, Massachusetts

How collaborative efforts between higher education, the public and government agencies are determining reuses for the Tremont Nail Factory District.

This presentation will discuss how a collaborative effort between higher education, government agencies, and the public can work to develop a design process to find new uses for the Tremont Nail Factory District, located in Wareham, MA. The Tremont Nail Factory District has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1976. It was the site for one of the oldest cut-nail manufacturers in the nation. The company still exists in Mansfield, MA, but no longer owns the historic property which was sold to the town of Wareham in 2004. The property has been boarded up since that transfer of ownership, and due to severe financial restraints, the town has not been able to develop a long-term plan for the site. As Historic Preservation Adjunct Faculty at The Boston Architectural College, and a local resident of West Wareham, MA, I approached the Wareham Historic Commission initially to assess historic properties in the town and help them develop a disaster plan. This quickly turned into a case study focusing on Tremont Nail.

With permission from the BAC and the Wareham Historic Commission, a scope of work and curriculum has been developed so that students and I can execute and present documentation to the town. This work completes missing information that will help determine future uses for the site. Part of our work is to also involve the local communities in order to educate and create excitement about the project. We have incorporated social media and there are plans to discuss the incorporation of K-12 Education in the future in the areas of design, history and science.

2:10-2:45 P.M.
35 min.

Craig Austin, Needham, Massachusetts

Independence Gold Mine north of Palmer, Alaska

Alaska experienced a boom in gold mining just before it was purchased by the United States of America from Russia. Gold mining has taken place in a wide area and continues today. A television reality show was recently aired showing the trials of one group operating at placer locations. Many remnants of mine and prospecting operations exist, still, including the Willow Creek area northeast of Palmer Alaska, in the Talkeetna Mountains. The Independence Mine State Park is a preserved mining operation that was once the second largest gold producer in the Willow Creek Mining District, and has buildings in various conditions where people can walk along prepared trails and historical signs that describe the site. This presentation will lightly cover the history of gold mining in Alaska and describe major areas; summarize the gold mining and refining process; show the operation at Independence Mine State Park; and briefly cover gold mining in New England as a comparison.

2:45-3:15 P.M.
30 min.

Peter Stott, Boston, Massachusetts

A Report of the 15th International TICCIH Congress, Taipei, Taiwan

The Society for Industrial Archeology represents the United States in The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH). This brief presentation will review the five-day 15th International Congress held this past November in Taiwan.

3:15-3:30 P.M.
15 min.

Short break

3:30-4:30 P.M.

SNEC-SIA Elections and Meeting