

# TRAVIS D. OLSON

---

1706 Woodvale Drive • Madison, WI 53716 • Phone: 715.820.0354 • tdolson@wisc.edu

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D Art & Architectural History; University of Wisconsin (matriculated 2018)**

**2015 M.A. Historic Preservation; University of Delaware, School of Public Policy and Administration**  
Capstone: “With Pen-Knife in Hand: A New Methodology for the Analysis of Graffiti within Quaker Meeting Houses” (Awarded Plenary Address at 2015 University of Delaware Graduate Student Forum)

**2010 B.A. Art & Architectural History, Theatre & Drama – Design, and Psychology;**  
**University of Wisconsin, College of Letters and Science**  
Certification: Material Culture Studies, European Studies  
Capstone: “Dismantling the Ivory Tower: The Life and Times of the Mosse Humanities Building”

## POSITIONS HELD

**2016- 2018 Architectural Researcher, City of Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Planning and Preservation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**2017-2018 Sales & Design Lead, Philadelphia Salvage Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**2015-2016 Architectural Historian, AD Marble, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania**

**2013-2015 Research Assistant, University of Delaware, Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD), Newark, Delaware**

**2014 Project Intern, State of Delaware, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (SHPO)**  
Project: National Register Nomination: Buena Vista, New Castle County, Delaware

**2014 Project Intern, Indiana Landmarks, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana**  
Project: Recognizing the LGBT History of Indianapolis

**2011-2013 Architectural Surveyor, Indiana DNR: Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology (SHPO), Indianapolis, Indiana**

**2008-2010 Instructor, UW Pre-College Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence (PEOPLE)**

**2010 Project Assistant, Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, Madison, Wisconsin**  
Project: Sunset Hills Mid-Century Modernism

**2010 Architectural Archivist, Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation-Public History (SHPO), Madison, Wisconsin**

**2009 Project Assistant to Dr. James P. Danky, University of Wisconsin, Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, Wisconsin**  
Exhibition: Underground Classics: The Transformation of Comics into Comix

## SPECIALIZED STUDY

**2017 North Dakota Field School, Assistant Instructor.** Led by Drs. Anna Andrzejewski and Thomas Carter through the University of Wisconsin, a vernacular architecture field school focused on architectural documentation, investigation of local history, and collection of oral history in Stark and Hettinger Counties, North Dakota.

- 2015**      **Museum SWAT**, Paper Conservation Lead. Led by Dr. Katherine Grier through the University of Delaware Museum Studies Program, a grant-funded collections management program with the aim of rescuing an in-need local history repository.
- 2014**      **Darby Field School**, Documentation Team Lead. Led by Dr. Rebecca Sheppard through the University of Delaware Historic Preservation Program, an architectural documentation and historic preservation field school. The project's output is intended for the 2019 Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.
- 2014**      **Chicago Field School**, Documentation Lead. Led by Virginia Price (Architectural Historian), Dr. David A. Spatz (Yale University), Dr. D. Bradford Hunt (Roosevelt University), Dr. Arijit Sen (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Dr. Andrew Sandoval-Strausz (University of New Mexico). An architectural documentation field school in preparation for the 2015 Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting in Chicago.
- 2014**      **Study Abroad, Housing and Neighborhoods in the Netherlands: The Role of Development, Redevelopment, Preservation and Planning**, Participant. A preservation and planning study abroad program led by Dr. Steven Peuquet through the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware, through which we studied city planning and the role of historic preservation in six Dutch cities.
- 2014**      **Winterthur Study Abroad, English Design History**, Participant. A material culture, preservation, and conservation program led by Dr. Brock Jobe and Greg Landry (Winterthur Museum), through which we studied English Design History from 1600-1940 in Delaware, Philadelphia, Washington DC, New York City, London, Stoke-on-Trent, and Bath, England.
- 2011**      **Chipstone Foundation, Object Lab**, Participant. A material culture and museum studies program led by Drs. Jonathan Prown and Ethan Lasser (Chipstone Foundation), with guest lectures by Drs. Jules Prown (Yale University), Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (Harvard University), and Ann Smart Martin (University of Wisconsin) through which we studied methodologies of material culture studies.
- 2009**      **Wiota Field School**, Participant. Led by Drs. Anna Andrzejewski and Janet Gilmore (University of Wisconsin) and Dr. Thomas Carter (University of Utah) through the University of Wisconsin, a vernacular architecture field school focused on architectural documentation, investigation of local history, and collection of oral history based in southwestern Wisconsin in preparation for the 2012 Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting in Madison.
- 2007-08**      **London Study Abroad**, Participant. Led by Dr. Barbara Clayton of the University of Wisconsin. A theatre-based study-abroad program. My individual focus was on theatrical design history in the Western World.

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- “To Make a Public House is to Make a House Public: The Creation and Evolution of Taverns in Northwestern Delaware”  
 Essay solicited for publication in *Buildings & Landscapes* (estimated completion autumn 2018)
- “The Promotion of Glass and Iron: Eugene Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc’s Influence on Victor Horta’s *Maison du Peuple*.”  
*Northwestern Art Review*, iss. 4. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University. Spring 2010.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS IN CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- “Historic Context Statement: Public Squares in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1682-1981” (Currently under SHPO review)
- With Anna V. Andrzejewski “St. Louis Ordnance Plant (Plant #2) St. Louis Job Corps Site, State Level Documentation  
 “Historic Narrative and Individual Building Narratives” MDNR Project No. 344-SL-12, January 2017.
- With Richard White “Phase I: Cultural Resource Investigation Atlantic City Electric Lenox to Lewis Rebuild Project, Egg

Harbor and Galloway Townships, Atlantic County, New Jersey,” on file at the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, NJ, May 2016.

With Richard White “Phase I: Cultural Resource Investigation Atlantic City Electric Monsanto to Gibbstown Rebuild Project, Logan and Greenwich Townships, Gloucester County, New Jersey,” on file at the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, NJ, May 2016.

With Richard White “Phase I: Cultural Resource Investigation Atlantic City Electric Corson-Sea Isle-Swainton Rebuild Project, Cape May County, New Jersey,” on file at the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, NJ, April 2016.

With Richard White and Brook Gabel “Phase I Environmental and Cultural Investigation of the Former Pottstown Industrial Site,” March 2016.

Selected State-Level Recordation Forms & National Register Eligibility Recommendations (Pennsylvania):

Passyunk Square, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania (CRGIS Key #203392)

The Duck Farm Hotel, Allentown City, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania (CRGIS Key #202541)

McDowell-Stofflet Farmstead, East Allen Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania (CRGIS Key #202560)

Bernheisel Mill Complex, Tyrone Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania (CRGIS Key #202034)

Livingston-Williams Farm, Latimore Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania (CRGIS Key #101463)

National Register of Historic Places:

Briggs & Stratton Corporation West Plant, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI (In progress)

Buena Vista (Amended Nomination), New Castle Vicinity, New Castle County, DE, #71000228 (Under review)

Darby Friends Meeting House (Amended Nomination), Darby Borough, Delaware County, PA, #78002392.

With Katherine Grier and Megan Hutchins “Collections SWAT 2014: Milton Historical Society, Final Report” University of Delaware, Museum Studies Program, March 2014.

Selected State-Level Recordation Forms (Delaware):

Phase I: Milton Historic District Re-Survey, Town of Milton, Sussex County, Delaware. Report on file at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

Phase II: Milton Historic District Re-Survey, Town of Milton, Sussex County, Delaware. Report on file at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

Phase I: Lewes Historic District Re-Survey, Town of Milton, Sussex County, Delaware. Report on file at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

Contributor, “Indiana’s Cultural Resources Management Plan, 2013-2019” Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, December 2012.

Contributor, *Daviess County Interim Report*, Indianapolis: Indiana Landmarks Foundation, Inc. 2013.

Contributor, *Pike & Gibson Counties Interim Report*, Indianapolis: Indiana Landmarks Foundation, Inc. 2013.

Selected State-Level Recordation Forms and Public History Narratives (Indiana):

Thomas C. Singleton Round Barn, Veale Township, Daviess County, Indiana (IHSSI #027-571-35084)

Houchins Ditch Bridge, Logan Township, Pike County, Indiana (IHSSI #125-508-16001)

Dobson Hotel, Mitcheltree Township, Martin County, Indiana (IHSSI #101-297-00030)

Johannes Deckard Cemetery, Clear Creek Township, Monroe County, Indiana (IHSSI #105-009-75008)

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana (IHSSI #105-055-26395)

## **ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTATION PACKAGES**

On file at the Center for Historic Architecture and Design:

Hearns & Rawlins Mill, Northwest Fork Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware (CHAD #2015.01.0001.01)

Plank House #2, Marcus Hook, Delaware County, Pennsylvania (CHAD #2014.01.0012.01)

Grantham-Edwards-McComb House, Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, DE (CHAD #2014.01.0013.01)

White Clay Creek Dam #1, White Clay Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (CHAD #2011.01.0003.01)

Sunnybrook Cottage/Sanitarium, Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (CHAD #2014.01.0016.01)  
Holly Oak, Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (CHAD #2014.01.0015.01)  
Darby Friends Meetinghouse, Darby Borough, Delaware County, Pennsylvania (CHAD #2014.01.0005.01)  
New York City Oyster Barge, New Haven, New Haven County, Connecticut (CHAD #2014.01.0003.01)  
Newark Union Church, Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (CHAD #2014.01.0001.01)  
Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Lock #1, Delaware City, New Castle County, Delaware (CHAD #2012.01.003.01)  
Penn Farm, New Castle Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (CHAD #2011.01.0004.01)  
Cann Farm, Pencader Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (CHAD #2001.01.0043.01)  
Alrichs-Kux House, St. George's Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (CHAD #1988.01.003.01)

Prepared for the Vernacular Architecture Forum 2015 Annual Meeting: *Out of the Loop: Chicago*

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, South Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
West 26<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape, Little Village Neighborhood, Chicago, Illinois  
Christiana Street Residential Site Plan, Little Village Neighborhood, Chicago, Illinois  
Devon Avenue Streetscape, West Ridge (Little India) Neighborhood, Chicago, Illinois  
Ghareeb Nawaz, West Ridge (Little India) Neighborhood, Chicago, Illinois  
Lawndale Missionary Baptist Church, North Lawndale Neighborhood, Chicago, Illinois  
Stone Temple Baptist Church, North Lawndale Neighborhood, Chicago, Illinois  
Chicago Public Housing Project – Wentworth Gardens, Armour Square Neighborhood, Chicago, Illinois  
Meyer's Hardware/Sunset Café, Bronzeville Neighborhood, Chicago, Illinois

Prepared for the Vernacular Architecture Forum 2014 Annual Meeting: *Down Jersey: From Bayshore to Seashore*

Captain J. E. Avis House, Mauricetown, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Prepared for the Vernacular Architecture Forum 2012 Annual Meeting:

Mosel House, Third Lake Ridge Neighborhood, Madison, Wisconsin  
John & Eden Harker House, Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin  
Cooper House, Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2015 "With Pen-Knife in Hand: A New Methodology for the Analysis of Graffiti within Quaker Meeting Houses" Plenary paper given at the University of Delaware Annual Graduate Student Forum, Newark, Delaware, April 2015.
- 2015 "With Pen-Knife in Hand: A New Methodology in Analyzing Graffiti within Quaker Meeting Houses." Paper delivered at the Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference, Blacksburg, Virginia, March 2015.
- 2014 "The Mermaid "Inn" Delaware: The Role of Rural Taverns within the Transportation and Communication Networks of Northern Delaware." Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, Galloway Township, NJ, May 2014.
- 2014 "Delaware's Mermaid: The Role of Rural Taverns within the Transportation and Communication Networks of Northern Delaware." Paper delivered at the University of Delaware Annual Graduate Student Forum, Newark, Delaware, April 2014.
- 2011 "Building in Revolt: The George L. Mosse Humanities Building." Paper delivered at the biennial meeting of the Mid-America American Studies Association, Madison, WI, April 2011.
- 2010 "Dismantling the Ivory Tower: The Life and Times of the George L. Mosse Humanities Building." Paper delivered at the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Fifth Annual Symposium on the Built Environment, St. Paul, MN, September 2010.

2010 “The Italian Workmen’s Club and the Immigration of Italian Culture to Madison, Wisconsin.” Paper delivered at Object as Interface: A Material Culture Symposium, Madison, WI, March 2010

## OTHER PRESENTATIONS

2015 “Buena Vista.” Paper delivered at the Center for Historic Architecture and Design Research Symposium, New Castle, Delaware, May 2015.

2015 “When I Went Down to Darby: The History and Documentation of the Darby Friends Meeting House.” Public lecture at the Delaware County Historical Society, Chester, Pennsylvania, May 2015.

2014 “Preservation on Paper: Documenting Quaker Meetinghouses in the Delaware Valley.” Invited speaker at the opening of the *Silent Witness* exhibition, Hockessin Friends Meeting House, Hockessin, Delaware, September 2014.

2014 “Taverns in New Castle County, The Development of a Historic Context.” Paper delivered at the Center for Historic Architecture and Design Research Symposium, New Castle, Delaware, May 2014.

2014 “Into the Twentieth Century: Unrest and Change in British Design 1900-1950.” Written with Sarah Leonard. Public lecture given at Winterthur Museum and Library, Winterthur, Delaware, February 2014.

## HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2015 Recipient, Graduate Student Forum Plenary Award, University of Delaware Office of Graduate and Professional Education

2015 Project featured in the April 3, 2015 *New York Times* article “An 1850s-Era Oyster Barge Is Saved for Yet Another Life on the East River”

2015 Project featured in the January 2015 *National Geographic* article “Movement to Take Down Thousands of Dams goes Mainstream”

2014 Recipient, Professional Development Award, University of Delaware Office of Graduate and Professional Education, to present at the Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference

2014 Project featured in an article published in the Spring 2014 issue of *Preservation Magazine*

2014 Recipient, Vernacular Architecture Forum Student Ambassador Award, to attend the annual meeting in Galloway Township, New Jersey (shared)

2014 Recipient, Pamela H. Simpson Presenter’s Fellowship, to attend the annual meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum

2014 Student Ambassador Scholarship, University of Delaware School of Public Policy and Administration, to study abroad in the Netherlands

2013 Scholarship, Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, to study abroad in the United Kingdom

2013 Scholarship, Center for Historic Architecture and Design, to study abroad in the United Kingdom

2013-2015 CHAD Fellowship, Full-time tuition scholar and graduate research assistantship

2010 Fellowship, Chipstone Object Lab, Chipstone Foundation and the Milwaukee Museum of Art, for the participation in a summer institute focused on American material culture

2005-2009 Recipient, Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship for high school valedictorians providing funding for four years of education within the University of Wisconsin system

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

**Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia**, 2016-Present

**Vernacular Architecture Forum**, 2011-Present

**Society of Architectural Historians**, 2013-Present

**National Trust for Historic Preservation Leadership Forum**, 2014-Present

**National Barn Alliance**, 2013-Present

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

### **Vernacular Architecture Forum**

VAF Bibliographer, appointed 2017.

### **University of Wisconsin, Department of Art History**

Volunteer instructor for UW's Department of Art History summer field school in Stark County, North Dakota. Taught field methods and documentation alongside Drs. Anna Andrzejewski and Thomas Carter, summer 2017.

### **International Association of Emergency Managers—Delaware Disaster Assistance Team (IAEM-DDAT)**

Assisted in the development of building and collection preservation programs for five museum sites within the state of Delaware.

### **University of Delaware Faculty/Staff LGBT Caucus**

Graduate Representative, 2014-2015.

### **University of Delaware, Graduate Student Government**

Secretary, LGBT Ad-Hoc Committee, 2013-2015.

### **University of Delaware, Museum Studies Program**

Served on the program's Museums SWAT Team, a community-outreach program which focuses on museum collections planning to inventory and catalog the museum holdings as part of a state-wide cultural resources disaster planning initiative. Milton Historical Society, 2015.

### **University of Wisconsin, Material Culture Focus Group**

Undergraduate Chair, 2008-2010

### **Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation**

Co-Organizer of "The Architecture of Harry Weese" a public lecture series held in joint cooperation of the University of Wisconsin and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Madison, WI, October 2010.

## **ONLINE PORTFOLIO**

<http://travolsn.wix.com/portfolio>