

TERM PROJECT

UURB 2502 -- Historic Preservation

You will have two options for the final project in this course. In either case, the project will be worth 200 points, or 40% of final grade. Each student, regardless of the option chosen, will give a 10-minute presentation on their work during the last two weeks. Proposals are due on Wednesday, April 8th. Projects are due Monday, May 18th.

Option One

For the first option, you will work individually or in small groups to prepare interpretations of an existing historic resource. Each group will identify the resource, document it, describe and critically interpret it, and propose an intervention.

The feature that your group examines may be a tangible artifact such as a building, structure, district, streetscape, watercourse, utility, construction material, or interrelated set of components. Or the feature may be an intangible artifact, such as a performance, oral tradition, craft, dialect, knowledge system, or other practice.

The intervention may take many forms, from an official nomination (see me for formats) to an interpretive program, to an alteration or adaptive reuse. The project should be rendered as a report of no more than ten pages that incorporates text, citations, maps, architectural drawings, photographs, and other materials.

The challenge of the final project is to devise a scheme for the responsible, informed public interpretation of a historic resource. Proposals should balance the following elements: creative and aesthetic goals; community needs; existing preservation ordinances, land use laws, and funding concerns. Proposals should also detail ways in which neighborhoods, community groups, or organizations can participate in the development of the project.

Option Two

For the second option, you will design an individual project that explores a key theme of the course in detail, such as memory and the built environment, or the problem of authenticity, or the tension between tangible and intangible heritage.

This exploration may take many forms, including essays, poems, drawings, photographs, collage, design schemes, 3D artifacts, or a combination of media. If you elect to work in a medium other than an essay, your project should be accompanied by a 2-3 page statement that explains and expands on the work, placing it into the context of the course, and identifying how it responds to a major issue in historic preservation.