8th Annual Calumet Heritage Conference

Beyond Artifacts: The Living Element in Industrial Heritage Areas

Schedule of Events

8:30 am  REGISTRATION and EXHIBITS
Chicago State University - New Academic Library - 4th Floor Auditorium

9:00 am  WELCOMING REMARKS
Mark Bouman, President, Calumet Heritage Partnership

The Next Day, and the Next: Doing History After Demolition

Dr. Sharon Ann Holt, Director, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH), Rutgers University

10:30 am  EXHIBITS

11:00 am  Extending the Labor Trail to the Calumet Region

Dr. Leon Fink and Jeffrey Helgeson, University of Illinois - Chicago, Center for Working-Class Studies

Beyond the Coke Plant: New Developments on the Acme Steel Museum Project

Dr. Mark Bouman, Chicago State University
Marian Byrnes, Calumet Heritage Partnership

12:00 pm  LUNCH

1:00 pm  PULLMAN TOUR  Dr. Jane Eva Baxter, DePaul University
Acknowledgments

The Calumet Heritage Partnership is run entirely by volunteers and has no paid staff. We are especially grateful to those who donate time and effort throughout the year to the work of the Partnership, especially those who serve on the Board. A heartfelt thank you to all who helped make the conference a success, including Kate Fleming of the New Academic Library at Chicago State University, who always helps the University to puts its best foot forward; Mike Siola, Research Specialist with the Calumet Environmental Resource Center, in charge of most of the logistics; Steve McShane of the Calumet Regional Archives at Indiana University Northwest for underwriting the cost of the brochures; Mike Wagenbach, Site Supervisor and Linda Beierle Bullen, Curator at the Pullman State Historic Site for setting up the tour; the Historic Pullman Foundation and Pullman Civic Organization; those who brought exhibits; the presenters; and all who volunteered to help out.

Conference Cosponsors

Calumet Heritage Partnership

Chicago State University/
Calumet Environmental Resource Center

Conference Planning Committee

Mark Bouman
Marian Byrnes
Michael Longan
Stephen McShane
Michael Siola
Presenter Biographies

Sharon Ann Holt is Director of Programs for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH) at Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey. In this role she initiated the joint city and citizen collaboration to save the endangered Bethlehem Steel site in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and she also directed the development of “Walt Whitman in Camden” tour, New Jersey’s first official heritage tourism effort. She has helped to guide the launch of MARCH, which is a National Endowment for the Humanities-supported regional non-profit dedicated to improving regional cultural practice. Among other things this involved completing the strategic planning process for MARCH, securing initial corporate interest for a regional demonstration project initiative, and conceptualizing and creating text for the website. She nurtured a collaboration of scholars, citizens and the Independence National Historic Park amidst the President’s House/Liberty Bell Center controversy. This mix of responsibilities draws on her academic training in history (B.A. Vassar, Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania), religion and public policy (MTS, Harvard), and fundraising and non-profit management (University of Pennsylvania), but it also reflects a career as a “public historian”, in places such as the South Street Seaport Museum in New York, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. In the places she has served as exhibition curator, editor, and educator. She is the author of Making Freedom Pay: North Carolina freed people working for themselves, 1865-1900 (University of Georgia Press, 2000, paperback 2002, reprinted 2004). CHP conference attendees might especially be interested in her article in the Spring 2006 issue of The Public Historian entitled “History keeps Bethlehem Steel from going off the rails: Moving a complex community process toward success.”

Jeffrey Helgeson is the administrative director of “The Labor Trail,” an interactive map of Chicago’s labor and working-class history. Over the past three years, he has been running workshops and bus tours based on the Labor Trail with Chicago Public School teachers, academics, undergraduate students, union members, and the general public. He is also a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in the history department’s concentration in Work, Race, and Gender in the Urban World, and he is currently completing his dissertation, “Striving in Black Chicago: Migration, Class, and Neighborhood Politics, 1935-1965.”

Leon Fink is UIC Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he also directs the PhD concentration in the History of Work, Race, and Gender in the Urban World and edits the journal, Labor: Studies in Working Class History of the Americas. A specialist in labor and immigration history, his most recent book is The Maya of Morganton: Work and Community in the Nuevo New South (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003). He serves on the Steering Committee of the Chicago Center for Working-Class Studies, and serves as the Project Director of the Center’s “Labor Trail” map of Chicago.
Marian Byrnes has been a leader of the environmental movement on Chicago’s Southeast Side ever since the beginning in 1980. She has been a co-founder of the Committee to Protect the Prairie (1980), the CURE coalition (Citizens United to Reclaim the Environment, 1985), the 32nd District Environmental Task Force (an action arm of State Representative Clem Balanoff’s office, 1989), the Calumet Ecological Park Association (1992), the Southeast Environmental Task Force (1994), and the Calumet Heritage Partnership (1998). These organizations have worked in partnership, often in a leadership role, with many other organizations on a wide range of environmental issues: stopping the spread of landfills; shutting down the Chemical Waste toxic incinerator; protecting wetlands and other lands of high ecological value; reducing/cleaning up pollution of air, water and land; stopping the proposed Lake Calumet Airport; organizing communities for Good Neighbor Dialogues with industry to explore possibilities for reducing emissions even beyond EPA requirements; stopping the U.S. Navy from bringing 23,000,000 pounds of napalm from California for disposal at Pollution Control Industries in East Chicago; participating in planning for the many projects of the Calumet Stewardship Initiative; and preserving historic industrial artifacts from the abandoned Acme Blast Furnace and Acme Coke Plant.

Mark Bouman has been a Professor of Geography at Chicago State University since 1984. At the University he co-founded the Fredrick Blum Neighborhood Assistance Center and the Calumet Environmental Resource Center and he chaired his department for nine years. He facilitated the startup of the Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership, is an active member of the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, and currently is the President of the Calumet Heritage Partnership. With Richard P. Greene and Dennis Grammenos, Mark recently co-edited Chicago’s Geographies: Metropolis for the 21st Century (Association of American Geographers, 2006). He is currently developing an online exhibit of maps to be called “Maps in the Public Square: An Atlas of the Next Chicago Region”, to be shown as part of the city’s Festival of Maps this winter. He started his academic life in the Calumet region at Valparaiso University and continued it for graduate degrees at the University of Minnesota (the midpoint between his grandfather’s childhood home of Calumet, Michigan and his wife’s near the Calumet Hotel in southwestern Minnesota. Hmm.)

Jane Eva Baxter is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at DePaul University. She is a historical archaeologist who has been working in the field for over twenty years, and who received her doctorate from the University of Michigan in 2000. Her research interests include the archaeology of childhood, industrial archaeology, and the archaeology of social change and transformation. Currently, she conducts two field projects with DePaul students: the first is a long-term program focusing on the history and archaeology of the Pullman community, and the second is a project focusing on slavery and emancipation in the Bahamas. She is the author of two books, several journal articles, and has presented over forty papers at professional meetings. She recently became a homeowner in the Pullman Historic District.
DIRECTIONS TO PULLMAN TOUR:

Ample street parking is available in Pullman near the Hotel Florence and on Cottage Grove Avenue at 111th Street. The guided tour for Calumet Heritage Conference participants is offered under special arrangement independent of the concurrent community house tour event -- conference participants should congregate at the Hotel Florence Rose Garden, under the large old Ash tree adjacent the south entrance to the Hotel Florence lawn, across from Pullman's Arcade Park. Participants are advised there are no washroom facilities on the Pullman Factory site; however, the Florence Hotel will be available for bio-breaks before and after the tour.

Allow a minimum of 1 hour for the walking tour.

Exit the CSU campus at the main entrance (A) on 95th Street. Turn RIGHT onto East 95TH ST (US-12). Go East 0.6 miles to the 2nd stoplight . Turn RIGHT onto COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE. Go South 2.1 miles to (B) 11141 S. COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE.
The INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ARCHIVES OF 
CHICAGO’S CALUMET REGION

The Industrial Heritage Archive of Chicago’s Calumet Region is an online virtual museum of images that commemorate and celebrate the historic industries and workers of Chicago’s Calumet Region. The steel, coke, and transportation industries of this region were instrumental in the early development of American industry and its growth throughout the twentieth century. With the loss of these historic industries, it is critical to promote and provide an easily accessible means to the public of understanding our country’s industrial growth, the evolution of that history, and the reasons for its evaporation in today’s technological world. This new public resource has been made available through a Library Science and Technology Act grant through the Illinois State Library. The images are now available on the Illinois Digital Archives (IDA) at www.idaillinois.org and will be available as the Industrial Heritage Archives of Chicago’s Calumet Region through the individual organizations’ websites as of Nov. 5, 2007.

The Pullman State Historic Site, the Southeast Chicago Historical Society, and the Calumet Heritage Partnership (Chicago Steel Heritage Project) have partnered to preserve historic images of the Calumet region’s factories, structures, equipment, and workers. Our hope is to educate future generations about the development of regional transportation and the heavy industries of communities such as South Chicago, South Deering, Riverdale, the East Side, Roseland, Pullman, and Hegewisch. In today’s world, so few of these historical industrial sites still exist or remain viable industries that many children today will grow up never seeing an operating steel mill or manufacturing plant, or knowing workers who have manned an assembly line or taken part in the industries that enabled our country to grow and prosper throughout the twentieth century. The collection, preservation, documentation, and dissemination of industrial archives form a priceless link between our past, present and future.

The Pullman State Historic Site museum (www.pullman-museum.org) focuses on their special collection archive of images and information relating to Pullman and Roseland history. The grant project focuses on Pullman’s industrial and labor history featuring historic photographs of the 1881 Pullman Palace Car Company, George Pullman’s Town of Pullman, and the town of Roseland; related maps and other materials are also included. The Pullman Company continued its transportation activities into the 1980s and the selection will include visuals representing all the eras of Pullman production. It will include images from well-known Pullman photographers, including Henry R. Koopman, J. W. Taylor, Thomas S. Johnson, John P. Van Vorst, and Melvin C. Horn. Many of the visuals illuminate the lives of the workers in the Town of Pullman and the community of Roseland as well as showcase the Pullman factory and its historic train cars.
The Southeast Chicago Historical Society (www.neiu.edu/~reseiler) curates a collection particularly strong in materials related to industrial and labor history. Included in their collection are artifacts related to numerous industries in the area including Wisconsin Steel, United States Steel South Works, Republic Steel, Acme Coke /Interlake Steel, Valley Mould, and others. Materials digitized from this collection focus on industries in the Calumet region other than Pullman and Acme/Interlake Steel. This includes several major steel mills including U. S. Steel, Wisconsin Steel, and Republic Steel. Other area industries such as General Mills, the State Line Generating Station, and local shipyards are also included. Labor activities, especially the Memorial Day Massacre of 1937, related to these industries and local millgate communities including South Chicago, South Deering, the East Side and Hegewisch are featured.

The Acme Steel Company collection is currently under the control of the Calumet Heritage Partnership (www.calumetheritage.org), a group that serves the greater Calumet region, including much of northern Indiana. CHP includes environmental, cultural and historical organizations, individuals, libraries, educational institutions, municipalities, and government agencies committed to celebrating, preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region. Due to the loss of opportunity to create the Steel Heritage Museum at the Acme Coke plant, and its ongoing demolition, the Partnership group and friends have, over the past two years, rescued a large collection of blueprints, photographs, and other materials. The importance of this collection has made it the focus of the Calumet Heritage Partnership for this digitizing grant. The Acme Steel section of the archives includes the digitization of Acme corporate-made photographs of employees and production equipment, aerial views, catalogs, booklets, and maps and other artifacts.

Funding for this grant was awarded by the Illinois State Library (ISL), a Division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).