

## Historic Preservation for Professionals

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diary" for many Amish communities. One thinks of a slower-paced blog or wiki. *The Budget* began in 1890 and was used historically by a range of Amish and Mennonite groups; *Die Botschaft* was founded in 1976 to address a more restricted Old Order audience. Nolt's chapter is followed by Karen Johnson-Weiner's chapter on Amish publishing houses, which were started to meet a demand for Amish school textbooks. Gordonville, Pennsylvania, reprints standard textbooks, such as the McGuffey Readers, while Pathway Publishers (Aylmer, Ontario, and LaGrange, Indiana) produces original literature that is self-consciously Old Order. Amish people communicate with one another in many ways with little dependence on mass media to do it for them.

*The Amish and the Media* does well in tracing the current state of media treatment of Amish communities and the ways the Amish shape their own modes of communication. Reaching back further in time would strengthen the collection; the complex relationship of media and Amish did not begin with *Witness*. For this task, there is David Weaver-Zercher's *The Amish in the American Imagination* (2001) and David Walbert's *Garden Spot: Lancaster County, the Old Order Amish, and the Selling of Rural America* (2002). In any event, the book under review will prepare readers for the next Amish media feeding frenzy, whatever it turns out to be.

*Historic Preservation for Professionals*, by Virginia O. Benson and Richard Klein. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2008. x, 242 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. \$35.00 paper.

Reviewer Paula A. Mohr is an architectural historian and the certified local government coordinator at the State Historical Society of Iowa. Her research interests include nineteenth-century public architecture and sacred spaces.

*Historic Preservation for Professionals* is a "state of the field" textbook supplemented with a description of the numerous career opportunities in the field of historic preservation. It provides a useful overview of the preservation movement, especially for individuals interested in entering the field of preservation and for those just beginning their careers. Authors Virginia O. Benson and Richard Klein teach historic preservation and urban design at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University.

In addition to its intended audience, the book also has value for more experienced preservationists. Chapters that describe the passage of historic preservation legislation, recount early and pivotal preservation battles, and detail important preservation organizations and private sector involvement are a constructive summary of the preservation

field in the United States. A final chapter titled "The Future of Preservation" examines the effects of urban sprawl, globalization, and changing demographics and identifies the potential opportunities for preservationists to reverse prevailing trends.

Besides the topics one would logically expect to be addressed in a preservation book of this type, the authors included a chapter on architectural styles in the United States. It is no small task to attempt to summarize 500 years of architectural history with the aid of only a few illustrations. Although the authors are to be commended for including ranch houses and Post-Modernism along with Colonial, Stick, and Romantic styles, they do not discuss vernacular architecture or acknowledge that few buildings fit neatly into stylistic categories. Additionally, much of this chapter appears to be based on scholarship and style guides from more than 20 years ago. Mostly, this architectural history seems out of place in a book about preservation policy, legislation, and heritage tourism.

It is also curious what this book does *not* cover. It is apparent that the authors see historic preservation largely in terms of standing structures, neighborhoods, and cultural landscapes. They do provide a brief discussion of the protection of archaeological sites and archaeology's potential for heritage tourism, but this topic does not receive as much attention as historic buildings. In a concluding chapter on trends and future directions for the field, there is only a surprisingly brief discussion of sustainability and the green movement. Preservationists have long seen themselves as environmentalists, believing that "the greenest building is the one already built." The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Web site ([www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)) reveals that at least in the mind of that important preservation organization, linking preservation to sustainable development is not only pragmatic for the future of the movement but also is a logical extension of what preservationists do. It is likely that sustainability will continue to be a focus and will be an important career path for the next generation of preservationists.