

Semester Break

Half-way through the second semester. So what did I do during break but go to a preservation conference at Goucher! Cultural Landscapes. I had been hearing the phrase but couldn't pin down in my mind what it meant. The definition is so broad. The conference is hosted by Goucher every two years; one of the texts for the first semester course was the result of the first conference. There were folks from all over the U.S., lots of Phd.s and landscape architects. The conference consists of the presentation of 15 papers by the authors with discussion after each set of three. One of my classmates, Carrie, from San Diego was there. Her job paid to send her.

I am pretty much on track with my assignments. Finished the third assignment for documentation class. I did the first three on Wilna, where I grew up. I had much of the research already done for my article on Wilna. I had to take the information and rearrange it. First paper was on Wilna, second on Union Chapel Church, and the third on the Mills of Harford County. Of course, there is more to it. I tended to approach it more from the history research format: in other words, a little too boring. The instructor, Dr. Antoinette Lee, said that we have to "strike the right balance of engaging the reader and historical fact." I was a bit too influenced by all the existing documentation that I have read on the historic sites lists -- none of it would meet her standards, that's for sure! So I am striving to that level. Haven't gotten the grade back on the third paper yet, hope I am getting closer to achieving that balance.

Now I switch gears and go local for the second half of the semester. We are to pick one project and develop a National Register submission for it. So I am going to do the Lutherville Colored School. Hopefully then, I can use that result to actually submit one for the museum.

Making progress on the data needed for Peerless Rockville report. I have almost 60 of the member surveys returned and tallied. Those results only are due the end of the month. Now have to get the interviews done. That will take some time, I imagine I will have to take several trips to Rockville; hopefully, I can get several interviews done on the same day. It's the report that will be the real work! So I am going to try to get the documentation done early to have the remainder of semester to work on the report. But I know what usually happens to good intentions!!!