THE HUES OF HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS

Pioneering Places for Preservation & Growth

By Elisha Bettencourt
Project Overview

- Site located in Hadley MA.
- Rich CT River Valley area
- Mix of existing buildings & land
- Former dairy farm est. 1816
- Related to the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum across the street
- Phelps Farm house is still largely unexplored.
Major Questions

How does this research contribute to new ways of:

- **Providing Preservation Work**
  This work is utilizing methods old and new for analyzing integrity and scope of work needed.

- **Designing Site Narratives**
  This work explores the collaboration of historic and environmentally driven interpretation work.

- **Use in Tandem**
  This work highlights the opportunity for historic resources to combine and function together.

- **Adding New Elements**
  This work is researching how new design can assist historic sites with interpretation, accessibility, and more.
Objectives

Areas of interest & goals for the project include:

- Establish Relationships with New & Old Construction
- Grow a New Type of Historic Resource
- Link Historical Narratives with the Environment
Literature Analysis

- The Influential Mind
  - Tali Sharot, 2017

- Anarchist’s Guide to Historic House Museums
  - F. Vagnone & D. Ryan, 2016

- The New Old House
  - Marc Kristal, 2017

- Old Buildings, New Designs
  - H. Hardy & C. Blozis, 2011

- Building Reuse: Sustainability, Preservation, & the Value of Design
  - Kathryn Rogens Merlino, 2018

- Adaptive Reuse: Extending the Lives of Buildings
  - Liliane Wong, 2016

- “Classrooms are Going Green”
  - Samantha Cleaver, 2007

- “Let’s Sustain This: A Review”
  - Leah Glaser, 2014

- Reinventing the Museum
  - Gail Anderson, 2012

- A Richer Heritage
  - Robert E. Strife, 2003

- Buying Time for Heritage
  - J. Myrick Howard, 2007

- Bending the Future: 50 Ideas for the Next 50 Years of Historic Preservation...
  - Max Page & Marla Miller, 2016

- Principles of Ecological Landscape Design
  - Travis Beek, 2013

- Silent Spring
  - Leah Glaser, 1962

- Cradle to Cradle...
  - W. McDonough & M. Braungart, 2009
Highlights of Hadley

Colonial Origins

Diverse Wildlife

Rich Ecology

Traditional Farming

Natural Resources

Native American Tribes
- Nipmuck Tribe
- Pocumtuck Tribe

Tribes That Also Used Area
- Paleo Indians
- Archaic Indians
- Abinaki Tribe
- Nonotuck Tribe
This is a union & reunion
+ Leasable farmland will increase
- Assume maintenance & more property responsibilities
+ Expand foundation & mission
+ Add to interpretation of the area & family
- Coordinate use & function of 2 properties

Combined Acreage: 78 Acres
Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family
Hadley MA

Phelps Farm (PF) House
1816

Porter-Phelps-Huntington (PPH) House
1752

PPH House Men’s Study
Charles Porter Phelps
(1772 – 1857)

-Harvard Graduate:
Lawyer/merchant/designer/builder/farmer/ Hadley Representative/Senator for Hampshire District

3 marriages: Sarah, Charlotte, Elizabeth
- 14 Children

“-the heart with all its tenderest sensations, which alone form an existence worth possessing – where are they?”

“The law of kindness dwelt always upon her lips.”

“I cannot lie aside my pen without sketching a brief memorial of her worth and excellence.”
Framing Approach

**Historic Resource**

Many historic properties in New England have important historical knowledge which can help inform decisions about the area and its use.

**Adaptive/Inspirational**

Historic properties have the power to evoke special memories and feelings which have the opportunity to connect people to new ideas.

**Sharing**

**Community**
“Local historic sites can also contribute to a public awareness of sustainability by informing an increasingly mobile and transient public about their community.” – Let’s Sustain This: A Review
New Historic Interpretation Models

EXPERT OPINION

enthusiasm
language
knowledge
values

PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

Multiple Functions

Recreation or Reimagination

Exploration of Space/Landscape

Digital Presence

Collaborations Outside of History

“Stories of landscape changes and resilience can have an impact on values, and the historian can contribute by interpreting and recording those stories.” – Let’s Sustain This: A Review
"The next fifty years, should be about building very clear links between architectural preservation and human preservation." – Michael Sorkin
Developing Connections

Creativity & Innovation
Action orientation

Leadership
Teamwork
Communications

Better Understanding
Functional Expertise

Ethics & Values
Social Investments
Adaptive Strategies

INDIVIDUAL

PEOPLE SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE

CITIZENSHIP

Use historic sites to activate different relationships for new reframed conversation channels
Precedent Studies

Establish Relationships with New & Old Construction

Menokin House - Warsaw, VA

Grow a New Type of Historic Resource With the House Museum

Fruitlands Museum - Harvard, MA

Link Historical Narratives with the Environment

Hitchcock Center - Amherst, MA
Program Relationships

ASSEMBLY
INVESTIGATION
EXHIBITION
FORUM
LEARNING
LIVING
EATING
RECREATION
ADMINISTRATIVE
AGRICULTURE

students
instructor
passerby
exhibit artist
spectator
dwellers
interns
employees
researchers
children
Program & Organization

**EDUCATION**
- Classrooms or conference rooms
- Forum or presentation space similar to wood barn in PPH Museum

**PRESERVATION AREAS**
- Curated house space
- Archive space/artifact storage

**LEASABLE**
- Artist space – studio or exhibit
- Rental unit(s)

**RESEARCH SERVICE**
- Small office or wet lab
- Access to key points on properties – accommodating research set ups

**EVENT SPACE**
- 50 – 75 person accommodation for year round events
- Tie into other functions and spaces
- Small kitchen for catering

**ADMINISTRATIVE SPACE**
- Office and reception spaces

**ANIMAL & ECOLOGICAL EXPOSURE**
- Indoor and outdoor space for various demonstrations and study
Existing Structure

First Floor

Second Floor
Establish Entryways

Upstairs Bedroom

New Adaptable Entrance

Kitchens
Proposed New Ell

First Floor

Second Floor
Proposed Elevations
Proposed Elevations

east

west
Adaptive Interior

forum

banquet
Adaptive Interior

art

play

Operable curtain wall
In conclusion...
Thank you!