

Preservation Internship— or How I Learned to Love the Spanish-American War

For over 10 years there has existed a cooperative training relationship between the Heritage Preservation Masters Degree program at Georgia State University (GSU) and the National Register Programs Division of the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service (SE NPS). As a student of GSU's Heritage Preservation program, I was first exposed to this relationship by taking the Public Archeology course, taught by Dr. Mark Barnes, Senior Archeologist for the SE NPS. The Public Archeology course is specifically designed to expose the student to "real world" federal involvement in historic preservation. I had left a career to start over in another field and Dr. Timothy Crimmins, head of the Heritage Preservation program at GSU, strongly recommended this course to provide me with a solid background in the federal side of preservation. Following Dr. Crimmin's recommendation led me to a priceless intern experience with the NPS.

Dr. Barnes referred me to Mr. Cecil McKithan who is the Chief of the National Register Programs Division. Both Dr. Barnes and Mr. McKithan were from the start very enthusiastic about developing an internship program with GSU.

Surprisingly, there had never been an intern from GSU with the SE NPS. There is a tendency for preservation students to view the NPS as a rich source for contract work upon graduation and little else. Too often the NPS is not considered a resource for students to tap for their course work. The NPS is viewed by many students to be too large and impersonal to bother with a mere student. Even though most GSU Heritage Preservation students knew Dr. Barnes, and were aware of his successful preservation work with the SE NPS,

knowing this did not lessen the preconceived notion that the NPS was too large and bureaucratic to welcome student interns. As I quickly discovered, this is a misconception that not only does a gross injustice to the NPS but severely curtails the internship options of the student. As an NPS intern, I found the preservation student is given the opportunity to not only see the dedicated preservation efforts of NPS personnel but also the processes that makes preservation by the NPS possible.

Another consideration in pursuing an internship with the NPS is the fact that most students are loath to work for free. However, due to the number of NPS units throughout the country, almost any preservation student interested in pursuing internships for credit can find an internship opportunity close to home. This means the student is not subject to moving costs or a change in lifestyle—big pluses in the age of rising college costs and almost mandatory student loans. I found it was also possible to arrange an NPS internship on a part-time basis over several quarters or semesters so that the student can be employed somewhere else for wages. However, working purely for credit does allow the student to become truly immersed in the organizational process and goals of the job at hand.

I was put under the direction of Dr. Barnes and given a choice of assignments. Dr. Barnes was very concerned that the internship provide "real world" experience. I was not the only guinea pig for this internship experiment. Dr. Barnes was also being charged with the active role of providing guidance and worthwhile experience to a student outside of the traditional classroom. This type of arrangement was new to both of us and we both learned as we went.

By mutual agreement, it was decided that a beneficial project for the internship would be the development of a draft of a National Register multiple property nomination for the 1998 Centennial of the Spanish-American War in Puerto Rico. The State Historic Preservation Office of Puerto Rico (SHPO PR) was very interested in having a completed multiple property nomination finished in time for the Centennial of the Spanish-American War. This project is timely on several fronts. The most obvious being an accurate record of the war

*The Landing at
Guainica, Puerto
Rico, July 25, 1898.*



Spanish-American War Web Sites

Spanish American War Centennial Website

<http://www.powerscourt.com/war/>

Spanish-American War 1898

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/stream/faq45-11.htm>

The Spanish-American War

<http://www.smplanet.com/imperialism/remember.html>

10th Infantry Regiment

http://www.wood.army.mil/3BDE/10_span.htm

The War from a Parlor

<http://www.rochester.ican.net/~fjzwick/stereo/index.html>

The Spanish-American War

<http://www.dca.net/combinedbooks/TITLES/nspanam.htm>

on Puerto Rico and an inventory of historically relevant resources which still exist on the island. It is planned the best remaining sites will be considered for Landmark status after the National Register nomination is completed.

The first order of business was to determine a starting point. Dr. Barnes had already compiled several secondary source books to begin a working outline. Once the information in these sources was integrated into the outline, it was time to search for primary reference materials. The GSU Pullen Library was the logical starting point. Aside from being handy, only three city blocks away from the SE NPS office, the library is very active in the interlibrary loan program in the State of Georgia. Through the interlibrary loan program we were able to locate first person accounts by the likes of the newspaperman Richard Harding Davis, the author Stephen Crane (who both reported on the war in Puerto Rico), President William McKinley, the commanders of the army and naval forces, and even the common soldiers—including one private with the 6th Illinois Volunteer Infantry by the name of Carl Sandburg.

As the draft developed into a true working document, new information was discovered at an exponential rate. Another important resource for information was the Internet. I was able to find bibliographies, lists of state volunteer and regular army units sent to Puerto Rico for the war, and articles about the war using the Internet at the SE NPS office. During one of the Internet searches, I accessed the United States Army History Division web page and got a listing of not only the state volunteer units sent to Puerto Rico, but also the

number of wounded, dead, and courts-martialed in each unit. States that sent troops to the war were contacted through the appropriate SHPO office as the activities of the units were often recorded and published within five years of the war. All of these sources uncovered gave depth and richness to the scope of the project.

Dr. Barnes had already compiled a preliminary list of significant properties related to the Spanish-American War in Puerto Rico. New sites in Puerto Rico were identified from the literature search I conducted and will be subjected to field checks by Dr. Barnes and members of the SHPO PR office to study their integrity and importance to the war. But Puerto Rico is not the only area that provided relevant properties relating to the war. During our research we were amazed to discover that there are pivotal historic properties relating to the war that are not located on Puerto Rico, one of the most important being Chickamauga National Battlefield in Georgia, where many state volunteer troops received training before they were shipped out through Tampa, Florida, Charleston, South Carolina, or Newport News, Virginia, to the Caribbean. Needless to say, we were pleasantly surprised to be able to relate the war to sites on the mainland United States.

The true challenge of consolidating the various sources to produce a draft nomination was the pure technical writing that was required. The facts and just the facts, ma'am. Dr. Barnes, veteran of innumerable National Register and Landmarks nominations, provided important guidance on the subject of technical writing. The draft went through extensive editing to present a true account of the Spanish-American War in Puerto Rico. The editing and re-editing were tedious but a valuable learning experience in the art of technical writing and its importance to presenting an unbiased report.

Dr. Barnes is now working closely with the State Historic Preservation Office in Puerto Rico to implement programs to capitalize on the cultural resources attached to the Spanish-American War in Puerto Rico. Dr. Frank Miele, a historian with the SE NPS, is pursuing a possible computerized presentation of historic photographs, illustrations, and artifacts, to be shown during the centennial celebration. The State Historic Preservation Office in Puerto Rico is considering creating a bilingual publication from the finished nomination. It is also anticipated that there will be conferences and lectures, and exhibits of historical artifacts, based on the information derived from my internship. I feel fortunate to have been involved in such an ambitious and formidable project.

While my part in the multiple property National Register nomination process was

restricted to outlining and co-authoring the draft with Dr. Barnes, the opportunity to do meaningful work for credit was incredible. In every sense it was a situation that benefitted everyone involved. I received credit toward graduation. Dr. Barnes had an assistant for four months. The SE NPS and the SHPO PR is the recipient of a draft National Register nomination which could not otherwise have been accomplished by these offices. There is now precedent for future internships for GSU students. The personal benefits are almost too numerous to list: I was able to make valuable contacts within the SE NPS, I was allowed to coauthor a major multiple property National Register draft nomination, and I found out how truly dedicated NPS is to preserving our cultural resources.

Postscript: The staff of the NPS SE and SHPO PR have completed the field work to identify significant Spanish-American War sites on the island for the Multiple Property nomination, due to be completed in the early part of 1998. The internships with NPS SE have been expanded to include other students from GSU and the Historic Preservation Department of the Savannah College of Art and Design to acquire information for new National Register and NHL nominations, revised older NHL studies, and undertake field survey work.

Julia C. Walker received her MA from GSU in 1997 and is currently employed with a private EIS consulting firm.

Web Sites



Coming in 1997

The War from a Parlor:
Stereoscopic Images of the Philippine-American War and Soldiers' Letters Home
By Jan Zwick, Syracuse University



Skirmish Line holding fire before sending a push-into, Philippine Campaign. Underwood and Underwood, 1899.

"I have absolutely given up all hope of getting home soon. If we don't get away from here before the next season sets in there are a whole lot of us who will never get back. The Second Missouri is indeed to be commended, and they can thank their lucky stars that they were not ordered over here." -- James A. B. Colquhoun, volunteer

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Proposed Site Outline

History
...and the National Park Service

National Park Service Spanish-American War
Centennial Web Page



Spanish-built fortress of El Morro
San Juan National Historic Site

On the night of 15 February 1898 the battleship USS Maine was obliterated by an explosion which sent the ship and two-thirds of her crew to the bottom of Havana harbor. Bolstered by wide spread sympathy for those who were seeking Cuban independence from Spanish colonial rule, the emotion-charged Maine tragedy broadened the already strained Spanish-American relations to the breaking point, precipitating the

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