

# ROBERT TRAVIS ROSE, MFA

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Gray Design Building

Lexington, KY 40506-0041

(260) 403-8752 / rro229@uky.edu

## EDUCATION

**2010** Savannah College of Art and Design  
Master of Fine Arts, Historic Preservation

**2008** Anderson University  
Bachelor of Arts, History

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**2012 - Present** University of Kentucky, College of Design  
Department of Historic Preservation

**2024 - Present** University of Kentucky, College of Design  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Historic Preservation

**2016 - 2024** University of Kentucky, College of Design  
Lecturer  
Department of Historic Preservation

**2012 - 2016** University of Kentucky, College of Design  
Instructor  
Department of Historic Preservation

## PROFESSIONAL PRESERVATION EXPERIENCE

**2011 - 2013**

**Pleasant Retreat: The Governor William Owsley House Museum**

Executive Director

Lancaster, Kentucky

**2010 - 2011**

**Indiana State Historic Preservation Office**

Architectural Field Surveyor

Indianapolis, Indiana

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2009**

**Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters (Telfair Museums)**

Decorative Arts Curatorial Assistant

Savannah, Georgia

**2007**

**Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**

Architectural Collections & Conservation Management Intern

Williamsburg, Virginia

## TEACHING

Courses Prepared & Curriculum Developed

**University of Kentucky, College of Design, Department of Historic Preservation**

\*Denotes online course.

**HP101 Historic Preservation: How the Past Informs the Future**

Course Description: HP 101 is an introduction to the theory and practice of historic preservation. The approach will be through an interdisciplinary lens, including: architecture, interiors, history, urban planning, design, art history, economic development, and community engagement using lectures, readings, discussion, and field observations.

## HP200 Historic Preservation: History, Heritage, and the Built World

**Course Description:** This course comprehensively explores historic preservation from a social science perspective, offering students an in-depth understanding of how preserving historical and cultural assets intersects with broader societal, economic, and cultural dynamics. Through a combination of theoretical frameworks, practical case studies, and ethical considerations, students will gain a holistic view of the significance and impact of historic preservation on communities and society.

## HP252 Adaptive Reuse and Treatments for Historic Buildings

**Course Description:** Explores the challenges and artful solutions employed to upcycle existing buildings. Course materials focus on determining which treatment is most appropriate, evaluating significance, reviving existing spaces, and acquiring historic tax credits.

An enduring building typically owes its longevity to perpetual utility; buildings are meant to be used. The utility of a building can be enhanced by research, thoughtful/universal design, and conservation. This course takes a creative and practical approach to historic preservation by introducing three sensitive treatment options to historic buildings:

- **Preservation:** the knowledge of techniques used to conserve historic building materials and systems. It deals primarily with the conservation of building materials: identifying them, determining their condition, evaluating treatment options, and making recommendations for work to be done.
- **Restoration:** the process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.
- **Adaptive Reuse:** “the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving important character-defining features.” (Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Buildings).

This class follows the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to ensure that sensitive remedies and design principles are taught. Students write a critical analysis of a restoration or adaptive reuse project, or they collaborate and work in small groups to prepare an adaptive reuse project.

## HP501 Exploring American Dreams: Twentieth-Century Suburban Housing in the United States

**Course Description:** This class explores the history and relationship between twentieth-century housing and the American suburb. Utilizing methodologies drawn from social and cultural history, as well as material culture studies, we investigate housing types, such as tenement housing, residential hotels, apartments, condominiums, public housing, single-family housing, kit houses, pre-fabricated manufactured housing and mobile homes. In addition, we also critically examine the following landscapes that shaped housing: automobile suburbs, African American suburbs, coal towns, mining towns, and mill towns.

Through rigorous reading and focused classroom discussion, we examine major forces that impacted American housing and landscapes; namely transportation, urban decentralization, technology, American consumerism, federal policy, politics, race, economic class and gender.

## HP501 Adaptive Reuse

Course Description: HP 501 focuses on adaptive reuse and rehabilitation. The Secretary of the Interior defines rehabilitation as, "the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values." Students learn how to recycle buildings while being sensitive and respectful to their historic and architectural identity and value.

This class revolves around a final project to be completed by the students. The final project encompasses property selection, architectural assessment, finance, compatible reuse, and re-design.

Students learn the steps and realities involved in planning an adaptive reuse project. The class draws from the skills acquired in previous coursework, while taking inspiration from successful projects in Kentucky.

## HP601 Introduction to Historic Preservation\*

Course Description: This course introduces students to the field of historic preservation, with emphasis on practice in the United States. Students learn about the history of the preservation movement, the field's fundamental concepts, and the many links between preservation and allied fields. In this course, students will also gain an appreciation for how people and their communities benefit when preservation involves diverse perspectives and voices, presents a democratic sense of the past, and finds roles for historic resources that meet the needs of communities today. The guiding principles of this course are:

1. Preservation in the twenty-first century is inherently interdisciplinary, requiring the best efforts and cooperation of a range of people and professions.
2. Historic resources exist within a social context broader than the resources themselves; preservation efforts can influence, and be influenced by, larger events taking place in the surrounding community.

## HP611 American Architecture II: 1865-2000

Course Description: This course surveys the history of American architecture from the end of the Civil War to the beginning of the twenty-first century. Readings, lectures, and assignments consider the development of domestic, institutional, and commercial architecture during this period and major themes and trends. The course gives special attention to architectural modernism and its influence.

## HP612 Documentation of Historic Structures and Sites I

Course Description: Documentation is at the heart of preservation, in that its purpose is to create an informational record. Even after a well-documented structure ceases to exist, its record often survives; preserving an element of what has physically been lost.

Documentation of Historic Structures and Sites is a two-part sequence. The first part, HP 612, will essentially serve as a course in research and survey. We will examine the appropriate methods of gathering information. Students will learn architectural field survey, archival research and academic writing. The second part, HP 614, will focus on creating a document/record after information has been gathered.

The skills acquired from this course are highly sought after in the professional arena. For example, research and survey expertise is required in projects establishing the significance of a structure, site or district under National Register criteria. These skills are also desirable in compliance work directed by the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

Documentation of Historic Structures and Sites I will construct a strong foundation in documentary review and analysis that is easily translated into future academic and professional endeavors.

## **HP613 Historic Structural Systems and Building Materials**

Course Description: HP 613 examines historical uses, fabrication methods, decay mechanisms, and remediation of historic materials and structural systems. This course focuses on conservation methods, philosophies, theories, and practice in the United States, but the course also explores the history of global conservation. The successful completion of this course prepares students for twenty-first century conservation practice by studying building materials and structural systems of the recent past, as well as investigating global conservation practice to devise new conservation practice solutions to contemporary challenges.

The analysis of existing Kentucky structures and conservation methods and the proposal of appropriate sensitive methods used to preserve them are the key components of the class. These investigations are carried out using a number of methods including: research, identification, analysis, problem-solving, remediation, and writing.

## **HP613 Historic Structural Systems and Building Materials \***

Course Description: HP 613-20, taught online, examines historical uses, fabrication methods, decay mechanisms, and remediation of historic materials and structural systems. This course focuses on conservation methods, philosophies, theories, and practice in the United States, but the course will also explore the history of global conservation. The successful completion of this course prepares students for twenty-first century conservation practice by studying building materials and structural systems of the recent past, as well as investigating global conservation practice to devise new conservation practice solutions to contemporary challenges.

The analysis of existing accessible structure and conservation and the proposal of appropriate sensitive methods used to preserve them are key components of the class. These investigations will be carried out using a number of methods including: research, identification, analysis, problem-solving, remediation, and writing.

## **HP750 Adaptive Reuse Studio**

Course Description: The Adaptive Reuse Studio will cover historic preservation principles, policies, and practices, leading to a certified rehabilitation preservation project that meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. This involves creating a synthesis of form in which a historic property, listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, is adapted to a new use.

This is a preservation studio. Design will be used as a problem-solving technique to enhance the utility of historic buildings. Preservationists are responsible for determining which character-defining architectural elements should be preserved and which can be removed. Students will be asked to make these decisions and thoughtfully justify their design decisions. Studio emphasis will be placed on developing a thoughtful design rationale that is supported by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Studio: 12 hours per week.

## TEACHING AND GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

### Committee Work for Completed Master of Historic Preservation Projects and Theses

- 2024** Jack Galle,  
*Feasibility Study for the Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse of Waverly Hills Sanitorium, Louisville, Kentucky*  
Committee Member
- Ellie Cook,  
*Chiseled in Stone: Italian Masons and their Impact on Knott County Architecture*  
Committee Member
- 2022** Caide Khoury (*In Process*),  
*Preservation of the Miller House: Immortal Design and Mortal Materials*  
Co-Chair with Julie Riesenweber
- 2021** Logan Garrison,  
*The Makings of a Historic Water Trail on Elkhorn Creek*  
Committee Member
- Madison Hunt,  
*Short-Term Rentals in the Historic Environment*  
Committee Member
- 2020** Jonna Wallace Mabelitini,  
*A Study of the DuPont Lodge at Cumberland Falls State Park*  
Committee Member
- Christopher Riley,  
*Pennsylvania German Architecture in Ohio*  
Committee Member
- 2019** Heather Hemmer,  
*Emerging Healthcare Departments: The Transformation of Dead Kmart Infrastructures in Rural Communities*  
Committee Member

- 2018 Michael Langmyer,**  
*Thoughtfully Evaluating Integrity: Examining two African American Communities in the Bluegrass*  
 Committee Member
- 2016 James Allen,**  
*USS Arizona: The Application of a Values Based Heritage Management Approach*  
 Committee Member
- 2015 Ambrose Russell Waddell,**  
*The Log Structures of Peacock Valley*  
 Committee Member

## PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

- 2023 Conserving Keeneland: Building Conditions Assessment of 3443 Entertainment Court, Lexington, Kentucky 40510**  
 Conservationist/Teacher  
 Travis Rose, Students of HP 613  
 The Old Stone House at Keeneland was assessed, and a conservation report was completed to provide Pete Berdovich, General Manager of Facilities at Keeneland Association, Inc., with information about the current material and structural conditions of the building. Additionally, sensitive guidelines were provided to help Keeneland with any future building treatments.
- 2022 Documenting Change: Creating a Visitor Experience Documenting the Adaptive Reuse of the Reynolds/Gray Building**  
 Co-PI/Researcher/Conservationist  
 Travis Rose, SK O'Brien, Emily Bergeron, Joe Brewer, and Daniel Livingston  
 Before beginning the rehabilitation work to convert the Reynolds Building into the Gray Design Building at the University of Kentucky, Rose documented the building's condition and prepared a report that outlined the guidelines for carrying out sensitive treatments. Grant Funded: University of Kentucky Sustainability Challenge Grant
- 2021 Tour the Historic Bluegrass: Adaptive Reuse Walking Tour of Lexington**  
 Researcher/Teacher  
 Travis Rose, Students of HP 252, Brittany Sams (Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation)  
 An adaptive reuse walking tour of downtown Lexington was created in collaboration with the Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation. The tour can be accessed by a mobile app. The project was a recipient of a 2022 Kentucky History Award from the Kentucky Historical Society. (<https://tourthehistoricbluegrass.com/>)

### Conserving Crossings Lexington

Conservationist/Teacher

Travis Rose, Students of HP 613

After Rebecca Richter and Elyse Arrington acquired the historic gay bar, Crossings Lexington, Rose was asked to conduct a historic building assessment. The students of HP 613 performed a material and structural assessment of the building. A final report was written to provide guidance for the owners to sensitively rehabilitate their important building in Lexington.

## **Walking Tour of the Thompson Historic District in Winchester, Kentucky**

Researcher/Teacher

Travis Rose, Julie Riesenweber, Students of HP 611

Collaborated with Julie Riesenweber to survey Winchester, Kentucky's Thompson Historic District. Significant buildings were photographed and researched. The research was used to create a walking tour of the historic district.

## **2019 Conservation Assessment of the McEldowney Building, Winchester, Kentucky**

Conservationist/Teacher

Travis Rose, Students of HP 613

The report is an assessment of the condition of Winchester's McEldowney Building, including sensitive treatment guidelines.

## **2018 Sustainability Guidelines for Historic Campus Buildings**

Co-PI/Researcher/Conservationist

Travis Rose, Julie Riesenweber, Daniel Vivian, Doug Appler, Christina Birkentall, and Brent Sturlaugson.

The assessment was carried out as part of the 2018 Sustainability Challenge Grant and in line with the Sustainability Guidelines for Historic Campus Buildings. Frazee Hall, Funkhouser Building, Kastle Hall, Margaret I. King Library, McVey Hall, Memorial Hall, and Pence Hall were evaluated to determine their current material and structural conditions. Detailed recommendations were provided for the appropriate treatment of any major architectural features that are deteriorating. This information will help University of Kentucky facilities management personnel understand the short-term and long-term needs of these buildings and provide guidance on the sensitive treatment of historic architectural features and materials.

Grant Funded: University of Kentucky Sustainability Challenge Grant

## **2017 Conserving the New Life Day Center for the Homeless, 220 and 224 North Martin Luther King Boulevard, Lexington, Kentucky 40507**

Conservationist/Teacher

Travis Rose, Students of HP 613

The report assesses the condition of The New Life Day Center for the Homeless, which is located at 220 and 224 North Martin Luther King Boulevard, Lexington, Kentucky. This assessment will provide facilities management personnel with information on the near and long-term needs of the building and will establish sensitive treatment guidelines and recommendations for this mid-century building.

## **2016 Conserving West Main Street, Danville, Kentucky 40422**

Conservationist/Teacher

Travis Rose, Students of HP 613

This report was prepared for the Heart of Danville Main Street Program to offer an analysis of the state of a 19th-century commercial building located in downtown Danville. The assessment included an evaluation of the building materials and structural conditions, along with recommendations for sensitive remedies and treatments to ensure the future stabilization of the building.

## **2015 Conservation Assessment of the Luigart Hemp Warehouse**

Conservationist/Teacher

Travis Rose, Students of HP 613

A conservation assessment was conducted for the NoLi CDC to assess the condition of the materials and structural systems in the Luigart Hemp Warehouse. The assessment involved evaluating the building materials and structural conditions, and providing recommendations for appropriate remedies and treatments to ensure the future stabilization of the building.



## **2014 Architectural Field Survey of Aurora Avenue**

Researcher/Teacher

Travis Rose, Students of HP 612

This report presents a comprehensive architectural survey of Aurora Avenue in Lexington's historic Kenwick neighborhood. The survey was conducted for Betty Kerr at the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Historic Preservation to build upon an existing survey of the Kenwick neighborhood in Lexington.

## **Conserving the Morton House**

Conservationist/Teacher

Travis Rose, Students of HP 613

A conservation assessment was conducted for The Nest Center for Women, Children & Families, located in the historic early 19th century Morton House. The report includes assessments of the building materials and structural systems of the historic Morton House. It also provides sensitive remedies and treatment guidelines to assist the nonprofit in future building treatments.

## **2013 Conditions Assessment of the Historic Garrard County Jail**

Conservationist/Teacher

Travis Rose, Students of HP 613

This report presents a comprehensive conservation assessment of the historic Garrard County Jail in Lancaster, Kentucky. It includes evaluations of the building materials and structural systems of the jail, as well as sensitive remedies and treatment guidelines aimed at protecting and conserving the site to prevent further decay.

## **GRANTS**

### **2022 University of Kentucky, Sustainability Challenge Grant.**

"Documenting Change: Creating a Visitor Experience Documenting the Adaptive Reuse of the Reynolds/Gray Building," with SK O'Brien, Emily Bergeron, Joe Brewer, and Daniel Livingston (\$38,174).

### **2018 University of Kentucky, Sustainability Challenge Grant.**

This grant was secured to develop sustainability guidelines for historic campus buildings. Julie Riesenweber, Daniel Vivian, Doug Appler, Christina Birkentall, Brent Sturlaugson (\$32,715).

### **2015 University of Kentucky, Electronic Learning Initiative (eLii).**

This grant was secured to develop online graduate courses for the Department of Historic Preservation. Gregory Luhan, Allison Carl-White, Doug Appler, Julie Riesenweber, Emily Bergeron, Clyde Carpenter (\$141,000).

## CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- 2020** PastForward Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Online / October 27-30
- Association for Preservation Technology (APT) Conference  
Online / October 1-7
- 2018** Association for Preservation Technology (APT) Conference  
Buffalo, NY / September 22-27
- 2017** ARCH, Inc. Exterior Historic Paint Workshop  
Fort Wayne, IN / August 19
- 2016** Association of Preservation Technology (APT) Documentation Technologies Workshop  
Boston, MA / September 24
- Preservation Trailblazers; Tribute to the National Preservation Act 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Frankfort, KY / October 14

## SERVICE

University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky

- A. University**  
Committee for Art in Public Spaces 2022-Present
- B. College of Design**  
Facilities & Technology Committee 2024-Present  
Media Committee 2016-Present  
Nominating Committee 2023-Present  
DEI Council 2022-2024  
Library Committee 2017-2023  
Technology Council 2022-2023
- C. Department of Historic Preservation**  
Faculty Liaison – Student Preservation Association (SPA) 2020-Present  
UKHP Social Media Coordinator 2016-Present  
All Department Committees 2016-Present

## **PROFESSIONAL**

- A. Association for Preservation Technology (APT)**
  - Technology Committee of Modern Heritage 2018-Present
  - Technology Committee for Sustainable Preservation 2018-Present

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- 2022 Completed EDC 533-202 (99%)**
- 2021 Completed EDC 550/AAS 500 (96.9%)**