

liberalism that led to important labor reforms in industrial cities throughout the Midwest. Despite his disillusionment with modern liberalism, Green has produced the best narrative history of Gilded Age labor conflict, ideal for anybody interested in an important chapter in the Midwest's wrenching transition from labor republicanism to industrial capitalism.

*Building Environments: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture X*, edited by Kenneth A. Breisch and Alison K. Hoagland. Vernacular Architecture Studies Series. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2005. x, 320 pp. Illustrations, maps, floor plans, notes, bibliographical references, index. \$32.00 paper.

Reviewer Mary Anne Beecher is associate professor of architecture at the University of Oregon. She has published articles on a wide range of vernacular architecture topics, from farmhouse designs to roadside architecture.

*Building Environments*, a collection of essays based on papers presented in meetings of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, represents a broad geographical perspective on historic vernacular architecture from New England to Alaska to Jamaica. All present a strong case for using the built landscape as a lens through which to read the influence of cultural factors such as gender, race, and class. Many serve as excellent examples of how to employ underused sources, such as paint analysis, compensation claims, and the materials deposited in walls by rats, to conduct building research, and of the importance of unconventional building types or "architectural sculptures," such as Great Lakes fisheries, Lithuanian wayside shrines, and umiak skin boats inverted on beaches for use as shelters.

Pamela Simpson's well-researched essay on "grain architecture" includes information specific to the historical built landscape of Iowa, including Sioux City's series of late nineteenth-century corn palaces, but most of the essays do not focus on Iowa. There is still much relevance for this work to investigators of the midwestern vernacular landscape, however. For instance, Kirk E. Ranzetta's careful reading of nineteenth-century tobacco barns in Maryland offers a sound model for evaluating the significance of now obsolete agricultural structures; and Marla R. Miller's account of the place of domestic help in early Federal middle-class houses demonstrates architecture's sometimes subtle role in reinforcing a hierarchy of authority within extended rural households. These and other essays present models of methods for research and draw conclusions that relate directly to scholars of midwestern history.