

Plain Women would benefit from a longer conclusion to pull the argument together, a step that the author's death likely prevented. Nonetheless, I am happy to see this volume in print and offer kudos to Simon Bronner for seeing the project through. It adds valuable material to the small but growing scholarship on plain women.

Her Past Around Us: Interpreting Sites for Women's History, edited by Polly Welts Kaufman and Katharine T. Corbett. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Co., 2003. viii, 261 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$33.50 cloth.

Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation, edited by Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman. Center Books on Contemporary Landscape Design. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003. x, 451 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$49.95 cloth.

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In the closing essay of *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, Heather A. Huyck reminds readers, "Historic places tell us who we are as a people and where we have come from. Omitting any significant portion of our history distorts all of it" (364). These simple but powerful sentences summarize the need for these two recent anthologies focusing on women's history at historic places. Given that women make up half of the world's population, ignoring their presence and activities in homes, landscapes, and a host of other locations prevents a significant portion of visitors to historic places from making their own personal connections to history.

Together, these anthologies thoroughly address the many ways women have been and can be more visible as preservationists and as the subjects of historical inquiry. Women have played an important role in the preservation movement since its beginning. The efforts of Ann Pamela Cunningham and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to save George Washington's home are legendary in the history of preservation, and their work inspired other women's organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution to take on similar projects. Despite their significant contributions to saving historic places, these women have often been overlooked. Women were also frequently invisible residents of the thousands of historic houses and sites open to the public. Although the wives, mothers, daughters, and domestic servants connected to the great men of the houses played

vital roles in the history of these sites, attention to their contributions is often a minimal part of the interpretation. These two volumes fill in the silences in the historical record by amplifying women's voices in all aspects of history and preservation. The essays address the roles of women in history in and beyond the domestic sphere and as gardeners, entrepreneurs, and activists. By exploring beyond the home into gardens, factories, coalfields, cemeteries, business districts, and entire communities, the authors effectively use the study of the built environment to illustrate the presence of women's history in all aspects of the past.

Her Past Around Us focuses primarily on how existing historic places can rethink the stories they present. The collection is particularly useful as a series of case studies, in which the authors describe in detail how to construct and conduct walking tours, theme tours at historic houses, and research on women in various spheres of society. For example, Katherine T. Corbett's essay, "Called Home: Finding Women's History in Nineteenth-Century Cemeteries," illustrates how cemetery tours can teach the public about cultural values and ideals, domesticity, and mourning rituals of the past. In one example from Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis, Corbett shows how cemeteries reflect domesticity in their resemblance to residential communities. Gravesites included steps, fences, gateposts, and gardens tended by women. Corbett's essay is but one example of how the authors in *Her Past Around Us* "look at familiar places through the lens of gender" (2). A list of readings follows each chapter to encourage further study of topics of interest.

The authors of the essays in *Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation* also address interpretive issues at existing historic sites, but they also emphasize the need for preservation of places that will further enhance the historical presence of women. In the past twenty years, historians and preservationists have concentrated many of their intellectual and political efforts on finding the stories of women in established historic sites and saving others with significant ties to leaders in women's history and important events. While the authors address preservation of sites associated with "great women" such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, they also explore the lives of women underrepresented in the historical record. Julia G. Costello's essay on the archeology of prostitution in turn-of-the-century Los Angeles is a fascinating narrative describing how items found in the privy of a former red-light district can shed light on women typically ignored by public history. Dubrow and Goodman's diverse collection of essays closes by looking to preservation's future and the potential for redefining what

constitutes "significance" in order to save the history of people from all walks of life.

The essays in both collections are sophisticated but very accessible case studies that can benefit several audiences. Museum professionals at historic houses will find models for interpreting domestic servants and examples of theme tours that highlight women's history. Those interested and active in historic preservation should benefit from the diversity of the collections, both in the kinds of sites described and the backgrounds of the women whose history is now being preserved. As anthologies, these volumes are also valuable to professors of women's history and preservation, because the individual essays are of a length and style that students should find comfortable. Essays in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation* in particular address issues that are potentially more controversial, such as the interpretation of gay and lesbian heritage, and promise to be important resources for current and future preservationists.

One of the most important points made by the authors in these collections is that making women visible at historic sites is much more than *adding* information about those formerly excluded. To truly do justice to the history of men and women, professionals at historic sites need to take a new and more inclusive look at their sites. As Huyck notes, "Women were historically everywhere—on merchant ships, in Western forts, in mining camps, on battlefields. They had amazing and wonderfully diverse lives, far more complex and interesting than simplistic stereotypes hint. Every site has women's history; it is 'simply' a question of how much and how directly" (356). The essays in *Her Past Around Us* and *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation* will not only educate public and academic historians about these women but inspire them in the process.

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