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Preservation Treatment Guide for AMK Ranch (UW-NPS Research Center)

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PRESERVATION TREATMENT GUIDE FOR AMK RANCH (UW-NPS RESEARCH CENTER)

MARY M. HUMSTONE, AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING LARAMIE

Figure 1. Students, instructors and National Park Service staff at a site visit to the Lucas-Fabian cabin in Grand Teton National Park (Mary Humstone, 2011)

CLASS OVERVIEW

During summer 2011, the University of Wyoming American Studies Program offered “Field Studies in Historic Preservation: Preparing a Preservation Treatment Guide for the Historic AMK Ranch.” This 3-credit, upper-level undergraduate course introduced students to the process of documenting and assessing the condition of historic buildings and developing treatment protocols. The majority of the course was devoted to inspecting buildings, interviewing property managers, researching solutions to common problems and writing a “Preservation Treatment Guide” for use by National Park Service and University of Wyoming personnel. Students also studied log building maintenance and repair at other historic sites within Grand Teton National Park and conducted experiments and demonstrations at the AMK Ranch. Through this field course, students were given the opportunity to assist in fulfilling a contract with the National Park Service and to learn about how the park manages its historic and cultural resources. The course was taught by University of Wyoming Research Scientist Mary Humstone, with assistance from building conservation specialist Harrison Goodall of Langley, Washington, and Grand Teton National Park Cultural Resource Specialist Katherine Longfield.
The students conducted several experiments in cleaning the logs, using different products and different methods of abrasion. They also demonstrated proper log daubing techniques for the staff at AMK.

In addition to the work directly related to the preservation guide, students had an opportunity to meet with National Park Service cultural resources staff to learn how the park evaluates, manages and interprets its cultural resources. Students visited the Western Center for Historic Preservation at the White Grass Ranch, as well as several other historic properties in the park, to compare treatments of log buildings.

The product of this field course is a Preservation Treatment Guide for AMK Ranch that includes photographs and building condition assessments for 16 buildings, procedures for remedying the major conservation problems, and a maintenance checklist. The guide will be used by NPS personnel, not only at AMK Ranch but at other locations in the park.

Through this field course students learned how to conduct assessments of historic buildings and prepare a professional report. They also learned about park policies and procedures regarding historic preservation.
Figure 3. Students prepare a log wall for testing to compare the effects of different log cleaning techniques. (Mary Humstone, 2011)

Figure 4. UW student Andrea Lewis cleans logs with abrasive brush after applying a cleaning solution. (Mary Humstone, 2011)

Figure 5. Harrison Goodall shows student Cassie Loveland how to apply daubing to the logs of the boathouse at AMK Ranch. (Mary Humstone, 2011)

Figure 6. Student Cassie Loveland emerges after conducting moisture-level tests underneath the Berol Lodge at AMK Ranch. (Mary Humstone, 2011)