

Assignment

So far this semester, you've written about a place important in your past, mapped a place prominent in your present, reported on a project that engages with or intervenes in place, and shared your experiences traveling to an unfamiliar place. For your fifth project, your focus will be history, an aspect of place that is often invisible unless brought to light through research of some kind. Your task will be to use primary and/or secondary sources to "restore" a place that no longer exists or uncover the history of a place that does. In the texts below, you'll see how writers use interviews, documents, photographs, maps, stories, statistics, and first-hand observations to memorialize places in multiple media and genres. The first four texts are from my fall 2012 English 350 class (<http://blogs.umass.edu/english350-dfleming/>); the last is from <http://cityofrhetoric.com>:

- Julia Basal, "The Lemon House"
- Shoki Yashiro, "A Guarded Craft"
- Antonia Moore, "Ireland's Forgotten Island, Revisited"
- Ashleigh West, "Abigail Adams House: First Women's Dormitory"
- David Fleming, "44 State Street, Northampton"

For your own project, you need to choose a place – a building, a neighborhood, a town, a natural landmark or feature, or some other kind of place – and do primary and/or secondary research about its past. Then write an essay, using multiple media and genres if possible, that "restores" that history in some way. The place can be one that no longer exists – a vanished world of some kind – or it can be a place that still exists but whose past is invisible or unknown. Your research can take any form: direct observation or description, interviews, books or articles in the library or online, government records or archives, family documents, maps and photographs, etc.

Your final paper should be around 1,500-2,500 words (about 6-10 pages typed, not including visuals, with double line spacing, 12-point font, and one-inch margins) and will need to be revised substantially through at least two drafts. Generative writing will be assigned to help spur your ideas, and peer response will be used to help you hone your composition. Please take care of the sources you use, whether human or textual: summarize, paraphrase, quote, cite, and use the words, facts, ideas, statistics, artifacts, photographs, and maps of others honestly and responsibly.

The key due dates for this assignment are:

M	11/18	reading response due
M	11/25	initial draft of essay due (bring 2 copies to class)
M	12/02	revised draft of essay due (bring 1 copy to class)
W	12/04	final, copyedited version of essay due, along with a reflective cover letter that you'll write in class

See the syllabus for policies regarding attendance and due dates.