

# ERIN M. HOLMES, PH.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor · Virginia Military Institute  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2017 Ph.D., History, University of South Carolina, Columbia  
Fields: US History to 1877; (CIED) Historic Experience and Interpretation of Built Environment, Landscapes, and Material Culture; Atlantic World 1450-1850  
Dissertation: “Within the House of Bondage: Constructing and Negotiating the Plantation Landscape in the British Atlantic World, 1670-1820”  
Director: Dr. Woody Holton
- 2014 Certificate in Historical Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management (HA/CRM),  
Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia
- 2011 B.A., History, The College of William and Mary  
Honors Thesis: “The Staircase: Evolution of Design and Use in Elite, Domestic Virginia Architecture, 1607-1812” (High Honors)  
Director: Dr. James P. Whittenburg
- 2011 Certificate in Early American History and Museum Studies from the National Institute for American History and Democracy (NIAHD)

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2023-Present Visiting Assistant Professor of Early American History, Department of History,  
Virginia Military Institute
- 2022-2023 Visiting Assistant Professor of Public History, Department of History, University of Missouri
- 2019-2022 Postdoctoral Fellow in Political History, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy,  
University of Missouri
- 2017-2019 Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Curatorial Fellow, American Philosophical Society

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Manuscript in Progress

*The House that Slavery Built: Social and Material Transformation in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century British Atlantic World*

### Articles in Progress

“Angry Mobs, Recalled Governors, and Re-Elected Embezzlers: Strategies for Managing Imperial Interference and Strengthening Local Authority in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century British Caribbean.”

“Domesticating Slavery: Remaking the Plantation House for the Plantation Household in Colonial Virginia and Barbados.”

### Book Reviews

- 2014 “Review: *Making Noise: From Babel to the Big Bang and Beyond* by Hillel Schwartz,” *Journal of Social History*, Vol. 47, No. 4 (Summer 2014).

## EXHIBITIONS

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### American Philosophical Society Museum

- 2019 Lead Curator, *Mapping a Nation: Shaping the Early American Republic* (190,702 visitors)

- 2018 Co-Curator, *In Franklin's Footsteps: 275 Years at the American Philosophical Society*  
(130,703 visitors)

## DIGITAL PROJECTS AND EXHIBITIONS

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### University of Missouri

- 2022 [Virtual Read Hall](#)

### American Philosophical Society Museum

- 2019 Digital Exhibition Curator, [Mapping a Nation: Shaping the Early American Republic](#)
- 2019 [Mapping a Nation: Mapmaking in Philadelphia](#) (supplemental material for exhibition walking tour)
- 2018 Digital Exhibition Curator, [In Franklin's Footsteps: 275 Years at the American Philosophical Society](#)

## PUBLIC HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

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- 2019 ["A Few Technical Items: Questions About 18<sup>th</sup> Century Surveying Instruments Answered, Part I,"](#) and ["A Few Technical Items: Questions About 18<sup>th</sup> Century Surveying Instruments Answered, Part II,"](#) (blog post) American Philosophical Society, December 12 & 17, 2019
- ["Mapping a Nation: Shaping the Early American Republic,"](#) *American Philosophical Society Newsletter*, Autumn 2019, p. 6-9.
- ["The Study of Man \(Done by Women\),"](#) (blog post) American Philosophical Society, January 31, 2019
- 2018 ["Mount Vernon's Staircases: Stepping into the Past,"](#) *Mount Vernon Magazine*, June 2018, p. 54-55.
- 2016 ["Historical Hat-Trick: Using Documents, Architecture, and Archaeology at George Washington's Mount Vernon,"](#) (blog post) American Historical Association, August 10, 2016.
- ["The Other Drayton Hall: South Carolina Plantation Architecture in the Documentary Record,"](#) (blog post) American Historical Association, July 20, 2016.
- ["Change over Time Written in the Historic Architecture of Barbados,"](#) (blog post) American Historical Association, June 29, 2016.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

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- 2019-22 Postdoctoral Fellowship in Political History at the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy
- 2017-19 Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Curatorial Fellowship at the American Philosophical Society
- 2016-17 Russel J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
- 2016 Rice Department of History Award for Excellence in Teaching (\$300)
- 2016 Ceney Walker Graduate Fellowship, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies (\$3000)

- 2016 National Society of the Colonial Dames of America Regional History Award (\$5000)
- 2015-16 Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, 6-Month Fellowship, (\$20,000 plus housing)
- 2015 We the People Challenge Grant, Fellowship in African and African American History and Culture, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (\$5000)
- 2014 Wilfrid and Rebecca Callcott Award (\$3000)
- 2014-15 University of South Carolina SPARC (Support to Promote Advancement of Research and Creativity) Grant, supporting research and fieldwork in Barbados (\$4900)
- 2013 Walter Edgar History Scholarship, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (\$1000)
- 2011 Colonial Dames of America Award for Proficiency in History (\$500)
- 2010 Lyon G. Tyler Summer Research Grant (\$500)

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INVITED LECTURES**

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- 2023 [Roundtable on Documentary Editing, A Life in Letters: A Celebration of Dr. Barbara Oberg at the American Philosophical Society, June 7, 2023](#)
- 2021 [“Reconsidering the Founders in the Post-Hamilton Age,” roundtable with Drs. Woody Holton, Jeffrey Pasley, and Alan Gibson at the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, November 12, 2021](#)
- “Between the World and the Word: What is Lost and What is Gained by Translating Material Narratives to a Digital World?,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting, June 18, 2021
- Roundtable: “Slavery and Space: Interdisciplinary and International Perspectives,” Virtual AHA Colloquium, American Historical Association, March 9, 2021
- 2019 [“Making Mapping a Nation: The Challenges and Opportunities of Exhibiting Early American Maps,” Conference on “The Power of Maps and the Politics of Borders” at the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA, October 11, 2019](#)
- ““As you draw nearer, new beauties discover themselves’: Planting Landscapes of Isolation and Control in Barbados and South Carolina,” Invited Lecture at the Biennial Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes (Landscape, Race, and Culture: Shaping a World of Color in the American South), Southern Garden History Society, Winston-Salem, NC, September 27, 2019
- “Denied by Design: Access and Exclusion in Early American Political Architecture,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Annual Meeting, Cambridge, MA, July 19, 2019
- 2018 ““Built after the English fashion’: The Material and Social Creation of the Plantation in Barbados and Carolina,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting, June 15, 2018

““A middle aged White Woman, of a good character is wanted as a HOUSEKEEPER’: Gender, Race, and Class in the 18th Century Household, Southern Association of Women Historians Conference, June 2018

“The Revolutionary Landscape: Creating the Conditions for Revolution in the American South and Constructing Citizenship in Its Aftermath,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 6, 2018

2017 “Seeing Slavery: The Sensory and Spatial Transformation of the Plantation Landscape During the 18th Century,” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Dallas TX, November 11, 2017

“Building Better: The Influence of Iberian and French Caribbean Architecture on the Built Environment of the British Atlantic,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, January 6, 2017

2016 “Contextualizing the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Overseer: The Overseer’s House, the Plantation Office, and the Management of the Virginia Plantation,” The Virginia Forum, hosted by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, March 5, 2016

“Mount Vernon in the Georgian Atlantic World,” The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, January 21, 2016

2015 “Within the House of Bondage: Constructing and Negotiating the Plantation Landscape in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century British Atlantic World,” Colonial Williamsburg Fellows Forum, July 7, 2015

"Building Barbados: Recovering Eighteenth Century Barbados through its Architectural History," Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Conference, June 6, 2015

"A Silver Brand: Slave Brands and Branding in the Early Modern Atlantic World," Winterthur Emerging Scholars Symposium, Center for Material Culture Studies at the University of Delaware and Winterthur Museum, April 10, 2015

2014 "Encountering the Senses in 18th-Century Virginia: Sight, Sound, Smell, Taste, Touch and Philip Vickers Fithian" Works-in-Progress Seminar, The History Center, University of South Carolina

2013 “The Staircase: Evolution of Design and Use in Colonial Virginia” The Virginia Forum, hosted by Randolph-Macon College

2012 ““Psychopathic Building’: Design and Adaptation of the Williams Reception Building,” Bull Street Symposium, McMaster College, University of South Carolina

## **PUBLIC LECTURES AND INTERVIEWS**

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2023 On-Camera Expert and Consultant, *Into the Wild Frontier* docudrama series on the INSP Network (available on Amazon Prime), Warm Springs Productions, 2023. (2 episodes)

- “Christopher Gist”
- “Mason & Dixon”

2021 “Collegiate Gothic Architecture and the Historic Women’s Campus at the University of Missouri,” Women’s History Month talk for the Department of History at the University of Missouri, March 22, 2021

- 2020 "Constructing Colonial Identities and Power in the British Atlantic World," Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy "Pursuit of Happiness Hour" Colloquium, February 14, 2020
- 2019 ["What is the history of a country without maps?": \*Mapping a Nation\* at the American Philosophical Society," Art-at-Noon, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts \(PAFA\), Philadelphia, PA November 6, 2019](#)
- ["Mapping a Nation with Erin Holmes and Janine Boldt," \*Conversations at the Washington Library\* Podcast, October 23, 2019](#)
- "Map Chats: How to Make a Map in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century," Public Program at Cliveden of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Germantown, PA, July 28, 2019
- 2018 "The House that Slavery Built: Material and Social Transformation in the British Atlantic World," Public Lecture at the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA, December 12, 2018
- 2016 "Mount Vernon in the Georgian Atlantic World," Public talk at The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, August 2, 2016

## PANELS ORGANIZED

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- 2021 Co-Host, "History Happened Here: Teaching and Research with Historic Sites," Omohundro Institute Coffeehouse Roundtable, April 28-June 16, 2021
- 2018 "The Material Politics of Revolution and Government," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. Chair: Zara Anishanslin (University of Delaware), Panelists: Erin Holmes, Lindsay Chervinsky (Southern Methodist University/Center for Presidential History), Amy Henderson (Independent Scholar), Commentator: Adam Erby (Mount Vernon)
- 2017 "Atlantic Mentalités and Materialities: Using Material Culture and Material Experience to Cross Boundaries within the Early Modern Atlantic World," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. Chair: Peter H. Wood (Duke), Panelists: Erin Holmes, Craig Gallagher (Boston College), Sophie White (Notre Dame), Tamara Walker (University of Pennsylvania)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Virginia Military Institute, Department of History

- HI 205: History of the United States I, US History to 1877 (Fall 2023) (2 sections)  
 HI 206: History of the United States II, US History 1877-Present (Spring 2024) (2 sections)  
 HI 360: The American Revolution (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

### University of Missouri, Department of History/Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy

- HIST 2004 – (Sophomore Seminar) The Life, Times, and Remembrance of Sally Hemings: Race and Gender in Early America and the Revolutionary Era (Spring 2023)  
 HIST 2004 – (Sophomore Seminar) History of Museums (Fall 2022)  
 HIST 4972W – (Senior Seminar) Spatial Histories and Methods (Fall 2022)  
 GN HON 2010H – (Honors Tutorial) The Life, Times, and Remembrance of Sally Hemings: Race and Gender in Early America and the Revolutionary Era (Fall 2021)  
 GN HON 2010H – (Honors Tutorial) Historiocracy: History as Public Policy in the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries (Fall 2020)

HIST 4910W/7910 – History in Public (Writing Intensive/Graduate Co-Enrollment) (Spring 2020/2021/2022/2023)

HIST 2100/2100H – Revolutionary Transformations (Honors) (Spring 2020/2021/2022)

HIST 1100/1100H – US History to 1865 (including Honors) (Fall 2019/2020/2021/2022)

#### **George Washington Teacher Institute at Mount Vernon**

August 8, 2023: “Architecture and Slavery” (STEAM workshop for Virginia teachers)

July 17-18, 2023: “Colonial Economy” and “Architecture and Slavery”

June 29, 2023: “Architecture and Slavery”

July 5, 2022: “Colonial Economy”

July 12, 2021: “Colonial Economy”

July 27, 2020: “Architecture and Slavery”

June 17-18, 2019: “Colonial Economy” and “Architecture and Slavery”

#### **American Philosophical Society Museum, Internship Supervisor**

Bryn Mawr College Museum Studies Internship (2 interns) (Summer 2017 and Summer 2018)

University of Chicago, Jeff Metcalf Internship Program (2 interns) (Summer 2018)

#### **University of South Carolina, Department of History**

HIST 111 – US History to 1865 (Fall 2015)

#### **National Institute of American History and Democracy, The College of William and Mary**

HIS 217 – Teaching with Historic Sites: From Jamestown through the American Revolution, Instructor (Summer 2015)

HIS 218 – Teaching with Historic Sites: From the American Revolution through the Civil War, Assistant Instructor (Summer 2014)

#### **University of South Carolina, Department of History, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2011-Spring 2014**

HIST 111 – US History to 1865, Dr. Tara Strauch (Spring 2014)

HIST 111 – US History to 1865, Dr. Don Doyle (Fall 2013)

HIST 109 – Latin American Civilization, Dr. Martine Jean (Spring 2013)

HIST 109 – Latin American Civilization, Dr. Matt Childs (Fall 2012)

HIST 108 – Science and Technology in World History, Dr. Joseph November (Spring 2012)

HIST 111 – US History to 1865, Dr. David Prior (Fall 2011)

#### **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

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National Institute for American History and Democracy (NIAHD), Guest Lecturer, (July-August 2016)

*The American Yawp*, Media Curator, (June-August 2016)

*AHA Today* Summer Blog, “Visiting the Past and the Places in Between,” (June-August 2016)

University of South Carolina, Department of History, Research Assistant, Dr. Lacy Ford, (Fall 2014-Spring 2015)

Camp Asylum, University of South Carolina, Department of Anthropology, Team Member (Spring 2014)

Graniteville Archaeological Project, Architectural Historian (2013-Present)

Historic Columbia Foundation, Weekend Staff (October 2012 – December 2015)

National Institute for American History and Democracy (NIAHD), Head Resident Program Assistant (Head RPA) (July 2012 – August 2012, July 2013-August 2013)

Survey of the South Carolina State Mental Hospital Bull Street Campus, Architectural Historian – Team Member (August 2012 – December 2012)

Fairfield Foundation, Research Fellow (May 2012-June 2012)

National Institute for American History and Democracy (NIAHD), Resident Program Assistant (July 2010-August 2010; July 2011 – August 2011)

Fairfield Foundation, Intern (June 2011)

Military History Weekend, Staff and Advance Promotion (October 2010)

National Institute for American History and Democracy (NIAHD), Intern, Dr. Carl Lounsbury, Department of Architectural Research, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (December 2007- December 2008)

Spotswood Society, Guide/Member (August 2008- May 2011)

## **SERVICE**

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### 2023-Present

Social Media Manager, Department of History, Virginia Military Institute

Assessment Committee, Department of History, Virginia Military Institute

History Department Working Group on Universities Studying Slavery, Virginia Military Institute

Faculty Co-Advisor, Virginia History Society, Virginia Military Institute

### 2020-2021

Events Committee, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri

University Taskforce for the Contextualization of the Thomas Jefferson Statue, University of Missouri

### 2018-2019

Conference Program Committee, The Power of Maps and the Politics of Borders, the American Philosophical Society

Hiring Committee, Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Curatorial Fellowship at the American Philosophical Society Museum

### 2017-2018

Grant Committee, Friends of the APS Dissertation Fellowship in Early American History (to 1840)

Hiring Committee, Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Curatorial Fellowship at the American Philosophical Society Museum

- 2016 Judge and Judge Coordinator, Congressional Seminar Essay Contest for High School Students, National Society of the Colonial Dames, South Carolina
- 2015 Judge and Judge Coordinator, Congressional Seminar Essay Contest for High School Students, National Society of the Colonial Dames, South Carolina
- 2015-16 University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association Finance Committee
- 2014 Judge, Congressional Seminar Essay Contest for High School Students, National Society of the Colonial Dames, South Carolina
- 2012 Judge, South Carolina National History Day Competition

## **AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Historical Association (AHA)  
American Alliance of Museums (AAM)  
College Art Association (CAA)  
National Council on Public History (NCPH)  
Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF)  
Southern Historical Association (SHA)  
South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS)  
Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP)  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

## **RESEARCH LOCATIONS (ARCHIVAL)**

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John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Earl Gregg Swem Library, The College of William and Mary  
Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon  
South Caroliniana Library, The University of South Carolina  
Thomas Cooper Library, The University of South Carolina  
South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, SC  
Barbados National Archives, Bridgetown, Barbados, BWI  
Barbados Museum and Historical Society, Bridgetown, Barbados, BWI  
American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA  
Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA  
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, MO  
US National Archives, Washington, D.C.

## **LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES**

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English (native speaker)  
Spanish (fluent reading, proficient speaking)  
French (beginner reading and speaking)  
Dutch (beginner reading and speaking)  
Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel  
Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop)  
SketchUp (3D/architectural modeling program)  
Omeka (Web Publishing for Collections and Exhibitions)  
Drupal (Web application framework)

FileMaker Pro (Database Software)  
Mimsy XG (Collection Management Software)  
MatterPort (3D digitization platform)

## STUDENTS SUPERVISED

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Interns (10-week internship at the American Philosophical Society Museum):

- Julia Gerdin, Summer 2018 (University of Chicago, Jeff Metcalf Internship Program)
- William Shine, Summer 2018 (University of Chicago, Jeff Metcalf Internship Program)
- Cassidy Gruber Baruth, Summer 2018 (Bryn Mawr)
- Aubrey Shiffner, Summer 2018 (Bryn Mawr)
- Tessa Haas, Summer 2017 (Bryn Mawr)
- Emma Rutenberg, Summer 2017 (Bryn Mawr)

Graduate Students:

- Mia Edwards, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy M.A. in Atlantic History (2021-22)
- Catherine Hutinett, Independent Study—Women, Gender, and Historic Preservation (Spring 2022)

Undergraduate Research Assistants:

- Bailey Martin, University of Missouri (2021-2022), assisted with the transcription of the Slave Registers of Former British Dependencies from Barbados in 1817

Thesis Committees:

- Bailey Martin, Honors Thesis, “Negotiating Amelioration in Barbados 1780-1830,” University of Missouri (2022-2023)
- Nolan Kinz, Honors Thesis, “The Treaties of Winchester and Carlisle: The British Quest for Indian Allies, 1751-1754,” Virginia Military Institute (2023-2024)

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Woody Holton, McCausland Professor of History at the University of South Carolina  
[aholton@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:aholton@mailbox.sc.edu)

Dr. Jeffrey L. Pasley, Professor and Associate Director, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy  
[pasleyj@missouri.edu](mailto:pasleyj@missouri.edu)

Dr. Patrick Spero, Librarian and Director of the American Philosophical Society Library  
[librarian@amphilsoc.org](mailto:librarian@amphilsoc.org)