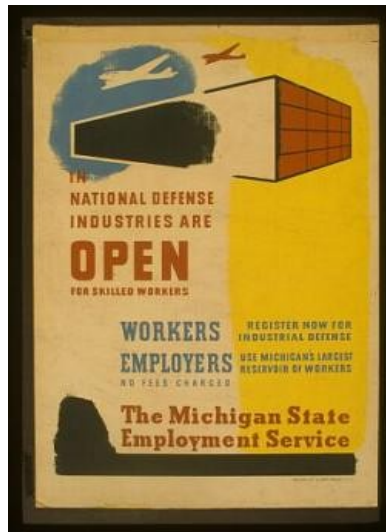


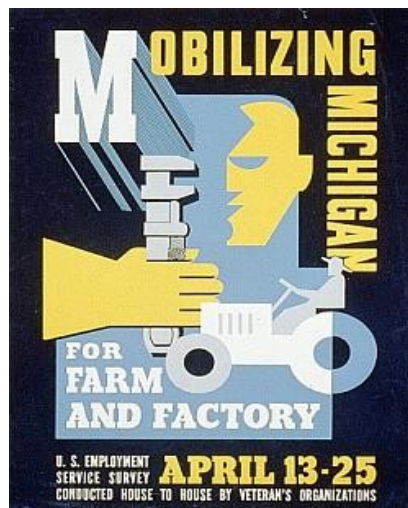


History at Work: Remembering the New Deal in Michigan

Professor Michelle McClellan



Mon/Wed
1:00-4:00
Place: TBA



History 231—Spring 2009

Today, we hear many calls for a new “New Deal” to help Americans cope with our current economic crisis, the “worst since the Great Depression.” The legacies of the New Deal clearly shape our political landscape, and they have left their mark on the physical landscape too—if we know where to look.

This course offers students the opportunity to learn about the New Deal in Michigan during the 1930s, debate issues of historical commemoration and preservation, and participate in shaping a preservation plan for New Deal-era structures built in Michigan. Just as those who lived through the Great Depression are passing away, so the physical legacies of the New Deal in the landscape and built environment are often deteriorating. The hands-on portion of this class will focus on the Waterloo State Recreation Area west of Ann Arbor, a park created under the auspices of the New Deal. Our readings will include information on the New Deal, as well as works in the theory and practice of historic preservation and public history. Required field assignments will include research trips to the Bentley Historical Library on North Campus; meetings with officials from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); and visits to Waterloo itself. Our final project will contribute to a strategic plan outlining how the DNR might proceed in preserving these structures and telling this story of the New Deal in Michigan. Students must be able to attend several field sessions throughout the term.

