

Field school in archaeological survey and excavation
Peterson Farm and Fort Snelling
May term (May 23-June 10) 2016
Anth 3221: 6 credits

At two local sites, students will learn:

- Mapping and topographic survey
- Ground penetrating radar data collection
- Shovel test pit survey
- Contextual excavations
- Artifact identification and field processing
- Historic site documentation



For this May term field school, students will work at two local public historical sites, using archaeological methods to explore undocumented aspects of the past which will contribute to the public interpretations of the sites. We will be using a range of methods and sampling strategies to define the limits of site areas, recover representative artifacts and features, and ground-truth the results of non-invasive survey methods (particularly ground penetrating radar). These methods are the basic skills required for field technician employment in the cultural resources management profession. Students will be learning public engagement as part of their work also, as both sites are accessible to visitors.



Students are expected to be on-site Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm. All field equipment will be provided, but students will need to have appropriate field clothing, protection from the elements (rain, sun, mosquitos), and to bring lunch. Grading is based on demonstration of teamwork, ability to master basic techniques, and excellent communication and documentation skills.

TO APPLY, complete and return the attached application by MARCH 25. Questions? Contact Professor Kat Hayes (kathayes@umn.edu) OR Joe Pnewski (pnews002@umn.edu).



Ground penetrating radar survey



Shovel test pit survey



Topographic mapping



Contextual excavations



About the sites:

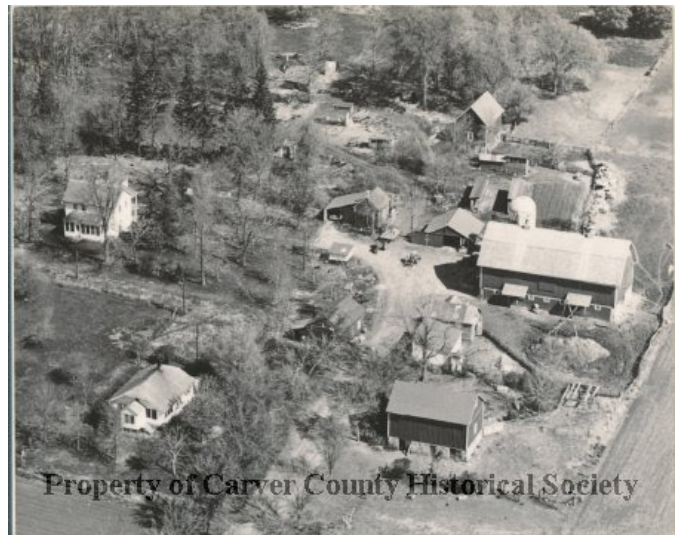
The **Historic Andrew Peterson Farm** is a mid-nineteenth century pioneer farmstead located near Waconia in Carver County, Minnesota. The farmstead was settled in 1855 and during a 43 year period the owner, a Swedish immigrant Andrew Peterson, kept a daily diary encapsulating everyday life on



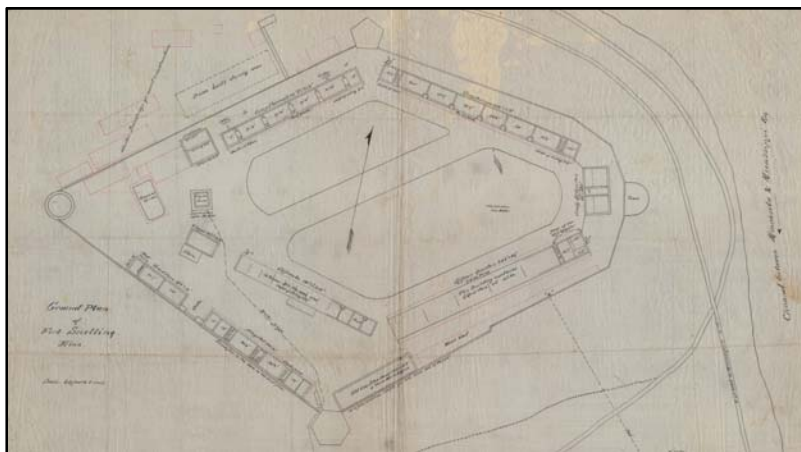
the farm which has been used as utilized for the famous Vilhelm Moberg novel series *The Emigrants* (1949-1961). The Peterson Farm also was the site of early and experimental horticultural work on the development of apple, pear, and cherry varieties that would survive the harsh Minnesota environment and climate, with many varieties still present at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Because of these important factors, the Peterson Farm has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and has garnered support and interest from local, national, and even international (Swedish) interest groups.

During the Peterson Farm's 150 year existence, the landscape has continuously changed and fluctuated to better suit the use and purpose of the farm. Changes included the addition, modification, movement, and tearing down of structures and other features, as well as the adoption and utilization of different types of resources, techniques, and equipment. The earliest elements represent the era pioneering and settlement in mid-nineteenth century Minnesota and the beginnings of agriculture and horticulture in the region, while later elements show the evolution and innovation of farming and farmsteads Minnesota during the turn of the 20th centuries and forward.

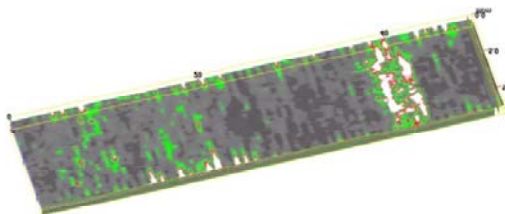
This Historic Andrew Peterson Farm offers a unique opportunity to view the changing landscapes of farmsteads and the artifacts associated during an important and dynamic time of pioneering, settlement, and farming in Minnesota during the last half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th centuries.



The landscape around **Fort Snelling** is an amalgamation of cultural history. The region has long been viewed as sacred land and the spiritual center of the universe by Dakota peoples. As European settlers began to spread into the region, the site became a nexus for the fur trade, and after the War of 1812, the U.S. Army established a military fort atop the bluffs overlooking the river confluence. From this location, the US Army met with and negotiated numerous treaties between Dakota and Ojibwe nations. The military base was also home to Dred and Harriet Scott for several years, providing cause for their lawsuit arguing their freedom. In 1862, the U.S. relationship with Dakota peoples deteriorated into open warfare, and the fort became the site of a mass prison camp of non-combatants, and the place from which they were subsequently exiled. During the Civil War, the fort was a place for mustering troops, and during World War II the location for a Japanese language training school as part of the military intelligence program. By the time of the fort's decommissioning in 1946, it had been the focus of 125 years of intensive use, representing a complex colonial and national history.



The focus of the field school excavations will be on **Building 14**, the former military prison at Fort Snelling, which was built in the early 1860s in response to the influx of Civil War soldiers. Located outside of the walls of the fort, it was meant to replace the guardhouse located inside the fort as the primary site of military incarceration. It remained a part of the military base until decommissioning following World War II, though historic maps of the base indicate that its use may have changed over time. This prison was contemporaneous with the first



territorial/state prison in Stillwater, and the women's prison-reformatory in Shakopee, but built immediately after the closing of the Dakota prison/concentration camp. This exploratory excavation will begin to open new landscape and material culture avenues to answer these questions. Excavations will focus on a segment of the building identified in GPR survey results.

Application/student information sheet

**UMN Anthropology 2016 May term archaeology field school: Anth 3221 (6cr)
PETERSON FARM AND HISTORIC FORT SNELLING**

Enrollment to the program is limited to 15 students, thus selection must be made through application. Please fill in this form and return to project PI Kat Hayes in the University of Minnesota Anthropology department main office (395 HHH, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55455). Decisions will be announced ASAP.

NAME: _____

SCHOOL, MAJOR, YEAR: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please also list the name, title and institution, and contact info (email and phone) of ONE person who can provide a reference for you:

What is your interest in applying for this program?

Please list all archaeology-related courses you have taken to date (include methods classes):

Do you have any prior experience with archaeological fieldwork? If yes, please describe:

Fieldwork involves some strenuous conditions: heat and humidity; lifting and carrying equipment, buckets of dirt, and soil samples; squatting or kneeling in excavation units for extended periods. Do you have any physical conditions that might hinder your ability to deal with these conditions and activities? (If yes, how might we be able to mitigate them?)

The two sites of this field school are within commuting distance of the university. Do you have a vehicle, and would you be willing to have other students carpool with you? (Your answer does not factor in the decision to accept you for the field school, it is simply information that helps our planning.)

Any additional information you think might be pertinent: