# DONNA J. RILLING Donna.Rilling@stonybrook.edu

# PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of History, State University of New York, Stony Brook, September 2001 to present; Assistant Professor, 1995 to 2001.

Project Historian, North Philadelphia Project, Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record, NPS, Summer 2000.

**EDUCATION**

University of Pennsylvania. Ph.D., History, 1993

Yale University. B.A., History.

# PUBLICATIONS

*Making Houses, Crafting Capitalism: Builders in Early Philadelphia, 1790-1850* University of Pennsylvania Press, Series in Early American Studies, 2001. Nominated for the Abbott Lowell Cummings Prize in Vernacular Architecture.

“An African American Burial Ground; discovered, protected, eradicated,” in *Race. Space, and Culture; Essays on Cultural Theory and the Built Environment*. Edited by Marlon B. Ross and K. Ian Grandison. Volume under advance contract and (as of August 2020) under review, Johns Hopkins University Press.

“Nancy Coots and the ‘Singular Case’ of ‘a Colored Woman’s Will,’” Revise and Resubmit invitation.

Co-editor with Brian C. Black, Special Issue on Energy in the MidAtlantic Region. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, v. 139, October 2015.

“Locating Philadelphia’s Water-Powered Past.” *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (October 2015), 356-59.

“Bone Boilers: Nineteenth-century Green Businessmen?” in *Nature’s Entrepôt: Philadelphia’s Urban Sphere and its Environmental Thresholds*. Edited by Brian C. Black and Michael J. Chiarappa. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012. Pp. 75-90.

“Review Essay: Reinforcing Material History,” *Journal of Urban History* 35 (July 2009), 768-76.

“Small Producer Capitalism in Early National Philadelphia,” in *The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives and New Directions*. Edited by Cathy Matson. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006.

“Liberty is Innovation.” Invited article in Special Issue on the Market Revolution, *OAH Magazine of History* 19 (May 2005), 12-15. Edited by John L. Larson.

“Sylvan Enterprise and the Philadelphia Hinterland” *Pennsylvania History* 67 (Spring 2000), 194-217.

## CURRENT BOOK PROJECTS

*Foreclosed: A Black Community in Nineteenth-Century West Philadelphia*

### Mill Creek: A Biography

**PUBLIC HISTORY**

Nominations to the Register of Historic Places of the Philadelphia Historical Commission

Co-authored with Michael Clemmons, “Stephen & Harriet Smith-William & Harriet Whipper Houses, 919-21 Lombard St.,” <https://www.phila.gov/media/20220324130114/919-21-Lombard-St-nomination.pdf> Approved March 2022.

Co-authored with Oscar Beisert, “Peter Woll & Sons Manufacturing Company, Curled Hair, 152-78 W Berks St.” <https://www.phila.gov/media/20190409142704/152-78-W-Berks-St-nomination.pdf> Approved (with modification) May 2019.

Co-authored with Oscar Beisert, “Peter Woll & Sons, Curled Hair & Bristles, 173 W Berks St. <https://www.phila.gov/media/20190514132531/173-W-Berks-St-nomination.pdf> Approved April 2019.

“African Friends to Harmony Burial Ground, 4111-4123 Chestnut Street,” July 2018. <https://www.phila.gov/media/20190401093121/4111-23-Chestnut-St-nomination.pdf> Approved Nov. 2018.

Co-authored with H.R. Haas, “1416-1432 West Girard Avenue,” <https://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/1416-32WGirardHDnom.pdf> Approved May 2018 as first Historic Districts designated in several years.

Co-authored with J.M. Duffin, Oscar Beisert, and Rachel Hildebrandt, “William and Letitia Still Underground Railroad Way Station, 625 S. Delhi St.,” <https://www.phila.gov/media/20190401092648/625-S-Delhi-St-nomination.pdf> Approved March 2018.

Editor and contributor to research, Nomination by Oscar Beisert, “Esslinger & Son/ The Dallett Chandlery, 401-29 N. 10th St.,” Approved with modifications, July 2017. <https://www.phila.gov/media/20190401092933/401-29-N-10th-St-nomination.pdf>

Editor and contributor to research, Nomination by Josh Bevan, “836 N. Preston St.,” July 2017. Approved.

Editor and historical consultant, Objection by J.M. Duffin to Application to Reclassify 1601-03 Lombard Street, a/k/a The Cinderella Inn/Apex Beauty School, from contributing to non-contributing building in the Rittenhouse-Fitler Square Historic District,” Nov. 2017. Successful.

“Using Court Records for Historic Preservation Research,” Philadelphia Place History, Philadelphia, March 2017.

Court records inventory, Philadelphia City Archives and Records, Fall 2016. Inventoried 184 banker boxes of unsorted legal filings from nineteenth-century courts.

Historical report, Disston House, 1530 N. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Historic American Buildings Survey, 2000. <http://cdn.loc.gov/master/pnp/habshaer/pa/pa3800/pa3862/data/pa3862data.pdf>

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Review of Smith, Ryan K., *Robert Morris’s Folly; The Architectural and Financial Failures of an American Founder*. *Pennsylvania History*, 83 (2) Spring 2016.

Review of Vitiello, Domenic, *Engineering Philadelphia; the Sellers Family and the Industrial Metropolis. American Historical Review*, 119 (5) (2014): 1690-1691.

Review of Luskey, Brian P., *On the Make: Clerks and the Quest for Capital in Nineteenth-Century America*. *Journal of the Early Republic*, 31 (Fall 2011), 526‑29.

Review of Middleton, Simon*, From Privileges to Rights: Work and Politics in Colonial New York City*. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., 64 (July 2007), 665-68.

Review of Herman, Bernard, *Town House: Architecture and Material Life in the Early American City, 1780-1830*. H-Urban, H-Net Reviews. August 2006. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=12139>

Review of John H. Hepp, *The Middle-Class City: Transforming Space and Time in Philadelphia, 1876-1926*. *American Historical Review* 110, no. 5 (Dec. 2005), 1548-9.

Review of Majewski, John, *A House Dividing: Economic Development in Pennsylvania and Virginia before the Civil War*. H-SHEAR, H-Net Reviews. December 2001. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=5760>

# FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Charles E. Peterson Research Fellowship, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 2021-2022

Faculty Fellowship, Humanities Institute at Stony Brook, Fall 2015

Co-project leader, *Mapping Long Island*. Seed grant for interdisciplinary web-based project. Fine Arts, Humanities, and Lettered Social Sciences Provostial Grants, SUNY, Stony Brook, AY 2014-15

Gordon Cain Postdoctoral Fellowship in Technology, Policy and Entrepreneurship, Chemical Heritage Foundation, 2003-2004

Scholar-in-Residence Grant, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Summer 2003

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Program in Early American Economy and Society at The Library Company of Philadelphia, 2000-2001

Nuala McCann Drescher Affirmative Action Leave Award, State University of New York/United University Professions, 1998-1999

Harvard-Newcomen Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Business History, Harvard Business School, Harvard University, 1994-1995

Charles E. Peterson Research Fellowship, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 1993-1994

Early American Industries Association Grant-in-Aid, 1993-1994

## PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

*Freedom, Faith and Family: Migrants and the formation of their West Philadelphia Community* Invited paper, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Nov. 2022

*“The ‘poorer class of the people of colour in West Philadelphia’ build”* Invited Presenter, Rowhouse City: History and Adaptation in Philadelphia, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania, Oct. 2022

With Michael Clemmons. *Lombard Street’s Black Activists: Antislavery, Business and Advancement,* Athenaeum of Philadelphia, May 202*2*

*Nancy Malony Coots, Passmore Williamson, and the “Singular Case” of “a Colored Woman’s Will”* Black Lives and Freedom Journeys, Philadelphia, October 2021

*“An African American Burial Ground: ‘Discovered,’ Protected, Eradicated.”* Race, Space, and Culture; Essays on Cultural Theory and the Built Environment, On Zoom, sponsored by the University of Virginia, July 2020

*Historic Preservation and the case of a West Philadelphia Burial Ground*. Drexel University, Philadelphia, May 2019

*Corrupt & Contested: Remaking Nature in Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia*, Humanities Institute, Stony Brook University, April 2016

*Comment, Session on “Tapping Nature’s Bounty in Wayne County”* Pennsylvania Historical Association, Philadelphia, November 2014

*Judicious Regulation: Philadelphia’s Board of Health, 1855-1860s*. American Society for Environmental History, Toronto, April 2013

*Transforming a Nineteenth-Century Watercourse and its Neighborhood.* Rivers, Cities, Historical Imaginations, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, February 2013

*Colored, Corrupted, and Contested: a 19th-Century Creek and Its Valley*

GRID + Flow: Philadelphia and Beyond: Mapping and Reimagining Urban Ecologies Through the Arts and Humanities. Temple University, April 2011

*Boundary Crossings: Between Water Purity and Pollution in Environmental History*

*In Dialogue* Series, Humanities Institute, SUNY, Stony Brook, March 2011

*Everyman a Speculator: House Builders in Jacksonian Philadelphia*

Keynote address, Construction History Society, May 2010

*Poor Women Strategize to Fight Nuisance in mid-19th-century Philadelphia*

American Society for Environmental History, March 2010

*American Legal Culture and Environmental Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century.* Fifth Round Table on Urban Environmental History, Berlin, July 2008

*Naturalists and Environmental Consequences of mid-19th-century Pollution*

American Society for Environmental History, March 2006

*Bone Boilers: 19th-century Green Businessmen?* American Society for Environmental History, March 2005

### Comment, Session on “Graduate Student Work-in-Progress.” Pennsylvania Historical Association, October 2004

#### Enticing Topographical and Environmental Change Out of Two-Dimensional Sources Symposium on “Stories and Sources: Exploring History Through Documents,” Historical Society of Pennsylvania, November 2004

“Vitriol Vagabonds,” Acerbic Naturalists, and Befooled Women: the Contested Discourse of Nuisance. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, July 2004

When Pollution was New: Confronting Industrial Waste in the mid-19th Century. Invited Speaker, Frankford Historical Society, Philadelphia, June 2004

Nineteenth-century Environmental and Technological Knowledge: who has it, how does it circulate, and what is its content?Science & Society Discussion Series, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Feb. 2004

*Landscapes of Technology, Pollution and Suburbanization in 19th-century Philadelphia*. Academy of Natural Sciences Colloquium, December 2003

*Technology, Pollution and Suburbanization encounter Mill Creek*. Pennsylvania Historical Association Meeting, October 2003

*Floating Fish and Floating Ideas: Spreading Environmental and Technological Knowledge through 19th-century Pollution Lawsuits*. Society for the History of Technology, October 2003

*Noise, stinks and toxins in the 19th-century industrial city.* Brown Bag Series, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, August 2003

*Dirty Little Secrets: Industrial Pollution in the Nineteenth Century*. History Workshop in Technology, Society and Culture, University of Delaware, April 2002

Airing Dirty Linen: Industrial Waste and Responses in the Nineteenth-Century Textile City Industrial Environments: Creativity and Consequences, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, March 2002

*Intra-Industry Contests Over Pollution Rights*. American Society for Environmental History, March 2002

*Comment, Session on “Negotiating Geographic and Cultural Boundaries.”* Pennsylvania Historical Association, October 2001

*Small Producer Capitalism in Philadelphia, 1812-1840*. The Past and Future of Early American Economic History: Needs and Opportunities. Program in Early American Economy and Society at The Library Company of Philadelphia, April 2001

*In Defense of Polluting the Nineteenth-Century Metropolis*. Joint Seminar of the Program in Early American Economy and Society, and the McNeil Center in Early American Studies, March 2001

### Comment, Session on “Capital and Patterns of Regional Economic Development”

Pennsylvania Historical Association, October 1998

*Creative Construction: Entrepreneurial Strategies of Philadelphia Builders, 1790-1850*.

Business History Conference, July 1997

*Creative Construction: Artisan Builders in Philadelphia, 1790-1850* . Columbia University Seminar for Early American History, November 1996

*Comment, Session on “19th-Century Business.”* Pennsylvania Historical Association, October 1995

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Historical Association Book Series, April 2015-present

Post-doctoral Fellowship Committee, McNeil Center for Early American Studies,

2012-13

Tenure and promotion review for a candidate at the university level, November 2011

Manuscript referee for The University of Virginia Press; The Johns Hopkins University Press; *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*; *Journal of the Early Republic*; *Business History Review*; *Pennsylvania History*; *Journal of Social History*; *Early American Studies*; *Eighteenth-Century Studies*; *Chemical Heritage, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*; University of Tennessee Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; SUNY Press

Philip S. Klein Book Prize Committee, Pennsylvania Historical Association, 2010

Envirotech Article Prize Committee, Spring 2009-Spring 2010

Panel Organizer, “Commerce, Industry, and Environmental Change around the Atlantic,” American Society for Environmental History, Annual Meeting, March 2006

Member, Fellowship Committee, Wolfe Institute Faculty Fellowships, Brooklyn College, Spring 2005

Member, Editorial Board, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*,

September 2004-2010

Panel Organizer, “Nature’s Resources: Narratives of Commodification, Consumption, and Indigestion,” Society of the History of the Early American Republic, Annual Meeting, July 2004

Conference Organizer & Program Chair, “Cities, Industry, and Environment in Transatlantic Perspective,” Cain Conference, Chemical Heritage Foundation, April 2004

Dissertation Fellowship Committee, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2004

Member, Program Committee, Pennsylvania Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2001

Fellowship Committee, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 1994

##### DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Department of History, Fall 2022--.

Graduate Committee, Department of History, Fall 2020-July 1, 2022

“Public History Can be Messy,” RCR Ethics Workshop Presentation, February 2021

Undergraduate Program Director, June 1, 2018-June 30, 2020

Review Committee, Graduate Fellowship & Faculty Research Program (AHLSS), 2019

Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, AY 2014-15

Graduate Committee, Department of History, Fall 2010-2013

History Department Senator, College of Arts and Sciences Senate, Fall 2008-Spring 2011

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of History, July 2006-July 2008

Departmental Search Committee, Consortium for Inter-Disciplinary Environmental Research, Spring 2007

Chair, Department Promotions and Tenure Committee for April Masten, 2006-07

Executive Committee, Department of History, Spring 2006-2008

Spearheaded revision of the department bylaws

Admissions Committee, Program for Master of Arts in Teaching, 2005-06

Co-Chair, U.S. History Search Committee, 2004-05

General Assessment Education Requirement Committee, Spring 2005-2006

Delegate, United University Professions, 1999-2003

Member, U.S. History Search Committee, 1998-99

New American Studies Faculty Group, 1996-97. Curriculum initiative to design an interdisciplinary undergraduate major in the study of the Americas

History Department Graduate Committee, Spring 1997

History Department Undergraduate Advising Committee, 1995-96

**TEACHING FIELDS:** History of work, industry, and business; social history; urban environmental history; writing intensive course for history students; Early Republic and antebellum United States; Law and society in early America; American history survey to Reconstruction