

1-1-2011

The Eli Whitney Museum

Eliza McLellan

Connecticut College, eliza.mclellan@conncoll.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/archstudintproj>

Recommended Citation

McLellan, Eliza, "The Eli Whitney Museum" (2011). *Architectural Studies Integrative Projects*. Paper 29.
<http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/archstudintproj/29>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Art History and Architectural Studies at Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Architectural Studies Integrative Projects by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Connecticut College.

For more information, please contact bpancier@conncoll.edu.

The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

ELIZA McLELLAN

SENIOR INTEGRATIVE PROJECT:
INTERNSHIP

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
2012



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE



The Eli Whitney Museum

Spring 2012 Internship: Eliza McLellan

Objectives

- To thoughtfully compile research on the 1816 Eli Whitney barn
- To attain greater knowledge of New England barn architecture and how it has documented the technologies of the past
- To create visually rich and coherent educational material
- To thoroughly understand and master the methods and procedures of the organization
- To develop communication skills by working in a team setting.

Who is

Eli Whitney* ?
◆



- He is primarily known as the inventor of the cotton gin
- But he was also a very successful gun manufacturer.
- He designed his various inventions with interchangeable parts.

Photo Credit: Eli Whitney Museum
*Wikipedia

Meet the Minds



Bill Brown

Sally Hill

Passion is what drives a small non-profit organization.

Meet Their Brain Child:

Whitney's Gun Factory Turned Educational Museum and Workshop



What They Are

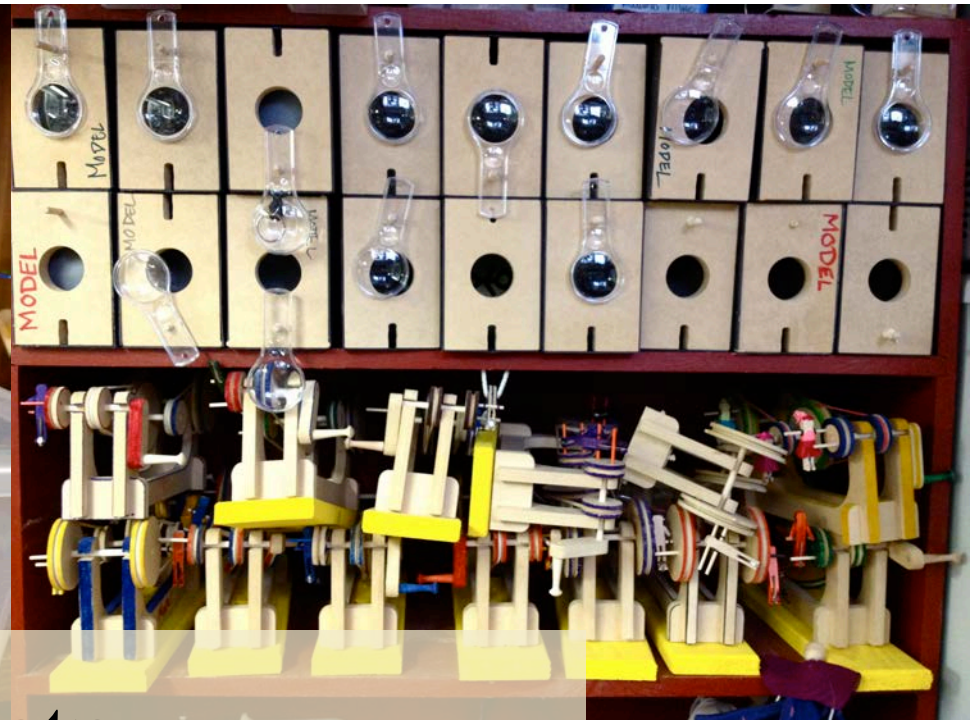


*“We are a Workshop: we **build** things.
We are a Museum: we **collect** things.
We collect essential experiments. We
also collect the materials that
experiments require. We collect tools
and clever ways of building. We collect
curious and gifted apprentices who can
help experimenters get started.”*

What They Teach

- How to:
 - Experiment with materials
 - Read models
 - Listen to tools
 - Find help
 - Respect natural measurements
 - Improve
 - Test
 - Choose important details
 - Find your own style





The Projects





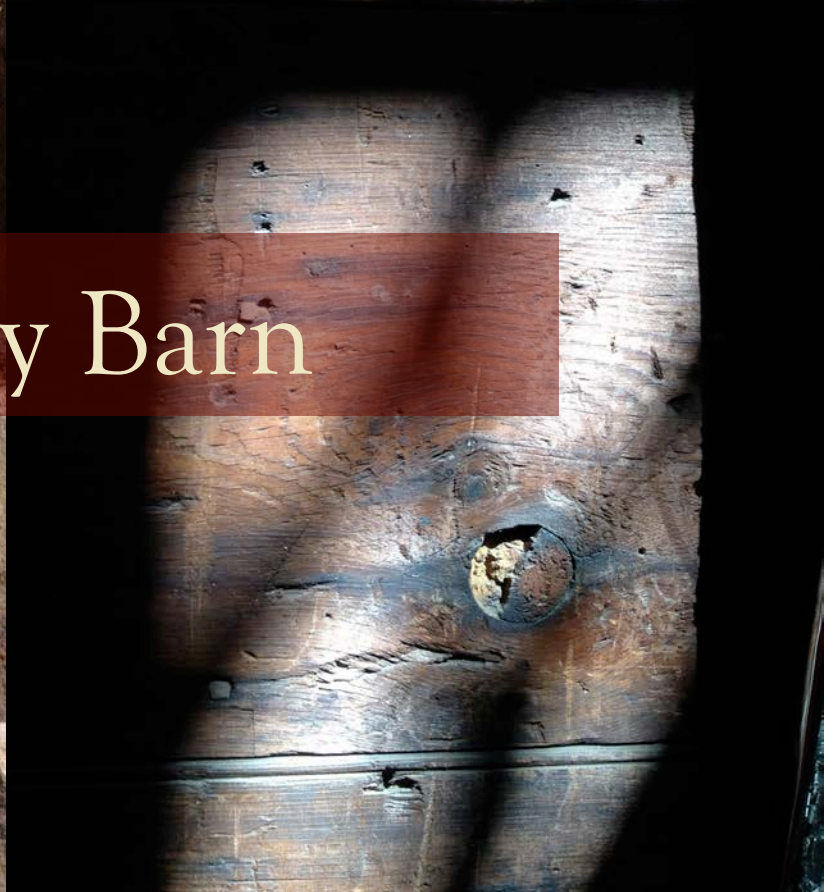
- I helped set up workshops,
- taught children how to “read the model,”
- and encouraged a do-it-yourself attitude.

The Leonardo Challenge: Numbers

A Fundraising Event

...Eat, look, and bid



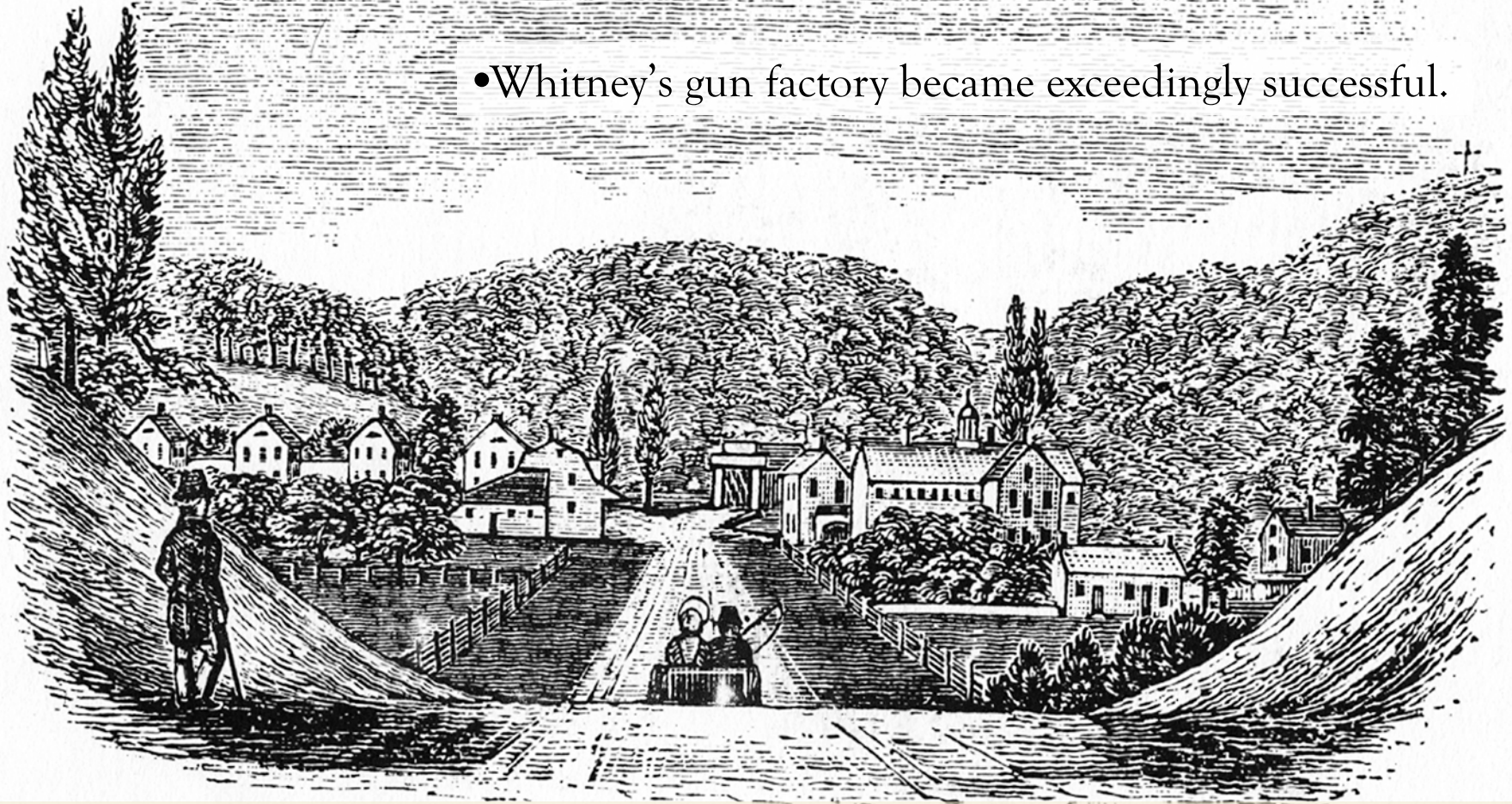


The 1816 Whitney Barn



Understanding its History

- Whitney's gun factory became exceedingly successful.



- Whitney needed a space to house his draft animals and pack the carriages.

A New Purpose



- Held cultural events: dances, musical performances, poetry readings, lectures, craft fairs

Understanding the Barn's Magic

through interviews and my own eyes .



“The Barn’s architecture, history and surrounding landscape help me maintain a heightened sense of life’s interconnectedness.”

~ Susan Clinard (artist in residence)

Understanding its Architectural Elements



Trap Rock



Swallow holes



Square rule construction

**Barn Saved.
Now Save the Date: 6.2.12**



In 1816 Eli Whitney constructed a magnificent barn to stable his Armory's draft animals. It remains an architectural treasure. On **Saturday, June 2nd**, the Eli Whitney Museum will celebrate this remarkable structure and its history with a festival of music, dance, craft, and art. A great time for the whole family, from **3pm - 9pm**. Mark your calendar.

Bill Fischer: Music and dance coordinator

Eliza McLellan: Curator

Susan Clinard: Artist-in-residence

Karen Lenahan: for more information: [203.777.1833](tel:203.777.1833), kl@eliwhitney.org

Credit: Eli Whitney Museum

6.2.12: Celebrate!

- A recent renovation calls for a public unveiling.
- There will be music, dancing, quilting, nature walks, food... and a photography exhibit curated by me!



The Museum is a Magical Place too

- EWM is a respite for brilliant children and teens who sometimes feel like outcasts in a public school setting.
- They come to EWM and are able to explore freely, test their wildest inventions, and be mentored by teachers who believe in their ideas and capabilities.

Concluding Thoughts



Knowledge gained in the areas of:

- Architectural History
- Curatorial Studies/Museum Studies
- Design
- Communication
- Teaching/Museum Education

Critical skills learned:

- Photoshop
- How to work a drill press!