Pullman Digital Initiatives

ONGOING PROJECTS AT THE PULLMAN STATE HISTORIC SITE
In 1881, George Pullman created what he hoped would be an ideal manufacturing community on the far south side of Chicago.

The factory complex, surrounded by company housing, was dedicated to the manufacturing and servicing of passenger cars.
Located on the far south side of Chicago, the town was designed as an “ideal community” and was intended by Pullman to solve all of the ills of then-modern manufacturing and housing.

Looking north to Chicago, 1890.
The town housed as many as 8,000 workers and their families. It was rented from the Pullman Company until a Supreme Court order forced the company to sell the houses to private individuals in 1907.

98% of the housing stock is still extant and being lived in; the town of Pullman was annexed by the city of Chicago and remains a strong and vibrant community.

*Company housing, 1892.*
The factory complex dominated the town, with four blocks of housing and shopping on either side of the factory.

Sanborn map, 1900.
The web site of the Pullman State Historic Site (PSHS).

http://www.pullman-museum.org/
The PSHS is committed to putting all of its collection online to form a virtual museum. It uses custom software for a digital presentation and curation.

The software uses MySQL for indexes, XML records for the data, and Perl interfaces for both.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/cgi-bin/pvm/newGetSubjects.pl?subject=Pullman%20Family
Full record.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/cgi-bin/pvm/newMainRecordDisplayXML.pl?recordid=10989
Since 1998, Pullman volunteers have been collecting house histories—who lived in each Pullman house. We have data from the 1883 and 1889 city directories, the 1900-1940 censuses, the 1894 strike canvass, and the 1916 phonebook online.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/phhp/
We also have an extensive collection of maps of Pullman online.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/maps/
A complete set of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for our neighborhood, hand colored and linked geographically.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/maps/1897.html
We have linked addresses to demographic data.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/cgi-bin/pvm/newHouseHistoryViewByAddress.pl?address=111th
Each address has a precis of the associated demographic data, as well as links to more detailed data.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/cgi-bin/pvm/newHouseHistoryGetAddress.pl?range=new&street=Langley&address=11311
Federal troops muster in front of the Arcade Building, June 1894, in the Pullman neighborhood.
Lasting from May through July, 1894, Pullman employees were laid off or dismissed outright. Coupled with a malaria outbreak from nearby Lake Calumet and the heat of an exceptionally hot summer, Pullman residents suffered terribly. The Chicago Tribune conducted a house-to-house canvass of the neighborhood about residents’ needs, and published the results in August, 1894. These records are all online.
During the annual Pullman House Tour (October 11-12, 2014), we printed out these entries for each address, and placed them in front of each property. This paid tribute to the suffering of the people who lived in our houses on the 120th anniversary of the Pullman Strike.

**Signs ready to place in yards, marshaled at the Pullman State Site.**
Each record from the censuses is completely displayed, data pulled from the MySQL/XML records.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/cgi-bin/pvm/newHouseHistoryGetCensusFromDB.pl?census=1910&uid=7233
Part II.
Part III. Notice the space for comments and corrections.
Comments, corrections, etc. are e-mailed to us so that we can change the information as needed in the database.
We also have all of the original census records, so users can examine the actual record itself. Relevant census sheets are linked to each record.

As part of a grant project, we are currently working on normalizing the professions and nativity fields of the various census records. We have temporarily moved them all to MySQL tables.
Normally, they are housed as strictly defined XML records. This is the DTD of the 1900 census.

We are exploring moving the data to Mediawiki to allow much greater user input and flexibility in display.
The Beman Committee of the Pullman Civic Organization, responsible for helping to preserve the architecture features of Pullman houses, has worked with an architect to create architectural renderings of each porch, façade, window, and door in all Pullman houses. This information is all available online.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/cgi-bin/pvm/facadeScreen1.pl?street=111th&address=619
Detailed drawings of the doors of 619 E. 111th Street.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/beman/doors/18DOOR.pdf
Part II.
We have 58,231 names in our database of residents who lived in Pullman between 1883 and 1940.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/cgi-bin/pvm/newHouseHistoryViewByName.pl?letter=A
A significant challenge, currently being addressed, is trying to normalize the data so demographic analysis can be done by scholars.

Notice all of the different ways that accountants are describe throughout the censuses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View House History Records By Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Machinist</strong> (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountant (Office Car Works)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountant (Car Works)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountant (Mail Order house)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountant ([Gen] Accounting)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountant (Motor Co.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountant (Phonograph Co)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountant (Car Factory Office)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Amusingly, there are 5 people who listed their occupation as “bootleggers” in the 1930 census.
At the turn of the 20th century, Pullman--and particularly the phenomenon of the Pullman Porter--caught the public's imagination.

In a rigidly segregated society, Pullman Porters were probably the only African-Americans that most of white society ever truly interacted with.

As a result, Pullman Porters were also used in the era's minstrel shows. The mystique and romance of rail travel is described in the sheet music of the period, 1871-1921.

We have scanned the music, optically recognized it, and converted it into MP3 format; the tunes are also available as MIDI files.

This is my personal favorite tune, the P.P.C. Waltz, written in 1880 by Jonathan C. Minton.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/theCompany/mp3s/ppcwaltz.mp3
We optically musically recognize the sheet music, convert it into various formats, and make it available to everyone.

We make the music sound like it was being played on an upright piano in the lobby of the Hotel Florence, the hotel for Pullman’s guests and business appointments in the town of Pullman.
I am...

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