



Please join us for a **Museums at Noon** presentation!

**Speaker:** Bradley L. Taylor (Associate Director, Museum Studies Program)

**When:** 12:00 pm on Friday, March 20

**Where:** UM Museum of Art Multi-Purpose Room (125)

## **Reconstructing History/Reimagining Originality: The Case of Henry Ford's English Preservations**

As the Stock Market Crash of 1929 was about to plunge the world into the Great Depression, Henry Ford was putting finishing touches on an outdoor museum of historic structures known today as Greenfield Village. Ford's interest in preserving old buildings on site had existed for years but this assemblage of structures moved from other parts of the country was something few had seen before. Ford and his team thus led an effort to preserve in a way that offered little precedent upon which to draw.

This talk showcases Ford's efforts to rescue three English structures—a retail store, a home, and a forge—and finds that the stories of these three preservations lead us to new ways of considering deeply held assumptions about the nature of “originality” and “authenticity.”