**Jackie Perkins**

jp2975@msstate.edu

**Professional Profile**

I am a fifth year Ph.D. candidate at Mississippi State University, expected to graduate in the spring of 2026, with a focus on urban environmental history. My current research examines the role of beauty and bureaucracy in the creation of urban public parks in Chicago at the turn of the twentieth century.

**Education**

Mississippi State University, History Ph.D. Candidate, 2021-Present

Dissertation: “In the Pursuit of Beauty: A Bureaucratic History of Chicago’s Parks, 1860-1933"

Wright State University, Master of Arts in History, 2021

Thesis: “Gardening the Gilded Age: Creating the Landscapes of the Future”

Purdue University North Central, Bachelor of Arts in History, 2016

Purdue University North Central, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, 2016

**Presentations**

Presentation, “From Wetland to Landscape: Agricultural Innovation and Ecological Sustainability in the Transformation of Chicago’s South Parks,” 2025, Agricultural History Society

Presentation, “Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder: Controlling the Landscape of Chicago’s South Park System, 1869-1893,” 2025, American Society for Environmental History

Presentation, “Pursuing Maps: Locating the Transformation Inside the Lines,” 2024, CHASES Experiment Station

Presentation, “Walled in Culture: Private Outdoor Spaces and the Chicago Elite,” 2023, Southern Forum on Agricultural, Rural, and Environmental History

Presentation, “Industrial Digitization: Preserving the Documents of the Gilded Age,” 2020 Wright State Public History Symposium, Event Cancelled due to COVID-19

**Publications**

Publication, “The Tucker-Fuller Years: 1972-1982,” in *Purdue University North Central: The History of a Regional Campus*, ed. Joseph Coates and James Pula, Academic Consulting, 2019.

**Reviews**

Perkins on Mark Hough, *Design Through Time: Evolving Landscapes, from Alcatraz to Prospect Park* (H-Environment, June 2025)

Perkins on Ayurella Horn-Muller, *Devoured: The Extraordinary Story of Kudzu the Vine that Ate the South* (*Gulf South Historical Review*, Vol. 22 No. 1, April 2025)

Perkins on Michael Gilson, *Behind the Privet Hedge: Richard Sudell, the Suburban Garden and the Beautification of Britain* (H-Environment, Jan. 2025)

**Awards and Funding**

CHASES Graduate Fellow, 2024-2025

Institute for the Humanities Summer Scholar Support, 2024

Scholars of the Earth Recipient, 2024-2025

The College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student in History, 2024

**Relevant Professional Experience**

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Early US History, Fall 2025

Superintendent Instructor, The New South, Summer 2025

Superintendent Instructor, Modern US History, Summer 2025

Graduate Assistant, The History Resource Center, August 2024-May 2025

CHASES Graduate Assistant, August 2024-Present

Manuscript Graduate Assistant, *Isis, A Journal of the History of Science Society*, January 2024-July 2024

Editorial Graduate Assistant, *Environmental History*, June 2022-December 2023

Co-Editor, *Jackson Urban Wildlife Story Maps*, Mississippi State University Extension Program, Summer 2023

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Early US History, Spring 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Modern US History, Fall 2021

**Public History Experience**

Archive Intern, Kettering Foundation (Dayton, OH), November 2019-April 2021

Heritage Interpreter, Barker Mansion (Michigan City, IN), September 2016-August 2019

Archive Intern, Purdue University North Central (Westville, IN), August 2015-December 2015

**Public History Projects**

Exhibit, Barker Mansion, “Footwear and Fashion in the Gilded Age,” On Display 2019-2021

Exhibit, Barker Mansion, “Traveling Through the Gilded Age,” On Display 2018-2021

Exhibit, Barker Mansion, “Ornaments of the Mansion,” On Display December 2017

Exhibit, Barker Mansion, “The Barkers at Christmas,” On Display December 2016