

Abstract for Talk at the NCPTT Divine Disorder Conference

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In 1984 as an Associate Conservator at Perry Huston and Associates in Fort Worth, Texas, Michael Swicklik consulted on the best method of preserving Clementine Hunter's murals installed in Africa House on the Melrose Plantation in Natchitoches, Louisiana. By 1984, the Hunter murals, which were executed in 1955 and depicted scenes of Cane River plantation life, were exhibiting some condition problems. After discussions with those interested in the mural's preservation, including a consulting architectural firm, a proposal for the treatment of the murals and a plan for their long-term preservation were devised and carried out. This talk discusses those efforts in light of a recent visit to the murals to evaluate how they have fared over the past 28 years.