

**Help From the National Trust Resource Center
Information Sheet #29
CAREER AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

The following is a list from the National Trust of resources, contacts, and programs for people interested in career and education opportunities in historic preservation.

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What is Historic Preservation?

Historic preservation is often defined as the process of identifying, protecting, and enhancing buildings, places, and objects of historical and cultural significance. This process embraces many phases including the survey and evaluation of historical, architectural, and cultural resources in an area; the development of planning and legal measures to protect these resources; the identification of public and private funding sources applicable to preservation projects; the design for the restoration, rehabilitation, and/or adaptive use of historic structures; and the ongoing maintenance of these resources.

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Since 1973, when Columbia University offered the nation's first degree program in historic preservation, at least 55 additional institutions have developed preservation programs. This growth was one of the many factors that led to the formation of the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) which, in 1981, established curriculum and degree standards to ensure the quality of the program.

Because of historic preservation's interdisciplinary nature, the degree programs are varied in focus. Preservation is frequently studied within related departments such as architecture, history, urban planning, environmental design, and geography. Programs emphasize aspects as diverse as restoration design, administration, documentation techniques, and law. Both graduate and undergraduate schools offer historic preservation degrees. In addition to specific education and training, a basic understanding of business, economics, and governmental procedure is helpful, as is practical experience through internships and volunteer activities.

Each year, the National Trust's *Preservation* magazine's September/October issue includes an advertisement by the National Council for Preservation Education, which publishes a full report on academic programs, internships, and career openings. Visit the NCPE website at www.ncpe.us

Jonathan Spodek, a professor in the Historic Preservation Program at Ball State University, suggests you keep the following questions in mind when deciding on a thesis topic for a graduate degree in historic preservation:

- What issues in preservation do you hope to address through your research?
- Are you just doing research that has been done before and applying it to another subject? If so, what unique aspect of your research can you offer the preservation community?
- What aspect of preservation do you want to pursue? How does your thesis topic help you learn more about this field?

- Can this project be completed in the time frame given to you?

Recently, many students have begun pursuing a joint degree in law and another preservation related field. For more information, contact the National Trust's Legal Office at (202) 588-6035.

For a complete list of National Trust training opportunities, please visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org/training/index.html>.

Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

Volunteering with a state or local preservation organization or at a National Trust Historic Site is an excellent way to become more involved and aware of preservation issues and opportunities. The National Trust's Member Center site provides a way to search for volunteer opportunities by state. It can be found at <http://www.nationaltrust.org/volunteer/search.asp>. You can also find local volunteer opportunities or internships by contacting your State and Local Preservation Office. You can find their contact information at: http://www.nationaltrust.org/help/statewide_org.asp. Another way to volunteer in the preservation field is through the National Trust's Historic Sites. The contact information for the National Trust's various sites can be located at this site: http://www.nationaltrust.org/historic_places/trust_historic_sites.html.

Employment Opportunities

A 2000 National Trust for Historic Preservation survey of state and local nonprofit preservation groups found that a majority of preservation professionals had fewer than 10 years experience in preservation. This reflected the relatively recent development of degree programs in preservation and the high rate of growth in preservation jobs over the past two and a half decades. For a copy of this survey, contact the National Trust's Resource Center.

The educational backgrounds of respondents were diverse although preservation was dominant. Planning, history, art history, architecture, education, and engineering were also common backgrounds. Main Street jobs are most commonly filled by people with backgrounds in preservation, business, and planning. The current trend is to hire Main Street managers with business experience who have worked as community group volunteers or advocates.

The success of preservation-related organizations requires a combination of both proficiency in historic preservation as well as skills in management, communication, fundraising, board relations, marketing, and event planning. Larger preservation organizations are more likely to have a number of very specialized positions requiring specific training and experience.

Preservation employers look for commitment and experience through internships, volunteering, being active in community advocacy, and attending preservation conferences. Community preservation organizations, historical societies, and historic sites offer a significant number and range of volunteer opportunities.

Positions exist at all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, and with private firms whose main mission or service is historic preservation. In the public sector, the National Park Service, state historic preservation offices, and local government preservation divisions are examples of 40 agencies dedicated to the preservation of America's heritage. Examples of nonprofit organizations include the National Trust for Historic Preservation, statewide preservation organizations, and hundreds of local preservation groups. Private firms whose main service is providing preservation expertise include architects, planners, archaeologists, historical research firms, and a host of others specializing in historic preservation.

In addition to employers whose main mission is historic preservation, many others hire people with preservation skills. For example, all federal government departments are required to have a preservation officer. Therefore, opportunities exist within such diverse departments as the Departments of Defense and Health and Human Services. Many state agencies involved in housing, community development, transportation, and other services hire people with preservation backgrounds. In addition, thousands of private firms engaged in design, development, finance, and other aspects of creating and changing the physical environment have positions that require people with knowledge and skills in preservation.

CONTACTS

National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 588-6000
Web Site: www.nationaltrust.org

Human Resources

All job postings for the National Trust are available on the Trust's website at www.nationaltrust.org/jobs/. The National Trust offers a six week summer internship program which includes weekly education sessions, as well as work on a specific preservation project. For more information, contact the Human Resources office at (202) 588-6106. Through the Mildred Colodny Scholarship fund, the National Trust provides financial assistance and experiential learning opportunities to individuals preparing for careers in historic preservation. One objective of this scholarship is to increase diversity and multiculturalism in the field of preservation, especially by encouraging people from diverse racial, ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds to pursue degrees and careers in preservation.

National Trust *Forum* and *Forum* Online

Forum Online is a password-protected section of the Trust web site that displays preservation-related job listings as well as fellowships. *Forum* Online also provides a place for preservation professionals to discuss current trends in preservation. Recent discussions have included topics on preservation education and job opportunities in a preservation field. Your *Forum* membership gives you access to this section. For more information, call the National Trust *Forum* office at (202) 588-6053.

National Main Street Center

The National Main Street Center's publication, *Main Street News*, is a monthly publication that contains information about job openings in Main Street communities. Your National Main Street Center membership gives you access to the Main Street password-protected section of the Trust web site which also contains information about Main Street job openings. For more information, visit www.mainstreet.org.

Preservation Magazine

Preservation magazine has a classifieds section that lists career and education opportunities in preservation-related fields. *Preservation* is the award-winning bi-monthly magazine received as a benefit of membership to the National Trust. To join the Trust, use the form on the last page of this information sheet. You also receive *Preservation* magazine when you join the Trust at the *Forum* level.

Preservation Leadership Training

Preservation Leadership Training is an intensive one-week seminar tailored to respond to the needs of local preservation organizations. An emphasis is placed on leadership and organizational development techniques. For more information call Preservation Leadership Training at (202) 588-6067.

National Preservation Conference

Plan to attend the annual National Preservation Conference held each fall. The conference is an excellent way to meet professionals working in preservation fields as well as a chance to learn about the current issues facing preservationists. For more information, call the National Trust Conference office at (202) 588-6100 or visit the website, <https://www.nthpconference.org/>.

Diversity Scholarships

The Diversity Scholarship program provides financial assistance to individuals who might otherwise be unable to attend the Preservation Conference. A primary objective of this scholarship is to enable a group of people reflective of the diverse nature of American society, from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds, to attend the conference and to bring with them their various perspectives and experiences. Contact Jeffrey Harris, the Director of Diversity, at jeffrey_harris@nthp.org or scholarships@nthp.org call (202) 588-6027.

Publications

The spring 1997 volume of the *Forum Journal* contains three articles on preservation education. Topics include historic preservation degree programs, education and employer expectations for preservation professionals, and preservation professional qualification standards. To order these, or other National Trust publications, contact the Forum office at 202-588-6296 or visit www.preservationbooks.org.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

American Academy in Rome Website: <http://www.aarome.org/>

The American Academy in Rome oversees centers for independent study and advanced research in arts and humanities. The American Academy offers annual fellowships to study in Rome for the following subjects: architecture, historic preservation, conservation, design, urban planning, landscape architecture, archaeology, art, music, and classical history.

American Association of Museums Website: www.aam-us.org/

Publishes job openings in its monthly bulletin, *AVISO*, and offers scholarships to attend the AAM annual conference. AAM's *Museum Directory* might also be consulted for organizations and agencies that hold or administer collections of interest to preservationists.

The American Association for State and Local History

Website: www.aaslh.org/

The American Association for State and Local History offers career packets including information on student scholarships, grants, and career information as well as placement assistance to its members and lists job openings in the monthly newsletter *Dispatch*. Organizations listed in the AASLH's *Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States* should also be contacted.

American College of the Building Arts Website: www.buildingartscollege.us

The college is modeled on a European guild system, and offers students intensive training in the lucrative fields of building arts. In addition to job skills, students will acquire a liberal arts background in 2- and 4-year degrees. Students also gain paid apprenticeships during the summer to help build skills and provide skilled - and highly needed - artisans to work nationwide with builders, architects and preservationists.

American Friends of the Attingham Summer School, Inc.

Website: <http://www.royal-oak.org/education/Attingham.htm>

The American Friends of the Attingham Summer School offers a three-week summer program in England.

The American Institute of Architects Website: www.aia.org

The American Institute of Architects offers scholarships and grants; lists jobs of interest to preservationists through classified advertisements in design journals.

The American Planning Association Website: www.planning.org

The American Planning Association lists "Jobs in Planning" in its monthly magazine, *Planning*. Some of the positions relate to environmental land use and preservation work. The APA's Chicago office offers internship and volunteer opportunities and their Washington office awards fellowships and scholarships to graduate students of planning or closely-related fields.

American Society of Landscape Architects Website: www.asla.org/

The American Society of Landscape Architects offers scholarships and grants.

Belmont Technical College Website: www.btc.edu/

Belmont Technical College in St. Clairsville, Ohio, provides hands-on training in a variety of traditional crafts.

Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies

Website: www.campbellcenter.org

The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation in Mount Carroll, Illinois, offers courses in architectural preservation, collections care, and historic preservation. Provides scholarships for courses and for an annual Midwestern Museum Conference.

Day Studio Workshop, Inc.

Website: www.daystudio.com/

Day Studio Workshop in San Francisco, California, provides training in finishing and in the decorative arts.

Fox Maple School of Traditional Building

Website: www.foxmaple.com/

Fox Maple School of Traditional Building in Maine offers timber frame workshops.

Heritage Conservation Network

Website: www.heritageconservation.net/

Heritage Conservation Network is a non-profit organization actively promoting the conservation of historic architecture and sites throughout the world. HCN offers hands-on workshops that allow volunteers to get in touch with history. Experts lead each workshop and provide training in a variety of conservation techniques, addressing the problems of historic materials unique to each structure.

Historic Windsor, Inc.

Website: <http://www.preservationworks.org/>

Historic Windsor, Inc. in Vermont offers workshops in preservation, certification in preservation skills and technology, and scholarships.

International Council on Monuments and Sites (U.S./ICOMOS)

Website: www.icomos.org

The International Council on Monuments and Sites offers scholarships, international internships, and volunteer opportunities.

J. Paul Getty Museum

Website: www.getty.edu

The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, California, offers museum internships in administration, collections, information planning, conservation, education, exhibition design, exhibitions, information systems, publications, registrar, and visitor services.

Jefferson's Poplar Forest Restoration Field School

Website: www.poplarforest.org

The Poplar Forest Restoration Field School is an intensive two week education session that teaches students the techniques and theories of architectural restoration. The Field School takes place in the beginning of June and the deadline for applications is the first week in May.

The Mechanics' Institute

Website: www.mechanicsinstitute.org

The Mechanics' Institute offers a tuition-free, two-year program in historic preservation open to persons currently working in preservation or a related field. Instruction focuses on architectural history, preservation history and policy, methods and techniques of preservation and case studies of New York City buildings and landmarks.

National Council for Preservation Education

Website: www.ncpe.us

The National Council for Preservation Education's website lists schools which offer degree programs in historic preservation and allied fields. NCPE also helps place preservation students with internship opportunities.

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Website: www.cr.nps.gov

The U.S. Department of the Interior employs many preservationists through the National Park Service. Contact the National Park Service for a list of federal representatives and agency liaisons.

- **National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division**

Website: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/about.htm>

The National Register is the nation's official list of historic sites. Executive Order 11593 directed federal agencies to establish procedures to ensure the protection of historical resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Each agency has a designee, with a staff person responsible for the implementation of this executive order.

- **Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/ Historic American Landscapes Survey (HABS/HAER)**

Website: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/>

HABS/HAER contains documentation on historic buildings and bridges throughout the United States. Annual summer employment opportunities are available to help with on-site documentation, measured drawings, and historical reports. Projects last 12 weeks beginning in May/June.

- **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training**

Website: www.ncptt.nps.gov

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training in Natchitoches, LA, works with organizations and institutions to advance preservation technology and conservation. NCPTT provides research, training, and education for preservation professionals.

National Preservation Institute

Website: www.npi.org

The National Preservation Institute is a nonprofit organization providing training in essential job performance skills for professionals in historic preservation and cultural resource management. It offers seminars for cultural resource managers. Classes include Cultural Resources and NEPA, 20th-Century Architectural Styles, and Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation.

The North Bennet Street School

Website: www.nbss.org

The North Bennet Street School in Boston, Massachusetts, has a two-year Preservation Carpentry program.

Penland School of Crafts

Website: www.penland.org

Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina is a national center for craft education offering classes in books and paper, clay, drawing and painting, glass, iron, metals, photography, printmaking, textiles, and wood.

Preservation Action

Website: www.preservationaction.org

Preservation Action offers internship programs throughout the year.

Preservation Institute: Nantucket

Website: <http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/hp/PINantucket/>

The Preservation Institute: Nantucket is a cooperative effort between the University of Florida School of Architecture and the community of Nantucket, MA, to provide students with an opportunity to receive a unique educational experience in a broad range of historic preservation issues. The Preservation Institute offers classes, workshops, seminars, public programs, and an eight week summer education program.

Preservation Trades Network

Website: www.PTN.org and www.IPTW.org

The Preservation Trades Network holds an annual International Preservation Trades Workshop for professionals working in the preservation fields. The focus of these workshops is on the technical, hands-on aspects of preservation.

PreserveNet at Cornell University

Website: <http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu/index.html>

PreserveNet is an information website for preservation students and professionals. The website is maintained by Cornell University and has information on preservation conferences, special events, internships, job vacancies, education programs, organizations, scholarships, preservation products and services, and links to other related websites.

The Questers

Website: <http://www.questers1944.org>

The Questers is an international, non-profit membership organization for persons interested in history, antiques, and collectibles. The Questers support preservation and restoration projects in the United States and Canada. They also award two annual scholarships to graduate students in Historic Preservation and an annual graduate fellowship in Art Conservation.

Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference

Website: <http://www.traditionalbuildingshow.com/index.shtml>

The Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference includes information on preservation technology, landscape architecture, and careers in the preservation field. The magazine *Traditional Building*, a preservation directory, is published in conjunction with the conference.

Society of Architectural Historians

Website: www.sah.org

The Society of Architectural Historians offers fellowships, scholarships, and grants to graduate students of architectural history, maritime history, and historic preservation. It also offers scholarships for graduate students to attend the Society's Annual Meeting and its Study Tours.

Winterthur Museum

Website: www.winterthur.org

Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library focuses on the study of American artistic, cultural, social, and intellectual history. Residential research fellowships are open to professors, museum and public history professionals, doctoral students, and independent scholars; awards are offered in the areas of American art, material culture and design, and American history.

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)

Website: <http://www.workplacesolutions.org/>

Wider Opportunities for Women is a non-profit group that works to help place women in non-traditional jobs, (jobs in which women represent 25% or less of the workforce). WOW offers training for employees and employers, maintains online resources for women working in non-traditional jobs, and keeps a database of

qualified women workers for employers who are looking to fill construction positions. The senior instructor in WOW's Constructing Avenues Program specializes in historic restoration.

Local Preservation Contacts

Historic District and Landmarks Commissions, Planning, Housing, Community Development, and Economic Development Agencies encompass regional, state, or local jurisdictions. Local parks and recreation departments may also administer historic properties and engage in preservation-related education efforts. Local preservation organizations, Main Street projects, state historic preservation offices, and college-level preservation programs can provide invaluable advice about historic preservation careers.

Private Sector, Real Estate Companies, Architectural and Planning Firms

Private firms, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies, whose primary mission is not preservation, often hire people with preservation skills. For example, an architectural firm may have a position for someone who understands the National Register. Nonprofit housing organizations also may hire preservationists. Additional job announcements can be found in publications such as *Center City Report* or *Economic Developments* published by International Economic Development Council; and *Job Mart* published by American Planning Association.

This is one of several information sheets on preservation related topics available from the National Trust's Resource Center. For a complete list of information sheets available, please send an email to feedback@nationaltrust.org. Related topics include:

Information Sheet #49 – State & Local Compensation Report (survey mentioned on page 2)
Information Sheet #35 – Recommended Reading
Information Sheet #30 – Volunteer Opportunities

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides this list of resources solely for informational and educational purposes. This is not intended as a specific recommendation or endorsement of any particular organization or entity.

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