

## The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training *at Northwestern State University of Louisiana*

# INSIDE NEWS

Volume 1, Number 1

July 1993

Page 1



Dr. Robert A. Alost  
President  
Northwestern State  
University of Louisiana

**Welcome  
to Northwestern**



Jerry Rogers  
Associate Director  
Cultural Resources  
National Park Service

**Goals of the Center...**

**I**t is appropriate that the National Center for Historic Preservation Technology and Training will be located in Natchitoches and on the Northwestern State University campus because of the rich history of the university and the region and the emphasis that NSU and the community have long placed on historic preservation.

Founded in 1714, Natchitoches is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase Territory. Bordered by beautiful Cane River Lake, the downtown section of Natchitoches—which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places—is a charming and unique blend of old and new structures.

Natchitoches is in the heart of a cultural island called the Cane River Country. That section of Northwest Louisiana is a collage of diverse cultures and historic sites and structures, including some magnificent plantation homes. The Department of Interior is considering a proposal for National Park status for the Cane River region of Natchitoches Parish.

Northwestern, founded in 1884, is one of Louisiana's oldest institutions of higher education. The part of the campus known as "Normal Hill" is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The building that will be restored to house the Center for Historic Preservation Technology and Training is one of many historically important sites and structures on the 916-acre main campus in Natchitoches.

*Continued on page 2*

**D**uring the 102nd Congress, the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments—a part of Public Law 102-575—were signed into law, establishing a National Center for Preservation Technology and Training at Northwestern State University (NSU) in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The National Center will respond to the need to improve technological research and information transfer and to enhance the Nation's skills and tools in the identification, evaluation, preservation/conservation, and interpretation of prehistoric and historic resources.

The Center will be administered under the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, with an Executive Director and staff located at Northwestern State University with staff support provided by the National Park Service Headquarters in Washington D.C. . Research and training will be undertaken at Natchitoches, jointly with Northwestern State University and with other universities and centers of technical preservation knowledge through grants from the National Center. In this respect, the Center will serve as an umbrella for multiple centers in many fields, creating a diverse multi-disciplinary approach.

The Center will seek technologies developed by other organizations, laboratories (at both the national and international level), universities, and the private sector that may be applicable to state-of-the-art conservation, maintenance, and management of all cultural

*Continued on page 2*

*Most continued from page 1*

A former women's gymnasium, the building is a three-story brick Jacobean Revival structure that was built in 1923. The exterior of the building, which retains National Register eligibility, incorporates 16th and early 17th century architectural elements.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt toured the facility during a two-day visit to Natchitoches and Northwestern last spring, and he was impressed not only with the future site of the National Center but also with the historical significance of Natchitoches, the university and the Cane River Country.

He called his first visit to Natchitoches "a voyage of discovery to an area of great richness in its historical heritage." Secretary Babbitt said in a news conference at NSU that the Cane River Country "is a wonderfully unique area where so many cultures come together historically. It speaks of traditions of French, Spanish, African, Mexican and Creole cultures and is a place where the intermingling and intermixing of those cultures creates yet another culture that is absolutely unique to this region."

The Secretary was also impressed with what he called the "extraordinary level of local involvement in historic preservation," and he said the role of the university in historic preservation "flows naturally" with the region's emphasis on maintaining its rich heritage.

Northwestern has an outstanding academic program in cultural resources management, and that curriculum will be enhanced and expanded with the development of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training on the NSU campus.

Northwestern and Natchitoches are grateful to Senator J. Bennett Johnston for his leadership role in the establishment of the center at NSU and for the interest and support provided by Mrs. Mary Johnston, the Senator's wife and a native of Natchitoches Parish who has been a major force in local historic preservation efforts for years.

The new Center is an exciting concept, and all of us in Natchitoches and at Northwestern are proud to be a part of this facility that will enhance the preservation of historic sites and structures across the nation and the world.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Park Service and others involved in this innovative project are assured of the total support, cooperation and assistance of the university and the community.



*Rogers continued from page 1*

resources at the Federal, State, and local level and in the private sector. For purposes of field application, the Center, through grants and other mechanisms, will facilitate the transfer of technologies developed in the laboratory for diverse applications useful to field personnel. It also will act as a data repository and distribution center (e.g. clearinghouse) for information and will develop networking systems with other agencies, professional societies, and laboratories. The Center will issue publications relating to technical aspects of preservation and maintenance. The Center will develop and facilitate training courses for Federal, State and local professionals, cultural resource managers and maintenance personnel and law enforcement personnel, working in the preservation field.

The National Park Service strongly supports this initiative and has completed a charter for establishment of the National Preservation Technology and Training Board. This board is created to advise the Secretary of the Interior on the operation of the Center and to advise on priorities for grants in the research and training programs.

The National Park Service has begun the necessary planning for the Center. E. Blaine Cliver, Chief of the National Park Service Preservation Assistance Division, has been appointed to serve as Acting Executive Director. A proposed \$4.35 million budget in Fiscal Year 1994 will provide for limited operations and rehabilitation of historic facilities at Northwestern State University. These facilities will provide office and lecture space, laboratory space, and accommodations for visiting researchers, lecturers and short course students. Section 403(d) of Public Law 102-575, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to "provide the Center assistance in obtaining such personnel, equipment, and facilities as may be needed by the Center to carry out its activities." Within this \$4.35 million, \$1,000,000 is included to begin to staff and to carry out the programs of the Center including salaries, travel costs, equipment, research and training, technology transfer and support for the National Center's Advisory Board. Although future budget decisions will be made by the Secretary of the Interior and the President on an annual basis, program levels in the range of \$12 million to \$21.5 million by Fiscal Year 1996 have been suggested by advocacy groups.



## Creating a New Center

**P**assage of the Reclamation Projects Authorization Act ( P.L. 102-575), including the accompanying amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, created a National Center for Preservation Technology and Training located at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The legislation states that the purposes of the Center are: (1) to develop and distribute preservation and conservation skills and technologies for the identification, evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of prehistoric and historic resources; (2) to develop and facilitate training for Federal, State and local resource preservation professionals, cultural resource managers, maintenance personnel, and others working in the preservation field; (3) to take steps to apply preservation technology benefits from ongoing research by other agencies and institutions; (4) to facilitate the transfer of preservation technology among federal agencies, state and local governments, universities, international organizations, and the private sector; and (5) to cooperate with related international organizations including, but not limited to the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Center for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, and the International Council on Museums.

In cooperation with Northwestern State University of Louisiana, the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service are now taking the first steps to implement the purposes of this legislation. One of these steps will be the creation of a National Preservation Technology and Training Board as specified in the law.

On June 16, 1993, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt signed a charter formally setting up the structure for the operation of this Advisory Board, and on June 28, 1993, Secretary Babbitt placed a notice in the Federal Register inviting nominations to this Advisory Board. (See Sec. 404 of P.L. 102-575) A copy of that Federal Register notice is printed on the reverse of this page for your information. The notice provides instructions for submitting nominations to the Secretary of the Interior.

We welcome your interest in the Center, and invite your comments and recommendations. Specifically, we are interested in how you see your organizations

interacting with a National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and what services the Center could provide that would be useful to your field of activity.

A number of organizations already have contacted us and we appreciate this interest. It is hoped that such organizations will continue to inform us of their thoughts and any future recommendations. You can direct your ideas to me at the Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box, 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

Thank you for your interest and assistance. I look forward to discussing the Center with you. I can be contacted at the address provided above or by telephone at (202) 343-9573.

E. Blaine Cliver, Chief  
Preservation Assistance Division  
and Acting Executive-Director,  
National Center for Preservation  
Technology and Training

## INSIDE NEWS

This is the first issue of a newsletter devoted to the new National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. This newsletter, *INSIDE NEWS*, is a cooperative production of the National Park Service and Northwestern State University of Louisiana and is produced on the campus of Northwestern State University under the direction of the NSU Press. We will be reporting to you periodically on the evolutionary process of establishing the Center, and welcome your comments on the subjects you would like to see addressed in future issues of this newsletter. Please feel free to contact:

Marilou Reilly  
or  
E. Blaine Cliver  
Chief, Preservation Assistance Division  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127  
Phone: (202) 343-9573  
FAX: (202) 343-3803

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Solicitation of nominations for the Preservation Technology and Training Board

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of nomination solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of the Interior is soliciting nominations to serve on the Preservation Technology and Training Board. The purpose of the Board is to provide advice and professional oversight to the Secretary and to the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

**DATE:** All nominations should be submitted on or before July 28, 1993.

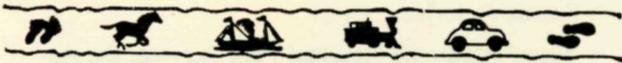
**ADDRESS:** Nominations should be sent to Secretary, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Blaine Cliver, Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service, (202) 343-9573. A copy of the Board's charter is available upon request.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title IV of Pub. L. 102-575 established within the Department of the Interior a National Center for Preservation Technology and Training to be located at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. In addition, Title IV established a Preservation Technology and Training Board. The Board is to consist of the Secretary of the Interior, or his designee, and twelve members to be appointed by the Secretary. Of the twelve members to be appointed, six are to represent appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, State and local historic preservation commissions, and other public and international organizations, and six are to be appointed on the basis of outstanding professional qualifications representing major organizations in the fields of archeology, architecture, conservation, curation, engineering, history, historic preservation, landscape architecture, planning, or preservation education. Appointments will be for 6-year terms, with initial terms staggered to foster continuity in membership. Through this notice, the Secretary is soliciting nominations from interested organizations or individuals for any of the appointments. All nominations should indicate for which category (s) the nominee is to be considered, and be accompanied by complete biographical and professional information, including home and business addresses and telephone numbers for each person recommended.

Dated: June 16, 1993

Bruce Babbitt  
Secretary of the Interior



## Historic Transportation Corridors Conference

### Report on the International Training Conference on Historic Transportation Corridor

**O**n December 1 and 2, 1992, the National Park Service, in cooperation with Northwestern State University of Louisiana, produced an International Training Conference on Historic Transportation Corridors. The Conference was held at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, the site of the new National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The goal of the Training Conference was to train federal, state, and local government staff and others in the identification, evaluation, protection, and preservation of historic corridors, and associated sites as part of the defining characteristics of cultural landscapes.

The training covered three overall subjects including:

1. **Resource Identification** (1) Techniques of Identifying and Evaluating Corridors and Trails (Panel), (2) Route 66, (3) Transportation-Related Corridors Recognized in the National Register, (4) Historical Trails, (5) Remote Sensing.
2. **Corridors as Cultural Landscapes** (1) Tools of Assessment/ HABS/ HAER Recording and Documentation, (2) Roads and Trails as Elements of Cultural Landscapes, (3) Valuing Cultural Diversity (Panel).
3. **Protection** (1) Legal Tools and Preservation Techniques for Corridor Protection (Panel), (2) Interpretation Techniques, (3) Building Constituencies, (4) El Camino Real and its Place in History.

The papers were presented in a discussion forum with the training participants invited to ask questions and offer comments.

Robert Kapsch, Chief of HABS/HAER, National Park Service, contributed an exhibit specifically designed for this training conference. It was displayed at the Tuesday, December 1, 1992, reception and banquet, and was viewed by the conference participants and numerous citizens from the Natchitoches, Louisiana National Historic Landmark District. The exhibit

included measured drawings and large format black and white photographs of parkway site plans, bridges and vistas of Rock Creek and Potomac Parkways of the Washington, D.C. area, and the Merritt Parkway of Connecticut.

On this same Tuesday evening, Terry B. Morton, President, US/ICOMOS gave a presentation on the World Heritage Convention.

Following the training conference, delegates traveled El Camino Real to San Antonio, Texas. In San Antonio, the conference delegation met with representatives from the Department of Defense Legacy Program and the San Antonio Conservation Society.

The delegates who traveled to San Antonio became members of three working groups. The discussion topics for these working groups mirrored the three sessions of the training conference. These delegates traveled to San Antonio to begin work on a product of the Conference which is a report that will be submitted by the United States and US/ICOMOS to the World Heritage Committee Bureau in 1993. This report will discuss criteria for considering historic corridors as part of the World Heritage List.

The Conference delegates were invited to submit their written presentation for publication in the National Park Service's CRM Bulletin. This issue of the CRM, which is devoted to historic transportation corridors, is scheduled for publication in 1993.

The training and related products resulted in heightened awareness, both nationally and internationally, of historic transportation corridors and their preservation challenges. Presenting this information in a training atmosphere assisted government programs in defining and identifying historic corridors, thereby facilitating designation, documentation and long-term preservation. Sharing this information with the World Heritage Committee will, in turn, assist their efforts in listing and protecting those large scale features of our collective heritage which comprise cultural landscapes.

Marilou Reilly  
National Park Service  
Preservation Assistance Division

Thank You!

**W**e would not have been able to produce the

International Training Conference on Historic Transportation Corridors without the support of many organizations and associations.

We thank our co-sponsors for their assistance. They include: Northwestern State University of Louisiana, the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program, US/ICOMOS, the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Old San Antonio Road Preservation Commission.

In addition to the official co-sponsors, several National Park Service Regions, National Parks, National Park Service Washington Office Divisions (WASO), states, federal agencies, preservation organizations, trails associations, universities, etc., provided advice, guidance and personnel support for the planning and production of the conference.

We extend our gratitude to the following:

- Albuquerque and Rawlins Districts of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Headquarters Office, in Washington, D.C., of the Bureau of Land Management
- Kaibab National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office
- Texas State Historic Preservation Office
- Advisory Council for Historic Preservation
- National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- City University of New York, Stephen F. Austin State University, and the University of Vermont
- Roy Eugene Graham and Associates
- Conservation, Environment, & Historic Preservation (CEHP, Inc.)
- Hudson River Valley Greenway Council
- Joseph Marshall of Casper, Wyoming
- Oregon California Trails Association
- Preservation Action

- Scenic America
- From within the National Park Service; the Associate Director for Cultural Resources, the Associate Director for Planning and Development, the Recreation Resources Assistance Division (WASO) the Anthropology Division (WASO) the History Division (WASO) the Interagency Resources Division (WASO) HABS/HAER (WASO) Park Historic Architecture (WASO) the North Atlantic Regional Office, the Southeast Regional Office, the Tumacacori National Park, and the Denver Service Center

Thank you to the San Antonio Conservation Society. As a result of their generosity, we scheduled an event where the conference delegation met with representatives of the San Antonio Conservation Society and the Department of Defense's Legacy Resource Management Program.

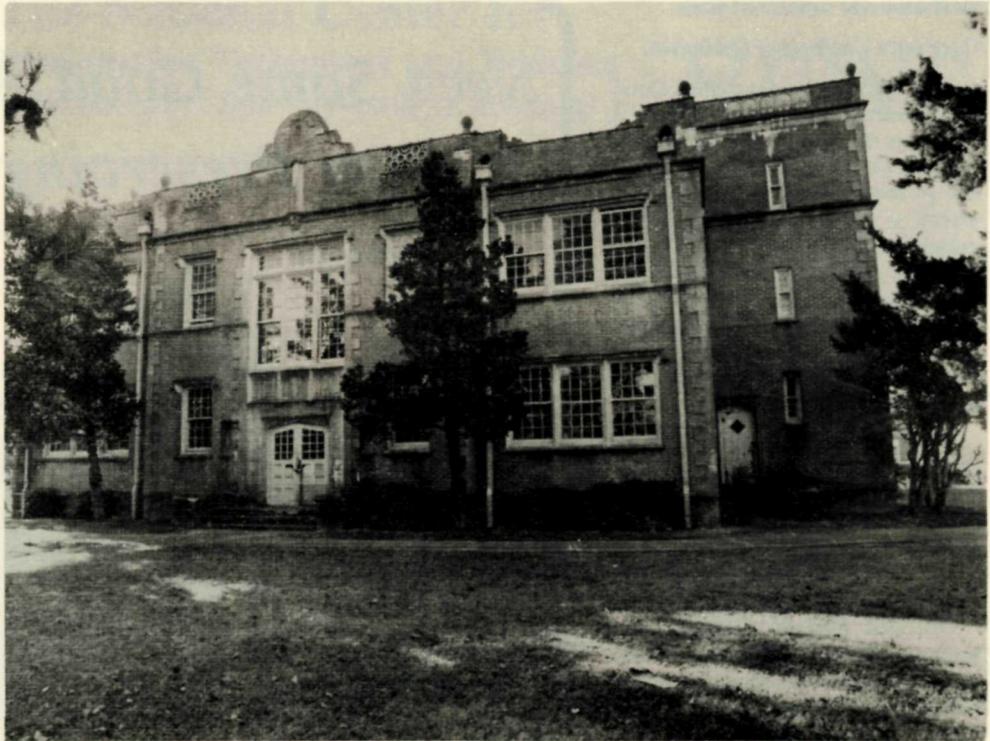
Thank you to the Australian Heritage Commission, the Canadian Parks Service, and English Heritage for providing international expertise to this conference.

Thank you to the moderators, rapporteurs and panel chairs who included: Steve Elkinton, Denis Galvin, Roy E. Graham, Eric Hertfelder, Mary Estelle Kennelly, Chester Liebs, Setha Low, Beth Savage, and Carol Shull.

A special "thank you" to the National Park Service Southwest Regional Director John Cook and his staff. We were fortunate to have the valued advice of David Gaines from the early planning stages of the conference. Superintendent Alan Cox of the San Antonio Missions, and his staff, provided advice and guidance during the planning of the conference, designed and conducted a tour of the Missions, provided support during the working group sessions, scheduled a final event for the conference, and arranged for our delegation to meet with Texas preservationists.

Marilou Reilly  
National Park Service  
Preservation Assistance Division

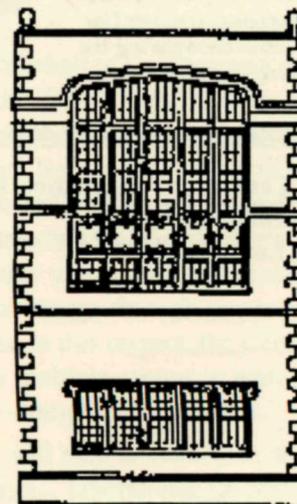
**T**he Women's Gymnasium at Northwestern State University, the site of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, is the oldest building on the Northwestern campus and was built in 1923 and was closed in 1970. The gymnasium was constructed at a cost of \$70,000 and was considered one of the best in the South. The building had a seating capacity of 1,500 and featured an indoor



running track. The building was used originally by both men and women but on separate occasions. Physical education classes as well as some social activities were held in the gymnasium. However, it was not until March, 1928 that both sexes were allowed to attend activities in the gymnasium together. The building was used after 1930 as the Women's Gymnasium. The Women's Gymnasium underwent minor renovation and repair in 1938 by the WPA.



**S**ecretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt (center), Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (right) and Northwestern State University President Dr. Robert Alost (left) were the focus of media attention during a press conference held at Northwestern State University during Secretary Babbitt's two-day visit to Natchitoches last spring.



**Dear Historic Transportation  
Corridors Conference Delegates:**

The Historic Transportation Corridors Conference of December 1 and 2, 1992 was the first product of the new National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. We would like to extend to you our thanks for your invaluable assistance during the Conference. Each of your presentations was well developed and professionally delivered. The interaction between moderators, individual speakers, and panelists was a key component to the success of the conference.

Your willingness to respond so quickly to our short deadlines, to confer with other delegates before the Conference, and to provide us advice on the Conference's design, demonstrates why you were recommended so highly as delegates to this Conference.

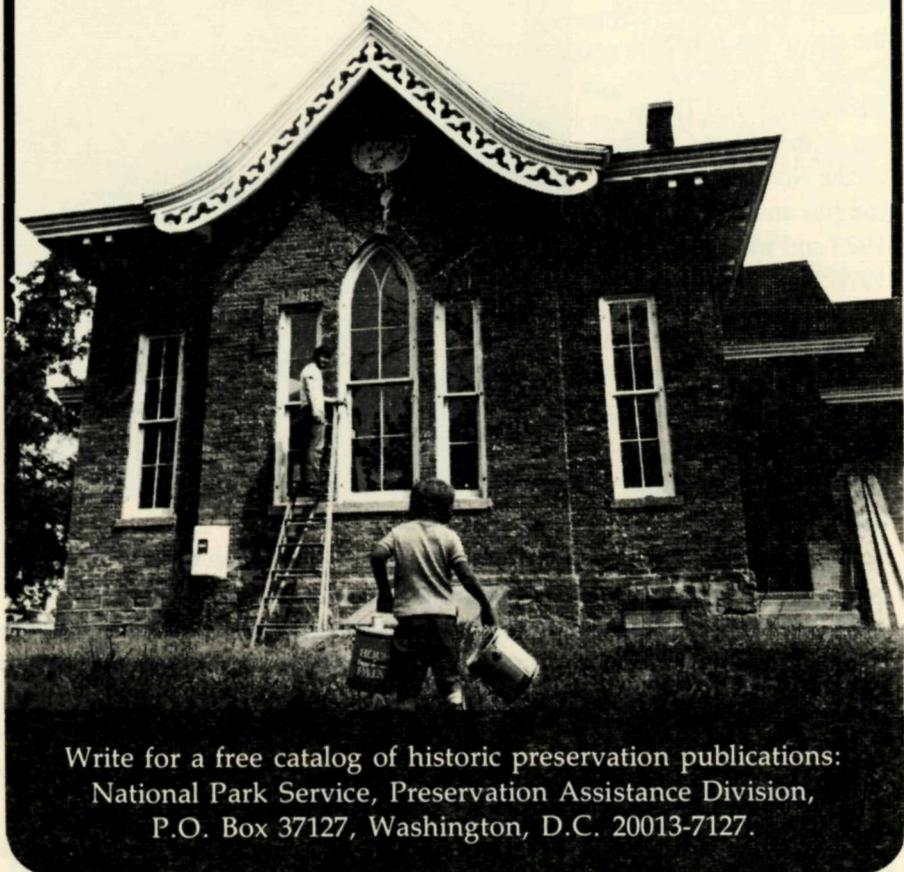
We look forward to an on-going working relationship with each of you as the new National Center for Preservation Technology and Training develops. Thank you for your valued participation.

Sincerely,

Marilou Reilly  
National Park Service  
Preservation Assistance Division

*A special thank you to Martha Howell and Dahlia Hernandez of the National Park Service and to Jeff Breaux and Sonny Carter of Northwestern State University for their assistance during the conference planning and production.*

## *Need Some Good Advice... On Preserving the Past?*



Write for a free catalog of historic preservation publications:  
National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division,  
P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

**The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training  
Northwestern State University  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71497**

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 204  
71457