

**PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY AND
TRAINING BOARD**

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY AND
TRAINING,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

FOR A

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

December 1995

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
Preservation Technology and Training Board

Recommendations for the Five-Year Plan

I. Introduction

The Preservation Technology and Training Board, as the advisory body of scholars and preservation professionals to the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, is pleased to present recommendations for a five-year plan for the National Center. Established through amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1992, the Center is a national initiative that responds to "the complexity of technical problems encountered in preserving historic properties and the lack of adequate distribution of technical information to preserve such properties." We commend the efforts of the National Park Service in beginning the development of this new program by consulting with representatives of the nation's preservation organizations and professionals at all levels of public and private practice. The needs which they have identified are broad, varied and interdisciplinary. The available resources are relatively small, in proportion to the needs of the preservation community. Yet, the opportunity to bring to the widest audience in the nation's communities and all levels of public and private practice, information and technical knowledge that can enhance the work of preserving the nation's heritage is an exciting challenge.

To meet this challenge the National Preservation Technology and Training Board, in consultation with the Executive Director and staff of the Center, has developed recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service for a five year plan. In discussing and developing these ideas, the Board has been guided by the results of a symposium held during the organization meeting of the Board in April of 1994. Participants in the symposium represented many of the leading preservation and professional organizations concerned with the nation's heritage resources. In the spring of 1995, committees of the Board representing the three components of the Center's programs, training, research and information management, convened working groups in Natchitoches. These groups considered the work of the earlier symposium and special reports prepared by specialists in each of the three program areas. The discussion summaries, prepared as minutes of each meeting and reviewed by the Board, were combined into a document for distribution to all symposium participants and interested parties who have been identified by the Board and others during the past year. We expect comments and suggestions from these individuals and organizations will be forthcoming and can be taken into account in the final development of a five-year plan by the Center.

II. Mission

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training promotes and enhances the preservation of historic and prehistoric resources in the United States for present and future generations through the advancement and dissemination of preservation technology and training.

The Center, created by Congress, is an interdisciplinary program of the National Park Service to advance the art, craft and science of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, historic architecture, historic landscapes, objects and materials conservation and interpretation. The Center serves public and private practitioners through research, education and information management.

III. Goals and Objectives

General

Goal #1. Sufficient resources to allow full implementation of the Center's legislated purposes and mission in research, training and information management.

Objectives:

- a. Continue to work with the National Park Service and the Congress to assure adequate support for core programs and personnel.
- b. Develop and maintain a high caliber staff adequate to the development of a high quality national program.
- c. Establish administrative support and facilities consistent with public and NPS expectations for the Center's work.
- d. Complete design, construction, out-fitting and on-going development of Center facilities.
- e. Continue to work with Northwestern State University to ensure coordination and support programs of mutual interest and benefit.
- f. Establish a mechanism for private support of appropriate Center programs.

Goal #2. Public awareness of and cooperation with the goals and programs of the National Center.

Objectives:

- a. Work with local, state and national leaders, agencies and organizations to develop and maintain cooperative efforts including general support of the Center.
- b. Publicize widely the work and opportunities for public involvement in Center programs.
- c. Schedule Board, and other meetings, in strategic locations to involve the preservation community and other interested parties.

Information Management Related Goals/Objectives

Goal #3. Increased and improved access to historic preservation information and user knowledge of electronic means to obtain information.

Objectives:

- a. Provide information to users not currently using electronic means on ways to access information oriented toward the small user.
- b. Canvass major potential users (SHPOs, Statewide Historic Preservation Organizations, professional organizations) to determine current use and future intent.

- c. Provide training to increase use of electronic media.
- d. Increase access to written media.

Some Suggested
Action Items:

- a. During the summer and fall of FY95, hire an intern to produce a Tech Note for the NPS series of technical publications.
- b. Utilizing interns, develop an inventory of current users and determine training needs through the NCSHPO and professional preservation organizations during the summer of FY95.
- c. Prepare and test workshop curricula and test in at least one workshop in FY96.

Goal #4. Enhancement of the Center as a clearing house for historic preservation information.

Objectives:

- a. Establish gopher and world-wide web site.
- b. Canvass all major known repositories of information for accessibility.
- c. Assist in making all major repositories accessible.

Some suggested
Action Items:

- a. Hire an intern during the summer of FY95 to maintain gopher and help NSU establish world-wide web site.
- b. In FY96, contract through U.S./ICOMOS, to expand existing survey as recommended in the Information Management Working Group report.
- c. During FY96, prepare cooperative agreements with those institutions not on-line to assist in making information accessible.

Goal #5. Information dissemination to a broad historic preservation constituency in a wide variety of media.

Objectives:

- a. Maintain gopher and world-wide web site.
- b. Establish NCPTT Board listserv.
- c. Increase awareness of Center's activities and functions.

Some Suggested
Action Items:

- a. During the summer of FY95, utilize NSU intern and staff to expand use of on-line information.
- b. Set up a Board listserv.
- c. In FY 96 prepare a strategy for increasing awareness of Center's role as clearinghouse.

- d. In FY 95 set up a mechanism to track information requests and responses in an electronic log.

Goal #6. Employment of the most recent means of information management and dissemination.

Objectives:

- a. Routinely keep abreast of new information technology and facilitate its use in all Center program areas.
- b. Develop and employ a variety of media.
- c. Provide technical information to the field and general public through a variety of media.

Some suggested
Action Items:

- a. During FY96, Center staff should outline a strategy for keeping abreast of latest developments in electronic media.
- b. Provide technical information on latest developments through the newsletter and at least one workshop in FY96.
- c. Develop and implement a strategy for using appropriate media to disseminate information to the field.

Training/Education Related Goals/Objectives

Goal #7. Expanded access to all types of historic preservation training via the Center which serves as a clearinghouse of information about training opportunities across the country.

Objectives:

- a. Assemble existing catalogs, course announcements, and inventories of training opportunities for inclusion in the Center's electronic database.
- b. Distribute announcements of training opportunities through the Newsletter, other organizations' publications and the Internet.

Goal #8. National leadership in preservation training and education.

Objectives:

- a: Analyze existing preservation training and education programs offered by universities, organizations and other agencies.
- b: Routinely distribute information and schedules of training opportunities nationwide.

Goal #9. Encouragement of programs encompassing the entire continuum from specialized professional training to public awareness and education, coordinated with the preservation education community.

Objectives:

- a. Increase access to training programs on all aspects of preservation, from specialized professional training to general public awareness education.
- b. Help develop continuing education programs to serve federal agency historic preservation officers, tribal officers, state historic preservation officers, local government officials and state and local agency preservation planning personnel.
- c. Help develop training programs for professional preservationists, labor and craft unions and construction contractors.
- d. Utilize the teacher training facilities and media at Northwestern State University to reach the K-12 school population.
- e. Help develop training programs for historic site and museum administrators.
- f. Enhance and support existing training programs
- g. Help develop training programs that serve the unmet needs of vocational schools, colleges and universities.

Some Suggested
Action Items:

- a. Start an awareness program for public officials, using video or other appropriate means for distribution, as part of the FY96 program.
- b. Institute an update project on preservation law for public officials, as part of the FY96 program.
- c. Institute a demonstration project to promote heritage education in schools, as part of the FY96 program.

Research Related Goals/Objectives

Goal #10. Establishment of the Center as a major national sponsor of research in historic preservation.

Objectives:

- a. Increase funding available to research grant program.
- b. Develop a fellowship and internship program for the Center.

Some Suggested
Action Items:

- a. Pursue additional private and public sources of funding (FY96/97).

Goal #11. Assessment of national research needs in historic preservation and establishment of priorities in specific disciplines.

Objectives:

- a. Determine national needs through systematic survey of professional organizations
- b. Determine national needs based on analysis of research grant proposals

Some suggested
Action items:

- a. Assist American Institute for Conservation with completion of existing membership survey (FY96).
- b. Work with Historic Resources Committee of the American Institute of Architects to define research priorities in architecture (FY96/97).
- c. Organize workshops with representatives from the ALA and ASLA to address research priorities in landscape architecture (FY96/97).
- d. Analyze research grant proposals submitted to Center for funding in fiscal years 1994, 1995 and 1996 (FY96).

Goal #12. Identification of institutions currently conducting research in historic preservation and determination of the nature and scope of research to be conducted at the Center.

Objectives:

- a. Identify individuals and organizations conducting or supporting research in historic preservation.
- b. Identify organizations that can provide technical support and analytical services to the historic preservation community.
- c. Define research activities to be conducted at the Center.
- d. Develop program to provide analytical services to historic preservation community.

Some Suggested
Action Items:

- a. Obtain an intern to identify organizations conducting research in historic preservation (FY96/97)
- b. Obtain an intern to identify organizations that can provide technical assistance as well as analytical services to the historic preservation community (FY 96/97).
- b. Design laboratory facilities at the Center to accommodate research and training activities (FY96/97).

Goal #13. Transfer of technologies and technical information among agencies and organizations, and between disciplines.

Objectives:

- a. Assess status of existing technical research information by examining existing inventories.
- b. Transfer information through other components of the Center ie. information management program and training\education program.
- c. Provide opportunities for sharing and interaction through seminars and conferences.
- d. Promote use of Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts as a common reference source among all disciplines active in historic preservation.

Goal #14. Publication and distribution of the results of research in order to increase access to technology and expertise relevant to all aspects of historic preservation.

Objectives:

- a. Publish all research conducted or sponsored by the Center.
- b. Develop and implement a Center publication program.

Some suggested
Action Items:

- a. Require all research grants to publish their results in an appropriate publication and encourage publication in a peer reviewed journal (FY96).

IV. Planning Process

The recommendations for this five-year plan have been developed by the Board in consultation with the National Park Service, especially the executive director and staff of the Center. The final plan will be prepared by the Center and reviewed by the National Park Service. Public comment will be sought by the National Park Service through a variety of means and will be taken into account in the final version.

Annual review and evaluation of the program in relation to the plan will be conducted during each fall meeting of the Board in Natchitoches. This will allow full consultation with the Center's executive director and staff. The results of this review and any suggested revisions will be disseminated to interested parties and the general public through the Center's newsletter and by electronic means through Center and Northwestern University facilities. The information will also be distributed through other professional and preservation publications.