NCPTT NOTES

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FEBRUARY 1999 NUMBER 29

Training Update

During the past four years, Preservation Technology and Training Grants program funds have supported training projects in a variety of formats. Two recent projects are featured in this issue of Notes. *The first — training in conserving three-dimensional and stained glass — was conducted in a traditional workshop format. The second project — a CD on mechanical systems, demonstrates the use of new technology in preservation training.*

Glass Conservation Workshop

A workshop on preserving three-dimensional and stained glass drew participants to the Nebraska State Historical Society's Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha, July 26-31 — including conservators, historic preservation specialists, stained glass artisans, students and practitioners from related specialties. The Ford Center workshop was funded by NCPTT's 1997 PTTGrants program as a unique opportunity in the Midwest to learn about the nature and care of glass.

The five-day workshop began with a presentation on glass chemistry and properties by Dr. Chandra Reedy, a conservation scientist in the Museum Studies Department of the University of Delaware. Dr. Reedy has extensive experience in the analysis of inorganic materials and is an accomplished instructor.

Mary Clerkin Higgins, a well-known stained glass conservator with a studio in New York City, provided an illustrated lecture about the history and technology of stained glass. Ms Higgins has treated stained glass windows dating from the twelfth century to the present, and her clients include major museums, churches and universities throughout the US.

Julie Reilly, Ford Center director, provided participants with training on the determination of refractive indices, using the Ford Center's state-of-the-art research microscope. Refractive index is an optical property that measures the extent to which light is slowed down as it travels through a substance such as glass. Refractive index determinations help determine appropriate repair materials.

Although the workshop's main focus was the treatment of flat glass, there also were oppor-

Continued on Page 2

NCPTT NOTES
FEBRUARY 1999

PTTPublications
No. 1999-01

Editor
Frances Gale

Contributors
Mary S. Carroll
Dave Mertz
Julie A. Reilly
John Robbins
Mary F. Striegel
Daniel Vivian

Managing Editor
John Robbins

Publications Manager
Sarah B. Luster

Address
NCPTT
NSU Box 5682
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Telephone
318/357-6464

Facsimile
318/357-6421

Electronic mail
ncptt@ncptt.nps.gov

World Wide Web
www.ncptt.nps.gov

Fax-on-demand
318/357-3214

Newsletter Design
Terra Incognita
www.terraincognita.com

NCPTT Notes is published by the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The mail list for *NCPTT Notes* is subject to request under the Freedom of Information Act. Persons or organizations not wanting to have mail list information disclosed should unsubscribe.

Send comments on *NCPTT Notes* or submit articles or notices for consideration to NCPTT Publications Manager Sarah B. Luster.

Training Update

Continued from page 1

tunities to learn more about repairs to three-dimensional glass objects. Deborah Long, head of the Objects Laboratory at the Ford Center, demonstrated the principles of mold making and the use of silicone rubber molds to produce transparent fills for losses in glass. Many of the techniques demonstrated can be used in a variety of contexts, as participants found during hands-on workshop sessions.

Discussions during the workshop focused on the decision-making that is important to the development of conservation treatments. Some issues under discussion included determining when it is appropriate to repair or re-lead a window, when protective glazing is necessary, and how to provide adequate ventilation without compromising the visual integrity of the window.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the chance to work on sections of historic stained glass, including a twelfth-century European window. Deaccessioned stained glass panels were donated by The Brooklyn Museum of Art to serve as both examples and practice objects for the students. In addition to European glass, the Brooklyn Museum also donated an early American bull's-eye window in a wood frame. The glass samples exhibited a variety of problems, including corroded glass, twisted and broken leading, structural losses and the grime associated with years of outdoor exposure.

Neal Vogel, preservation specialist and project director of a 1994 PTTGrants project on protective glazing for historic stained glass windows, shared some of his experiences with the analysis and repair of stained glass windows in the Midwest. This was one of several opportunities for "cross pollination" among participants with widely varied experiences.

— Contributed by the Ford Conservation Center

Workshop participants in the Ford Center laboratory

Julie A. Reilly is chief conservator and associate director for conservation at the Ford Center and an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Ms Reilly chairs the Objects Specialty Group of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

Products of the Glass and Stained Glass Conservation Workshop include a workbook and a video. For copies, contact NCPTT Publications Manager Sarah B. Luster.

Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center

The Ford Center is a regional conservation center founded in 1995, as a division of the Nebraska State Historical Society. The mission of the Ford Center is to conserve historical, cultural and educational collections in Nebraska and surrounding areas through conservation, preservation and restoration activities, including consultation, collections assessments, education and training workshops, and conservation treatments. A current focus of work is the conservation of paper and three-dimensional object collections.

The Ford Center is committed to training museum professionals, students of all ages and the public to increase our ability to care for our cultural heritage.

Training Update
Continued from page 2

Mechanical Systems CD Course

A course on mechanical systems in historic buildings was Belmont Technical College's pilot project for reaching a wider preservation audience through an innovative medium. The new distance learning course was developed with 1996 PTT Grants program funds and designed by the Building Preservation Technology Program at Belmont Technical College with two goals: to train students with little or no background in mechanical systems, and to integrate preservation theory with basic skills training. The course itself was not designed to train students to become licensed plumbers or electricians, but to provide them enough background knowledge to enable students to talk effectively to trades people when preservation issues are a concern. CD format was selected to allow interaction with minimal computer skills.

Gordon Bock, *Old House Journal* editor and a recognized expert in the field of electrical systems in historic houses, provided direction and support during the early stages of course design. Mr. Bock's research helped embellish the CD and upgrade course content. Scanned images from old trade publications and catalogues were used to provide students with information about the appearance and operation of old mechanical systems.

Visits to historic sites such as Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello and Montpelier provided opportunities to photograph examples of unique installations and approaches to preserving historic mechanical systems and integrating new mechanical systems into historic buildings. Staffs at these sites take exceptional pride in the innovative preservation solutions used at their facilities, and the sites serve as case studies in the CD course.

The course is comprised of three units: Electrical, Plumbing, and HVAC and Insulation. The units are divided into specific lessons supplemented by readings from three texts. Students are free to navigate through the program at their own pace. When the lessons for a specific category are completed, students take a test and submit it for grading if they are seeking college credit. Each unit has a section of case studies that show how concepts learned in previous lessons have been applied at historic sites.

Among challenges encountered in developing the CD, an initial problem was selecting appropriate authoring software. Each computer expert consulted suggested a different software package, most too elaborate and complicated for designers with modest computer backgrounds. After testing numerous programs, Corel Presentations 7 was selected for simplicity and effectiveness. The program can be self-taught in a moderate period of time, allows for non-linear navigation, and can be copied without a license for each user. One of the biggest problems with this program, however, is the difficulty in adding or removing pages once the course is drafted. With this software program, navigation through the course is directed by page numbers. Inserting a new page changes all subsequent page numbers and all the "jumps" and "hot buttons" must be reprogrammed for the new page numbers.

Belmont Technical College student viewing Mechanical Systems CD

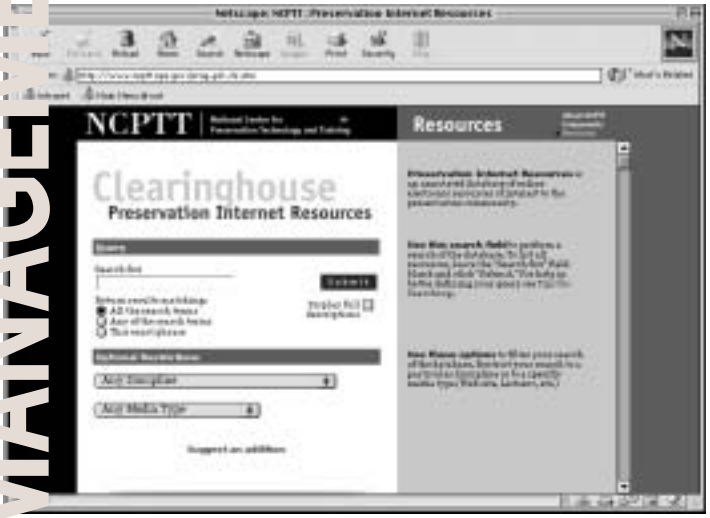
During a test-run of the CD by a Belmont Technical College student, a number of "bugs" were detected, and the program was retooled. This Fall, the CD was used to supplement the existing mechanical systems course at Belmont. Student response has been positive, as the CD reinforces lecture materials and helps students prioritize information. The CD's case studies also supplement slide-based

Continued on Page 11

Belmont Technical College

The Building Preservation Technology Program at Belmont Technical College, St. Clairsville, Ohio, was established in 1989. At the outset, its mission was to retrain local mining and steel workers in the preservation building trades and to provide the Ohio Valley and surrounding communities with well-trained craftspeople to aid in revitalizing of the Rust Belt. The program has gained national recognition for providing leadership and educational opportunities in building preservation at the associate degree level.

During the past several years, there has been a strong demand for the training provided by the Building Preservation Technology Program. Numerous requests for distance learning courses are received from contractors, homeowners, preservation craftsmen and other students not able to attend classes at the St. Clairsville campus. Recognizing an under-served audience, the Building Preservation Technology Program began developing distance learning courses to complement the existing curriculum, of which the course on mechanical systems is the first.



Preservation Resources on the Internet

Nearly five years ago, preservation consultant Peter Stott created an online directory of preservation-related resources — *Internet Resources for Heritage Conservation, Historic Preservation and Archaeology* — which was available originally through the Clearinghouse of Subject-Oriented Internet Resource Guides, now known as The Argus Clearinghouse, <www.clearinghouse.net>. A few months later the guide also was retrievable via the ICOMOS Web site, <www.icomos.org>. In September 1995, the guide was transferred to NCPTT for maintenance and updating. In time, Stott's project has proven its worth as a valuable source of information for preservation professionals.

Internet Resources began as an annotated list of eleven types of Internet resources: Web sites, gopher sites, electronic journals, listservs, newsgroups, databases, library catalogs, FTP sites, FAQs, subject guides and fee-based services. Items in the "World Wide Web and Gopher Servers" section were further categorized by topic, such as architectural preservation, archeology, and planning and sustainability. The original searching feature was rudimentary by today's standards — users could find words in the text, but only within sections and without much flexibility.

As NCPTT began planning the recent redesign of NCPTT's Web site, NCPTT recognized that *Internet Resources* would be even more useful as a searchable database. As part of Phase 2 of the NCPTT Web site redesign, the document was substantially revised, including functionality, and renamed.

The current *Preservation Internet Resources* is a fully searchable database of preservation-related Internet resources that can be accessed either indirectly through NCPTT's Web site, <www.ncptt.nps.gov>, by selecting Resources, then Internet Resources, or directly at <www.ncptt.nps.gov/pir>. Keyword, discipline, media type (Web, ftp, etc.) or combinations of the three can be used to search the database. Users can leave the search criteria blank and retrieve the entire database to browse. Users also can suggest sites to add to the database. NCPTT is updating PIR with resources collected during the gopher-to-Web transition. When updating is completed, PIR will be maintained regularly.

The four conservation-oriented Web sites described below were found among twenty-six hits returned by entering the word "conservation" in *Preservation Internet Resources*' "Search for:" field. The system searched for that term in the title, organization, abstract, URL and keywords fields.

palimpsest.stanford.edu / aic
American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

AIC is the national membership organization for conservation professionals or professionals in other disciplines interested in the conservation of cultural property. Members include conservators, educators, administrators, technicians, students, archivists, curators, architects and art historians.

AIC's Web site contains a wealth of conservation-related information, including information available at most professional organizations' sites, such as background about the organization, conference announcements, membership information and links to other sites. Full text documents on caring for architecture, paintings, photographs and works of art on paper, videotape, textiles, and special objects can be accessed. The site provides help in selecting a conservator and an extensive bibliography of information on conservation topics.

www.nedcc.org
Northeast Document Conservation Center

NEDCC is a regional, nonprofit conservation center that specializes in paper-based materials. NEDCC's mission is to "improve the preservation programs of libraries, archives, museums, and other historical and cultural organizations; to provide the highest quality services to institutions that cannot afford in-house conservation facilities or that require specialized expertise; and to provide leadership to the preservation field."

NEDCC's Web site includes information about its history, mission, services and workshops, and links to other preservation and conservation Web sites. The publications section provides information on ordering NEDCC publications. In addition, the full text of some NEDCC Technical Leaflets is available on topics such as preservation planning, emergency management, care of photographs and climate control.

Continued on Page 5

Communicating Culture

The Getty Information Institute organized an international conference on "the important role of culture in today's evolving information society" – and the important role of information management in culture.

The conference convened at The Getty Center in Los Angeles, California, October 21-23. Executive Director John Robbins represented NCPTT at the conference, and filed this report.

In his opening remarks, John Walsh, J. Paul Getty Museum director and J. Paul Getty Trust vice president, cited the goal of the *Communicating Culture* conference as "investigating the evolving relationship between technology and culture." Towards this goal, the Getty Information Institute invited US and international speakers and participants to share their work and thoughts on the intersection of communications and culture. The conference focused on communications via digital technologies, and the conference presentations and discussions raised information management issues that are pertinent to preservation and conservation.

"Bastions of reality in a fictive age"

On separate tracks, cultural institutions invest in real objects, sites, exhibitions and buildings, while digital technologies allow exhibits and interpretation that separate audience from actual artifacts. Perhaps the tracks merge. Digital technologies may enhance the relationship between artifact and audience with choices and opportunities unique to digital technologies.

While Bill Ivey, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, urged that cultural institutions "maintain the character of live contact," and that "global digital community should not become a substitute for real experience," Peter Schwartz of the Global Business Network urged institutions to deal with an apparent "fear of homogenization and trivialization of culture by digitization." With "diversity as [a] more powerful force towards evolution" than similarity, Schwartz sees two scenarios for the digital future: "industrialization of culture" and "empowered culture." Industrialization may produce sameness at the lowest cost – "uniformity propelled by greed" – and result in cultural degradation. The counter-scenario to industrialization is universal empowerment of cultures through "cheap" information and the networking of complex cultural ecosystems characterized by huge populations culturally enfranchised. Cultural institutions have distinct roles in how these scenarios play out.

Shifting paradigms

Einar Stefferud is a digital pioneer who sees the Internet as a place beyond geography and sovereignty where the cultural community has a responsibility to contribute and participate freely. In a global "internetworking" environment with "mass reachability", traditional concepts of information ownership are questionable.

The vision of true mass participation in a global Internet "place," however, is tempered by global economic reality. Ismail Serageldin of the World Bank Group ex-

Continued on Page 9

Preservation Resources

Continued from page 4

www.pch.gc.ca/cci-icc
Canadian Conservation Institute

Part of the Department of Canadian Heritage, CCI promotes the proper care and preservation of Canada's movable cultural property and advances the practice, science and technology of conservation. CCI undertakes research projects, provides conservation services, disseminates conservation information, and delivers training to conservators, museologists, archeologists, artists and archivists.

Along with general information about its history and mission, CCI's Web site includes detailed information about its services, publications, internships, training sessions and research program. The full text of four newsletters published between September 1995 and March 1997, and annual reports for 1994 and 1996 are incorporated. One interesting section is "Featured Conservation Treatments" which highlights four projects treating a map, a painting, a cannon, and a robe and petticoat. The CCI library and its resources also are featured. The library's catalog will be online in the near future.

palimpsest.stanford.edu
Conservation OnLine

CoOL is a service of the Preservation Department of Stanford University Libraries for professionals who work with the conservation of library, archive and museum materials. CoOL includes full-text documents on topics ranging among copyright and intellectual property, mold, disaster planning and response, documentation, training, electronic records, health and safety, mass deacidification, pest management, and bibliographies and resource guides. The site also features tools for finding people involved in conservation and preservation, links to conservation organizations whose Web sites are either hosted or mirrored by CoOL, and links to other conservation and preservation organizations. The archives of eight electronic discussion lists are accessible via CoOL, including Conservation DistList.

A Seminar on Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation

October 13
The Brookings Institution
Washington, DC

Although historic preservation has long been recognized as an important stimulus for economic development and community revitalization, recent studies have made significant gains towards a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of preservation's total economic effects. With advanced research methodologies and sophisticated input-output models for data analysis, economists now are able to identify preservation's direct and indirect economic effects and to track the flow of preservation expenditures through local and regional economies with considerable precision.

As the scope and accuracy of economic impact studies have increased, important questions have arisen regarding the manner in which the studies are conducted. What should be counted among the direct and indirect effects of preservation spending? How should data be collected on complex activities such as heritage tourism and commercial uses of rehabilitated downtown historic districts? How should "quality of life" factors such as reduced crime rates in historic neighborhoods and the aesthetic and environmental benefits of preservation be quantified?

These and related questions were the focus of a one-day seminar of thirty experts at the Brookings Institution. Participants represented such as the World Bank Group and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, research universities, government agencies and private firms. The seminar was sponsored by NCPTT, the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University, Harvard University's Department of Urban Planning and Design, and the Brookings Institution's Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy.

Rutgers University professors David Listokin and Michael Lahr organized the seminar. Lisotkin and Lahr are leading experts on the economic impacts of historic preservation. Their recent work includes the 1995 PTTGrants project that resulted in a comprehensive report of preservation's impact in New Jersey, *Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation,* and the booklet entitled *Partners in Prosperity: The Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation in New Jersey*.

Research challenges

The seminar's morning session focused on issues concerning data sources and collection methods. In a brief introduction, Listokin surveyed challenges that economists face in gaining access to useful data. Due to high collection costs, economists are unable to gather data specifically for economic impact studies and must rely on data from a variety of sources. Professional organizations are among the common sources of data, but their records typically are organized in a format designed to suit their institutional needs, not those of research economists. Listokin suggested that economists could improve the types and availability of data by working to ensure that the needs of economists are included in organizations' ongoing information collection programs.

Presentations made at the morning session addressed heritage tourism, property values in historic districts, and the economic impacts of Main Street programs. Catherine Shaw, director of marketing research for the Travel Industry of America, discussed survey data that her organization collects on heritage tourism and how it might be useful to economists. Bill Siegel, president of Longwoods International, spoke about his firm's research on the spending patterns of travelers visiting historic sites. Doug Loescher of the National Trust gave an overview of the Main Street program and discussed data generated by individual Main Street communities on economic development in historic downtown districts. Donovan Rypkema of the Real Estate Service Group presented the results of his recent work on property values and demographic trends in National Register and local landmark districts. Overall, the presentations of the morning session showed that data from a variety of sources stand ready for use in economic impact studies, provided that economists are willing to consider the data critically and with a sound understanding of the reasons for which the data originally were collected.

Economic models

Input-output models and other methods of data analysis were the primary topics of discussion at the first afternoon session. Rutgers University professor Michael Lahr discussed various input-output models and their major differences. William Schaffer, professor of economics at the Georgia Institute of Technology, discussed key features common among input-output models and fundamental assumptions upon which the models are based. Both Lahr and Schaffer observed that, although input-output models are not entirely verifiable, they tend to be sufficiently accurate in practice and are certainly the best available means of conducting regional economic impact analysis studies.

George Treyz of Regional Economic Models, Inc., discussed distinctive features of the input-output model developed by his firm. Treyz refers to the REMI model as an "integrated and dynamic" model for two reasons. First, the REMI model is unusual in that it attempts to quantify "quality of life" factors as well as measurable economic impacts. Second, the REMI model also incorporates equilibrium factors — in essence, the long-term consequences of spending on a given project as opposed to only the initial impacts — and

econometric data, which are generally compiled through surveys. By accounting for such factors, the REMI model attempts to provide more dynamic interpretations of economic activity than comparable input-output models.

Treyz's presentation generated considerable discussion, with particular interest focused on the REMI model's quantification of "quality of life" factors. Many participants agreed that the ability to measure such factors was essential for accurate and comprehensive assessments of preservation's total economic impact. Clearly, the benefits of preservation activities are not limited to their direct economic effects; also significant are the subtle but important ways that preservation improves the environment of our nation's towns and cities. The REMI model, though in need of further refinement, holds significant promise and eventually may provide economists with a means of assessing the total benefits of preservation, not just the benefits with an obvious dollar value.

The Front Street core of Natchitoches, Louisiana's historic district: Preservation is an important component of community economics throughout the US

Further research

Presentations at the seminar's final session addressed the effects of historic designation on property values. David Clark, professor of economics at Marquette University, discussed his research on property values in historic districts and the methodologies for such studies. Robin Leichenko of the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University, and Edward Colson, professor of economics at Pennsylvania State University, spoke about their current research on property values in historic districts in a broad survey of Texas cities. Richard Roddewig of Clarion Associates, Inc. discussed key issues involved in appraising historic properties.

A note of optimism characterized each of these three presentations. Although many questions remain unanswered about the relationship between historic designation and property values, data necessary for further research are becoming increasingly accessible, and future studies promise to provide answers that have long seemed elusive.

The seminar concluded with open discussion. David Listokin invited comments on the current understanding of the negative and positive impacts of historic preservation and asked for suggestions for refining the research and analytic methodologies used in economic impact studies. Much of the discussion that followed concerned the importance of accounting for "quality of life" factors in future studies. Several participants noted that while it may prove difficult for economists to agree upon appropriate methods for quantifying "quality of life" factors, such factors figure prominently among the benefits of historic preservation and should be considered in future studies.

In conclusion, several participants noted that the seminar had been most effective in identifying key issues needing additional consideration that might serve as starting points for further research. Clearly, workable solutions to the most significant of the existing methodological problems must be found before more sophisticated studies are undertaken. By outlining promising directions for further work, the seminar laid the groundwork necessary for developing more comprehensive and accurate methods of assessing the economic impacts of historic preservation.

An online version of Partners in Prosperity: The Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation in New Jersey *(PTTPublications No. 1998-25) — as well as a link for requesting a printed copy of the publication — is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/njht/library.htm>. The comprehensive report,* Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation *(PTT Publications No. 1997-05), is available online at <www.state.nj.us/dep/njht/features.htm #impactstudy>. This work was featured in* NCPTT Notes *22, page 9.*

Historic Brick

Conservation of Historic Brick Structures

Edited by Norbert S. Baer, Stephan Fitz and Richard A. Livingston
Illustrated, 506 pp. Shaftesbury (UK): Donhead Publishing Ltd. (1998)

Conservation of Historic Brick Structures is a collection of papers that originated with a North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society pilot study. The book provides state-of-the-art information about technical issues associated with conserving brick structures.

Publication of *Conservation of Historic Brick Structures* was supported with NCPTT Materials Research Program funds through NCPTT's 1997 PTTGrants program.

Conservation of Historic Brick Structures, written primarily for conservation and materials scientists and others with a high level of technical understanding, is divided into seven major sections —

- Brick Masonry Technology
- Degradation Mechanisms
- Diagnosis of Damage
- Field Studies, Laboratory Tests and Modeling
- Mortars and Renderings
- Conservation Treatments and Materials; and
- Case Studies.

The NATO-CCMS pilot study entitled "The Conservation of Historic Brick Buildings and Monuments" was a series of eight annual international meetings begun in 1987 and concluded in 1994. For the pilot study and this resulting book, historic brick structures are defined to encompass exposed brick surfaces and those with stucco and plaster. Considered integral to brick structures, stuccos, plasters and mortars — including traditional and modern lime, dolomite, and lime-cement compositions — were studied and methods of technical analysis are described.

Deterioration mechanisms discussed include biodeterioration, salt damage, and the effects of air pollution and moisture on masonry. Also covered are treatment strategies such as desalination, protective coatings and injection. Examples of multidisciplinary approaches to conserving brick structures are found in the book's case studies.

Growing literature

Conservation of Historic Brick Structures complements other books on the subject, such as *Practical Building Conservation: English Heritage Technical Handbook — Volume 2: Brick, Terracotta, and Earth* by John and Nicola Ashurst and published by Gower Technical Press. *Conservation of Brick* by John Warren, published by Butterworth-Heinemann, soon will be available as well.

Also noteworthy is the recent update of the National Park Service's *Preservation Brief* 2, "Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings" by Robert C. Mack and John Speweik. This brief provides general guidance on appropriate materials and methods for repointing historic masonry buildings and is intended for building owners, architects and contractors. Preservation Briefs are available online at <www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>, or visit the HPS Bookstore online at <www2.cr.nps.gov/bookstore.htm> for print copies.

The development of Conservation of Historic Brick Structures *was described in* NCPTT Notes *23, page 5. Conservation of Historic Brick Structures is available from PRG Inc., POB 1768, Rockville, MD 20849; telephone 301/309-2222, facsimile 301/279-7885.*

NCPTT's 4th Anniversary

NCPTT celebrated its fourth anniversary during the Fall meeting of NCPTT's advisory board, November 2-4, in Natchitoches, Louisiana. NCPTT was created by Congress as part of the 1992 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act. In 1993 and 1994, implementation of NCPTT's legislation was begun, and NCPTT's advisory board members were appointed. The charter NCPTT staff began work in Natchitoches on October 4, 1994.

On the occasion of the fourth anniversary, NCPTT's advisory board joined NCPTT staff, representatives of the local preservation community and local officials to unveil an NCPTT "annual" report. In brochure format, the report summarizes NCPTT's work since 1994. Copies of the brochure were distributed with *NCPTT Notes* 28. (If *Notes* readers did not receive an annual report, contact NCPTT Publications Manager Sarah B. Luster.)

In reflecting on the past four years, advisory board chair Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon noted that NCPTT's "record of accomplishment and service to the preservation community is truly noteworthy, and NCPTT is commended for deep dedication to realizing its mission."

Communicating Culture

Continued from page 5

plained that with eighty percent of the world population living in developing nations, our common global heritage is significantly at risk. Threats such as poverty, expansion of agriculture, pollution, commercialism and disharmony may overwhelm or preclude possible benefits from electronic networking and access. Widespread social and economic empowerment is the prelude to preserving "physical monuments, and monuments of the mind such as libraries and archives."

Public transportation on the information highway

Bill Press of *Crossfire* characterized government's role in the digital environment as "curator" — the one who adds meaning and understanding. Press encouraged government institutions to ensure widespread educational and nonprofit access for providing and using high quality online content by direct intervention and by partnering with private industry. Press proposed that such access begins with training in the best uses of digital technology — and that such training is a distinctly governmental function.

Paul Saffo of the Institute for the Future, characterized "technology as an agent of change" and the "resources that we put online as agents of change" — concurring that government may have a role in stimulating both technology and content for the public good, in the vernacular and professional realms at local, regional and national scales.

"I don't know who discovered water but it wasn't a fish"

This quote or paraphrase of Marshall McLuhan characterized discussions of the relationship between people and digital technology. The nature of the present relationship was described as "bounded chaos" — and the future seems no more clear. While the number of transistors on a chip doubles predictably at 18-month intervals, predictions of digital technologies' uses rarely match reality. Some of the conference participants' predictions remain to be tested — "the World Wide Web is a passing fad," "human interface with computers will gradually disappear," "with digital technology, previously finite resources become infinite, with a possible 24-hour commerce of cultural resources."

In a world where changes in nature are relatively slow and changes in culture are relatively fast, electronic technology is well-suited as an aid or complement to culture. According to Stewart Brand of the Global Business Network, institutions with cultural responsibilities should embrace the concept of an electronic environment that "allows people to create their own institutions."

Communicating Culture was planned as an initial round of open-ended discussions that persists, appropriately, online — discussions that sometimes lead and sometimes follow the developing technology.

Expanding discourse

Many conference participants recognized that the future of some aspects of the digital environment is not yet fully known. Can multi-culturalism and multi-lingualism be accommodated? How will literacy influence information as a commodity? Is information indeed a commodity when information is no longer scarce? What is ownership and copyright?

Communicating Culture was planned as an initial round of open-ended discussions that persists, appropriately, online — discussions that sometimes lead and sometimes follow the developing technology. The electronic discourse continues at <www.ahip.getty.edu/c98/index2.html>.

Preserving Historic Guastavino Tile Ceilings, Domes and Vaults

February 6
New York, New York

The New York Landmarks Conservancy will hold a day-long conference at Columbia University on the history and preservation of tiled ceilings, domes and vaults constructed with Guastavino materials and techniques.

Technical issues raised in preserving notable examples of Guastavino tile construction — including the Oyster Bar in Grand Central Terminal, St. Thomas Church, and the Queensborough Bridge — will be studied, and participants will take a walking tour of Guastavino buildings.

Found in more than 1,000 buildings in the United States and around the world, Guastavino tiling now requires maintenance and repair. The Guastavino conference will provide practitioners with an opportunity to receive and share information from experts in the fields of architecture, conservation and engineering.

The conference received support under the 1998 PTTGrants program. NCPTT, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Columbia University, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's John E. Streb Preservation Services Fund for New York, and the New York Landmarks Conservancy are co-sponsors. For information, contact the New York Landmarks Conservancy; telephone 212/995-5260, e-mail <brucohen @pipeline.com>, Web <www.nylandmarks.org>.

Conservation of Modern Architecture

May 27 – June 18
Helsinki and Espoo, Finland

The theory and practice of conserving modern architecture will be addressed in this international course for professionals sponsored by the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property/ICCROM. Practical problems encountered in conservation, restoration, rehabilitation and re-use of twentieth-century buildings will be considered.

Professionals with a minimum of three years of experience in architectural conservation may apply. For further information, contact ICCROM Training and Fellowship Program Office, Via di San Michele 13, I-00153 Rome RM, Italy; facsimile (+39-06) 5855 3349; e-mail <training@iccrom.org>. For updated information on this and other ICCROM courses, visit <www.iccrom.org>.

Historic Roofing Conference and Trade Show

March 17-19
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For the first time, a national conference and exposition will address the complex issues of maintaining, repairing and replacing of roofs on historic buildings. With over two and one-half million historic buildings in the United States and Canada, architects, property managers and owners, contractors, engineers and government officials are confronted with a wide range of problems, solutions and historic preservation considerations.

Over 50 experts from the United States and Canada will participate as conference speakers. An exposition will provide preservationists with opportunities to discuss project needs with manufacturers, suppliers and specialty contractors.

The National Park Service's Heritage Preservation Services, US General Services Administration, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association, Public Works and Government Services Canada, and other leading organizations are conference sponsors. The conference will include a special exhibit on historic roofing, and all participants will receive a copy of the National Park Service's *Roofing Rehabilitation Handbook for Historic Buildings*.

For more information, write Historic Roofing Conference, POB 75207, Washington, DC 20013; telephone 202/343-6008, Web <www.cr.nps.gov/wtnew.htm>.

Museums in Historic Buildings

March 22-27
Williamsburg, Virginia

Colonial Williamsburg will provide a unique setting for examining the conflicts inherent in using historic buildings as museums. Through on-site field visits and in-class discussion, the course will explore ways of balancing the needs of collections, staff and visitors with the goal of maintaining the historical and architectural integrity of the structure.

Topics include philosophies and policies of intervention, preservation standards and guidelines, architectural impact of museum uses, environmental and physical concerns in storing and exhibiting collections, architectural conservation, preventive maintenance, issues of presentation and interpretation, public access and safety, and visitor amenities.

To register, contact the Cultural Resource Management Program at University of Victoria, POB 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 3N6; telephone 250/721-8462, facsimile 250/721-8774, e-mail <joydavis@uvcs.uvic.ca>, Web <www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp>.

May 2-5
Detroit, Michigan, and throughout the US

The President's Council on Sustainable Development and the Global Environment & Technology Foundation are sponsoring a National Town Meeting on sustainability. The event will showcase best practices that promote sustainability throughout the US. Three thousand participants are expected in Detroit; concurrent events throughout the US will be linked to the Detroit event online and via satellite.

The President's Council on Sustainable Development was established in 1993 to advise on a national sustainability policy. The council's initial major statement was published in 1996 — *Sustainable America: A New Consensus for Prosperity, Opportunity, and A Healthy Environment for the Future*. This report, plus subsequent progress and task force reports, set the stage for the 1999 National Town Meeting.

Chapter 1 of the *Sustainable America* report established ten National Goals Toward Sustainable Development, of which goal 6, Sustainable Communities, encourages "… people to work together to create healthy communities where natural and historic resources are preserved …" Aspects of other goals — clean air, waste reduction, energy efficiency — also are sympathetic to preservation. Historic preservation, however, has yet to become a high-profile sustainability issue, in spite of natural affinities in the areas of resource and energy conservation. The relative status of historic preservation within sustainablity discussions was highlighted in an article on "Sustainability and Historic Preservation" in *NCPTT Notes* 25.

Both the National Park Service's servicewide and cultural resources strategic plans incorporate sustainability as major goals, and commitment to sustainability throughout the National Park Service is strong. *Notes* readers are encouraged to participate in the National Town Meeting and to seek opportunities to include preservation among discussions of national strategy and policy topics.

For more information on the National Town Meeting, including participating in Detroit and throughout the US, visit <www.sustainableamerica.org>. For more information on the President's Council on Sustainable Development — including publications —, visit <www.whitehouse.gov/PCSD>. For more information about the Global Environment & Technology Foundation, visit <www.getf.org>.

Presidential Design Awards 2000 Includes Historic Preservation

The US General Services Administration requests design award nominations in eight categories, including historic preservation. Awards will "recognize Federal design projects that have made a significant contribution to the environment and quality of life of the Nation during this century." Projects sponsored, authorized, commissioned, produced or supported by the Federal government are eligible. Projects completed and in use between January 1, 1989 and January 1, 1999 are eligible. Projects previously awarded a Federal Design Achievement Award are ineligible.

Nomination deadline is April 8, 1999. For more information, contact Thomas Grooms, Presidential Design Awards, US General Services Administration, 1800 F Street NW, Room 3341, Washington, DC 20405; telephone 202/501-1888, e-mail <thomas.grooms@gsa.gov>.

Training Update

Continued from page 3

lectures. Students may use department computers to view the CD or borrow a copy for home use. Since making the CD required reading for the existing mechanical systems course, students' average test scores have improved by over five points.

The Building Preservation Technology Program plans to use digital technology to create a study aid for its History of American Architecture course and eventually to provide access to courses via the Internet. The "lecture" part of the courses will be available via CD or Internet and completed at the student's convenience. A hands-on or laboratory component will be offered as a short course. The department also is exploring the use of video clips and other multi-media components for updating the mechanical systems course.

— Dave Mertz

Mr. Mertz is founder and director of the Building Preservation Technology Program at Belmont Technical College and is chair of the National Council for Preservation Education. Mr. Mertz is a third generation residential contractor with undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture from Kansas State University.

Contact NCPTT Publications Manager Sarah B. Luster for a copy of the soon-to-be-released Mechanical Systems in Historic Buildings CD (PTTPublications No. 1998-20).

Our Mission

United States Department of the Interior
The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and to honor our trust responsibilities to tribes.

National Park Service
The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

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

NCPTT, created by Congress, is an interdisciplinary effort by 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. NCPTT serves public and private practitioners through research, education and information management.

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
NSU Box 5682
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, $300

First Class Mail
Postage & Fees
PAID
National Park Service
Permit No. G-83