

# NCPTT Annual Report 2003



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

A Publication of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

www.ncptt.nps.gov

## Mission Statement

NCPTT advances the use of science and technology in the field of historic preservation including archaeology, architecture, landscape architecture and materials conservation. The Center accomplishes its mission through training, education, research, technology transfer and partnerships.

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Technology Serving the Future of America's Heritage

## Convening, Training, Connecting

### NCPTT's Leadership Role in Major Training Workshops for Professionals in 2003

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training is pleased to present this Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2003 to our friends and partners in the National Park Service and throughout the historic preservation community.



By Roy Graham  
PTT Board Chair

In September 1986, the U.S. Congress' Office of Technology Assessment published a report stating the need to establish a federally funded institution "as a mechanism to coordinate research, disseminate information, and provide training about new technologies for preservation."

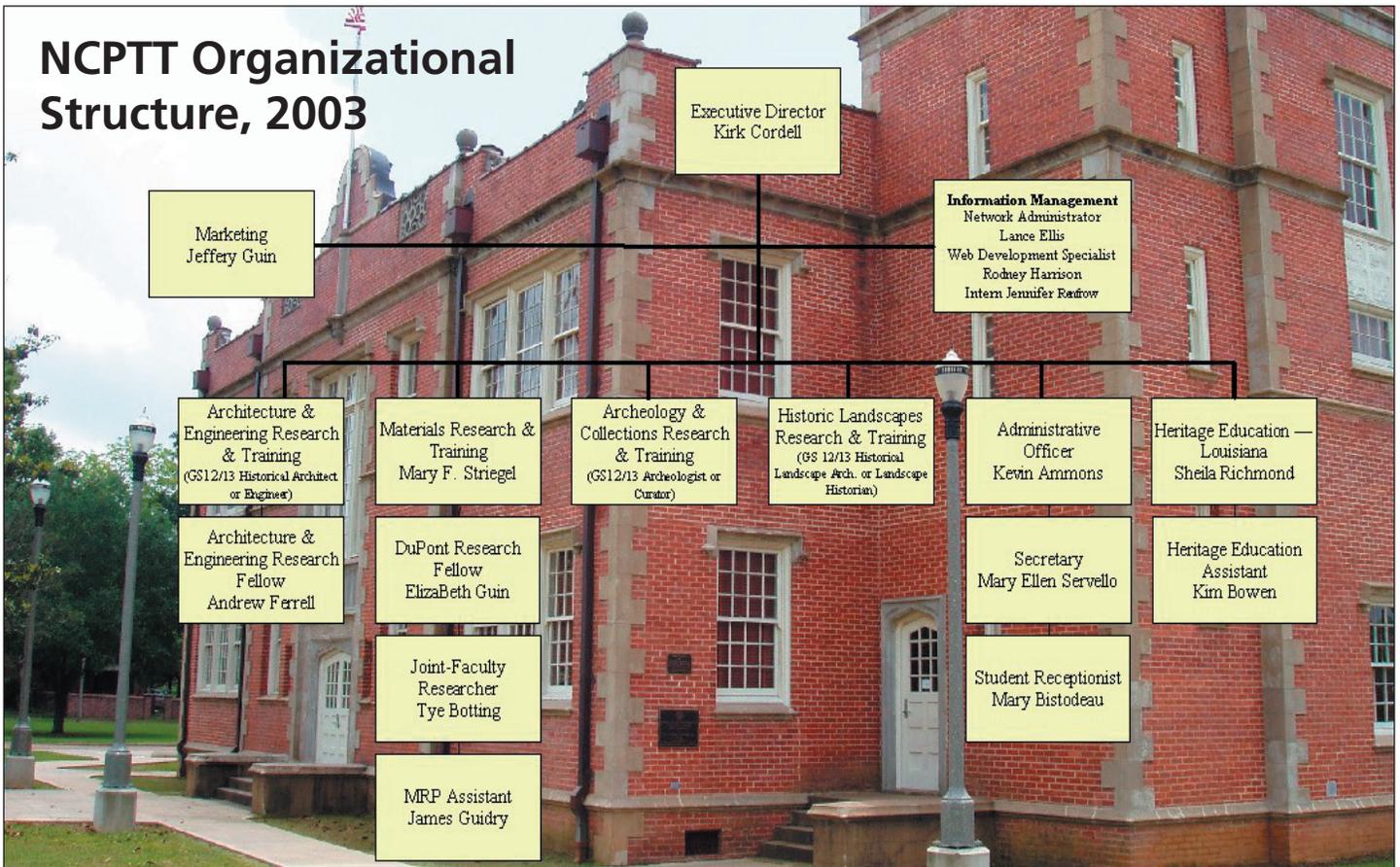
Today, the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training leads the field of preservation tech-

nology from its headquarters on the campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

The Center has five legislated purposes: 1. Develop and distribute skills and technologies for the identification, evaluation, conservation and interpretation of prehistoric and historic resources; 2. Develop and facilitate training for those working in the preservation field. 3. Take steps to apply preservation technology benefits from ongoing research by other organizations. 4. Facilitate the transfer of preservation technology among federal, state and private sectors. 5. Cooperate with related international organizations.

Fiscal year 2003 was a year when NCPTT saw its research priorities bear rewards in the form of training opportunities. First, the Southern Regional Cemetery Monument continued on page 2

# NCPTT Organizational Structure, 2003



## NCPTT GOALS

1. Emphasize preservation technology research.
2. Train professionals in new technologies.
3. Serve as a knowledge center.
4. Convene leading authorities.
5. Promote cultural stewardship through education

## RESEARCH PRIORITIES

1. Protect cultural resources against vandalism, looting and terrorism.
2. Conserve modern architectural materials.
3. Meet the preservation needs of houses of worship and cemeteries.
4. Evaluate previously applied preservation treatments.
5. Measure impacts of pollution on cultural resources.
6. Preserve threatened cultural landscapes.

Conservation Seminar and Workshop held at NCPTT in May proved highly successful, instantaneously made the Center a leader in the emerging field of cemetery preservation.

Likewise, a cutting-edge training initiative targeting special issues related to preservation and engineering took shape at the Association for Preservation Technology meeting in Portland, Maine. The training workshop “Engineering for Older Buildings, Including Heritage Buildings,” has become the springboard for the Summer Institute at NCPTT in 2004.

As the staff at the Center developed these innovative training opportunities, the excellent research and information distribution programs for which the Center has become so well respected continued to be enhanced. The accomplishments of those programs are detailed in the pages that follow.

On the home front, NCPTT continues to enjoy extraordinary support from its host university, Northwestern State University, the local community, and the Louisiana congressional delegation and staff. The Center continues to work closely with the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and the Cane River National Heritage Area. NCPTT partnered with them wherever possible on projects of mutual interest and uses these related National

Park Service sites as living laboratories for the application of Center-sponsored technologies. The Center, in fact, looks to NPS sites throughout the country as potential test beds for its projects, and has successfully partnered with National Parks across the nation.

NCPTT still has many challenges to face, but anticipates a bright future of innovation and cooperation. The Center seeks to leverage its resources and partner with preservation professionals here and abroad to identify the critical challenges facing the United States’ cultural resources and to discover creative solutions in the fields of science and technology. The Center is most successful when it is working in partnership with others, as the following pages will attest. Building and expanding those partnerships will be NCPTT’s principal objective over the next few years.

Today, NCPTT remains focused on its legislated purposes. Using emerging internet technologies not available at the time of its inception, the Center is able to draw upon the strength of its staff of preservation professionals to disseminate information more effectively than ever. The information on the following pages provides insight into how the Center will continue to lead the field of preservation technology in 2004 and beyond.

# In Review — 2003

## NCPTT Centerwide Highlights from the Last Year

### New Faces at the Center

NCPTT welcomed three new employees to its ranks recently.

Mary Bistodeau joined the staff as receptionist. Bistodeau recently moved from California and is attending Northwestern State University (NSU).



**Bistodeau**

Dr. Tye Botting began the new year by joining the Materials Research Program as a researcher studying and testing stone consolidants. He is also teaching chemistry at NSU. Botting most recently worked with the Special Microbeam Utilization Research Facility at Texas A&M University in College Station.



**Botting**

James Guidry is working with the Materials Research Program as a research assistant. Guidry is evaluating vitrification as a treatment for terrazzo floors as part of a joint project between NCPTT and the U.S. General Services Administration.



**Guidry**

### PTT Grants Completes First Online Submission Cycle

NCPTT's 2004 PTT Grants submission has created new process that allows grant applicants the ability to submit their proposal information entirely over the internet. The form was designed to simplify proposal submissions by eliminating the need to mail documents. The move continues the Center's leadership in the National Park Service's paperless office initiative. PTT Grants awards will be announced in summer 2004.

### Graham Elected NCPTT Board Chairman

Roy Eugene Graham, FAIA, Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Professor and director of the College of Design, Construction and Planning Preservation Programs of the University of Florida has been elected chairman of the advisory board during the PTT Board's meeting in November. Graham



was appointed to the board in 1999 by the Secretary of Interior and has served as vice chair since 2000.

Graham replaces outgoing chairman, Dr. James Huhta, who retired from the board after the fall meeting. Dr. Elizabeth Lyon also recently retired from the PTT Board. Lyon was a charter member of the board and formerly served as chairwoman as well.

### NCPTT Establishes Permanent Exhibit of Jack Boucher Photography

NCPTT has instituted a permanent exhibit featuring the photography of Jack Boucher at Lee H. Nelson Hall in Louisiana, the Center's headquarters. Boucher, a noted National Park Service photographer, took photos of the Cane River National Heritage Area in 2001. NCPTT premiered the collection titled "Legacies of Louisiana" in summer 2003.



Above: This scene of pioneering feminist author Kate Chopin's antebellum home is among the gallery of photographs taken by NPS photographer Jack Boucher now displayed at Lee H. Nelson Hall.

### Heritage Education — Louisiana Publishes Summary Report

Heritage Education — Louisiana produced a report that provides a glimpse into the program's growth from its inception in 2000 to 2002. Copies may be requested by contacting Kim Bowen at 318-356-7444 or [kim\\_bowen@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:kim_bowen@contractor.nps.gov).

Top: NCPTT honored longtime board members retiring from their duties last year. Pictured are de Teel Patterson Tiller, NPS deputy director of cultural resources, along with retiring members, Jim Huhta, Elizabeth Lyon and Jim Judge as well as Kirk Cordell, NCPTT executive director.

# Materials Research

## In-House Research Staff Grows as Monument Conservation Efforts Become Recognized



### Southern Regional Cemetery Monument Conservation Seminar and Workshop

Recognizing a growing national demand for training on the conservation of cemetery monuments, NCPTT's Materials Research Program organized a seminar and workshop on the conservation of gravestones and other monuments commonly found in cemeteries.

On May 13, 2003, more than 60 participants from around the nation participated in the events held in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where NCPTT is headquartered. The participants represented a wide array of individuals involved in cemetery preservation, including cemetery association members, state historic preservation officers, national and state park employees, K-12 teachers who use cemeteries in their lessons, doctoral students conducting research in cemeteries, cemetery caretakers, monument builders and family cemetery owners. Participants were introduced to a wide range of topics including cemetery types, monument materials, decay mechanisms and treatments specific to cemeteries found in the southern United States. They learned a variety of condition survey and assessment techniques and ways to implement their projects.

For participants interested in hands-on training in cemetery monument conservation, a two-day workshop followed on May 14-15, 2003 at the historic American Cemetery in Natchitoches. Thirty participants were selected from a waiting list of workshop applicants. The workshop included hands-on condition assessment, safe handling procedures, and conservation treatments. The conservation treatments encompassed cleaning, repair and resetting of markers.

The cemetery monument conservation seminar and workshop proved to be a success. Currently, the Materials Research



Above: A participant in the 2003 Cemetery Monument Conservation workshop learns how to repair a monument under the supervision of professional stonemason Karl Munson.

Top: NCPTT's environmental exposure is being used for several materials research projects, including the testing of consolidants on stone.

NCPTT's Materials Research Program works in partnership with parks, laboratories, government agencies, universities and others to understand how cultural objects deteriorate with time. The program's goals are to:

1. Understand cultural resources decay,
2. Develop and evaluate conservation treatments to protect cultural resources and
3. Disseminate scientific results and preservation technologies through presentations, publications and training for preservation professionals nationwide.

A special interest within the program is the study of outdoor air pollution effects on cultural materials. In 2003, the Materials Research Program focused on three main projects, including the development of the cemetery monument conservation seminar and workshop, the evaluation of new stone protectant treatments and the evaluation of stone consolidants.

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# Architecture and Engineering

## Program Holds First Training in Engineering for Older and Heritage Buildings

NCPTT's Architecture and Engineering Program encourages research and partnerships with organizations and institutions working to advance preservation technology for buildings and other structures. NCPTT's Architecture & Engineering goals are:

1. To transfer technologies and technical information among agencies and organizations and among professional disciplines.
2. To disseminate research results towards increasing access to technology and expertise relevant to the built environment.
3. To provide on-site training programs aimed at scholars and professionals in practice.

### Preservation Engineering

NCPTT has been working with partners to develop a preservation engineering curriculum and to prepare instructional materials for professional development courses. The program is designed so that any engineer with preservation experience can teach the courses, with each instructor personalizing and adapting the course material with his or her own experience to address the background and experience of the participants.

The Professional Development Program for Engineers in Historic Preservation is targeted at engineering professionals from the architectural, civil, structural, and mechanical engineering disciplines; technically-oriented architects; and technically-oriented graduates (Master's) of historic preservation programs.

The first two courses, Materials & Older Buildings and Building Pathology, were offered at the 2003 Association for Preservation Technology International Conference in Portland, Maine, September 17-22. These courses addressed vulnerability of materials, materials performance, building pathology and processes of deterioration. The courses were well received by the 30 participants



who offered valuable feedback that will be incorporated to improve future offerings.

### Summer Institute

NCPTT is developing a Summer Institute that will provide advanced training to historic preservation professionals. While the inaugural Summer Institute in 2004 will feature courses developed as a result of the Engineering Initiative, future Summer Institutes will include training in all the disciplines in which NCPTT works.

In addition to the two courses mentioned above, two new courses, Investigations & Diagnostics Methodology and Treatment Strategies & Interventions, will be offered. Working from the engineer's perspective, this series of courses introduces the issues and technical challenges encountered in older and historic buildings, and emphasizes the subtle shifts in perspective and problem-solving methods that are necessary when working with these resources. Courses may be taken individually or combined for an introduction to Preservation Engineering.



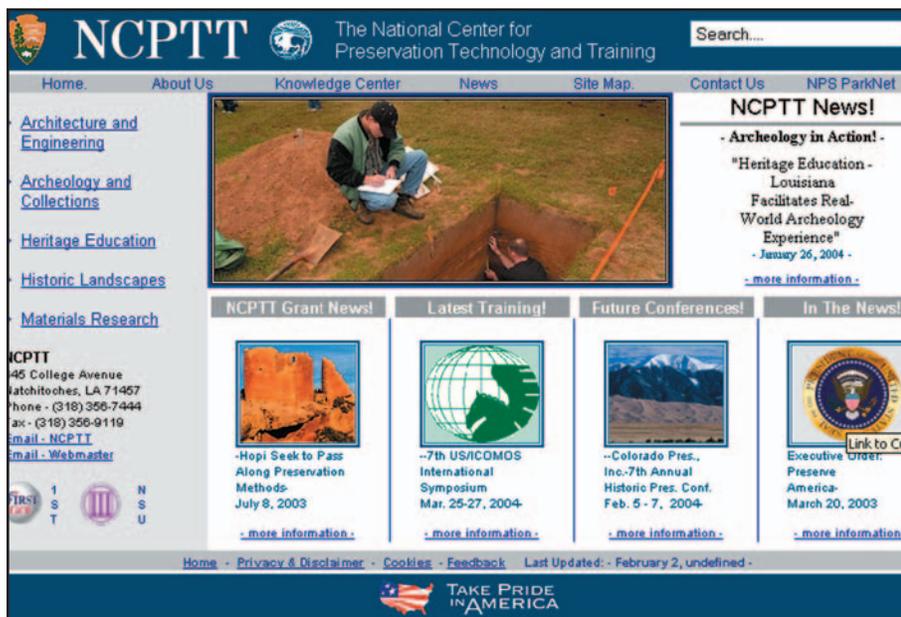
Above: Mel Green of Melvyn Green and Associates discusses an architectural problem with one of the breakout teams at the "Engineering for Older Buildings, including Heritage Buildings" training held by NCPTT in September.

Top: Participants in the workshop present their proposed solution to strengthen weakened structural elements.

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# Information Technology

## Disseminating Information about NCPTT's Impact on Preservation



The NCPTT website has undergone an extensive renovation to improve user friendliness and functionality. To visit the site, go to [www.ncptt.nps.gov](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov).

The information technology component of NCPTT is comprised of four elements: information management grants and projects, the internet program, in-office computer systems and publication distribution. The component's principal goal is to foster development of, access to and dissemination of preservation-related information. Access to information via electronic means is strongly promoted.

### Grants and Projects

Information management grants/projects promote access to and dissemination of preservation-related computerized information. Funding is available for undertakings that focus on delivering substantive preservation-related information via the world wide web. The grants tracking process has undergone a major redesign for the PTTGrants 2004 season from a commercial software system to the web database system. This system has streamlined the grants process for NCPTT staff and has made the grants applications form easier to access for the public.

### Internet Program

NCPTT's internet program encompasses all projects that are internet-based and that enhance NCPTT as a leader in the electronic dissemination of information. A major focus of the program has been the development of NCPTT's website to deliver preservation information and NCPTT products to the preservation community. The NCPTT website has been rebuilt and placed on a new high-speed server.

### In-office Computer Systems

Both hardware and software capabilities change rapidly in today's business environment. Utilizing current computer technologies facilitates the accomplishment of NCPTT's mission. Information management staffers are responsible for keeping in-office systems current, updated and functioning appropriately.

In an effort to keep hardware current, the information technology staff applies the National Park Service IT guidelines of replacing PC's every three years. During FY2003, 14 Pentium IV workstations have been purchased to replace aging computers. Software upgrades have incorporated the Windows XP operating system and Windows Office XP.

Recently, the Center has transitioned from an aging listserv technology to a forum-style bulletin board format via web browser.

### Publication Distribution

One of the major functions of the NCPTT website is to provide a central location to search for preservation publications. In FY 2003 a total of 233 publications were mailed to the public by NCPTT IT staff.

Due to the participation of a Library Management Training Workshop in Washington, D.C., the IT staff has almost completed the task of cataloging all library books and periodicals and will post NCPTT's library database will be posted via the NPS network for other offices and parks to enter into a book loaning program.

# Heritage Education — Louisiana

## Program Establishes Foundation for a National Model

In fiscal year 2003, Heritage Education—Louisiana worked to establish a nationally recognized program that meets the needs of K-12 classroom teachers who must not only cover curriculum standards and benchmarks, but must also consider high-stakes testing. Classroom teachers, preservation specialists and education specialists ensured that the program met preservation standards and provided professional development for teachers in innovative and evolving educational theories and techniques. Archeological sites, historic structures and cultural landscapes remain as the place-based focus.

### Workshops

Over the past year, the Heritage Education—Louisiana program has been taking teachers on “A Walk Downtown”—the title for our summer workshops—to show teachers how they can use the main streets in their own hometowns to develop lessons that will help their students, and students across the country, understand the value of their heritage while meeting curriculum needs.

Partnering with the Louisiana Main Street Program resulted in workshop host sites in Natchitoches, Crowley and Hammond, Louisiana. With staff from the College of Education at Northwestern State University of Louisiana aiding in the development and delivery of these workshops, 32 classroom teachers from around the state participated in interdisciplinary, hands-on, curriculum-based activities.

### Mini Grants

Through its mini grants program, Heritage Education – Louisiana (HE-LA) provided more than \$40,000 in Mini Grants to 17 K-12 classroom teachers in Louisiana for the development of curriculum-based, heritage education activities using 116 local cultural and historic sites as the content. The Louisiana Division of Archaeology administered the grants which directly involved over 2,000 students. HE-LA held a ceremony to

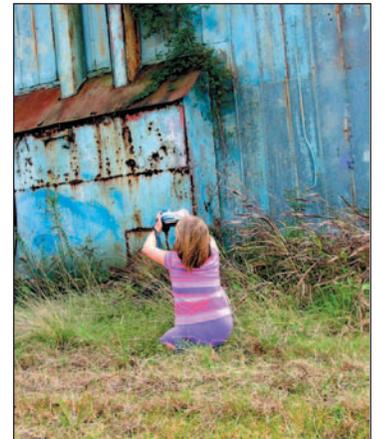


award its latest round of mini grants in Baton Rouge during Preservation Week. More than thirty teachers who have participated in Heritage Education — Louisiana projects were honored. Included in the activities was a roundtable discussion for teachers and a presentation of student heritage education projects.

### Partnerships

Heritage Education – Louisiana hosted Hyun Hee Park, an English education student from Yeungnam University in Korea, through the National Park Service’s Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program. Park is an exchange student at Old Dominion University in Virginia. Another partnership was formed with the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to explore the challenges of incorporating heritage education into teacher-training programs of colleges and universities in the United States. MTSU developed and distributed a survey to two public and two private colleges and/or universities in each of the 50 states and

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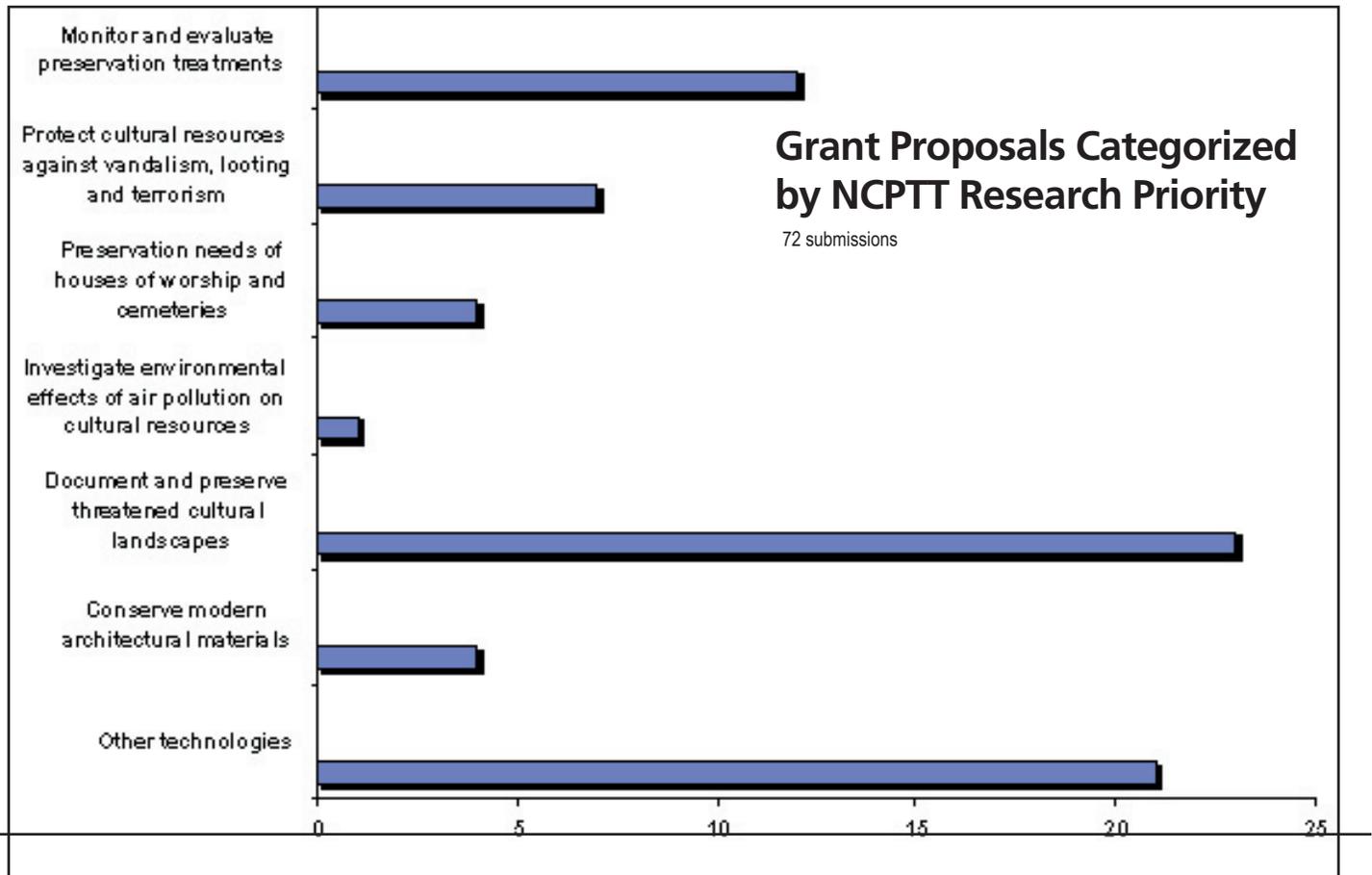
Above: A student uses a digital camera to document a historic building as part of a mini grant titled “Vanishing History.”

Top: Ft. Derussy was one of the sites students visited as part of a Heritage Education—Louisiana mini grant



# PTTGrants Awarded in 2003

Applicant	Title	Amount
Historic Fort Collins Development Corporation	Advances in Digital Radioscopy for Use in Historic Preservation	\$ 39,160
Montana Public Television	America's Cultural Heritage Under Water, Episodes 5 & 6	\$ 40,000
Foundation of the American Institute of Conservation	AIC Electronic Media Group 2004 Program	\$ 11,000
Mississippi Department of Archives and History	Mississippi Historic Windows Preservation Conference	\$ 5,980
University of Delaware	Thin-Section Petrography of Cultural Materials Publication	\$ 32,900
North Dakota State University	Development of Removable Coatings with Improved Protection for Outdoor -Bronze Sculpture Using Combinatorial Methods	\$ 39,876
Minnesota State University at Moorhead	Studying Development of a Technique for Buried Site Detection Using a Down-Hole Soil Magnetic Instrument	\$ 38,739
State University at Stony Brook, New York	The Use of Multibeam Bathymetry for the Identification and Assessment of Underwater Archaeological Sites	\$ 40,000
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe Death Valley, California	Documentation of Timbisha Shoshone Traditional Cultural Sites Using Video and GIS Technology	\$ 39,995
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 287,650</b>





Above: The move of Cape Hattaras Lighthouse away from the eroding coastline is an example of the kind of preservation engineering addressed in NCPTT's Architecture and Engineering training initiative.

Top: Summer intern Kara Dotter works to develop research protocols for testing stone consolidants.

## Materials Research, continued...

Program plans to hold similar events in other regions of the country in 2004.

### New Stone Protectant Treatments in Partnership with DuPont

NCPTT continued a second year of studies on evaluation of potential new stone protectant treatments under development at DuPont. This joint research was funded through a two-year grant by DuPont. NCPTT continues evaluation of two new formulations on limestone and marble using a unique recirculating wind tunnel to measure air pollution deposition on the

samples. The NCPTT environmental exposure chamber is an effective tool to measure deposition velocities of sulfur dioxide on untreated and treated materials at conditions similar to ambient environments in urban settings. The project will be completed in 2004.

### Research Protocols Established to Evaluate Stone Consolidants

NCPTT's Materials Research Program has established a series of test methods to evaluate the interaction of air pollution with consolidated limestone and marble over time. NCPTT's summer interns worked together with experienced staff scientists to develop research protocols for testing a variety of stone consolidants including alkoxysilanes, epoxies, acrylics and inorganic treatments. Before consolidation, stone samples are characterized using Fourier Transform infrared spectroscopy, laser profilometry and colorimetry. Afterwards, samples are treated by spraying or dipping with the desired consolidant. Some samples are artificially aged using a QUV weatherometer. Then, treated and untreated, aged and un-aged samples are exposed to pollution using the NCPTT environmental exposure chamber. Throughout the process, the samples are monitored for color changes, surface texture changes and chemical changes. Ultimately, these tools can help us better understand the benefits and limitations of commercially available consolidant treatments.

## Architecture & Engineering, continued...

### Sustainable Approaches to Historic Preservation

The environmental impact of pollution on our built environment is one of NCPTT's six research priorities. Interpreting this broadly, Architecture and Engineering is focusing on sustainable practices that can greatly reduce the effects of the built environment on the natural world. Sustainable methods also address the preservation of threatened cultural landscapes, another of NCPTT's research priorities. These cultural landscapes can be protect-

ed through the use of sustainable development techniques such as infill housing and brownfields redevelopment.

Through this initiative NCPTT aims to unite proponents of preservation and the sustainable design movement. Initially NCPTT will facilitate a dialogue where professionals can discuss green topics and sustainable practices. This discussion may lead to workshops and training seminars to help professionals find common ground between preservation and sustainable design.

## Heritage Education, continued ...

will publish the results. Lastly, the Maryland Historic Trust and staff from Goucher College are developing a program based on the Heritage Education – Louisiana model with the initial project a summer teachers' institute.

### Establishing Our Identity

Heritage Education — Louisiana produced three newsletters that were electronically delivered to more than 500 recipients and distributed at various presentations and other venues. Work continued with an advertising agency for several projects: an informational brochure, the 2000-2002 Summary Report and the website. The brochure was distributed to schools, government offices and education and preservation organizations. It served as the design guide for the website and the Summary Report. Currently, a temporary website for Heritage Education — Louisiana includes articles, newsletters, lesson plans, and links to online resources.

### Presentations

Staff from HE-LA and NSU's College of Education participated in several national, regional, and statewide venues with presentations about Heritage Education — Loui-



siana: Alliance of National Heritage Areas International Conference, National Park Service's Cultural Resources 2003 Conference, the National Social Studies Association, Southeast Regional African American Heritage Preservation Alliance Conference, the South Central Historic Archaeology Conference, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities/Northwestern State University of Louisiana Summer Institute, Louisiana Council for Social Studies, Louisiana Council for Teachers of English, Louisiana Reading Association, Middle School Association and the Louisiana Preservation Alliance.

NSU archeologist Jeff Girard explains soil layers to eighth grade students during an event co-sponsored by Heritage Education — Louisiana in which students experience a genuine archeological site and learn about the ethics of preservation.

2003 Heritage Education--Louisiana Mini Grants	City	Amount
<b>Celebrating Louisiana's Cultural Diversity</b>	Tioga	\$2,500.00
<b>A Visual Compendium of Historic Places Beginning w/Ashland-Bell</b>	Baton Rouge	\$2,500.00
<b>A Documentary of Historic Buildings in St. Landry Parish</b>	Opelousas	\$2,500.00
<b>Preserving DeSoto Parish's Past for Future Generations</b>	Logansport	\$2,500.00
<b>Geocaching Vermilion Style</b>	Abbeville	\$2,450.00
<b>Can you name and locate the Historical Places located in Franklin, La.</b>	Franklin	\$2,390.00
<b>I Fell Asleep in Class and woke up in Oak Alley</b>	Gonzales	\$2,500.00
<b>Louisiana's Legacy -- The Pride of Ascension</b>	Prairieville	\$2,498.00
<b>Hidden Treasures in Livingston Parish</b>	Walker	\$2,429.00
<b>The Stagecoach Trail: Promoting Recognition of Mt. Lebanon, La.</b>	Castor	\$2,500.00
<b>Cities of the Dead: Teachers of Culture, History and Architecture</b>	Metairie	\$1,402.00
<b>There is No Place Like Home</b>	Shreveport	\$1,982.00
<b>Allon Ou Village</b>	Abbeville	\$2,500.00
<b>Harvesting a Heritage - One Community at a Time</b>	Lake Charles	\$2,500.00
<b>Quest for the Lost Cemeteries</b>	Morse	\$2,454.00
<b>A Picture Worth a Thousand Words</b>	Rayne	\$2,500.00
<b>Piney Hills Historical Treasure Hunt</b>	Ruston	\$2,483.00
		<b>\$40,588.00</b>



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**National Center for Preservation  
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The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and 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.

*NCPTT*

NCPTT promotes the preservation of prehistoric and historic resources in the United States through applied research and professional training. NCPTT is located on the campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

# NCPTT Annual Report 2003

*Technology Serving the Future  
 of America's Heritage*



U.S. Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service

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