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NCPTT News Release

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NCPTT HOLDS TRAINING ON ENGINEERING FOR OLDER AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN CANE RIVER AREA

For the past decade, Louisiana's Cane River area has been fortunate to see the restoration of some of its most historically significant structures. NCPTT used the area as a living laboratory July 13-23 to teach engineering professionals about specific issues involved in engineering for older and historic buildings.

This national training initiative is aimed at engineers and related professionals who have structural engineering experience and an interest in the specific engineering issues of historic structures. Participants visited Melrose Plantation Tuesday as part of the two-day training module "Materials and Older Buildings."

"Many times, builders of historic buildings didn't necessarily follow the same rules of construction we use today," said Donna Isaacs, a student at the University of Florida's M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction. "The information we're learning is helping me rethink how I look at these buildings and giving me a firm foundation to address these issues in my future career."

Three other training topics that were addressed over the next two weeks, including "Building Pathology," "Investigations and Diagnostics Methodology" and "Treatment Strategy and Interventions."

The nationally-recognized experts that conducted the training include David C. Fischetti, PE, president of DCF Engineering; Melvyn Green, PE, of Melvyn Green and associates; Michael C. Henry, PE, AIA, founding partner of Watson and Henry Associates; and, Samuel Y. Harris, PE, FAIA, JD, who has taught historic preservation and professional practice at the University of Pennsylvania, Goucher College, and Yale University.

Engineering for Older and Historic Buildings was the first training program offered as part of NCPTT's Summer Institute. While the 2004 program focuses on *Engineering for Older and Historic Buildings* developed by NCPTT's Architecture & Engineering program, future offerings will include courses developed by the Materials Research, Archeology and Historic Landscapes programs as well as partner organizations. For more information, visit, www.ncptt.nps.gov/summerinstitute.



Mel Green of Melvyn Green and Associates, discusses the structural properties of African House at Melrose Plantation Tuesday. The plantation is one of the local sites being used for NCPTT's national training initiative, Engineering for Older and Historic Buildings.