



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Center for
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and Training

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NCPTT News Release

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NCPTT Plans “Engineering for Older and Historic Buildings” Training During 2004 Summer Institute

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) is holding a series of 4 two-day courses July 13-23 to introduce the issues and technical challenges encountered in older and historic buildings. This unique program is aimed at engineers and related professionals who have structural engineering experience and have an interest in the specific engineering issues of historic structures. For more details and to apply, visit the website www.ncptt.nps.gov/summerinstitute.

Courses that are part of the *Engineering for Older and Historic Buildings* curriculum can be taken individually or combined for a full two-week introduction to Preservation Engineering. Topics include Materials and Older Buildings, Investigations and Diagnostics Methodology, and Treatment Strategy and Interventions. Tuition is \$475 for first course and \$375 for each additional course. The training is also eligible for Professional Development credit from the AIA Historic Resources Committee and ASCE Architectural Engineering Institute.

The nationally-recognized experts who will conduct 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.

The program will examine several nationally-significant structures at the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Cane River National Heritage Area near NCPTT headquarters in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Established in the late 18th century by former slaves who themselves became wealthy planters, the grounds of Yucca Plantation (now known as Melrose Plantation) contain some of the oldest structures built by persons of African heritage for their own use in the United States. Oakland Plantation is one of the nation’s most complete expressions of the rural French Creole building tradition and is one of the few large plantation complexes remaining in the South. In 1998, Oakland Plantation was acquired by the National Park Service and is open daily for tours. Participants will enjoy a tour and reception at the park.

Engineering for Older and Historic Buildings is 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.