

Graduate Program in

# Historic Preservation Planning

department of city and regional planning



Cornell University  
College of Architecture, Art, and Planning

the act or process  
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## What Is Historic Preservation?

The Historic Preservation Program at Cornell provides a wide-ranging education in a fascinating, multi-faceted and rapidly-evolving field. Historic Preservation synthesizes design, history, public policy, cultural studies, science, and economics during the process of planning for the future of our cultural and natural resources, our communities, and ourselves.

Historic preservation has been defined as “the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a property, or a group of properties, and the existing form and vegetative cover of a site.” A preservation effort often begins when a community decides it needs to safeguard part of its physical heritage and looks to how and what it must do to achieve this goal. The preservationist knows which questions to ask, how to find the answers, and how to create a balance between protecting important historic elements and current economic and social needs.

In some cases, the preservationist aims to stabilize a structure with as few changes as possible to the historic fabric so that the property can either be used for its original purpose or “mothballed” for posterity. In other cases, such as adaptive reuse, the challenge is to retain as much as possible of the original built fabric of the structure, landscape or district while readying it for a new and different use. In every case, whatever the project scope, and whether it is an individual property or an entire region, the preservationist plays a special role, bringing together past and present, various community stakeholders, and alternative designs and preservation treatments, to help communities make informed decisions about the places they value and wish to save.



Above: Historic Preservation students in Washington DC join preservation architect Kevin Milsted in front of the Treasury Building.

Left: Planning students touring Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater.

Facing page, background: Historic Preservation student Emily Sheckels removes old glazing from a window at the Shelburne Playhouse as part of window restoration work.





A column head and fascia detail on Goldwin Smith Hall taken by Historic Preservation student Stefanie Noble.

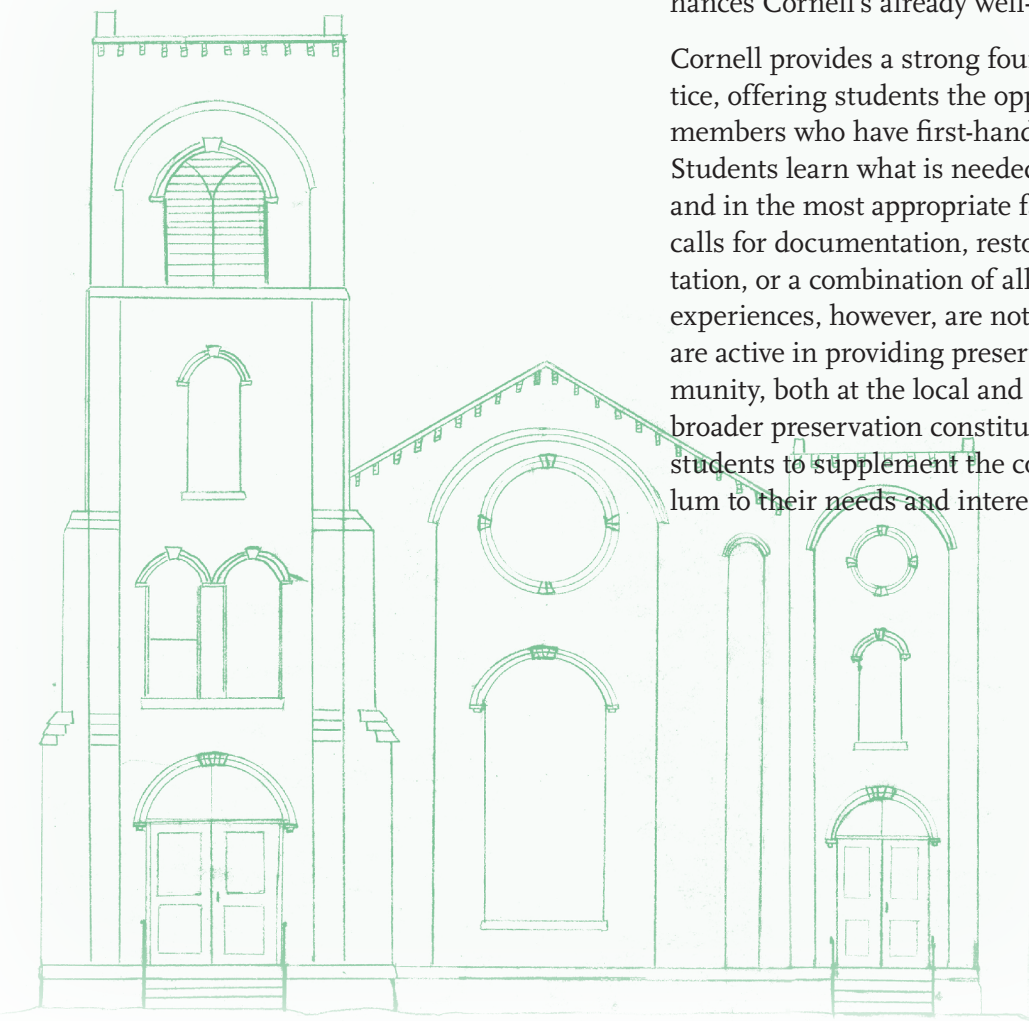
# Why Choose Cornell?

Graduate study in Historic Preservation Planning at Cornell offers students an educational experience incorporating both theory and practice in a variety of topics ranging from, but not limited to modernism, landscapes, advocacy, material conservation, economic development, museum studies, recreation and play sites, rural preservation, and much more. Within the framework of this diverse curriculum, students can design their own unique field of concentration, engaging coursework and faculty from across the university. Resources for graduate study at Cornell are unexcelled, with millions of books and periodicals available in the campus libraries, a wide array of advanced technical resource facilities, and superlative faculty and students.

As one of the first institutions in the country to offer preservation courses, Cornell is internationally recognized as a leader in the field, drawing students from around the world. This diversity enriches the academic environment and enhances Cornell's already well-rounded degree programs.

Cornell provides a strong foundation in preservation practice, offering students the opportunity to study with faculty members who have first-hand experience in the profession. Students learn what is needed to intervene in any location and in the most appropriate fashion, whether the situation calls for documentation, restoration, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or a combination of all of these options. The students' experiences, however, are not limited to the lecture hall; they are active in providing preservation services within the community, both at the local and regional level as well as among broader preservation constituencies. Such experiences allow students to supplement the core courses and tailor a curriculum to their needs and interests.

Scaled drawing by Historic Preservation student Elizabeth Johnson of the south elevation of First Wesleyan Church in Seneca Falls NY.



Historic Preservation students Elizabeth Blazeovich, Matt Gundy, Jennifer Buddenborg, and Alec Bennet at graduation in May 2005.

# History of the Program

In 1962, four years before the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act, Cornell began offering preservation courses. To meet the increasing need for skilled preservationists, the program was approved as a minor concentration in 1970 and as a major in 1975. Today, more than three hundred students have pursued a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation Planning, and an equal number have pursued a minor in the field.

The first director of the program was Stephen W. Jacobs, Professor of Architecture in the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning. It was he, together with Professor Barclay G. Jones, in the Department of City and Regional Planning, who developed the early courses. Upon Professor Jacobs's death in 1978, Professor Ian R. Stewart assumed the directorship and the program expanded. Professor Michael A. Tomlan, who has taught in the program since its inception, became the fourth director of the department in 1988.

Cornell's McGraw clock and bell tower overlooking Cayuga Lake



# Faculty and Visiting Professors

The Graduate Program in Historic Preservation Planning is staffed by faculty with varied backgrounds, interests, and professional experience. This insures that current developments in the field and perspectives from important allied professions are incorporated in the curriculum. Two full-time professors directly support the program while drawing regularly on the contributions of six other faculty members and visiting lecturers.

**Jeffrey Chusid**, B. Arch., M. Arch., Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning. Professor Chusid is an architect specializing in historic preservation. He has headed preservation programs at the Schools of Architecture at both The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Southern California. His professional practice includes preservation planning, treatment of cultural landscapes, building conservation, and new architectural design. Areas of research include California Modernism, Cultural Landscapes, and the fate of historic sites in areas of cultural exchange and conflict. Professor Chusid teaches the introductory course, fieldwork, design, and preservation plan-making.

**Michael A. Tomlan**, B.Arch., M.S.H.P., Ph.D., Professor of City and Regional Planning. Professor Tomlan serves as the director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation Planning, and the Director of the Stein Institute for Urban and Landscape Studies. He has been involved with projects throughout the United States; served on national, state, and local boards; worked with the public, professionals, organizations, and agencies in Canada, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, and Russia; and written a variety of books and articles. Professor Tomlan, who is a Fellow of the Association for Preservation Technology, teaches courses in research and documentation techniques, preservation economics, valuation and finance, contemporary urban issues, and building materials history and conservation.

Below left: Professor Jeff Chusid (right) talking with alumnus Chad Randal of the National Park Service during an alumni reception in Washington DC.

Below right: Michael Tomlan giving a seminar at the 2005 Preserve and Play Conference.



**Sherene Baugher**, B.A., M.A. (Cultural Anthropology), M.A. (Archaeology), Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture. Professor Baugher is the former Director of the City Archaeology Program for the New York City Landmarks Commission and board member of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, and has written over two dozen reports and field studies. She teaches urban archaeology and archaeology in historic preservation planning.

**Kristen Brennan**, B.A., M.A., Visiting Lecturer for Building Material Conservation Lab. With many years of varied experience in the field of historic preservation, Kristen brings a hands-on perspective to the program. As a construction supervisor as well as a professional timber framer, Kristen has dealt with the physical aspects of historic preservation. Kristen has special interest in rural and agricultural timber frame buildings.

**Harvy Carter**, B.A., L.L.B., Visiting Lecturer. Professor Carter brings many years experience as both a practicing lawyer and academic lecturer to the program's Historic Preservation Law course.

**David Listokin**, B.A., M.P.A., M.C.R.P., Ph.D., Visiting Lecturer. Dr. Listokin is the co-director for the Center for Urban Policy Research of Rutgers University and a leading authority on community and fiscal impact analysis, housing policy, land-use regulation, and historic preservation. He comes to Cornell to teach Economics and Financing of Neighborhood Conservation and Preservation.

**Rolf Pendall**, B.A., M.S.C.R.P., M.A., Ph.D, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning and Director of Graduate Studies for the department. Professor Pendall worked as a housing and land use planning analyst for the Bay Area Council in San Francisco in the early 1990s and has de-



veloped plans and conducted research and policy analysis on urban sprawl, land use, affordable housing, racial and income segregation, and environmental issues across the United States. His teaching includes courses in planning methods, land use regulations, and affordable housing.

**Mary N. Woods**, B.A., M. A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor of Architecture. Professor Woods, an architectural and urban historian, is the author of *From Craft to Profession: Architectural Practice in 19th Century America* published by the University of California Press. In 2003 she was a fellow at the Georgia O'Keefe Study Center, Santa Fe, researching issues of photography and the American built environment. She teaches courses in the history of American architecture and urbanism, history of architecture and cities depicted in photography and film, and 19th century European architecture and cities.

Above left: Professor Sherene Baugher explains artifacts the students have found.

Above right: Kristen Brennan (center) describes to students, Greg Donofrio and Liz Blazeovich, and a Liberty community member, Alan Berabe, how to reconstruct a platform.



Interior view of the tower of York Minster cathedral

## Guest Lectures and Visiting Critics

Each year, well-known professionals in historic preservation and affiliated fields visit Cornell to present lectures and interact with members of the graduate faculty and students.

Among the most notable recent visitors are Sir Bernard M. Feilden, F.R.I.B.A., former director of ICCROM (Rome), restoration architect of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and York Minster; Rahul Mehrota, director of the Bombay Collaborative, India; and Sharon Sullivan, Executive Director, Australian Heritage Commission. In addition, program alumni frequently return to Ithaca to share their regional expertise and professional insights.

## Master of Arts Program

For the typical student, six core courses are required. With the exception of the thesis, all of these are normally taken in the first year. Two courses, **ARCH 390** and **ARCH 391** (History of American Architecture I and II) provide a fundamental review of the history of American Architecture from the Pre-Colonial period to the present. The history, theory, and practice of historic preservation are introduced in **ARCH 585/CRP 562** (Perspectives on Preservation.) **ARCH 586/CRP 560** (Documentation for Preservation) provides an overview of the language and literature of architecture and construction, and explores the relationship between these resources and preservation practice. Meanwhile, **ARCH 588/CRP 561** (Historic Preservation Planning Workshop) takes the student into the field to conduct a historic resources survey working in a city, town, or village in the region. Second year students must also complete **CRP 795** (Master's Thesis in Historic Preservation Planning) to earn their degree.

Historic Preservation students, Elizabeth Johnson and Nick Hayward practice 3-coat plastering in a Building Materials Lab.



- Elective course options include:
- ARCH 392 Modern Architecture and Film
  - CRP 532 Real Estate Development Process
  - CRP 563 Problems in Contemporary Preservation
  - CRP 564 Building Materials Conservation
  - CRP 569 Archaeology in Preservation Planning and Landscape
  - CRP 653 Legal Aspects of Land Use Planning
  - CRP 662 Seminar in American Urban History
  - CRP 663 Historic Preservation Law
  - CRP 664 Economics and Financing of Neighborhood Conservation and Preservation
  - CRP 665 Preservation Planning and Urban Change
  - CRP 790 Professional Planning Colloquium
  - H ADM 244 Tourism I
  - H ADM 651 Principles of Real Estate
  - LA 580 Landscape Preservation
  - LA 582 The American Landscape

## Doctoral Work

City and Regional Planning students in Pittsburgh during the annual department fall field trip.



A special Ph.D. track has been established for those who wish to study urban planning history and historic preservation planning both in the United States and abroad. Candidates must have a Master of Arts degree in historic preservation planning or its equivalent prior to entering the doctoral program. Students with no previous graduate work in the field will be required to enroll in the M.A. program and complete the first year of coursework. They can then petition to transfer from the M.A. program to the Ph.D. program. A candidate for the Ph.D. degree in historic preservation planning must complete a program of study that involves at least one more year of coursework approved by the candidate's Special Committee. That committee is composed of a chairperson, representing the major subject or concentration, and two other members of the university's Graduate Faculty, each representing minor subjects selected to best complement the student's research interests. At least one minor subject must be in another graduate field, and both may be. Students in the Ph.D. program must demonstrate reading proficiency in one foreign language in addition to English before taking the admission.

## Field Trips

In addition to the classroom and field experience, the program also sponsors field trips to offer students the opportunity to explore preservation in different regions. A biannual field trip to the District of Columbia insures that each student is aware of the challenges faced by this country's federal agencies, including the National Park Service, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and General Services Administration, in addition to examining first-hand the roles of national advocacy groups such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Preservation Action. Other recent trips have included visits to rural settings throughout the north-eastern US, as well as to Boston, Charleston, Detroit, New York City, Philadelphia, Savannah, and Pittsburgh. During semester breaks, outings have been organized to Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, and New Orleans—in addition to the annual work projects jointly organized by the students and alumni.



Historic Preservation students present their research findings to residents of the Westside Neighborhood in Binghamton. The community was surveyed for four years by Cornell students in preparation for nominating the tract to the National Register of Historic Places.

## Alumni Network

Students who leave the Graduate Program in Preservation Planning have found employment with relative ease. This is not only because they are committed, better educated, and prepared to enter the workforce, but also because they are a part of a network of outstanding alumni. In some cases, these professionals already have a quarter of a century of experience in the field. Almost all the alumni of the program remain involved in historic preservation in some capacity, whether managing historic preservation projects, working for a construction company, conducting environmental reviews, working with archaeologists, or packaging and marketing projects to acquire financial support. Three-quarters of program alumni work in either the public, private non-profit, or private sector in municipalities, townships, cities, and counties throughout the United States. In 1985, to further their professional development and to support the Graduate Program, the alumni formed a private, non-profit organization, **Historic Preservation Planning Alumni, Inc.** (HPPA)

# Student Organizations



The **Preservation Studies Student Organization (PSSO)** was organized to bring together students interested in the field of historic preservation in order to learn about the current issues facing preservationists across the country and to increase awareness of the issues within the Cornell University community.

PSSO provides academic, social, and professional support and services to students in historic preservation. Furthermore, the organization provides information for the students and faculty of the school of Architecture, Art, and Planning through yearly lecture series and conferences. Recent events organized by the group include: “Photographing Architecture,” a workshop with Andy Bagniet on large format architectural photography; “Working in Bombay,” a lecture by Rahul Mehrotra, director of the Bombay Collaborative, India; “Vertical Access,” a talk by Kent Diebolt, president of Vertical Access, a firm that provides specialized building evaluation utilizing rock-climbing techniques. Some of the events planned for the 2005–2006 academic year include co-sponsorship of a film series with the **Organization of Cornell Planners (OCP)**, the department-wide student planning organization, and continuation of a lecture series.

PSSO and HPPA annually cooperate on a large fieldwork project where students and alumni work together to address a contemporary preservation problem. One of the recent cooperative efforts between PSSO and HPPA resulted in a fun-filled learning experience for all involved. During the spring semester in April 2005, over 40 students, alumni, and volunteers gathered to begin preservation efforts on Shelburne Playhouse, an entertainment venue for a historic hotel in the Catskills. Other projects have included stabilization of the Governor’s House on Ellis Island, flood clean-up and stabilization in Harper’s Ferry National Park, exterior façade work on a commercial structure in Liberty, New York, and stabilization and reconstruction work at Byrdcliffe, an arts and crafts colony in upstate New York.

The first student chapter of the **American Preservation Technology (APT)** was established at Cornell in 2005. This new organization is affiliated with the international organization and has specific ties to the Northeast chapter. This is an interdisciplinary organization that focuses on exposing students to the variety of preservation technologies in the field through hands-on workshops, such as the cemetery restoration workshop where students were able to learn techniques in grave site and stone restoration. Students are also able to participate in conferences and a guest lecture series where they are able to interact with professionals who specialize in different types of preservation technologies.

Top: Jayme Breschard and Greg Donofrio during the APT cemetery restoration workshop.

Above: Annual HPPA and PSSO work weekend. The 2005 event took place in April in Liberty, NY at the Shelburne Playhouse.



# Application Process

Completed applications, consisting of an application form, two letters of recommendation, transcripts of all college-level work, and Graduate Record Examinations (GREs) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores (for foreign applicants) must be received before an admission decision can be made. All materials must arrive at Cornell before January 15 if the prospective student wishes to be considered for university-wide fellowship and scholarship competitions. All other applications are due by February 15; they will be accepted after that date only if places remain. All applications must be accompanied by payment of a nonrefundable application fee.

Yes, tuition for graduate study in historic preservation planning is in excess of \$30,000 per year and living expenses must be added. Candidates should be forthright in stating their financial needs during the application process in order to take advantage of the maximum assistance possible. It is important to remember, however, that entering domestic students are eligible for one or more types of financial aid that can offset at least half of that cost. Graduate fellowships are awarded to outstanding students based on their previous academic and professional work and their promise of continued performance. In addition, almost all domestic graduate students are eligible for a graduate assistantship. This provides degree candidates with partial tuition remission and bi-weekly stipends.



Fall Creek Gorge on the Cornell campus.

# Contact Us



Historic Preservation student, Stefanie Noble, giving a tour of a historic resort in the Adirondacks during her summer internship.

Inquiries about the program or requests for application materials for admission to the Graduate Program can be obtained from either:

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Ithaca, New York 14853-6201 USA

or

Admissions Office  
Graduate School  
Caldwell Hall, Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14853 USA

In addition, information is available on the Web at [www.crp.cornell.edu](http://www.crp.cornell.edu) or by email to the Director at [mat4@cornell.edu](mailto:mat4@cornell.edu).

We welcome your interest in the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation Planning at Cornell University and look forward to hearing from you.

*This publication has been written by, and produced with the assistance of, students in the Historic Preservation Planning Program at Cornell.  
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