

Introduction

by Antoinette J. Lee, Editor

For many heritage professionals, historic preservation connotes active work in advocacy, persuasion, and using public tools to save buildings, designate distinctive landscapes, and protect important archeological sites. Much of preservation work occurs in formal governmental hearings where proponents of designation make the case for their properties before a board or commission. Other preservationists work for private, nonprofit organizations and prepare print and Internet materials to educate the public about preservation matters. Others organize tours, training programs, exhibits, and other educational programs for community members.

Less known to many is the scholarly side of historic preservation work that takes place in libraries, archives, and other research facilities. Historical research is the basis of preparing authoritative documentation for nominations of historic properties for local designation, nominations to state and federal registers, or nominations for National Historic Landmark designation. Research is also necessary for the preparation of historical books that may be of interest to academics. The same books may be helpful to those who are seeking historic contexts for evaluating single properties or groups of historic properties. Research is undertaken by those who are writing about the history of the preservation field through investigations of organizations and their histories or the preservation of types of properties over time. Finally, research is a mainstay of those who write about the evolution of the field and how decisions about the past reflect larger trends in society.

Those who work on the research side of the preservation field may be the professionals who work in government agencies and are assigned to oversee documentation efforts. Others include consultants and independent researchers who prepare official documentation under contract with government agencies. They also include academics for whom heritage is one of their scholarly interests. Researchers are integral players in the preservation field, even if they may be less visible than preservation advocates.

The intellectual foundations of heritage and its preservation is the key purpose of *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*. Its contents reflect the scholarly and research work that is part of the larger heritage preservation field. In the more than two years that the *CRM Journal* has been published, the editors have been pleased that so many established as well as younger professionals have submitted their work for consideration. Many professionals also have been willing to sit for interviews for the Spotlight features. Others have agreed to review books, exhibits, or websites.

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Each issue of *CRM Journal* represents the work of many professionals, both in the United States and other countries. Now that it has been established as a key part of the National Park Service cultural resources programs, it is time to pass the editorship to a new person. Starting with the Summer 2006 issue, Martin Perschler will be the editor. Martin's work with the *CRM Journal* started with providing the cover illustration and continued through articles, research reports, and book reviews. *CRM Journal* readers are familiar with his exceptional intellectual gifts and are invited to send their inquiries about potential articles to him at martin_perschler@nps.gov.

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