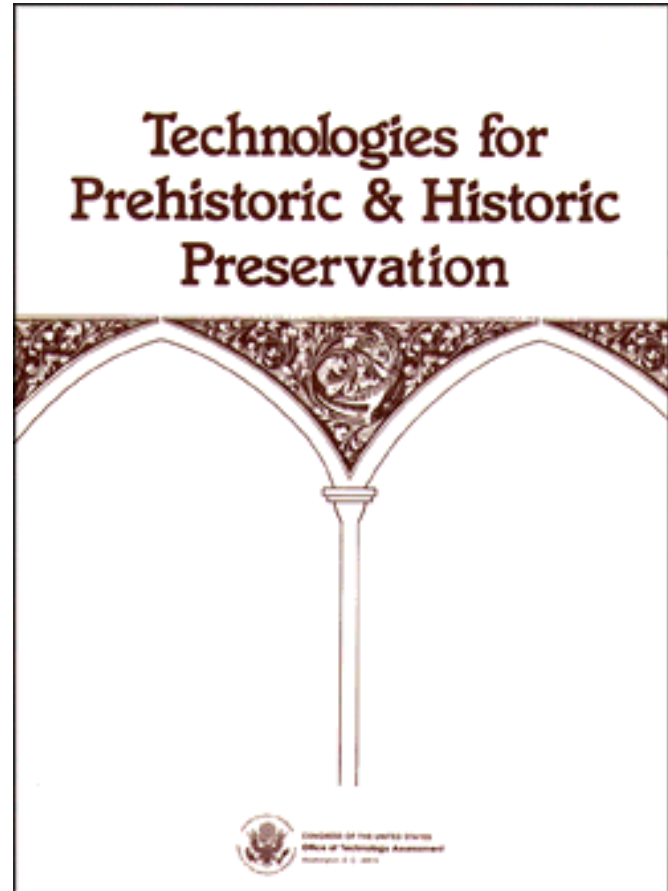


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Foreword

Archaeological remains and historic structures and landscapes are important tangible reminders of this Nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage. They provide a sense of our past and contribute in other ways to our quality of life. Yet, in recent years, as the result primarily of population shifts, urban growth, and energy development, the stresses on these unique, nonrenewable cultural resources have increased dramatically. As this assessment makes clear, the appropriate use of a wide variety of preservation technologies, many of which were originally developed for applications in natural science and engineering, could reduce many of these stresses.

This report presents the primary findings of an assessment requested by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The Subcommittee on Public Lands is carrying out a major review of how Federal agencies implement Federal preservation policy. This assessment directly supports the Committee's review by showing how the uses of certain methods, techniques, as well as tools and equipment can assist Federal, State, and local preservation efforts.

The assessment takes the unusual step of focusing on the applications of preservation technologies rather than preservation disciplines. It examines the current use of preservation technologies and identifies research and development needs. It also explores how improvements in Federal policy and implementation can facilitate the more effective use of technologies appropriate for managing this country's prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

In undertaking this assessment, OTA sought the contributions of a wide spectrum of knowledgeable and interested individuals. Some provided information and guidance, others reviewed drafts of the report. OTA gratefully acknowledges their contributions of time and intellectual effort. OTA also appreciates the timely help rendered by a number of individuals from the National Park Service.



JOHN H. GIBBONS
Director

Review Panel

Robert Baboian
Corrosion Laboratory
Texas Instruments
Attleboro, MA

Carole L. Crumley
Department of Anthropology
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

Hiroshi Daifuku
Historic Preservation Consultant
Washington, DC

James Ebert
Ebert & Associates
Albuquerque, NM

Joel Grossman
Grossman & Associates, Inc.
New York, NY

Robert Harvey
Department of Landscape Architecture
Iowa State University
Ames, IA

Ruthann Knudson
Woodward-Clyde Consultants
Walnut Creek, CA

Charles Mazel
Klein Associates
Salem, NH

John H. Myers
College of Architecture
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA

Patricia O'Donnell
Walmsley & Co.
New York, NY

Mimi Rodden
Carson City, NV

Reynold Ruppe
Department of Anthropology
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

Susan E. Schur
Technology and Conservation
Boston, MA

Thomas Spiers
Benatec Associates
Harrisburg, PA

M. Jane Young
Department of Anthropology
University of Texas
Austin, TX

NOTE: OTA appreciates and is grateful for the valuable assistance and thoughtful critiques provided by the review panel and workshop participants. The panel and workshops do not, however, necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse this report. OTA assumes full responsibility for the report and the accuracy of its contents.

OTA Project Staff on Prehistoric and Historic Preservation

Lionel S. Johns, *Assistant Director, OTA
Energy, Materials, and International Security Division*

Peter D. Blair, *Energy and Materials Program Manager*

Richard E. Rowberg, *Energy and Materials Program Manager until December 1985*

Ray Williamson, *Project Director*

Mary Lee Jefferson, *Analyst*

Jannelle Warren-Findley, *Contractor*

Administrative Staff

Lillian Chapman Linda Long

Workshop Participants

Technologies for the Preservation of Archaeological Sites and Structures, Dec. 3-4, 1985

Dena Dincauze, *Chair*

Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Annetta Cheek
Archeology Assistance Division
Office of Surface Mining
Washington, DC

James Ebert
Ebert & Associates
Albuquerque, NM

Jeffrey Eighmy
Department of Anthropology
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO

James Judge
Fort Burgwin Research Center
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX

Timothy Kohler
Department of Anthropology
Washington State University
Pullman, WA

Mark Leone
Department of Anthropology
University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Charles Pearson
Coastal Environments, Inc.
Baton Rouge, LA

G.R. Rapp, Jr.
College of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota
Duluth, MN

Joseph Schuldenrein
Commonwealth Associates
Jackson, MI

Thomas Sever
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
National Space Technology Laboratories
Bay St. Louis, MS

R.E. Taylor
Department of Anthropology
University of California
Riverside, CA

Leslie Wildesen
Colorado Heritage Center
State Historic Preservation Office
Denver, CO

Technologies for the Presentation of Historic Structures, Jan. 28-29, 1986

James Marston Fitch, *Chair*

Department of Historic Preservation, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, New York, NY

Terry Amburgey
Forest Products Laboratory
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS

Jan C.K. Anderson
RESTORE
New York, NY

Robert Baboian
Corrosion Laboratory
Texas Instruments
Attleboro, MA

Hiroshi Daifuku
Historic Preservation Consultant
Washington, DC

Tomas H. Spiers
Benatec Associates
Harrisburg, PA

Geoffrey Frohnsdorff
Center for Building Technology
National Bureau of Standards
Gaithersburg, MD

Larry Jones
Old House Journal
Brooklyn, NY

Robert Kapsch
National Park Service
Washington, DC

Judith Kitchen
Ohio State Historic Preservation Office
Columbus, OH

John H. Myers
Center for Architectural Conservation
College of Architecture
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA

Susan E. Schur
Technology and Conservation
Boston, MA

Norman Weiss
Center for Preservation Research
Columbia University
New York, NY

Technologies for Underwater Archaeology and Maritime Preservation, Feb. 20, 1986

Reynold Ruppe, *Chair*

Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

J. Barto Arnold
Texas Antiquities Committee
Austin, TX

Frank Busby
Busby Associates, Inc.
Arlington, VA

Calvin R. Cummings
National Park Service
Denver, CO

Anne G. Giesecke
Underwater Archaeologist
Arlington, VA

Daniel Lenihan
Submerged Cultural Resources Unit
National Park Service
Santa Fe, NM

Charles Mazel
Klein Associates
Salem, NH

Craig Mullen
Eastport International
Upper Marlboro, MD

Carol Olsen
Department of Maritime Preservation
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Washington, DC

J.K. Orzech
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
La Jolla, CA

Sheli O. Smith
Mariners Museum
Mariners Drive
Newport News, VA

Technologies for the Preservation of Planned Landscapes and Other Outdoor Sites, Feb. 27=28, 1986

Patricia O'Donnell, *Chair*

Walmsley & Co., Inc., New York, NY

Shary P. Berg
Frederick Law Olmsted National
Historic Site
Brookline, MA

Carole L. Crumley
Department of Anthropology
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

Nomi Greber
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Cleveland, OH

Robert Harvey
College of Design
Iowa State University
Ames, IA

Catherine Hewett
Bunting Institute
Radcliffe College
Cambridge, MA

Thomas J. Kane
Kane, Liede, and Ratyna, PC.
Pleasantville, NY

Timothy Keller
Land and Community Associates
Charlottesville, VA

Setha M. Low
Department of Landscape Architecture
and Regional Planning
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Martin McGann
Institute of Historic Horticulture
Sleepy Hollow Restorations
Tarrytown, NY

Hugh C. Miller
Historic Architecture Division
National Park Service
Washington, DC

Darwina L. Neal
National Park Service
National Capital Region
Washington, DC

Ford Peatross
Prints and Photographs Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC

Scott Weinberg
School of Environmental Design
University of Georgia
Athens, GA

M. Jane Young
Department of Anthropology
University of Texas
Austin, TX

Technologies for the Physical Protection of Prehistoric and Historic Sites, Apr. 14=15, 1986

Mimi Redden, *Chair*
Carson City, NV

David G. Battle
National Park Service
Denver CO

Richard Bierce
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Washington, DC

Fred Blackburn
White Mesa Institute
College of Eastern Utah
Blanding, UT

Joel Grossman
Grossman & Associates, Inc.
New York, NY

Richard Haines
Bureau of Land Management
Division of Lands and Renewable
Resources
Portland, OR

James Hester
Waterways Experiment Station
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg, MS

Captain Alvin Hinton
U.S. Park Police
Washington, DC

Tom King
Office of Cultural Resource Preservation
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Washington, DC

Ruthann Knudson
Woodward-Clyde Consultants
Walnut Creek, CA

Felix Lavicka
Analytics, Inc.
Tinton Falls, NJ

J. Rodney Little
State Historic Preservation Office
Annapolis, MD

Constance Ramirez
Department of the Army
Washington, DC

Tupper Thomas
Prospect Park
Brooklyn, NY

Acknowledgments

The following individuals contributed to this study in a variety of ways. OTA is grateful for their assistance:

Mary Lee Allen
Gunston Hall

Bruce Anderson
National Park Service

Christy Arrington
Bureau of Land Management

Rick Athern
Bureau of Land Management

Carl Barna
Bureau of Land Management

John Belshe
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Walter Bender
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Jim Bradford
National Park Service

John Burns
National Park Service

John Byrne
National Park Service

Tony Carrell
National Park Service

Elliott Carroll
Office of the Architect of the Capitol

Beth Cole
International Masonry Institute

John Cullinane
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Karl Ludwig Dasser
Bayerisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege, Munich

Robert B. DeBlieux
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development

Evan de Blois
U.S. Forest Service

Tom De Haven
National Park Service

Diane Dimkoff
National Archives and Records Administration

Paul Dolinsky
National Park Service

James R. Druzik
The Getty Conservation Institute

Robert Dunnell
Washington State University

Mark R. Edwards
Maryland Historical Trust

Mary Farrell
National Park Service

Laura Feller
National Park Service

Helen C. Fenske
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Cynthia Field
Smithsonian Institution

Charles Fisher
National Park Service

Carl Fleischauer
American Folklife Center Library of Congress

George Frison
University of Wyoming

Diana Gelburd
Soil Conservation Service

Leland Gilson
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Nancy W. Hawkins
Louisiana Division of Archaeology

Helen Hooper
Society for Historical Archaeology
Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology

Stanley M. Hordes
Consulting Historian
Santa Fe, NM

Barbara J. Howe
Department of History, West Virginia University

Mary Hufford
American Folklife Center Library of Congress

Winston Hurst
Edge of the Cedars Museum

Heather Huyck
National Park Service

Ken Ireland
National Park Service

Mary Ison
Library of Congress

Jake Ivy
National Park Service

Alan Jabbour
American Folklife Center Library of Congress

Squire Jaros
Michigan Historic Preservation Section

Neal C. Johannsen
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

James Jordan
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Debra Katz
National Park Service

Bennie C. Keel
National Park Service

John J. Kneed
National Park Service

Bruce Kriviskey
American Institute of Architects

Kathryn M. Kuranda
Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology

William Lebovitch
National Park Service

Suzanne Lewis
National Park Service

Richard Livingston
Environmental Protection Agency

Nellie Longworth
Preservation Action

Shiela MacFarlin
Bureau of Land Management

Ed Malony
Bureau of Land Management

Thomas E. **Marceau**
Wyoming State Archives, Museums, & Historical Department

Daniel Martin
Bureau of Land Management

Jim Maxon Bureau of Reclamation	Allan Postlethwaite Smithsonian Institution	Rolf Snethlage Bayerisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege, Munich
Judith McCulloh University of Illinois Press	Paul Putz South Dakota Historical Society Board of Trustees	Jacob E. Thomas Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Edward Miller National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	John W. Renaud National Park Service	Jim Trott National Park Service
Nancy Miller National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers	Jerry Rogers National Park Service	Nicolas Veioz National Park Service
Page Putnam Miller National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History	Todd Rutenbeck Bureau of Reclamation	Ken Verana National Park Service
James Mueller National Park Service	Michael Scardaville Department of History University of South Carolina	Walter Wait National Park Service
Lee H. Nelson National Park Service	Curtis Schaafsma New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office	Alicia Weber National Park Service
Marilyn W. Nickels National Park Service	Pony Schaafsma Santa Fe, NM	Douglas Reid Weimer Congressional Research Service Library of Congress
Michele Pacifico National Archives and Records Administration	Gunter Schelling Bayerische Verwaltung der Staatlichen Schlosser, Garten und Seen, Munich	Thomas E. (Ted) Weir, Jr. National Archives and Records Administration
Richard Pankratz Kansas State Historical Society	Peter Schmidt Museo Regional Instituto Nacional Antropología & Historia Yucatan	Bill Westermeyer Office of Technology Assessment
Paul Pearson Historic Inns of Annapolis, Maryland	Donna J. Schober Arizona State Parks	Margaret F. Will Historic Preservation Consultant
George W. Percy Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management	Payson Sheets University of Colorado	St. Clair Wright Historic Annapolis, Inc.
Charles Peterson Architect	Susan Sherwood National Park Service	Barbara Wyatt State Historical Society of Wisconsin
John Peterson National Park Service	Steve Sigstad National Forest Service	
Kenneth Peterson Bureau of Land Management	Brona Simon Massachusetts Historical Commission	
Dwight Pitcaithley National Park Service		