

>> Pro Path Guide >>
for History Majors & Graduate Students

Historic Preservation, Interpretation, and Tours of Historic Buildings

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Sources: Interviews with professionals in the field: Betsy Kellum, City of Greeley Planner III/Historic Preservation, Scott Charler, Curator of Historic Sites for Greeley Museums and research on professional websites.
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Overview of the Professions

Most cities with buildings from the nineteenth century or earlier probably have a historic preservation office within the city planning department

The goals of historic preservation are the identification, assessment, preservation, and interpretation for the public and stakeholders of historically significant sites. Historic properties fifty years old or older are researched and evaluated via construction documents and physical surveys as well as written and photographic documentation in archives to be local

Historic preservation also has a technical or “brick and mortar” branch requiring knowledge of project management, construction skills, and architectural history. When the site of historic preservation is an earth dwelling, a background in archaeology is essential.

Work interpreting historic structures or sites for the public can be a different professional path and take the form of interpretive tour guide, historic reenactor, exhibit designer, and print or videodesign and production.

Examples of historic preservation employers

- x Local Government City Planning Office
- x National Park Service
- x State Dept. of Transportation
- x Cultural Resource Management companies on your specific interests.
 - History
 - Archaeology
 - Architecture or Real Estate
 - Business Management
 - Political Science
 - Native American Studies
 - GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping
 - Project/Construction Management

Is internship during undergrad necessary or recommended for employment in this field?

Internships are recommended if available with your local city historic preservation or planning office. These tend to be competitive. Contact Dr. Melish jacob.melish@unco.edu if you are more interested in the "brick and mortar" side, then experience in construction is p5(e)-3 27 (n)-0.7 ()10e Tc -0.0eore3n0.00 (.)1 (T ET /S-3 (ret D)-2h)2.3 (g)9 ()-6 (h)2.3

Are there paid positions for undergraduate or graduate students in this field?

Paid positions, if any, usually go to graduate students.

Are there any UNC Alumni or employees working in the field who can answer further questions?

Not yet. We're working on it. If you go into the field, let us know. If you do an internship, your supervisor or colleagues will be good sources of information.