

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/RESTORATION SPECIALIST II

This is professional and administrative work in performing the most complex aspects of, or coordinating the work of other preservation/restoration specialists in, the preservation and restoration program for properties of historic and cultural significance throughout the state.

Under administrative supervision of a historic preservation/restoration supervisor or the section administrator, employees oversee and coordinate activities in areas such as identification and assessment of historic properties, National Register and local designations of historic properties, environmental impact, or restoration. Responsibilities involve the identification, evaluation, and designation of historic properties; monitoring and coordinating the assessment and mitigation of environmental impact to properties of historic or cultural significance; or providing leadership in advising and consulting on projects to preserve buildings of historic significance. Employees perform related duties as required.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Work varies in nature from the identification and assessment of significance of historic properties, to review of development and construction on those properties, to the identification and evaluation of technical problems and restoration needs. Significant involvement with individual property owners, local historical organizations and commissions, other governmental entities, and private contractors is required to gather pertinent information and make decisions regarding preservation and restoration recommendations. For environmental impact, employees negotiate mitigation and avoidance agreements with governmental agencies, developers, and contractors.

Intricacy - Determination of significance requires field identification and recording, architectural assessment, historical research, and application of federal and state criteria for evaluation of properties for historic designation and the supervision of staff and consultants conducting surveys and preparing nominations and documentation. Environmental impact coordination requires the identification of historic properties within the area designated for construction or development, determination of the appropriateness of measures to alleviate the impact, and negotiation of measures required to alleviate or lessen the impact. At this level, employees provide consultation or leadership to other specialists on the complex issues relating to the preservation of historic properties which involves research of the structure, specifications pertaining to its significance, recommendations regarding methods of restoration, and monitoring of physical restoration work in progress.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires general knowledge of historic preservation legislation, federal and state standards and procedures, and methods of restoration, research and evaluation. Familiarity with local, state, and regional history and architectural history is necessary to provide input for projects and impact determinations as well as providing consultation to local governments and historical organizations. Employees coordinate other staff and non-state consultants who conduct historic property surveys and prepare National Register nominations and local designation reports. In restoration projects, employees monitor other restoration specialists and oversee the work performed by architects, contractors, and craftworkers.

Guidelines - Guidelines include standards and procedures established by the federal and state governments and the State Historic Preservation Office for the identification, protection, and enhancement of properties of historic and cultural significance. Additional professional guides and principles are followed in dealing with the specifics of restoration and survey projects.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Employees work fairly independently in determining daily activities and priorities. Initially, explanations of projects and details in scheduling field projects and associated research work are received from the preservation/restoration supervisor or section administrator.

Nature of Review - Work is reviewed in progress through general discussions or resolutions of problems as they arise. Most work is performed independently once assignments and explanations of projects and time frames are made.

Scope of Decisions - Decisions regarding the significance of properties, eligibility for National Register or local designation, environmental impact, and building restoration affect the decisions and expenditures of private individuals, other government agencies, historical organizations, private contractors, and developers.

Consequence of Decisions - Decisions in determining historical significance or potential effect on historic properties and plans to alleviate adverse impact from construction and development projects may cause delay and unnecessary expenditures if made incorrectly. Decisions in the methods of restoration to buildings may cause unnecessary expenditures or inappropriate restoration of features if made incorrectly.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Contact is with private owners of historic properties or their representatives, other preservationists, restoration specialists, architects, contractors, developers, and representatives of government agencies and historical organizations.

Nature and Purpose - Most outside contact is regarding historic property surveys, National Register nominations, local preservation commission activities, or specific development impact or restoration projects or research of upcoming projects. Contact with representatives of other government agencies may also be to clarify laws, policies, and procedures.

IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - Work is conducted in a typical office setting with frequent travel around the state to provide consultation on historic property surveys or specific properties requiring preservation or restoration services.

Hazards - Travel may cause exposure to inclement weather and driving hazards. Survey and restoration work may involve risks as field work is undertaken or site visits are made.

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities - Thorough knowledge of North Carolina and American architecture history. Thorough knowledge of the policies, procedures, and operations of national, state, and local preservation programs. Ability to comprehend technical language and concepts pertaining to architecture and restoration of buildings. Ability to communicate effectively in oral and written form. Ability to organize projects and determine time frames for completion. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements - Master's degree in historic preservation, planning, architecture history, or a closely related field and three years of experience in historic preservation; or graduation from a four-year college or university with a major in history, planning, or architectural history, or a closely related field and four years of experience in historic preservation; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.