

## ABSTRACT

Title of Thesis: DEVELOPING THE QUALIFICATION STANDARD FOR THE  
PRESERVATION CRAFTWORKER

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If we can agree that working on preservation projects requires different skills sets compared to modern construction, then there should be a qualification standard for the craftworker engaged in preservation. This thesis research explored the question: How can the preservation community create and define a qualification standard for the Preservation Craftworker?

In order to answer this hypothesis, my thesis research examines several past and present preservation programs, the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standard and examines the process in developing a new job classification for the preservation craftworker.

This thesis research also included responses from a survey, which was developed in order to obtain additional data from practicing craftworkers, contractors and preservation professionals. In evaluating the survey responses, it was found that there is a

strong desire among practicing professionals in developing a qualification standard for craftworkers.

In addition, this thesis research has revealed a number of individuals, organizations and past initiatives dedicated to the education of craftworkers engaged in preservation. Upon evaluating, the endless amount of material developed by these various individuals and organizations, this thesis research determined that the key in establishing a nationally recognized qualification standard for preservation craftworkers rests collectively among these stakeholders. Although there is much more research needed in establishing a qualification standard, the material contained in this thesis research will undoubtedly aid in those future researches.

My thesis research demonstrates that the preservation community has more than ample information and resources to create qualification standards for the preservation craft worker who will restore, conserve and maintain our historic buildings and structures. It is now time to recognize the need for defining the minimum qualifications of craftworkers engaged in preservation and enact a national preservation craftworker standard. Otherwise, buildings will certainly continue to lose their integrity at the hands of craftworkers who lack the knowledge and understanding of historic materials and mistakenly apply treatments that are incompatible with historic buildings.