

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

APT is currently in the process of assisting the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in establishing four new volunteer teams. Structural engineers, preservation architects, craftspeople, students, conservators, and historians are needed. Each team will be comprised of 2-3 individuals. The dates and areas of particular focus are below:

- April 9-15: Code/flood elevation
- April 23-29: Repair issues
- May 7-13: Tax credits
- May 21-27: Survey/NR

Code Team: The MDAH perceives a need for better education of their office, local planners/code officials, and homeowners regarding the impact of new flood elevations on historic buildings. The team members would focus on meeting with local officials (either in a large group session or individually) and on educating preservationists on the Coast regarding these issues. Depending on the expertise of the team members, the MDAH might also want to produce drawings showing different house types and scales (i.e., bungalows or Queen Anne cottages), how high those types could be elevated before they started to lose their historic character, and ways to mitigate the impact of the higher elevations. Interested team members could discuss these tasks with the MDAH, who could change and adapt to whatever the team thinks may be important issues.

Repair Issues: This team will continue the work of previous APT teams, primarily meeting with homeowners about the repair of their storm-damaged homes. Damage varies widely from buildings off their foundations and structurally tenuous to those with only flood damage or roof damage. Each team should consist of two architects and a structural engineer or an architect, architectural conservator, and structural engineer.

Tax Credits: This team should consist of two architects or preservation specialists who are experienced in preparing tax credit applications and in consulting with owners about the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The team may also interact with Main Street managers who need to be educated about the tax credits available for historic properties.

National Register: Hurricane Katrina destroyed many historic buildings, and existing National Register districts will need to be resurveyed and reassessed given their new condition. In addition, as a result of the SHPO and FEMA's damage assessments across the Coast, many new potential historic districts have been identified. Team members who volunteer for this work should be architectural historians experienced in field survey, writing architectural descriptions, and preparing National Register nominations (individual as well as districts).

General Information: Volunteers will be responsible for their own travel to Mississippi. Once in the field, the teams will be housed in the Preservation House facility in Biloxi, MS. Food is provided by the local sponsoring organizations. Transportation in the field is provided. If you are interested in participating or have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the coordinator for APT's Hurricane Katrina Relief volunteer efforts.

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