

## PRESERVATION

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The fund, established in 1975, acquires property to sell to buyers who are willing to abide by preservation covenants. Since its inception, the fund has been involved in the acquisition and resale of nearly 300 properties for a pre-renovation value of \$12.5 million. An estimated additional \$80 million has been invested by the subsequent owners.

The study also says preservation in North Carolina has been boosted by federal tax incentives for the rehabilitation of income-producing historic structures, which have been in place since 1976.

Under this program, administered by the State Historic Preservation Office, 732 private-sector, income-generating projects have been undertaken with nearly \$325 million in private investment.

Some of these projects include the \$5 million renovation of Brightleaf Square in Durham, the \$2.3 million renovation of the Austin Building in Smithfield and dozens of smaller-scale projects such as the Crystal Place Building in Spruce Pine, City Market in Raleigh and the Mast Farm Inn in Watauga County.

The study also outlines how some of North Carolina's biggest industries — tourism, crafts and movie-making — are linked to historic preservation.

Among the findings:

- More than 15 million tourists visit the state's 200 historic sites each year, and nonresident tourists say that visiting a historic site is the main reason they come to North Carolina.

- Craft-making and historic preservation are interconnected and mutually supportive, particularly in the western part of the state. The industry has a total impact on the economy of \$122 million a year.

Retail stores, many of which are

in historic buildings, account for nearly \$71 million a year in crafts sales in the region, and the industry provides \$48 million a year in income to more than 4,000 producers.

- Since 1980, the film industry, primarily based in Wilmington, has spent \$4.6 billion making 360 feature films in North Carolina.

Many of the state's historic sites are used as backdrops or to create period sets, and nearly 85 percent of the money spent by the film industry can be attributed to the appeal of those locational features.

Copies of the report, "Profiting from the Past: The Impact of Historic Preservation on the North Carolina Economy," may be ordered from Preservation North Carolina. Call (919) 832-3652.

## FOOD

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The Food Shuttle has raised more than \$100,000 for the project, mainly from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem, the Triangle Community Foundation in Research Triangle Park, the

Kathleen Price Bryan Family Fund in Greensboro, the Hillsdale Fund in Greensboro and Christ Episcopal Church in Raleigh.

Call Bullard or Lekoski at (919) 250-0043, or Nancy Dawkins, executive director of the Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen, at (919) 831-2010.

Todd Cohen

## TEAM TECH

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After a rocky start, with problems fulfilling some of the requests on nonprofits' wish lists, Crockett says the group plans to revamp its 1998 program to focus on training. Rather than grant recipients being able to specify the technology equipment they need, nonprofits participating in training will be given a checklist of products from which to choose.

"Hopefully, this way, we'll be able to affect many more nonprofits," Crockett says.

When Team Tech in Los Angeles began its project in August, says volunteer Randy Lundgren, team members had to spend some time orienting themselves to the area. Three of the four team members relocated from out of state, so the first thing they did was survey Los Angeles nonprofits to find out what their needs were.

"Because we felt we didn't have enough resources to bring agencies from the ground up," says Lundgren, "we looked for nonprofits that already had some vision and a base for technology, ones that had modest needs that we could service."

In addition to IBM's contributions, Team Tech members have solicited in-kind donations from Microsoft and CompUSA computer stores.

While Team Techs in the Triangle and Los Angeles struggled to build a program from the ground up, Team Tech in Detroit had the advantage of working with an existing United Way technology initiative.

Dan McDougall, director of the Southeastern Michigan Information Center, says that when the Team Tech project was formed, it gave the center the foot soldiers it so badly needed.

Detroit's Team Tech is helping 40 organizations assess their technology needs and create technology plans.

One of the nonprofits working with the team is the National Bone Marrow Transplant Link, which has two staff members and an annual budget of about \$5,000.

"With such a small staff, having an Internet presence would allow them to provide information to many more people," McDougall says. "We wanted to really focus on those types on nonprofits — with very small budgets and in impoverished areas."

McDougall says the biggest challenge for the four Detroit volunteers was steering through the bureaucracies of the large organizations sponsoring the project while staying focused on the team's mission to uplift the technological capacity of nonprofits.

"It's not easy when you've got four people pouring their heart and soul into a project, and they just want to get things done," he says. "It can be difficult for the VISTA volunteers to maintain their enthusiasm, and you don't want that spark to die away."

"It has been a good learning experience for all the volunteers."

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