The comprehensive Preservation Carpentry program teaches the time-honored skills and values of fine craftsmanship. Our students share a love of history, materials, quality workmanship, and working with their hands to build, restore, and preserve beautiful structures that last.

The two-year program combines an introduction to contemporary residential construction with a foundation in pre-20th century New England home construction. You’ll learn a broad range of construction methods, including stabilizing endangered buildings, preserving architectural details, and recreating historical design elements. Through lectures, hands-on projects, and collaborative field work, you’ll gain an understanding of how current technology compares to traditional techniques. You’ll graduate with the skills needed to work with contractors and institutions specializing in preservation work, including historical millwork and interior finish carpentry.

The program space includes first and second year bench rooms, where each student is assigned a bench and work space, and a central machine room. New England’s rich historical legacy of pre-20th century buildings provides exceptional field projects. Such site work is often done in collaboration with non-profit museums and historical sites.

FACULTY
Steven O’Shaughnessy PC ’99 instructs first-year students and is the Department Head. He’s worked for Historic New England, served as an instructor for Boston YouthBuild’s preservation carpentry component, and runs his own business making custom doors and restoring historic windows. Michael Burrey instructs second-year students. He specializes in timber-frame joinery and has researched and re-created 17th century methods of roof thatching, interior walls, and paint finishes. He studied Early American and Colonial Life as an undergraduate, and later worked as an Interpretive Artisan at Plimoth Plantation.

CAREERS
Graduates of our Preservation Carpentry program go on to be restoration carpenters, museum conservators, owners of full-service design/build companies, and more. Some of the notable organizations for which they’ve worked include:

— National Park Service
— Trustees of the Reservations
— Historic Charleston Foundation
— Harvard Museum of Natural History
— Historic New England
— Historic Preservation Training Center
— Mount Auburn Cemetery
— Peabody Essex Museum

Learn more about NBSS and our Preservation Carpentry program, including student life, career options, tuition costs, admissions requirements, and more. nbss.edu/preservation.

“If you want to set yourself apart, NBSS will give you more credibility and knowledge than you could get with 10 years in the field.”
— Brent Hull PC ’93

NBSS trains students for careers in traditional trades that use hand skills in concert with evolving technology. Our mission is to preserve and advance craft traditions while promoting a greater appreciation of craftsmanship.

For more than a century, our exceptional programs, master faculty, and inspiring community have helped students to achieve meaningful lives and careers. The School’s 64,000-square-foot facility is located in Boston’s historic North End, the community in which it was originally founded in 1881.

We offer nine full-time, accredited programs to those seeking a career in traditional trades. A variety of short-term Continuing Education courses are also available.
Ready to get started? nbss.edu/apply

STUDENT LIFE & CAREER SERVICES
We provide a supportive and stimulating learning environment for those seeking a career in fine craftsmanship. Outside of the classroom, students attend social events, career workshops, a business-preparation course, and public lectures that enhance their hands-on instruction. Our alumni are also well-connected to the School, offering students both mentorship and employment opportunities.

ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID
Our students are hard-working, patient, and determined to excel in a rigorous environment. They value fine craftsmanship and the satisfaction of learning a traditional trade. We welcome applications throughout the year, with the class start for Preservation Carpentry occurring each September.

Financial aid, scholarships, and veterans benefits are available to qualified students. To learn more and apply, visit nbss.edu/financialaid.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO SCHEDULE A VISIT?
Contact Rob O’Dwyer, Director of Admissions, at 617.227.0155 x111 or admissions@nbss.edu.