

Georgia's Regional Preservation Planning Services

The State of Georgia has twelve Regional Commissions (RCs) that provide comprehensive assistance to local governments, individuals, and organizations. Eleven commissions employ historic preservation planners who provide preservation planning services in coordination with the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Natural Resources on either a full or part-time basis.

The Regional Preservation Planning Program began in Georgia in 1978, and is based on a model that was in place in the planning regions of South Carolina. The purpose is to provide more immediate technical assistance on all types of preservation issues and programs to governments, groups and individuals at the local level. Because many historic preservation activities span municipal boundaries, local governments must often work together on a regional level to accomplish their preservation goals.

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources provides matching funds to the RCs and HPD administers the program. This program has been extremely effective in bringing the programs of the HPD and other preservation related activities to regional and local constituents. With the passage of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, the state has mandated that all communities create a comprehensive plan. Since RCs produce many of these plans, the regional preservation planners have the opportunity to integrate the preservation of historic resources into the planning process.

The size of Georgia and the large and growing number of requests for assistance make it virtually impossible for HPD to provide all the assistance, visit all the projects, prepare all the plans, and respond to all the requests for help in Georgia. The Regional Preservation Planning Program is an essential element in Georgia's preservation program.

Regional Preservation Planners provide services in the following areas:

- ◆ National Register of Historic Places
- ◆ Rehabilitation Tax Credit and Abatement Programs
- ◆ Preservation Ordinances
- ◆ Environmental Review
- ◆ Project Administration
- ◆ Technical Assistance
- ◆ Design Assistance
- ◆ Heritage Tourism
- ◆ Grant Writing
- ◆ Heritage Education
- ◆ Historic Resources Survey
- ◆ Preservation Planning

For more information, visit our website georgiashpo.org, or contact Allison Asbrock, Outreach Program Manager, at 770-389-7868 or allison.asbrock@dnr.ga.gov.