

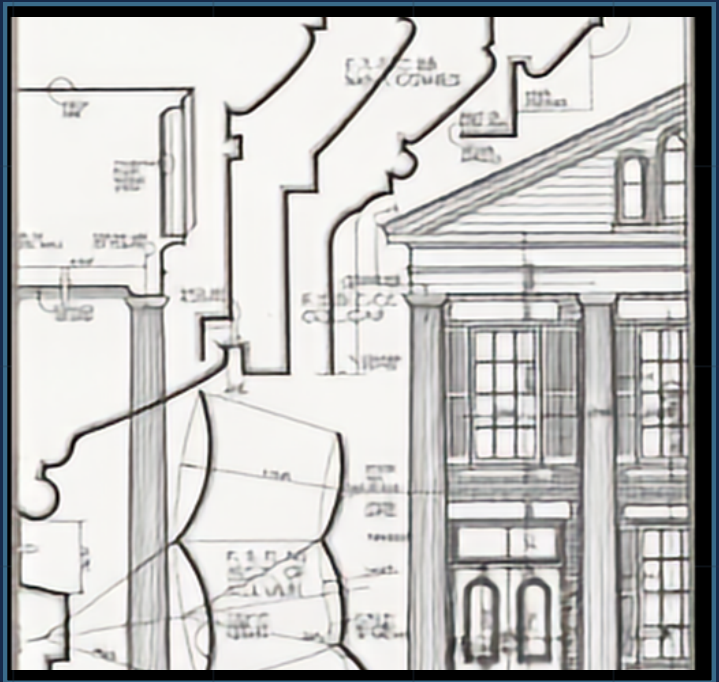
ARCH 518: Recording Historic Buildings

Fall 2026

Adjunct Instructor: Tim Scovic

Fridays, 12:00pm – 2:50pm

3 Credit Hours



This course offers an exploration of the theory, methodology, and technical skills required to record and document historic buildings, structures and landscapes. Following the framework of the National Park Service's Heritage Documentation Programs, the course traces the historical evolution, policy frameworks, and methodologies of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS).

Through a critical examination of several case studies and hands-on practice, students will compare traditional documentation methods—such as hand-measuring, large-format film photography, and archival historical research—with emerging digital technologies, including 3D laser scanning (LiDAR), photogrammetry, and digital BIM modeling.

The centerpiece of the course is a term-long team project. Students will conduct HABS documentation of a historic structure in the Champaign-Urbana community. Deliverables will include a full set of archival-grade measured drawings (plans, elevations, sections, and architectural details); archival photographic prints with appropriate view logs and index maps; and a comprehensive narrative covering the history, architectural description, construction chronology, and significance of the site.

Upon successful completion and faculty review, the final documentation will be submitted to the National Park Service for formal review and transmittal to the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.

Questions? Email Tim Scovic at tim@scovicpreservation.com