



THE  
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM AT

50

## Priorities and Recommendations for the

# FUTURE

### The Preservation Program Today: A RECORD OF SUCCESS

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) created the foundation for today's national preservation program. Fifty years after enactment of the NHPA, the program has matured and achieved many successes:

- ▶ Federal historic preservation tax credits have stimulated nearly \$120 billion in private investment to rehabilitate commercial historic properties across the nation.
- ▶ More than 91,000 places have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including many rural districts and older neighborhoods, representing more than 1.8 million contributing historic resources.
- ▶ More than 2,500 National Historic Landmarks commemorate the nation's most significant events and achievements.
- ▶ Federal property managers care for an extensive inventory of historic buildings and cultural resources on public lands, often using them to carry out their primary mission and programs.
- ▶ Tens of thousands of federal actions are considered for their effects on historic properties during project planning, providing communities and citizens a voice in protecting the places that matter to them.
- ▶ Fifty states, eight territories, the District of Columbia, 171 tribal governments, and 1,966 local governments partner with the private sector and the federal government so Americans in virtually every community benefit from the preservation program and are represented in America's story.

GAY HEAD LIGHT, MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MA  
(iStockphoto © Rolf\_52)

Historic Preservation Serves the American People and the Nation's Future



The National Historic Preservation Act's innovative and prophetic vision of historic places as a living part of our communities has even greater potential to provide broad public benefits today than it did in 1966."

— U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, JUNE 2016

## THE NEXT 50 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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How can we strengthen the national historic preservation program's value to the public? How can we improve outcomes that appropriately balance and serve both preservation and development goals?

For the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) considered these questions as part of a public process to identify the program's needs for the future and priorities for improvement. The ACHP consulted with numerous public and private partners in preservation, including state, tribal, and local governments and other stakeholders, to develop policy recommendations for the next 50 years of historic preservation in America.

### **The ACHP recommends policies that do the following:**

- ▶ Strengthen public support
- ▶ Enhance leadership
- ▶ Improve preservation planning
- ▶ Strengthen funding and investment
- ▶ Engage the public
- ▶ Advance equity and inclusion in what is preserved
- ▶ Respond to indigenous peoples' concerns
- ▶ Enhance heritage education
- ▶ Promote collaboration and partnerships
- ▶ Address sustainability, disasters, and climate adaptation

**For a full list of policy recommendations and actions, see [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov).**

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LAFAYETTE, IN

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACHP'S RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

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### **Strengthen Public and Private Investment in Historic Preservation**

- ▶ Promote greater use of historic tax credits that leverage private investment for economic development and community revitalization.
- ▶ Encourage creative public/private partnerships to rehabilitate places that are important to local communities, and ease restrictions on leasing, surplus transfer, and cooperative uses of federally owned historic properties.
- ▶ Fund preservation efforts to meet current needs and build capacity for the future.

### **Improve Planning Decisions and Promote Efficient Reviews of Federal Infrastructure Projects**

- ▶ Invest in digital technologies that deliver timely information about historic properties to inform governmental and private sector project planning decisions.
- ▶ Promote early planning to ensure historic preservation concerns are addressed without delaying infrastructure projects.
- ▶ Streamline agency review by funding adequate staffing levels and training for those responsible for consulting on federal undertakings.

### **Engage All Americans in Preserving Our Heritage**

- ▶ Facilitate involvement of local communities in the federal government's decision-making process and remove any barriers to public participation.
- ▶ Expand efforts to reach out and include all Americans in telling and preserving America's story and the heritage that reflects our diverse society.

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**“Historic preservation has demonstrated an unparalleled capacity to revitalize our older cities, neighborhoods, and communities; foster vibrant economic and social activity; generate jobs; spur tourism; attract talent; and contribute to the resurgence of American cities.”**

— U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, JUNE 2016



RESTORED FOUNDER'S CABIN, GREAT FALLS, MT

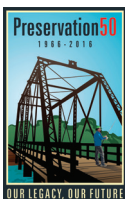
### **Enhance Attention to the Interests of Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and Alaska Natives**

- ▶ Respect tribal sovereignty and support meaningful roles for Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Alaska Natives in managing public lands that have special geographical, historical, and cultural connections to tribes.
- ▶ Promote early consultation to ensure tribal voices are heard in the planning process and any conflicts are resolved long before a project is in the construction phase.

### **Broaden Appreciation for Our Exceptional American History**

- ▶ Grow every American citizen's appreciation of our shared American heritage through public outreach and formal and informal education, including school programs, work-study experiences, historic interpretation, and innovative uses of technology.

**The ACHP looks forward to working with the Administration, the Congress, and a wide range of stakeholders and other interested parties in implementing these and other recommendations for the future.**



Preserving America's Heritage



### **ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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**[www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)**

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