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National Historic Preservation Program Overview



THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Overview

With passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) on October 15, 1966, the federal government embarked on a new era of leadership in the preservation of the nation's historic properties. The NHPA established a partnership between the federal government and state, Tribal, and local governments that is supported by federal funding for preservation activities. The National Park Service provides matching grants-in-aid from the [Historic Preservation Fund](#) to [State Historic Preservation Officers](#), [Tribal Historic Preservation Officers](#), and local governments certified as having qualified preservation programs. The NHPA also created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the first and only federal agency created solely to address historic preservation issues.

The NHPA established a framework to foster a new ethic through all levels and agencies of the federal government. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on historic properties and provide the ACHP with an opportunity to comment on projects before implementation. Because of Section 106, agencies have to assume responsibility for the consequences of their actions on historic properties and be publicly accountable for their decisions. Section 110 calls on all federal agencies to establish preservation programs and designate Federal Preservation Officers to coordinate their historic preservation activities.

The NHPA has been amended and expanded a number of times since its original passage. In 2014, Public Law 13-287 moved the Act's provisions from title 16 of the United States Code to title 54, with minimal and nonsubstantive changes to the text of the Act and a re-ordering of some of its provisions.

[The National Historic Preservation Act As amended through December 16, 2016 and Codified in Title 54 of the United States Code](#)