



**Advisory Guidelines Implementing  
Executive Order 13287, “Preserve America”**

**Section 3: Reporting Progress on the Identification, Protection, and  
Use of Federal Historic Properties**

**May 2023**

## INTRODUCTION

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is issuing updated advisory guidelines intended to assist federal agencies in preparing progress reports on their efforts to identify, use, and protect historic properties under their ownership or control as required by Section 3 of Executive Order 13287, “Preserve America,” (EO 13287). Federal agencies are encouraged to consider these advisory guidelines when preparing reports to ensure adequate, complete, and relevant information is submitted to the ACHP. The ACHP will use this information to prepare its own report to the President on the state of the federal government’s historic properties, and their contribution to local economic development, as required by EO 13287, Section 3.

### **Background**

On March 3, 2003, President George W. Bush signed EO 13287 to reaffirm the federal government’s commitment to the stewardship of federal historic properties, and to promote intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships for the preservation and use of historic properties. Section 3(c) of EO 13287 requires the ACHP to prepare a report to the President every third year on the state of the federal government’s historic properties and their contribution to local economic development, incorporating the information provided by federal agencies in their progress reports. The next report will be delivered in February 2024.

EO 13287 provides agencies a place to showcase their efficient management and continued viable use of historic properties, while facing the challenges of remaining compatible with changing missions in the 21st century. The publication of the Section 3 report also provides the unique opportunity to review the larger federal historic preservation program, make recommendations for future initiatives, and inform the Administration and the public of agencies’ successes, innovations, and achievements in historic property stewardship.

The Section 3 report will be available to the public online and will also be delivered to the President and Congress, other agencies, and preservation partners. Agencies should feel free to disseminate it to their constituencies and highlight their successes.

### **Who Must Report**

All federal agencies with real property management responsibilities are required to submit Section 3 reports on progress in the identification, protection, and use of historic properties in federal ownership. Agencies are not required to report on properties (1) acquired as result of foreclosure or similar action and that are held for a period of less than five years; (2) that they lease but do not own or manage; or (3) located outside of the United States. Not all of the questions are applicable to all federal agencies.

### **Submittal Guidelines**

This edition continues to follow the shorter, more focused guidelines of 2020 in allowing greater flexibility for agencies to tailor responses to their programs and preservation approaches. The guidelines are for a federal agency’s consideration only, and agencies can use them in conjunction with established agency reporting formats. Federal agencies are not required to structure their Section 3 progress report in response to these questions.

The questions are focused on themes related to current ACHP initiatives and Administration priorities and prompt agencies to provide information on timely issues critical to the management of federal historic properties, including infrastructure, job creation, equity, and climate change.

Agencies are encouraged to include with their report data case studies, best practices, images (such as photographs, tables, or maps), and websites that explain their responses. When submitting these examples, please clarify the role of state and local governments, tribes, civic or community organizations, and the private sector as appropriate. If various funding sources were used to establish a partnership, agencies are encouraged to identify the sources of public and private funding. If case studies involve interaction with tribal nations or tribally significant resources, the ACHP reminds agencies to be sensitive to confidentiality, where appropriate.

The ACHP will make all reports available on its website. Departments and agencies with security concerns may submit an executive summary to post on the ACHP website in lieu of the entire progress report. In this case, please send the full progress report to the ACHP, separately, for review.

***Section 3 reports must be submitted by an agency's Senior Policy Official to the Chair of the ACHP and the Secretary of the Interior. Reports should be transmitted to the ACHP, which will convey them to the Department of the Interior. Please email the report as a PDF file or Microsoft Word document with graphics meeting a 300 DPI minimum no later than September 30, 2023, to: [Section3@achp.gov](mailto:Section3@achp.gov).***

### **Additional Information**

For more information about this guidance, or about Section 3 of EO 13287, please address your inquiries to

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## RECOMMENDED QUESTIONS TO ANSWER IN SECTION 3 PROGRESS REPORTS

**NOTE:** The following recommended questions, while meant to assist agencies in collecting and presenting data for this report, are not mandatory. Agencies are encouraged to include any case studies that align with the goals of EO 13287.

### IDENTIFYING HISTORIC PROPERTIES

**1. How many, and what percentage of your assets, are historic as reported in: (a) your bureau or agency's proprietary database and/or (b) your bureau's or agency's reports to the [Federal Real Property Profile MS \(FRPP MS\)](#)? (Note: To find out about FRPP MS data, you may need to contact your [Senior Real Property Officer or the Federal Real Property Council](#).)**

- If known, how many of these historic properties are buildings, structures, sites, objects, and/or districts?

**2. Have your identification methods changed during this reporting period? Approximately what total percentage or portion of inventory have now been surveyed and evaluated for the National Register, and does this represent an increase from your agency's 2020 progress report, if applicable?**

**3. Has your agency implemented any new policies or programs that promote awareness and identification of historic properties over the last three years?**

- Agencies have a variety of policies to identify and evaluate historic properties and make parties interested in historic preservation aware of them. Describe any new policies or programs, such as new benchmarks or performance measures, instituted to meet existing requirements.
- How has the agency evaluated the effectiveness of existing agency policies, procedures, and guidelines to promote awareness and identification of historic properties during the reporting period? Have any updates been planned or implemented?
- How has your agency considered equity, access, and involvement of underserved communities in its federal stewardship activities? Has your agency implemented any policies that promote equity and diversity in the identification process?
- Has your agency prioritized the identification of historic properties in areas with the highest potential for climate impacts?

**4. Federal agencies are encouraged to share information regarding the number and percentage of historic property identification completed in the context of Section 106 for specific undertakings and programs versus that completed for unspecified planning needs (Section 110 survey). In a given year, what percentage of your agency's identification of historic properties occurs due to Section 106 planning and compliance versus regular stewardship and unspecified planning needs (Section 110)?**

- Has the implementation of Section 106 agreements contributed to the identification of historic properties?

**5. How has your agency employed partnerships to assist in the identification and evaluation of historic properties over the last three years?**

- Provide examples of how agency policies, procedures, and capabilities have increased opportunities for partnership initiatives involving collaboration with nonfederal entities and marginalized communities. For example, some agencies have entered into cooperative

management agreements with tribes, while others have utilized innovative contracting approaches that allow for hiring local students to help identify historic properties.

- What methods does your agency use to seek out and establish new partnerships? How does your agency make partnerships work within its structures and goals?

### **PROTECTING HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

***6. Have the policies and programs your agency has in place to protect historic properties changed over the reporting period in ways that benefit historic properties?***

- Describe any changes over the last three years in the manner in which the agency manages compliance with Sections 106 (54 U.S.C. 306108), 110 (54 U.S.C. 306101 306107 and 306109 306114), and 111 (54 U.S.C. 306121 306122) of the NHPA, and share successes in this area.
- How has the number of full-time cultural resources professionals in your agency assigned to help the agency fulfill its responsibilities under the NHPA changed over the last three years? Has your agency encountered any best practices or challenges in the hiring process?
- Has your agency incorporated climate change adaptation/mitigation principles into its policies, programs, and procedures in place to protect historic properties over the last three years?
- Has your agency employed partnerships to assist in the protection of historic properties over the last three years? How does your agency involve stakeholders, such as tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs) and other underrepresented communities in the protection and management of properties of significance to them?
- Has your agency developed methods, guidance, or best practices to engage with tribes and NHOs to incorporate [Indigenous Knowledge](#) when locating and/or preserving historic properties of direct concern to Indian tribes and NHOs?
- How has your agency's use of digital information sources changed since the previous reporting period? What new or updated sources of digital information about the location of historic properties does your agency use? Does your agency utilize digital information in order to protect historic properties in the context of the effects of climate change?
- Has your agency faced challenges or seen costs increase in attempting to ensure your historic rehabilitations, if any, comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties?

***7. How has your agency used program alternatives such as programmatic agreements, program comments, and other tools to identify, manage, and protect your agency's historic properties over the last three years, if at all?***

- Has your agency developed any new Section 106 program alternatives or revised existing program alternatives during the reporting period? For what projects or programs?
- How do your agency's Section 106 agreements support the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects, such as those linked to large-scale infrastructure, sustainability, or clean energy projects? How have the agreements helped to support the implementation of these projects?
- How does your agency evaluate the results of program alternatives in terms of preservation outcomes and time and cost savings for the agency's Section 106 review responsibilities? How does your agency measure the effectiveness of program alternatives, if the agency uses them?

## USING HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### ***8. How does your agency coordinate historic preservation and sustainability/climate resiliency goals in project planning?***

- Has your agency rehabilitated or adaptively reused historic properties to achieve sustainability and climate resiliency goals during the reporting period?
- Has your agency increased over the past three years the number of historic buildings that have been retrofitted to improve operational energy efficiency?
- Has your agency used full life-cycle accounting to value the embodied carbon in historic buildings when considering rehabilitation versus new construction?
- Has your agency faced resistance to reuse of historic properties due to the perceived incompatibility of preservation with sustainability and climate resiliency goals?
- Has your agency seen a reduction in sustainability performance (e.g., reduced energy efficiency, increased carbon-intensive materials use, or failure to integrate renewable energy) as a result of historic rehabilitations needing to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties?

### ***9. How do your agency's historic federal properties contribute to local communities and their economies, and how have their contributions changed over the reporting period?***

- How do you consider impacts to local communities and economics in your asset planning? Has consideration of local economic development and job creation in your asset planning changed over the last three years? If so, how?
- Does your agency use its historic properties for educational purposes, such as to support or sponsor historic preservation trades training? If so, please describe these programs and how they have supported your agency over the reporting period.
- Does your agency use historic properties to foster heritage tourism, when consistent with agency mission? If so, please describe any new heritage tourism efforts during the reporting period and whether they include public access to historic properties. Include any examples that promote diversity and equity in the use of historic properties for heritage tourism.

## SUCCESSSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES

### ***10. Provide specific examples of major successes, opportunities, and/or challenges your agency has experienced during the past three years.***

- Identify particular successes or challenges your agency has experienced in the incorporation of equity and climate change adaptation/mitigation into the identification, protection, and use of historic properties.
- Describe any policies or programs the agency has developed to prepare for current or future infrastructure funding or projects during the reporting period.
- Include examples of how partnerships have been used to assist in their historic properties stewardship.
- Case studies that highlight or exemplify agency achievements should include images or other graphics if available.