



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

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

**July 2026**

## 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 2027. EO 13287 provides agencies an opportunity to highlight their management and continued viable use of historic properties, while addressing the challenges of doing so under changing missions in the 21st century.

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 recent years 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 Administration priorities and prompt agencies to provide information on timely issues critical to the management of federal historic properties, including the disposal of federal properties and the effects of organizational changes on property management.

Agencies are encouraged to include with their reports case studies, best practices, graphics (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 or Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs), 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 and NHOs or properties of religious and cultural significance to a Tribe or NHO, 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 or its Federal Preservation Officer to the Chair of the ACHP and the Secretary of the Interior. Reports should be transmitted to the ACHP, which will share them with 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, 2026, 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 2023 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?*

*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.

### 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?*

- How has your agency integrated emerging technologies (such as AI, remote sensing, or digital asset management) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of protecting 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?***

- 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?

### **USING HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

***8. How have Administration priorities affected your agency's disposal or acquisition of historic properties?***

***9. In what ways has your agency leveraged historic properties to support Administration priorities related to domestic energy, minerals, infrastructure, defense, or space-related missions? Provide examples that demonstrate mission alignment.***

***10. As the nation celebrates America 250, how is your agency using its historic properties to support commemoration, public programming, or interpretive initiatives?***

### **SUCCESSSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES**

***11. 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 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.

***12. What innovations (technological, procedural, organizational) has your agency implemented to improve stewardship outcomes or Section 106 performance?***