



HISTORIC ANNAPOLIS, MD,
AFTER EXTREME RAIN EVENT
(CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM)

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

An important part of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s (ACHP) mission statement is to advise the President and Congress on historic preservation matters. The ACHP also provides evaluations and recommendations on how federal programs can make better use of historic preservation tools and techniques as federal agencies carry out their missions. These efforts focus on strategies to effectively combine the stewardship of the nation’s heritage with other national goals.

POLICY STATEMENTS

The ACHP has adopted a number of policy statements that are designed to help federal agencies, states, Tribes, and other parties maximize the preservation of historic resources and meet their responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The most recent policy statements address the following important preservation-related issues.

- **Policy Statement on Housing and Historic Preservation:** To help address the nation’s housing shortage, the ACHP adopted this policy statement to encourage rehabilitation of historic buildings for housing. The policy addresses incentivizing and removing barriers to reusing historic buildings for housing, including conversion of historic nonresidential buildings, and accelerating project permitting and environmental review.
- **Policy Statement on Climate Change and Historic Preservation:** Historic properties are experiencing escalating

climate impacts that are increasingly leading to their damage and destruction. The policy addresses the importance of making historic properties more resilient, considering such properties during disaster preparedness and response, and reusing historic buildings to help contribute to decarbonization.

- **Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects:** Human remains, burial sites, and funerary objects are significant to all peoples, and this ACHP policy addresses concerns related to their treatment and the need for appropriate consideration in federal decision making. The policy recognizes that the burial sites most often disturbed are those associated with Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiians, Indigenous Peoples, racial and ethnic minorities, and low-income communities.
- **Policy Statement on Indigenous Knowledge and Historic Preservation:** This policy establishes standards, guidelines, and interpretations as to how Indigenous Knowledge should be accounted for in federal decision making regarding historic properties. This policy advises federal agencies on ways to effectively incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into their historic preservation activities, including actions addressing sacred sites.

For more information, visit www.achp.gov/preservation-policy.

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MISSION STATEMENT: The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, promotes the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of the nation’s diverse historic resources and advises the President and the Congress on national historic preservation policy.





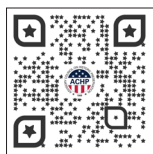
AT THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, DC, A SEGMENT OF THE GROUND FLOOR IS OUTLEASSED AS PUBLIC RETAIL PAVILIONS. (TAYLOR J. LEDNUM/GSA)



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SHAPES FISHPOND PRESERVATION AT KALOKO-HONOKŌHAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, HI. (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)



ACHP MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN A CONGRESSIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON STRENGTHENING HISTORIC PRESERVATION.



For more information and additional guidance, please visit: www.achp.gov



MANAGING HISTORIC FEDERAL PROPERTIES

Executive Order 13287 requires the ACHP to deliver a report to the President every three years on federal historic property management. *In a Spirit of Stewardship* describes federal agency progress in identifying, using, and protecting historic properties, and offers findings and recommendations for further enhancing preservation of historic properties owned or managed by the federal government. The 2024 report emphasizes the themes of infrastructure, job creation, equity, and climate change. The next report will be developed in FY 2026 for submittal to the President in February 2027.

For more information, visit www.achp.gov/ofap/section%203.

In 2021, the ACHP published the report *Leveraging Federal Historic Buildings*. Focusing on the leasing of under-utilized and unused historic federal buildings, the report makes recommendations for administrative and policy improvements to facilitate the leasing of such properties for nonfederal use. Under-utilization of federal buildings remains a challenge, and the situation has been further complicated by increased agency use of telework and remote work.

For more information, visit www.achp.gov/initiatives/leveraging-federal-historic-buildings.

ADVISING CONGRESS

In keeping with its responsibility under the NHPA to advise Congress, the ACHP comments on legislation with the potential to impact the preservation and productive use of historic properties. Frequently addressed issues include the following:

- Funding and reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund, which provides funding for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and preservation grant programs;
- Enhancements for the federal Historic Tax Credit for rehabilitation of historic properties and supporting other tax incentives for reusing existing buildings;
- Balancing regulatory/permitting reform and streamlining with protection of historic properties; and
- Designation or protection of historic properties that reflect the full American story.

For more information, visit www.achp.gov/preservation-legislation.

STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATION

In addition, the ACHP can advise on state and local legislation affecting historic properties. Such advice is offered only upon request and in situations where there would be substantial or precedent-setting impacts to historic properties or issues of concern related to federal preservation law and policy.

For more information, visit www.achp.gov/State_and_Local_Legislation.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308, Washington, DC 20001

Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov