

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ELLIS ISLAND, NY (BIG DOG / FOTOLIA)

INTRODUCTION

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is an independent federal agency with the unique mission to encourage historic preservation across the nation.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which established the ACHP in 1966, ensures federal agencies act as responsible stewards when their actions affect historic properties. The ACHP is the only entity with the legal responsibility to encourage federal agencies to consider preservation during federal project planning.

The ACHP serves as the federal policy advisor to the President and Congress; recommends administrative and legislative improvements for protecting our nation's heritage; and reviews federal programs and policies to promote effectiveness, coordination, and consistency with national preservation policies. A key ACHP function is overseeing the federal historic preservation review process established by Section 106 of the NHPA. Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of projects, carried out by them or subject to their assistance or approval, on historic properties and provide the ACHP an opportunity to comment on these projects prior to a final decision on them.

STRUCTURE OF THE ACHP

The ACHP has 23 statutorily designated members who meet throughout the year to conduct business.

Members include the following Presidential appointees:

- ▶ Four citizen members
- ▶ Four expert members
- ▶ An Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization member
- ▶ A mayor
- ▶ A governor
- ▶ The secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Defense, Transportation, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, and Veterans Affairs
- ▶ The administrator of the General Services Administration
- ▶ The Architect of the Capitol

They also include the chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

A professional staff supporting the ACHP's operations is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

PROGRAM AREAS

The ACHP has three major program areas that are reflected in the structure of its member committees and its staff:

Preservation Initiatives focuses on national policy development, partnerships, and programs like heritage tourism that promote preservation's economic and cultural benefits to groups such as states and localities, Indian tribes, and the private sector.

Communications, Education, and Outreach conveys the ACHP's vision and message to constituents and the general public through public information and education programs and public recognition programs for historic preservation achievement.

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ACHP BUSINESS MEETING



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PRESERVING AMERICA'S HERITAGE





RAINBOW ROW, CHARLESTON, SC
(BETH WHITCOMB / FOTOLIA)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE ACHP, PLEASE VISIT:

WWW.ACHP.GOV

Federal Agency Programs administers the NHPA's Section 106 review process and works with federal agencies to improve how they consider historic preservation values in their programs.

Additionally, the ACHP has a **Native American Program** to advise the ACHP chairman, members, and staff on policy matters related to issues of concern to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations; offer technical assistance and outreach for tribal and Native Hawaiian organization consultation under the Section 106 review process; and provide training. An important function of the office is to provide program support to the ACHP's Native American Advisory Group.

The **Preserve America** program is an integral part of the ACHP's work. It was established as a national initiative to encourage local, regional, and statewide partnership efforts to preserve a community's heritage and improve its quality. Its goals include a broader shared understanding and appreciation of the nation's past; improved economic vitality for communities through productive use of their heritage; and greater citizen commitment to the ongoing stewardship of historic properties through private investment and volunteerism.

SECTION 106

Section 106 requires each federal agency to identify and assess the effects of its undertakings on historic properties. It applies when two thresholds are met: there is a federal, federally assisted, or federally licensed activity; and that activity has the potential to affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The responsible federal agency must consult with appropriate state and local officials, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, applicants for federal assistance, and members of the public and consider their views and concerns about historic preservation issues when making final project decisions. Each year more than 100,000 undertakings undergo Section 106 review. While the vast majority of cases are resolved at the state or tribal level, many present challenging preservation issues that require the ACHP's involvement.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation's historic resources and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.



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