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Preserving America's Heritage

ACHP ISSUES POLICY STATEMENT ON INCORPORATING HISTORIC PRESERVATION INTO COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.— In an effort to assist communities continuing to rebuild in the wake of the 2008 recession, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) today issued a policy statement [www.achp.gov/communityrevitalization.pdf] designed to encourage local communities undergoing revitalization to integrate historic preservation principles in their planning and redevelopment activities.

“The ACHP considers historic preservation critical to the effort of stabilizing these economically challenged communities,” said ACHP Chairman Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA.

The issues facing such communities were brought to the ACHP’s attention by preservationists and citizens concerned about the future of their localities.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 historic properties have been demolished in communities across the country since 2008, demonstrating the need for revitalization and stabilization. Many of the properties that were lost were residences and other historic buildings listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as part of historic districts.

The policy statement was developed with the assistance of a work group composed of federal and state agencies, preservationists and non-profit organizations following publication of the ACHP’s 2014 report *Managing Change: Preservation and Rightsizing in America* (www.achp.gov/RightsizingReport.pdf). That report revealed communities did not consider historic preservation when making rightsizing decisions.

The policy statement was published in today’s *Federal Register* (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-16/pdf/2016-27536.pdf>) and offers a number of principles that should be considered by stakeholders to incorporate historic preservation into revitalization efforts:

- Tax credits and tax incentives can be used to promote historic preservation projects that preserve local assets.
- Historic preservation should be incorporated in local planning efforts that focus on sustainability and smart growth.
- Effective citizen engagement that reflects the diversity of the community can assist in identifying historic properties and cultural resources that should be considered for preservation and reuse.
- Flexibility in the treatment of some historic buildings in Section 106 reviews can help achieve broader neighborhood preservation goals.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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The ACHP plans an extensive outreach campaign on the new policy, including webinars that will explain, among other things, the use of local, state, and federal tax credits to stimulate historic preservation projects in targeted communities.

About the ACHP: An independent federal agency, the ACHP promotes the economic, educational, environmental, sustainability, and cultural values of historic preservation and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also influences federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic and cultural properties. See www.achp.gov for more information.