

A VIEW OF THE FRONT PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. © VICTOR LEOPOLD RUSSILLO

# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which established the ACHP in 1966, directs federal agencies to act as responsible stewards when their actions affect historic properties. The ACHP is given the legal responsibility to assist federal agencies in their efforts and to ensure they consider preservation during project planning.

The ACHP serves as the federal policy advisor to the President and Congress; recommends administrative and legislative improvements for protecting the nation's diverse 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, served by a professional staff in Washington, D.C., and led by a full-time chairman, comprises 24 members who meet throughout the year to oversee its work.

Members include the following Presidential appointees and other organizations' leadership:

- Senate-confirmed chairman selected from the general public
- Three members of the general public

- Four expert members
- Member of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization
- Municipal mayor
- State governor
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Defense
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- General Services Administration
- Architect of the Capitol
- Council on Environmental Quality
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
- National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

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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.





US COURTHOUSE AND POST OFFICE,  
CHARLESTON, SC, A SECTION 106 SUCCESS  
STORY (WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)



DESERT VIEW WATCHTOWER  
RESTORATION, GRAND CANYON, AZ,  
A SECTION 106 SUCCESS STORY (NPS)



MERIDIAN BRIDGE PROJECT, SD AND NE,  
A SECTION 106 SUCCESS STORY (NPS)

For more information  
on the ACHP, please visit:

[WWW.ACHP.GOV](http://WWW.ACHP.GOV)



## PROGRAM AREAS

The ACHP's major program areas are reflected in its organizational structure:

The **Federal Agency Programs** office administers the NHPA's Section 106 review process to promote efficient federal project planning that gives due consideration to the historic places that communities value. It works with federal agencies to improve how they incorporate historic preservation considerations into their programs and procedures and their responsibilities under the NHPA. The office manages the ACHP's extensive training program to instruct a diverse range of participants in the Section 106 review process, reaching both federal and nonfederal stakeholders.

The **Policy and Legislative Affairs** office undertakes research and development of policies to promote the benefits of historic preservation for advancing economic development, community revitalization, climate resilience, and other public goals. The office analyzes congressional legislation and government policies and programs to support the efforts of the ACHP membership to further the purposes of the NHPA. It also manages the ACHP's intern program.

The **Communications, Education, and Outreach** office conveys the ACHP's vision and message to constituents and the general public through information and education programs, as well as public recognition programs for historic preservation achievement. The office has lead responsibility for ACHP efforts to expand public appreciation for historic preservation, promote the engagement of youth and diverse communities in the national preservation program, and advance education and training in preservation crafts and skills.

The **Tribal and Indigenous Peoples** office addresses program and policy matters related to issues of concern to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. It provides a wide range of guidance, information, training, and technical assistance to federal agencies and other participants to promote early and effective consultation and engagement with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations in the Section 106 review process.

## SECTION 106

Section 106 of the NHPA requires each federal agency to take into account the effects of its undertakings on historic properties. It applies when 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 identify potentially affected historic properties; evaluate effects upon them; and consider alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. To do so, the agency consults with appropriate State or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, other state and local officials, Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and applicants for federal assistance. It considers their views and concerns about historic preservation issues, along with those of the public, when making final project decisions. Each year, more than 110,000 undertakings undergo Section 106 review. While the vast majority of cases are resolved at the state or Tribal level, others present challenging preservation issues that require the ACHP's involvement to ensure an efficient review process that results in reasoned federal agency decisions. While the Section 106 process in the end is advisory, its outcomes most often represent solutions agreed to by the consulting parties.

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

Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • [achp@achp.gov](mailto:achp@achp.gov) • [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)