50 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Preservation50
1966-2016
OUR LEGACY, OUR FUTURE
FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN PRESERVATION
EARLY PRESERVATION POLICY

Antiquities Act (1906)

Historic Sites Act (1935)

National Trust (1949) (Woodlawn, Fairfax Co)
HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND PRESERVATION ORDINANCES

Old and Historic District, Charleston, South Carolina, 1931

French Quarter, New Orleans, 1937

Old Town Alexandria, VA (NHL 1966)
CHALLENGES TO URBAN PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION

Urban renewal
Highways
Housing & sprawl
Clutter
“BEAUTIFY AMERICA”
“WITH HERITAGE SO RICH” — 1965-1966

Special Committee, U.S. Conference of Mayors

• Blue-ribbon panel
• Support from NTHP, NPS, others
• U.S. study, Europe systems
• State of the nation
"WITH HERITAGE SO RICH"

Recommended response to challenges:

• Must recognize architecture, design, esthetics, historic/cultural values
• Go beyond individual buildings to districts, communities
• Consider economics, tax policies
• Preserve more than “historic highlights” but “all that is worth preserving from our past as a living part of the present”
NHPA

“The bills that I will now sign help enrich the spirit of America.”—LBJ

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966—signed October 15, 1966*

* Same day as Department of Transportation Act, with Section 4(f) planning review provision to protect public parks, historic sites
KEY PROVISIONS OF NHPA

• National preservation policy
• National Register of Historic Places
• State programs & comprehensive plans and surveys
• Matching grants-in-aid for States, National Trust
• Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
• Section 106 planning and review
Federal policy—international cooperation, partnership with States, local governments, Indian tribes, and private entities

- Support “productive harmony” between modern society and prehistoric and historic resources, and help meet social, economic, other needs of present and future generations
- Lead in national and international preservation
- Administer federally owned resources in spirit of stewardship

(more...)
• Contribute to non-federal preservation and encourage private efforts

• Encourage preservation and use of built environment

• Assist state and local governments, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiians in preservation work
FEDERAL-STATE-LOCAL-TRIBAL-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
SO WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?

2016 and beyond—challenges and the program’s future...
DEVELOPING PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT
OBTAINING ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
PROMOTING INCLUSIVENESS
RECOGNIZING THE FULL RANGE OF THE NATION’S HERITAGE
ACHP Seeks Your Creative Suggestions to Improve the National Historic Preservation Program

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has launched an effort to improve the effectiveness of the national historic preservation program, and now it seeks your input. The ACHP will develop a set of policy recommendations and achievable implementation strategies that can be implemented through legislative, executive, or administrative action. The recommendations will be formally submitted to the next Administration and the incoming Congress at the end of this year.

The first step was to assess the challenges and opportunities facing the program on its 50th anniversary. In response to its call for public input, the ACHP received a variety of comments on the statement, and ACHP members discussed the issues at the business meeting in March.

Based on those comments and discussions, the statement has been revised and may be viewed here. The ACHP now invites specific suggestions for policy recommendations and implementing strategies to shape the future of the program. Please submit your comments in the form of an e-mail with your name, organizational affiliation (if any), and contact information by Friday, June 10, 2016 at Noon EDT to NHPA50@achp.gov.

The ACHP greatly appreciates your interest and participation and thanks you in advance for your suggestions.