PROTECTING LIFE, PROPERTY, AND PLACE
INTEGRATING HAZARD MITIGATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

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hazard mitigation [haz-erd mit-i-gey-suhn]
noun
1. Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to *people* and *property* from natural hazards and their effects.

FEMA Definition of “Hazard Mitigation”
By integrating historic preservation considerations into the hazard mitigation planning process and prioritizing important historic buildings for mitigation, local and state officials and hazard mitigation planners may help to ensure that communities’ historic built environment—and unique sense of place—are also protected.
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Why Historic Preservation Needs to Be Part of Disaster Planning

Almost two thirds of all states lack historic preservation strategies in their hazard-mitigation plans.

LINDA POON | @linpoonsays | Apr 8, 2016 | Comments

"60 percent of all states lack specific preservation strategies in their hazard-mitigation plans. And only 13 states included specific goals and strategies that mentioned protecting historic resources."

April 8, 2016
Hazard Mitigation Plans are a funding mechanism.

Only risk reduction projects that are consistent with goals/objectives in both the State and Local hazard mitigation plans are eligible for pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding assistance.

- By including historic preservation goals/objectives/action items in these plans, communities thereby open the door to a variety of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding for historic building mitigation projects.
Effective community plans interface with and complement other existing community plans, goals, and objectives, to ensure harmony and avoid contradiction.
Article III – Comprehensive Plan.

Section 301. Preparation of a Comprehensive Plan.

The municipal, multi-municipal or county comprehensive plan...shall include...the following related basic elements:

(6) A plan for the protection of natural and historic resources...This clause includes unique natural areas and historic sites.

(7) In addition...a county comprehensive plan shall:

... (iv) Identify a plan for historic preservation.
“To maintain our sense of place and quality of life, we must commit ourselves to making historic and cultural preservation an integral, indispensable part of living and working here. Lancaster County’s greatest assets are its historic buildings, landscapes, and cultural traditions – without them, the county loses its identity, and a part of America’s heritage goes with it.”
“Cultural and historical resources are an integral part of the overall quality of life in the county.”
“Historic preservation is an important element in the planning process because it ensures the legacy of not only the county’s—but the nation’s—history for present and future generations. Preserving our historic resources is crucial to sustaining the quality of life that county residents enjoy.”
“Historic resources are a vital part of the county’s character, contribute to the county’s appeal as a tourism destination, and thus play an important role in the economy.”

Monroe County Comprehensive Plan (2014)
“Lehigh and Northampton counties have a wealth of historic buildings, structures, sites and districts that … add to the beauty and attractiveness of the region, increase understanding and appreciation of our heritage, and improve the quality of life. Many significant historical features are of value to the local economy because they are tourist attractions.”
Objective

To produce model guidance for Pennsylvania communities on the integration of historic property information (inventories, vulnerability assessments, and mitigation strategies) into local hazard mitigation plans through demonstrative pilot projects.

- To ensure that historic resources are not neglected in the hazard mitigation planning process, and treated sensitively
- To facilitate funding opportunities for historic building mitigation projects
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Planning to Help Communities Become Less Reactive, More Proactive

Prioritizing Communities’ Historic and Older Properties within the Disaster Cycle
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Pilot Counties

[Map showing the locations of pilot counties in Pennsylvania, with counties highlighted in blue.]

Pilot Counties
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Update to the PEMA
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning
Standard Operating Guide

- PA SHPO working with PEMA to update SOG to include historic preservation checklist for future Local Hazard Mitigation Plan updates

- As a result, will require all 67 Pennsylvania counties to integrate historic resource information beginning in 2018

Prioritizing Communities’ Historic and Older Properties within the Disaster Cycle
FEMA’s Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) Available Online
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PHMC’s Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (crgis.state.pa.us)
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FLOOD-PRONE HISTORIC RESOURCE DOCUMENTATION & HISTORIC BUILDING ELEVATION SURVEYS

Monroe County Historic Preservation/Hazard Mitigation Planning Integration Pilot Project
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Monroe County Historic Preservation/Hazard Mitigation Planning Integration Pilot Project
Prioritize Historic Places for Mitigation

- Which properties are most at risk from flooding?
- Which properties would the community miss most if destroyed?
- Variables that may influence preservation priorities:
  - Public sentiment
  - Economic importance (tax base, tourism contributions)
  - Level of historical/cultural significance
  - Remaining integrity and character/uniqueness
Goal 1: Preserve the county’s unique heritage and sense-of-place, and protect the county’s historic, architectural, cultural, and scenic character from natural and man-made hazards through sensitive mitigation measures.

Objective 1.1: Retrofit important community landmarks/historically significant buildings or structures to reduce risk, in a way that minimizes changes to their character and integrity and does not preclude their historical designation.

Objective 1.2: Promote and encourage property maintenance and rehabilitation to enhance the ability of historic properties to withstand the impacts of hazards and reduce risk.
Goal 1: Preserve the county’s unique heritage and sense-of-place, and protect the county’s historic, architectural, cultural, and scenic character from natural and man-made hazards through sensitive mitigation measures.

Objective 1.3: Identify effective alternatives to acquisition and demolition to reduce risk for repetitive loss (RL) and severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties that may be historically significant or contribute to community character.

Objective 1.4: Promote and encourage property maintenance and rehabilitation to enhance the ability of historic properties to withstand the impacts of hazards and reduce risk.
Goal 1: Preserve the county’s unique heritage and sense-of-place, and protect the county’s historic, architectural, cultural, and scenic character from natural and man-made hazards through sensitive mitigation measures.

Objective 1.5: Provide hazard mitigation education and training to historical organizations and local preservation professionals.

Objective 1.6: Nominate historically significant properties to be listed in the National and/or Local Register of Historic Places to make such properties eligible for a variety of federal and state grants that may facilitate rehabilitation and mitigation measures to reduce risk.
Ensure newly developed historic preservation strategy in the Local HMP is **consistent** with goals & objectives in the State HMP.

- Add new/additional language to the State HMP as necessary to ensure local-state consistency and project funding probability.

(Remember: Only risk reduction projects that are consistent with goals/objectives in both the State **and** Local hazard mitigation plans are eligible for pre-disaster or post-disaster federal funding assistance!)
FUNDING SOURCES FOR MITIGATION PROJECTS

- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Programs**
  - Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program
  - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- **State Programs**
  - Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program (PA SHPO)
    - Grants for Planning/Survey and Construction
Eligible Projects: FEMA HMA (Non-Disaster) Funding

- Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition
- Structure Elevation
- Structure Relocation
- Dry Floodproofing of Historic Residential Structures
- Dry Floodproofing of Non-residential Structures
- Minor Localized Flood Reduction Projects
- Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings
- Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities
- Infrastructure Retrofit
- State Technical Assistance
- Flood/Hazard Mitigation Planning
Key Takeaways:

- Hazard Mitigation Plans open the door to **funding** for historic building risk reduction projects, if those are a community priority.
- **Integrate** – Make sure your community’s plans and goals are talking to one another!
- Take advantage of GIS and new **data tools**
- **Document** your community’s flood-prone historic buildings and their vulnerable character-defining features.
- Build **new partnerships**, nontraditional alliances, and engage new audiences!

To **Effectively** Protect Life, Property, and Place
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Questions?
Need guidance or technical assistance?

Please contact:

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