Role of the PA SHPO: Your One Stop Resource
PHMC

- Historic Sites and Museums
- Pennsylvania State Archives
- State Museum of Pennsylvania
- State Historic Preservation Office
PA SHPO administers Pennsylvania’s Federal & State Historic Preservation Programs

National Register of Historic Places
Federal Historic Tax Credits
Federal Project Review
Certified Local Governments
Education, Training & Outreach
CRGIS

State Historical Marker Program
State Historic Tax Credits
State Project Review
Covenant Review
GOS Museum Grants
Keystone Historic Preservation Grants

Plus...

Federal Hurricane Sandy Grant
Federal Research & Documentation Grants

Community Technical Assistance
Preservation Planning Assistance
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
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National Register of Historic Places

The Nation’s official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation

• Established in 1966, maintained by NPS, managed in Pennsylvania by PA SHPO

• Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects (historic properties) that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

• To be listed, historic resources must:
  • Be 50 years old or older
  • Retain integrity
  • Meet one or more Criteria
  • Meet a Criteria Consideration

• Nominations can take 18-24 months
National Register of Historic Places
Determinations of Eligibility (DOE)

• Before listing a property, PA SHPO evaluates its eligibility for listing in the National Register with HRSF
• Determinations made by committee on a regular basis
• DOEs that are 5 years old + require re-evaluation
• DOEs are shown in CRGIS
• DOEs also play a role in Project Review and Keystone grants
Historic Contexts/
Multiple Property Documentation Forms

**Contexts:**

- Information and perspective about related properties organized by theme, place, and time
- Required for both our Resource Survey Forms and National Register nominations
- Establishes the framework for evaluating significance

**MPDFs:**

- They are not an actual listing, or a district nomination
- Provides a “cover” or an umbrella context and registration requirements that can be used to streamline future nominations and eligibility evaluations
- A property doesn’t need to be listed under an MPDF
- If it is, it must be shown to be *important* in order to be eligible
Topics

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Community Planning and Development
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Ethnic Heritage
- Exploration and Settlement
- Health and Medicine
- Industry
- Military
- Performing Arts
- Religion
- Social History
- Transportation

Additional Resources

- National Register Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form, Section V: How to Evaluate a Property within its Historic Context

- SHPO Historic Context Guidelines: How to prepare a Historic Context for Individual Properties and Historic Districts (PDF)
Federal Historic Tax Credit Program

• Available to private property owners
• 20% credit based on the cost of the project
• Property must be listed in the National Register
• Have income producing use:
  ✓ Shops
  ✓ Restaurants
  ✓ B-and-B inns
  ✓ Offices
  ✓ Apartments
Pennsylvania’s Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program

• Information available on DCED website www.newpa.com/hptc

• Provides 25% state tax credit for rehabilitating an income-producing property

• $3 Million in Credits Available

• Credits Limited to $500,000 per taxpayer
• Application process same as the one used for RITC projects, reviewed by PHMC/PA SHPO
Federal & State Project Review
National Historic Preservation Act & PA History Code

- Project review staff advise and assist federal & state agencies in carrying out their responsibilities under Section 106

- **Federal Projects:** Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800

- **State Projects:** The State History Code is the applicable state law and applies to the following types of projects:
  - Projects on Commonwealth land or involving Commonwealth property
  - Projects requiring state licensing, funding, or permitting
  - Projects being undertaken by Commonwealth agencies or instrumentalities of the state

- Best to initiate consultation for environmental review during preliminary project planning before designs are finalized
Local Preservation Planning
Certified Local Government Program

- Administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in collaboration with the PHMC
- Local governments and their preservation programs must be certified by the NPS
- Offers technical assistance and federal funding directly to local governments to establish and manage local historic district ordinances
Local Preservation Planning
Community Preservation Coordinators

• Assist in the delivery of all of the BHP’s programs

• Primary responsibilities are centered around advising local governments, community organizations, and individuals about historic preservation practice
  ✓ Specifically, Certified Local Government Program
  ✓ Advisor to HARBS, Historical Commissions, Heritage Areas, etc.

• Participate in big picture initiatives
  ✓ Long Range Transportation Planning
  ✓ Training and Educational Programs
  ✓ Communication/ Public Outreach
Local Preservation Planning
Community Preservation Coordinators

• Matchmaker/Translator
  ✓ Connecting individuals/groups with the right resources and partners
  ✓ Helping constituents understand jargon

• Problem Solvers
  ✓ Field questions on wide variety of issues
  ✓ Local liaison for program staff
  ✓ Conflict resolution
  ✓ Other duties as assigned
PHMC Keystone Historic Preservation Grants

- Public Grants for Historic Preservation
- Property or district must be eligible or listed in the National Register
- 50/50 Cash Match & Reimbursable Grants
- Planning Grants
- Construction Grants
- Early March Deadline
Cultural Resources GIS

- Online database and mapping tool
- Known historic and archaeological resources
- Planning and project review surveys
- Three levels of access:
  - Public
  - Planner: professional who develops or reviews project plans that have the potential to affect cultural resources
  - Archaeologist: any one who meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards as an archaeological professional
Historical Marker Program

Who can nominate?
- Individuals, private organizations, local/county governments and public agencies

What can be nominated?
- Person, place, event, or innovation of statewide and/or national historical significance.

When?
- Nomination deadline is December 1.

Then What?
- Nominations reviewed by experts from across the state.
- PHMC Commissioners give official approval
- The nominator and/or local sponsor is responsible for the cost of marker production and marker installation.
Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

- 4 Standards developed by NPS
- Common-sense principles in non-technical language
- Promote consistent preservation practice
- Applies to buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts
- Relevant to:
  - Keystone grants
  - Historic tax credit projects
  - Project review
  - Local district reviews

Preservation
Restoration
Reconstruction
Rehabilitation
Preservation

• Focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property’s form as it has evolved over time
Restoration

• Is undertaken to depict a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.
Reconstruction

• Recreates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes
Rehabilitation

- Acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property’s historic character
The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program is one of the nation’s most successful and cost-effective community revitalization programs. The program fosters private sector rehabilitation of historic buildings and promotes economic development.

The storefront is the most important architectural feature of many historic commercial buildings. It also plays a crucial role in a store's advertising and merchandising strategy to draw customers and increase business. Not surprisingly, then, the storefront has become the feature most commonly altered in a historic commercial building. In the process, these alterations may have completely changed or destroyed a building's distinguishing architecture.

As more and more people come to recognize and appreciate the architectural heritage of America's downtowns, however, a growing interest can be seen in preserving the historic character of commercial buildings. The sensitive rehabilitation of storefronts can result not only in increased business for the owner but also can provide evidence that downtown revitalization efforts are succeeding (see Figure 1).

Once a decision is made to rehabilitate a historic commercial building, a series of complex decisions face the owner, among them:

- If the original storefront has survived largely intact but is in a deteriorated condition, what repairs should be undertaken?
- If the storefront has been modernized at a later date, should the later alterations be kept or the building restored to its original appearance or an entirely new design chosen?
- If the building's original retail use is to be changed to office or residential, can the commercial appearance of the building be retained while accommodating the new use?

This Preservation Brief is intended to assist owners, architects, and planning officials in answering such questions about how to evaluate and preserve the character of historic storefronts. In so doing, it not only addresses the...
Thank You!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS, VISIT

http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation