

HISTORIC PRESERVATION POLICY STANDARDS

The Institution's historic preservation policy ensures continued fulfillment of historic preservation responsibility with sound preservation methodology. For this reason, the Smithsonian follows the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Treatment of Historic Properties* when repairs, alterations, or renovations are to be performed on designated historic properties.

Any undertaking should be reversible, and those which are not reversible are to be selected only after a complete analysis of feasible alternatives. Further, any Smithsonian alteration, addition, or change shall be sympathetic to the historical or architectural integrity of the structure and shall enhance the historic features of the structure.

The following guidelines are taken from these standards:

- A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
- The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

Historic materials are stone, wood, brick or other original fabrics found in both the external and internal construction of the building, including original walls, ceilings and floors. Historic features are capitols, arches, columns, windows and finishes. Historic elements that define the character of the building may be public spaces and areas which bear evidence to the building's historical or architectural significance. Examples of further character-defining elements are decorative detail, lighting fixtures, mechanical devices, finish materials, doors and original hardware.

- Each Smithsonian property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development or changes based solely on conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings shall not be undertaken.
- Most properties change over time. Those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

- Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.
 - Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacements of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical or pictorial evidence.
 - Chemical or physical treatments such as sandblasting that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
 - Significant archaeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. Prior to new construction, a survey must be conducted of the area to determine if any archaeological resources exist. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures must be undertaken for their documentation and preservation if possible or desirable.
 - New additions, exterior alterations or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property or its environment. The new work shall be differentiated from the old to protect the historic integrity of the property and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale and architectural details to protect the historic integrity of the building.
 - New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and environment would be unimpaired.
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