



Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources

Protecting Our Heritage

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ensures compliance with applicable Federal historic preservation laws and regulations and integrates these compliance requirements into its mission of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires FEMA to adequately consider the effects of its funding on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (historic properties).

FEMA Disaster Assistance and Historic Preservation

FEMA disaster assistance programs include grant funding for repair, restoration, or replacement of damaged eligible publicly owned and private non-profit facilities as well as mitigation funding to reduce damages to eligible facilities in future events. Some of these facilities may be historic properties. Historic properties are typically 50 years or older and include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts.

FEMA works closely with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs), and applicants for assistance to avoid or minimize adverse effects to historic properties whenever possible. When adverse effects are unavoidable, FEMA is required to mitigate the effects in consultation with the SHPO/THPO, SEMA, the applicant, and other consulting parties. In addition, FEMA provides assistance to stabilize eligible culturally significant collections damaged by disasters.

Historic Preservation and the Small Business Administration

Following a disaster declaration, the Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest loans to

private non-profit organizations such as museums, libraries, and other cultural resources for building repairs.

Heritage Emergency National Task Force

FEMA is a co-sponsor of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force and works with Task Force members to identify needs and provide available technical expertise and resources for salvaging and protecting historic properties and cultural collections. The Task Force was formed in 1995 to help libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and historic sites protect their collections and buildings from natural disasters. It distributes materials on cultural resource preservation throughout the year. For more information, visit: <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/taskfer.htm>.

FEMA Deploys Specialists to Affected Areas

FEMA deploys historic preservation specialists to affected areas following Presidentially declared disasters. These specialists identify historic preservation issues, assess damages, provide technical assistance, and fulfill FEMA's legal responsibilities for Section 106 compliance under various historic preservation laws, executive orders, and regulations.

For More information

For more information about funding assistance, see *Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions*, available on the web at: <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PDFS/Disaster.pdf>.

Additional resources are provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation at: <http://www.nationaltrust.org>.