

Mitigation

When federal undertakings adversely affect historic properties, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those effects. If avoidance and minimization of adverse effects are not possible, mitigation is required. Mitigation and minimization measures for an adverse effect are specified within a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). While mitigation does not eliminate the adverse effect to historic resources, it should provide a public benefit that balances the loss of or negative effect to the historic property.

Mitigation varies widely from project to project. It differs depending on the complexity and nature of the federal undertaking, the scale of the adverse effect, the resources being adversely affected, and the needs of the community. Determining the appropriate mitigation is determined through a consultative process, with all consulting parties and interested members of the public providing input and reaching agreement.

As mentioned above, there is no one size fits all mitigation package. Mitigation can include a wide variety of options, and certain undertakings may require multiple mitigation solutions to fully mitigate adverse effects. If the adverse effect includes the demolition or alteration of a historic resource, our office will always require documentation of the resource before it is altered or demolished as at least one mitigation treatment. We strongly encourage creative mitigation that thinks outside of the box and maybe even outside of the project area that enhances the knowledge and protection of historic properties.

Potential mitigation efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Documentation
- Data Recovery
- National Register Nominations
- Geographic or Thematic Surveys
- Historic Contexts
- Interpretive Exhibits (Physical or Online)
- Interpretive Signage
- Historical Marker
- Support for Preservation Non-Profit Organizations
- Heritage Tourism Projects
- Oral History Project
- Educational Lesson Plans
- Training/Workshops
- Direct Preservation, Restoration, or Rehabilitation Work on a Historic Property
- GIS Story Map
- Preservation Covenants
- Audio or Video Documentary
- Architectural Salvage
- Further consultation to ensure minimal effects or compatible replacements
- Lecture Series/Conference
- Coffee Table Book
- Preservation Plans/Management Documents
- Landscape Plans/Vegetative Screening Plans-Moving of a Historic Property for its Preservation