

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation Working Group

CHARTER

Purpose and Scope:

In response to the ongoing national discussion of the efficacy of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment (*Standards*) in their present form and application, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) approved the establishment of a working group in March 2023. Using the work of the National Historic Designation Advisory Committee (NHDAC) as a model, the purpose of the working group is to carefully examine the *Standards*, alongside the perspectives of other stakeholders, to provide the preservation community at-large with a carefully considered and inclusive opinion of the *Standards* and their application.

Since their codification in 1995, the *Standards* have played a central role in the field of historic preservation. Given their foundational nature and broad application to multiple core preservation programs at the federal, state, and local levels, the *Standards* deserve, and will benefit from, thoughtful scrutiny and discussion.

As a major user of the *Standards*, NCSHPO's membership have collectively acquired a considerable depth of knowledge and experience regarding their application and can offer a valuable perspective. It is, therefore, appropriate, and essential to contribute the SHPO experiences and views to the broader conversation taking place among other key users of the *Standards*. As an integral part of this exercise, the working group will take the time necessary to consider multiple perspectives, not only of the NCSHPO membership, but also those of other key stakeholders.

The goal of the Committee is to complete its work in phases, with a draft report available in the early Summer of 2024.

Goals:

The efforts of the work group are intended to complement and support the ongoing national dialogue focused on the *Standards* and to encourage inclusive discourse by:

- Establishing a work group comprised of SHPOs and Deputy SHPOs representing a variety of states and program perspectives.
- Communicating to the NCSHPO membership and other stakeholders, before July 20, 2024, the committee's establishment, purpose, and initial perspectives.

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- Engaging with the National Park Service to ensure their awareness of, and participation in, this effort.
- Encouraging and advocating others to have a thoughtful and inclusive conversation with a broad range of stakeholders.
- Assembling a “library” of scholarship related to the *Standards*.
- Soliciting input from all SHPOs and THPO’s regarding the *Standards*.
- In collaboration with the NCSHPO External Affairs Committee, intentionally seeking opportunities for thoughtful engagement and input from a wide variety of stakeholders and practitioners of the *Standards*, in order to consider and benefit from a broad range of experiences and perspectives.
- Virtually convening a national forum on the *Standards* to provide an opportunity for open discussion among stakeholders.
- Identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to use and interpretation of the *Standards*.
- Providing a summary report that identifies issues, recommendations, and case studies to be broadly shared.