

Goals and Objectives

Several issues have continued to be of paramount concern in formulating goals and objectives for historic preservation for the next several years. The goals and objectives stated in the Plan have been developed to address these concerns, as well as other concerns expressed by members of the public and the historic preservation community.

The following goals and objectives are intended to guide historic preservation activities in the State of Mississippi during the years from 2005 to 2010 and to provide general direction for organizations and agencies. Specific tasks, projects and assignments will be detailed in work plans for those organizations and agencies, which will be prepared in order to implement this Comprehensive Plan.

1. Increase public awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of historic resources and of the various programs that can be used to assist historic preservation activities.

- Increase the visibility of the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH through more staff site visits, presentations and lectures, and participation in meetings and activities throughout the state.
- Disseminate information describing the funding sources of preservation organizations, as well as other agency programs that can support preservation efforts.
- Produce a newsletter to educate the public about Mississippi's cultural resources, technical preservation information, and communication about historic preservation programs and activities.
- Produce publications that address technical assistance issues related to historic preservation.
- Increase preparation and distribution of press releases and articles about a wide variety of preservation subjects.
- Utilize internet web sites, electronic newsletters, list-serves, digital imagery, GIS, and other types of electronic technology to enhance information management and communications capabilities.
- Organize educational events and activities to inform the public of preservation procedures, programs, and partners.

2. Increase identification and registration activities for archaeological sites and for architecturally and historically significant properties.

- Undertake increased survey work to identify and record historical and archaeological resources particularly where substantial development pressures or other threats exist.
- Provide funding and project supervision for survey and registration projects in communities throughout the state in cooperation with local governments and non-profit organizations.
- Promote the designation of National Historic Landmarks in Mississippi, with the goal of one Mississippi NHL designated each year.

- Prepare new historic context reports and update existing contexts to provide a sound basis for the evaluation of the eligibility of related properties for the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Continue to develop and maintain productive partnerships among various organizations and agencies to promote and accomplish historic preservation goals.

- Encourage the growth and strength of statewide and local, non-profit organizations as effective, independent advocates of preservation.
- Encourage participation of current and additional communities in the Certified Local Government program.
- Provide instructional information to local, state, and federal governmental groups and their representatives to increase their capacity to administer their respective historic preservation responsibilities.
- Develop and maintain working relationships between Mississippi organizations and agencies and a variety of national and conservation organizations whose programs impact preservation efforts.
- Develop and maintain closer and more productive working relationships among preservation-related organizations, agencies, and institutions within Mississippi.
- Identify and document shipwrecks and other underwater archaeological resources through cooperative efforts.

4. Strengthen preservation legislation and promote effective historic preservation programs at all levels of government.

- Continue to designate historically, architecturally, and archaeologically significant publicly-owned properties as Mississippi Landmarks.
- Develop Mississippi Landmark eligibility criteria for various property types to ensure consistent assessment.
- Conduct reconnaissance surveys for all of those state-owned properties that have not been surveyed so that significant properties can be proposed for Mississippi Landmark designation.
- Promote the donation of preservation easements and encourage the designation of private properties as Mississippi Landmarks.
- Strengthen the relationship between MDAH and the Attorney General's office to provide effective enforcement of the Antiquities Law on all publicly-owned lands.
- Provide instructional information to local, state, and federal governmental groups and their representatives to increase their capacity to administer their respective historic preservation responsibilities.
- Administer grants programs related to the preservation of publicly owned properties.
- Compile and distribute a layman's guide to the various laws that protect historic properties.
- Ensure that there are appropriate laws and regulations to govern historic preservation at all levels of government.

- Acquire adequate funding, staff, facilities, and other resources to allow HPD of MDAH to manage the state public preservation programs; in addition, funding should allow for the management of federally mandated programs in a manner that is productive, consistent with federal requirements and accessible to the public.
- Establish and operate a field office of the HPD of MDAH in South Mississippi.
- Encourage communities to include a Historic Preservation component in their comprehensive plans.
- Urge agencies and organizations to implement and follow this Comprehensive Plan, and offer comments and recommendations for future updates of the Plan.

5. Accomplish the sustainable rehabilitation of historic buildings, with an emphasis on the role of historic preservation in accomplishing community economic redevelopment.

- Promote and achieve widespread participation in the Federal Investment Tax Credit program and promote the establishment of a state tax incentive program.
- Establish and administer effective and productive state grant programs.
- Compile and disseminate information about sources of funds that can be used for historic preservation projects.
- Provide information and assistance to support repair, rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation of historic buildings.
- Support, encourage, and accomplish the productive reuse of unused and underutilized historic buildings, in ways that are respectful of their character.
- Encourage and facilitate the donation of façade, scenic, and development easements to provide financial incentives for the preservation of significant privately-owned properties.
- Promote the development educational programs, including training in preservation-related building crafts and trades.
- Achieve a greater inter-relatedness between historic preservation, community revitalization, and tourism development and promotion activities.
- Promote the development of driving tours, walking tours, informational brochures, and other methods of increasing public awareness of historic resources in Mississippi communities.
- Promote the installation of interpretive signage for historic properties by private owners, historical organizations, and local governments.
- Continue and enhance the placement of state historical markers and the repair and replacement of damaged or lost markers while seeking matching state funding for historical markers.
- Promote a broader awareness of and preservation of significant properties associated with historical themes and topics that are often underrepresented in historic preservation activities, such as the fine

- arts, the performing arts, sports and recreation, industry, and medicine.
- Increase accessibility to and interpretation of historic places by the physically impaired.
 - Broaden participation in and awareness of historic preservation by racial and ethnic minorities, including those of less numerous and less recognized ethnicities.
 - Continue to develop educational outreach programs for children.

6. Accomplish the long-term preservation of significant archaeological sites, historic sites, and historic landscapes.

- Continue and enhance efforts to protect and preserve Civil War battlefields.
- Encourage and facilitate the donation of preservation, scenic, and conservation easements as a means of providing a financial incentive for the preservation of significant privately-owned properties.