



Design Guidelines for Department of Defense Historic Buildings and Districts

#07-382

Background:

Department of Defense (DoD) installations are required under federal laws to protect and preserve cultural resources. They have the primary responsibility of reviewing all federal projects, such as renovations and new construction to ensure they will not adversely affect historic properties including objects, structures, buildings, landscapes, sites and districts. To assist in the review process, the *Design Guidelines for DoD Historic Buildings and Districts* (Guidelines) provide general guidance to everyone at the installation level and beyond involved in the management of historic buildings and districts.



*Appropriate ADA compliance ramp for a historic building.
Fort Bragg, North Carolina*

Objective:

The Design Guidelines provide sound guidance and the necessary tools for individuals to facilitate the Section 106 Review process of the NHPA (36CFR800) through the avoidance of adverse effects to historic buildings and districts; and to assist Cultural Resources Managers (CRMs) in consultations with State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO).

Summary of Approach:

Preparation of this handbook involved compiling information pertaining to historic properties located on installations. The information was collected by means of a questionnaire circulated to installations and site visits conducted at a sampling of installations located in different geographical regions of the country. Based on the information collected and in keeping with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, the design guidelines were created and tailored to DoD historic buildings and districts. To provide a

comprehensive guide, the handbook was developed in three sections. The first section, *Overview*, provides information pertaining to the management of cultural resources including an overview of the various components of cultural resources management, explanation of legal requirements, historic context of military installations and an illustrated guide to architectural influences. The second section, *Design Standards & Guidelines*, contains the appropriate standards for the treatment of historic properties and the design guidelines. The last section, *Additional Information*, supplements the design guidelines by providing additional sources for further information such as definition of terms, glossary of architectural terms, internet sources and sources for technical assistance.

Benefit:

The Design Guidelines have the potential to expedite the Section 106 Review process by providing installations with the tools and vocabulary to better communicate with planners, architects and the SHPO as well as provide upfront guidance at the planning level of construction projects. Through the implementation of the Design Guidelines, installations can avoid adverse effects before SHPO consultations begin, thereby eliminating costly delays due to lengthy SHPO consultations. Overall, the Design Guidelines support military missions by assisting with their compliance responsibilities under 36CFR800.

Accomplishments:

The final product is a comprehensive handbook created to assist individuals and organizations involved in the management and use of historic buildings and districts including but not limited to: regional and major command CRMs, Installation Commanders, Public Work Directorates, planners, architects, engineers, environmental management directorates, Installation CRMS, and residential and administrative tenants. Ultimately, the handbook offers a one-stop resource to assist CRMs in the proper treatment of historic buildings and districts.

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