

# National Standards and Guidelines For Treatment of Historic Resources

Linda Adler, Family and Consumer Sciences



The federal guidelines entitled, *The Secretary of The Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties*, are provided below. These were established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to provide national standards and guidelines for the treatment of historic buildings, structures, objects, and sites. All federally funded and permitted activities involving historic resources are evaluated with these standards in mind.

The standards provide basic principles to guide decisions and actions in historic preservation. They present a list of the “best practices” for historic preservation and make sure that the important issues about the care of historic buildings and landscapes are not forgotten during the planning and decision-making process regarding historic resources.

- ◆ Standard 1 – The use of a property shall be for its historic purpose or shall be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building, its site, and environment.
- ◆ Standard 2 – The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
- ◆ Standard 3 – Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of history, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
- ◆ Standard 4 – Most properties change over time. Those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
- ◆ Standard 5 – Distinctive features, finishes, construction techniques, or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.

- ◆ Standard 6 – Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new features shall match the old in design, color, texture, other visual qualities, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
- ◆ Standard 7 – Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
- ◆ Standard 8 – Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
- ◆ Standard 9 – New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
- ◆ Standard 10 – New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

*Standards are reprinted with permission from the Kentucky Heritage Council. Kentucky Historic Façade Rehabilitation Guidelines, October 2003.*

Photo © 2005 JupiterImages Corporation

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, M. Scott Smith, Director of Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Lexington, and Kentucky State University, Frankfort. Copyright © 2005 for materials developed by University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension. This publication may be reproduced in portions or its entirety for educational or nonprofit purposes only. Permitted users shall give credit to the author(s) and include this copyright notice. Publications are also available on the World Wide Web at [www.ca.uky.edu](http://www.ca.uky.edu).

Issued 11-2005