

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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## California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Series #11

### Online Resources for Historic Preservation In California

#### State Agencies

##### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Web**

**[www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/)**

The CEQA Web is a cooperative effort among the Resources Agency, its CERES and LUPIN programs (see below) and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (see below). The site provides valuable information for planners, consultants, attorneys, and citizens with an interest in CEQA. Its offerings include CEQA Statute and Guidelines, an interactive process flow chart, a case law search, a directory of CEQA judges, answers to frequently asked questions, and more.

##### **California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)**

**[www.ceres.ca.gov](http://www.ceres.ca.gov)**

CERES is an information system developed by the California Resources Agency to facilitate access to a variety of electronic data describing California's rich and diverse environments. The goal of CERES is to improve environmental analysis and planning by integrating natural and cultural resource information from multiple contributors and by making it available and useful to a wide variety of users. This site contains a wealth of environmental data, searchable by organization, geographical area, theme, and data type. It also contains information about environmental law and education.

##### **California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS)**

**[www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/chris/index.htm](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/chris/index.htm)**

CHRIS is a statewide system for managing information on the full range of historical resources identified in California. CHRIS is a cooperative partnership between the citizens of California, historic preservation professionals, eleven Information Centers, the CHRIS Hub, and various agencies. Information Centers provide archeological and historical resources information to local governments and individuals with environmental review responsibilities. This site contains a listing of the Information Centers and contact information for each as well as CHRIS publications, including the Information Center Procedural Manual.

##### **California Land Use Planning Information Network (LUPIN)**

**[www.ceres.ca.gov/planning/](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/planning/)**

LUPIN, a program of the California Resources Agency, is an information service that supports and addresses land use and planning issues via the Internet. The site contains a listing of planning, zoning, and development laws, links to city and county zoning ordinances, and information on topics such as demographics.

## **California Main Street**

**[commerce.ca.gov/business/community/mainstreet/](http://commerce.ca.gov/business/community/mainstreet/)**

In 1985, California joined a growing national movement to improve the quality of life in America's towns, cities and neighborhoods by restoring the economic health of Main Streets--historic, traditionally designed central business districts. Since its birth, California Main Street, a program of the California Trade and Commerce Agency, has provided superior state-level leadership on revitalization techniques using the *Main Street Approach* to revitalization. This site has a information on becoming a Main Street community, training opportunities, and other resources.

## **California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP)**

**[www.ohp.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov)**

The OHP is the governmental agency primarily responsible for the statewide administration of the historic preservation program in California. The OHP website contains useful information about OHP programs, such as survey and inventory, local government, registration programs, environmental review and compliance, incentives, and grants and funding sources. It also provides information about the State Historical Resources Commission and the California Historical Resources Information System (see above).

## **Division of the State Architect (DSA)/State Historical Building Safety Board (SHBSB)**

**[www.dsa.ca.gov](http://www.dsa.ca.gov)**

The DSA acts as California's policy leader for building design and construction and provides design and construction oversight for K-12 schools and community colleges. DSA also develops and maintains the accessibility standards and codes utilized in public and private buildings throughout California. DSA incorporates the offices of the independent SHBSB, caretaker of California's State Historical Building Code (SHBC). The DSA site contains inspector information, project tracking lists, code change updates, and more. The SHBC portion of the site also has reports on various aspects of the code, such as fire protection, public safety, additions and expansions, and seismic repair and upgrading.

## **Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR)/California State Clearinghouse (SCH)**

**[www.opr.ca.gov/](http://www.opr.ca.gov/)**

The OPR provides research staff to the Governor, conducts comprehensive statewide planning, facilitates interagency coordination, provides local agency planning assistance, and manages state environmental review processes. The SCH has three primary functions: coordination of state agency review of environmental documents; coordination of state and local review of federal grant applications; and technical assistance on land use planning and CEQA matters. This site contains the SCH's CEQAnet database, information on SCH's role in federal grant review processes, and information on other OPR programs, such as the Innovation in Government and Americorps programs.

## **Federal Agencies**

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)/Section 106 Review**  
**[www.achp.gov/](http://www.achp.gov/)**

The ACHP is an independent Federal agency that provides a forum for influencing Federal activities, programs, and policies as they affect historic resources. The goal of the National Historic Preservation Act, which established the ACHP in 1966, is to have Federal agencies act as responsible stewards of our Nation's resources when their actions affect historic properties. The ACHP is the only entity with the legal responsibility to balance historic preservation concerns with Federal project requirements. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and afford the ACHP a reasonable opportunity to comment. The historic preservation review process mandated by Section 106 is outlined in regulations issued by the ACHP. This site has news important to the ACHP and its constituents, information on the Section 106 process, training and education sources, a listing of publications, including Section 106 case law, and a listing of federal, state, and tribal program contacts.

**Heritage Preservation Services**  
**[www2.cr.nps.gov/](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/)**

Heritage Preservation Services, National Park Service, helps our nation's citizens and communities identify, evaluate, protect, and preserve historic properties for future generations of Americans. Located in Washington, D.C. within the National Center for Cultural Resources, the Division provides a broad range of products and services, financial assistance and incentives, educational guidance, and technical information in support of this mission. Its diverse partners include State Historic Preservation Offices, local governments, tribes, federal agencies, colleges, and non-profit organizations. This site is a wealth of information, including all you need to know about the Secretary's Standards, the rehabilitation tax credit program, the Certified Local Government program, and more (be sure to visit the HPS Classroom section). It also has many useful publications, including the Preservation Briefs series.

**Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER)**  
**[www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/)**

HABS/HAER is an integral component of the federal government's commitment to historic preservation. The program documents important architectural, engineering, and industrial sites throughout the United States and its territories. A complete set of HABS/HAER documentation, consisting of measured drawings, large-format photographs, and written history, plays a key role in accomplishing the mission of creating an archive of American architecture and engineering and in better understanding what historic resources tell us about America's diverse ethnic and cultural heritage. To ensure that such evidence is not lost to future generations, the HABS/HAER Collections are archived at the Library of Congress, where they are made available to the public. This site has information on highlighted projects, drawings and photographs, different levels of documentation, and more, as well as a collections list for previously documented buildings and structures.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**  
**[ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/nepanet.htm](http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/nepanet.htm)**

NEPA is the nation's broadest environmental law, put in place in 1970. It establishes

environmental policy for the nation, provides an interdisciplinary framework for federal agencies to prevent environmental damage, and contains “action-forcing” procedures to ensure that federal agency decision-makers consider the effects their decisions will have on the environment. This site contains NEPA procedures, statute, and related executive orders, as well as information on the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ), points of contact, and links to federal agency sites.

**National Park Service (NPS)/Cultural Resources**  
**[www.cr.nps.gov/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/)**

The NPS preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The NPS cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The NPS site has a Tools for Learning section, a History in the Parks section, information on grants and assistance, and a host of other information sources.

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)**  
**[www.cr.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/)**

The NRHP is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, NRHP is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. The NRHP is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. This site contains the NRHP listing of designated properties (National Register Information Service), travel itineraries, theme studies and information on the National Historic Landmark program, and the invaluable National Register bulletins, as well as other publications.

**Advocacy and Professional Organizations**

**American Planning Association (APA)**  
**[www.planning.org/](http://www.planning.org/)**

The APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), are organized to advance the art and science of planning and to foster the activity of planning -- physical, economic, and social -- at the local, regional, state, and national levels. The objective of the APA is to encourage planning that will contribute to public well-being by developing communities and environments that meet the needs of people and society more effectively. This site provides information on the AICP exam, federal planning legislation, educational opportunities, and much more.

**California Chapter American Planning Association (CCAPA)**  
**[www.calapa.org/](http://www.calapa.org/)**

The CCAPA links planners statewide and nationwide through the American Planning Association. Through this linkage, members obtain the latest information about planning, unite to influence legislative issues, and further professional expertise through conferences, meetings and workshops. The site has updates on the CCAPA annual conference, information on taking the American Institute of Certified Planners examination, planning legislation news, and a section for local news.

## **California Council for the Promotion of History (CCPH)**

**[www.csus.edu/org/ccph/](http://www.csus.edu/org/ccph/)**

CCPH is a statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1977. CCPH members represent almost every area of historical activity in California including historians working for public agencies, historians working in the private sector, academic historians, archivists, museum professionals, preservation specialists, teachers and students. The role of CCPH is to foster, facilitate, and coordinate efforts that advance the preservation, interpretation, and management of California's historical resources and to enhance the application of history skills in the public and private sectors. The site contains information about CCPH programs, including its annual conference, the Register of Professional Historians, a mini-grants program, awards, and more.

## **California Preservation Foundation (CPF)**

**[www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org)**

CPF is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of California's historic resources. CPF emerged in response to the need for a statewide organization that could focus on issues common to all and provide the cohesive and vital link between state, regional, and local preservation interests. CPF is a statewide network of its members: individuals, businesses, organizations, and local governments long committed to historic preservation. Through this network CPF serves as a clearinghouse for preservation ideas, technical information, and advice, available to all. The site contains information about CPF's programs, such as their annual conference and awards, and publications, whose topics range from building code issues, to disaster management, to award-winning design solutions.

## **National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC)**

**[www.arches.uga.edu/~napc/index.htm](http://www.arches.uga.edu/~napc/index.htm)**

The NAPC builds strong local preservation programs through education, training, and advocacy. The NAPC is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, governed by a Board of Directors whose members must have direct associations with preservation commissions. This site contains answers to frequently asked questions, information on the NAPC's educational programs, and updates on their bi-annual forum.

## **National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO)**

**[www.sso.org/ncshpo/](http://www.sso.org/ncshpo/)**

The NCSHPO is the professional association of the State government officials who carry out the national historic preservation program as delegates of the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470). The NCSHPO acts as a communications vehicle among the State Historic Preservation Officers and their staffs and represents the SHPOs with federal agencies and national preservation organizations. The National Historic Preservation Act names the NCSHPO as the point of contact for the State Historic Preservation Officers. The site has updates on the Historic Preservation Fund, which funds the programs mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act, a database of state preservation legislation, and a listing of State Historic Preservation Officers.

## **National Preservation Institute (NPI)**

**[www.npi.org/](http://www.npi.org/)**

The NPI is a nonprofit organization offering specialized information, continuing education, and professional training for the management, development, and

preservation of historic, cultural, and environmental resources. Visit this site for an NPI seminars list, a helpful materials listing, and information on NEPA (see above).

**National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)**

**[www.nthp.org](http://www.nthp.org)**

The NTHP provides leadership, education, and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. The NTHP site has a wealth of information about the organization's programs, including the well-known 11 Most Endangered Places listing and the National Main Street Center, and publications, from books to reports to pamphlets.

**Society for California Archaeology (SCA)**

**[www.scanet.org/](http://www.scanet.org/)**

SCA is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to research, understanding, interpretation, and conservation of California's heritage. Membership is open to everyone with an interest in California archaeology. This site contains valuable research links, legislative updates, educational opportunities, and information on SCA programs, including California Archaeology Month.