



# Leesburg

APPENDIX A:  
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S  
STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION



The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* are general guidelines which were first developed in 1979 and have since been expanded and refined, most recently in 1995. They are used by the National Park Service to determine if the rehabilitation of a historic building has been undertaken in a manner that is sensitive to its historic integrity. The guidelines are very broad by nature since they apply to the rehabilitation of any contributing building in any historic district in the United States.

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
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.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
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.

8. Significant archaeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
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.
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.

An interactive web class on the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* is available online at [www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/e-rehab/index.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/e-rehab/index.htm).

The National Park Service also publishes *Preservation Briefs*, technical bulletins which provide detailed information for all types of projects and which are written in accordance with the Secretary's Standards. Over forty subjects are covered in the briefs, which are available online at [www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm).

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Illustrated Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* is a government publication and is available from the Government Printing Office (GPO) at [www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/tpscat.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/tpscat.htm) or by calling the GPO at 866-512-1800 (toll-free).