

OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL IN CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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SUMMARY

The Advisory Council is an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the federal government, established under authority of Title II of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The purpose of the Council is to advise the President and the Congress on historical preservation matters in general, and to comment to federal agencies on undertakings that affect properties included in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Council's powers are only advisory, assisting all federal agencies in finding ways to accomplish their missions while, at the same time, all cultural resources are protected. It also has the obligation to seek the public interest where missions are incompatible with such protection.

The National Historic Preservation Act directs the Secretary of Interior to expand and maintain a National Register of properties important in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture, including those important to states, regions or localities.

Major differences exist between nominating a property for inclusion in the National Register and determining its eligibility for inclusion. Knowing when and how to do both can save an agency a great deal of frustration and

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time. Learning the compliance process requires study and careful use of the terms, as defined.

Getting a property put on the National Register or seeking determination of eligibility is the responsibility of federal managers. And, they must do so under Executive Order 11593, if the property meets the criteria for inclusion in the Register. Failure to comply with the various acts, executive orders, procedures and directives may open the door to an injunction, causing a further and unnecessary delay of a project.

The regional office is available by telephone to help solve problems connected with cultural resource preservation and management.