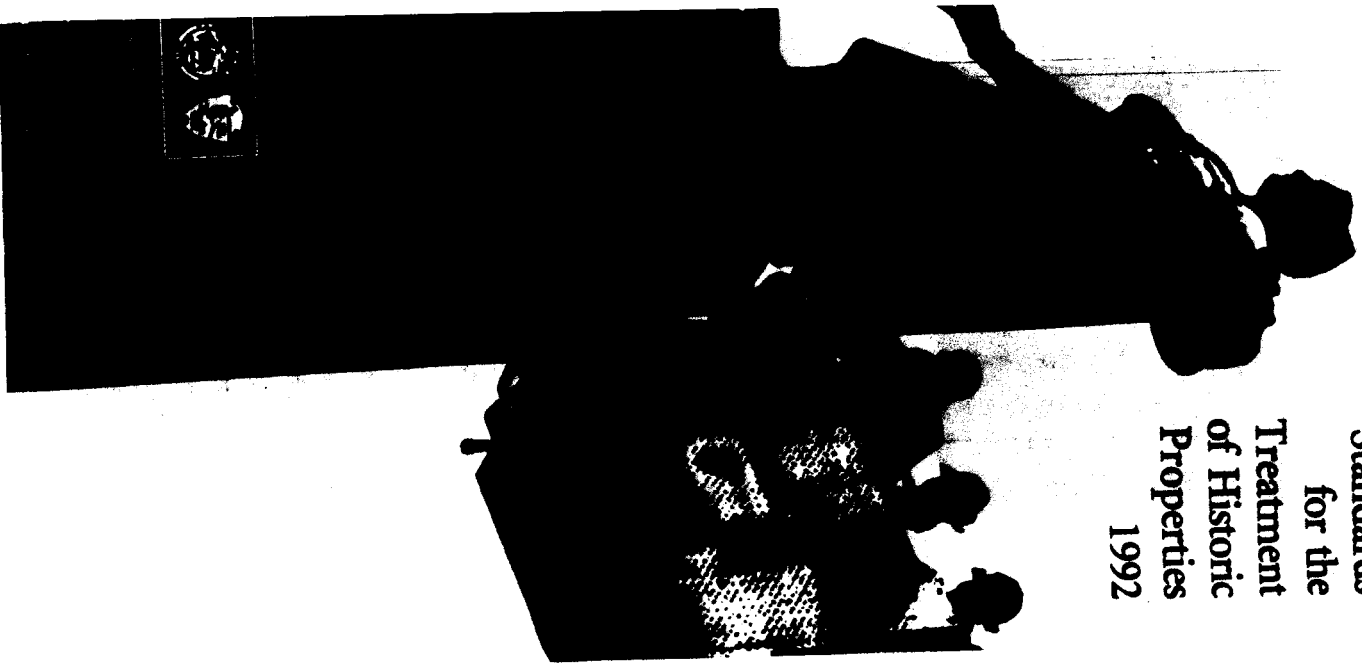


The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties 1992



TREATMENTS

There are Standards for four distinct, but inter-related, approaches to the treatment of historic properties — Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction. Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. (Protection and Stabilization have now been consolidated under this treatment.) Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character. Restoration is undertaken to depict a property at a particular period of

OVER.

time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods. Reconstruction re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

In summary, the simplification and sharpened focus of these revised sets of treatment Standards is intended to assist users in making sound historic preservation decisions. Choosing an appropriate treatment for a historic property, whether preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction is critical. This choice always depends on a variety of factors, including the property's historical significance, physical condition, proposed use, and intended interpretation.



Alamo Square Historic District, San Francisco, California. Photo: Charles A. Birnbaum.

REHABILITATION

is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION

1. A property shall be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships 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 elements from other historic properties, shall not be undertaken.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, 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

REHABILITATION AS A TREATMENT.

When repair and replacement of deteriorated features are necessary; when alterations or additions to the property are planned for a new or continued use; and when its depiction at a particular period of time is not appropriate, Rehabilitation may be considered as a treatment.

Prior to undertaking work, a documentation plan for Rehabilitation should be developed.

the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.

Treatments that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used.

8. Archeological resources shall be protected and preserved in place. 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, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the 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.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing professional standards and providing advice on the preservation and protection of all cultural resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Mr. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Photo: Charles A. Birnbaum.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, initially developed in 1975 and revised in 1983 and 1992, are intended to be applied to a wide variety of resource types, including buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts. The Standards are not codified as program regulations and may be used as a guide by anyone planning work on historic properties. Note: this 1992 revision of the Standards replaces the Federal Register Notice, Vol. 48, N. 190, September, 1983.

A slightly modified version of the Standards for Rehabilitation was codified in 36 CFR 67, and focuses on "certified historic structures" as defined by the IRS Code of 1986. These regulations are used in the Preservation Tax Incentives program. The 1992 Standards in this leaflet do not replace the Tax Incentives regulations: 37 CFR 67 should continue to be used when property owners are seeking certification for Federal tax benefits.