

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN ALBUQUERQUE

Enriching the city through conserving our heritage

- What It Is
- · What It Can Do For You
- · How You Can Learn More



HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN ALBUQUERQUE

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With answers to frequently asked questions

prepared by Planning Department, City of Albuquerque Jim Baca, Mayor Third Edition –November 1998 oduced by the City of Albuquerque Planning Department.

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STORIC PRESERVATION is

the act of saving historic structures, sites, objects and man-made landscapes from deterioration or destruction. Saving such community assets takes many forms:

Official Recognition
and Public Information
create awareness of the rich
heritage of Albuquerque and
Bernalillo County. The nation,
state, and city have determined that
historic preservation merits support at

each level of government.

Technical Advice and
Assistance can encourage
and guide rehabilitation and
restoration.

Adaptive Reuse planning finds new uses for historic buildings.

Tax Benefits support rehabilitation or restoration.

Laws can control changes to, or forbid demolition of,

historic properties. They may allow greater flexibility in zoning or building code

Historic

Preservation

requirements for registered properties.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 set the policies which guide not only federal but many state programs. New Mexico passed the Cultural Properties Act in 1969 to implement provisions of the national law.

In Albuquerque the City Council approved the Landmarks and Urban Conservation
Ordinance in 1978 to enable protection of significant districts and individual properties.
Ten years later, the Albuquerque/Bernalillo
County Comprehensive Plan reiterated local support for prehistoric and historic preservation in two goals:

Goal C.5.

- Protect, reuse, or enhance significant
- historic buildings and districts.

Goal C.6.

- Identify and manage or acquire significant
- archeological and paleontological sites for
- research, education, economic, and/or
- : recreation use.

The City of Albuquerque's historic preservation planners are available to answer your questions. They also welcome your comments on the City's preservation program.

HISTORIC DESIGNATION-CITY, STATE and NATIONAL

How do I know if my house is historic?

it's historic, but a building considered historically significant and worthy of preservation can be included on an official list, or register, of historic properties.

The City of Albuquerque designates some historic buildings and areas, called City Landmarks and Historic Overlay Zones. The state's register is the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties. To be considered for the National Register of Historic Places, a property must first be accepted on the State Register. The State Cultural Properties Review Committee (appointed by the Governor), assisted by the State Historic



Preservation Division, places properties on the State Register and decides if a nomination should be sent to the National Register.

The National Park Service administers the National Register.

All of the properties listed on the state and national registers must meet one or more of the four criteria for significance (opposite page).

The National Register mainly includes places that are at least 50 years

old; a property built more recently must have exceptional significance.



The Occidental Life Insurance Co. building at 3rd & Gold meets historic register criteria A, B, and C (see p. 7). A City Landmark, it's on the state and national registers, too.

- Associated with historic events or trends, or
- Associated with persons or groups significant in our past, or
- **©** Exhibits distinctive architecture or construction, or
- Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history (this criterion mainly applies to archeological sites).

HISTORIC REGISTER CRITERIA

The State Register does not have a 50-year age requirement. To be registered, a property must also have kept enough of its original features to convey why it is significant. Historic properties must have "integrity" or wholeness so they can tell the story of their contribution to our history.



KiMo Theatre, 5th and Central, today.
The renovated theater is still "America's Foremost Indian Theatre."



Here is the KiMo as it would look without its decorative details, marquee, and wide entry.

These changes would ruin its historic integrity by making it unrecognizable as a historic movie theatre.

local properties listed in the National and/or State Registers, including 10 historic districts.

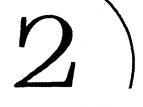
To propose listing a property on a historic register, the owner or an interested person researched the property's history, fills out a nomination form and describes how it meets the criteria.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

call preservation
planning staff in the
City Planning
Department (924-3883)
or
State Historic
Preservation Division
staff in Santa Fe
(505-827-6320)



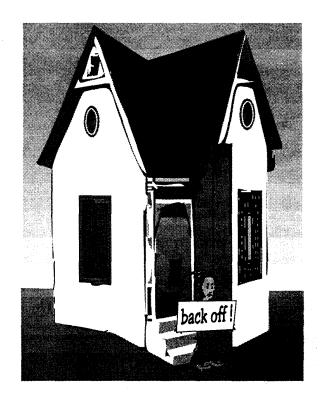
Some registered historic sites have plaques, but not all.
See page 35 for how to get one.



EFFECTS of the CITY'S
LANDMARKS and URBAN
CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

I want more than recognition and tax credits in my neighborhood - I want to protect our historic homes from being demolished! Can I make this happen?

ments for a Landmark, Historic Overlay Zone or Urban Conservation Overlay Zone and receives such a designation. Albuquerque has been regulating building changes, demolition and new construction in Old Town since 1957 when the area around the plaza was zoned historic. In 1978 the City Council passed an ordinance which made it possible to protect any area or individual property in the City if it met the criteria for designation.



City of Albuquerque Historic Overlay Zones and Landmarks see map at right

Before you start construction in City-designated Historic Zones or on City Landmarks:

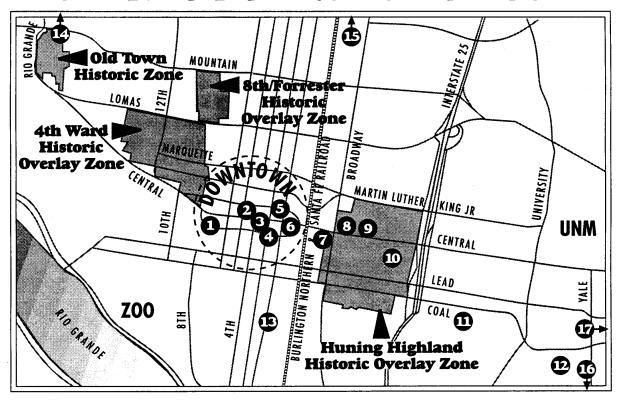
- Meet with city preservation planning staff
- Get approval for alteration, demolition, or new construction from the Landmarks and Urban Conservation Commission
- Remember: if you don't contact the City, your project could be shut down and you would lose valuable time and money

Owners who do not comply are subject to enforcement action which carries possible fines, jail time, and requirements to remove non-conforming construction.

ITY LANDMARKS

- Skinner Building
- KiMo Theatre
- Rosenwald Building
- Occidental Life Insurance Building
- **S** La Posada (old Hilton) Hotel
- 6 Sunshine Building
- Highland/Hudson Hotel Building
- 8 Old Albuquerque High School
- Old Main Library
- Whittlesey House
- Roosevelt Park
- Heights Community Center
- A.T. & S.F. Railway Fire Station
- Las Mananitas 1800 Rio Grande NW
- A.T. & S.F. Locomotive # 2926 2nd NW and I-40
- Old Albuquerque Airport Terminal
 2920 Yale Blvd. SE
- Ernie Pyle House/Library 900 Girard SE

CITY-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ZONES & LANDMARKS

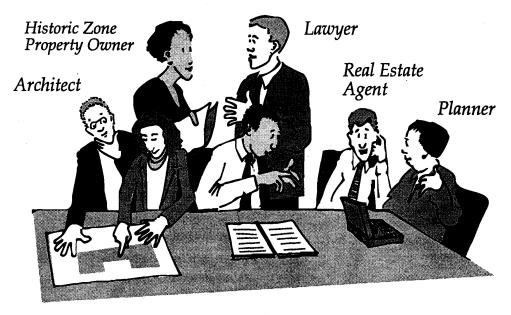


Conservation Commission
(LUCC) oversees the City's
preservation program. The LUCC
meets on the second Thursday of
every month and all meetings are
open to the public.

Duties of the Commission

- Consider requests for designation of an area as either a Historic Overlay or an Urban Conservation Overlay Zone
- Consider requests for designation of individual properties as City Landmarks
- Recommend Landmark designation for qualified properties to City Council
- Review proposals for building alterations, new construction, and demolition in overlay zones and on City Landmark sites
- Review nominations to the National Register of Historic Places
- Review matters related to the City's historic preservation program

Landmarks and Urban Conservation Commission



The LUCC includes members with expertise and interest in preserving the City's architectural and historic character.

Overlay Zone or Landmark designation does not control use, but regulates the design of exterior changes to buildings or the streetscape, including demolition and new construction. It does not regulate interior changes in Overlay Zones, but may regulate them on particular Landmarks where the interior has been found to be of special significance.

A **City Landmark** is a single property with important historical or architectural features

A **Historic Overlay Zone** (**HOZ**) is an area with many intact historic buildings that convey a period of time in our history

An **Urban Conservation Overlay Zone** (UCOZ) is an area that is unified by the presence of buildings or built environmental characteristics that create an identifiable setting or character.

OWNER CONSENT REQUIREMENTS

LANDMARK designation: owner must approve or applicant must state why designation would not create a significant economic hardship for the owner.

HOZ designation:

good to have neighborhood support, but no formal statement of support is required.

UCOZ designation:

fifty-one percent (51%) of the property owners in the area proposed for a UCOZ must approve the application in writing.



CRITERIA FOR LOCAL DESIGNATIONS

Overlay Zone designation are much like the historic register criteria (see p. 5) with a few additions.

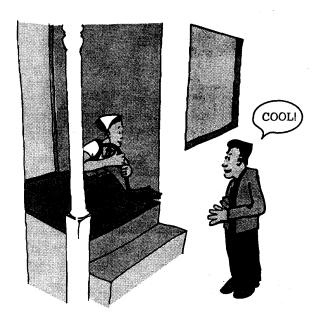
These include a relationship to already designated landmarks or a historic zone which makes the area's preservation critical. A Landmark must be suitable for preservation and have educational significance.

LANDMARK CRITERIA

- ✓ meets Register criteria
- ✓ suitable for preservation
- ✓ educational significance
- ✓ integrity

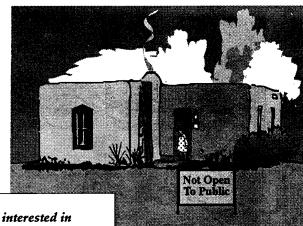
HISTORIC OVERLAY ZONE CRITERIA

- ✓ meets State/National criteria
- relationship to designated landmarks or a historic zone which makes the area's preservation critical
- ✓ suitable for preservation
- ✓ historic, architectural or cultural significance



Urban Conservation Overlay Zone (UCOZ), besides having a recognized neighborhood identity and character, could also have a relationship to urban centers or historic zones which makes conservation of the UCOZ area critical. Changes in an Urban Conservation Overlay Zone would be less strictly regulated than changes in a Historic Overlay Zone or to a Landmark, but there are no Urban Conservation Overlay Zones in Albuquerque at this time.

uildings in the Overlay Zones and City Landmarks do NOT have to be open to the public. Owners of Landmarks are required to provide at least minimum maintenance.



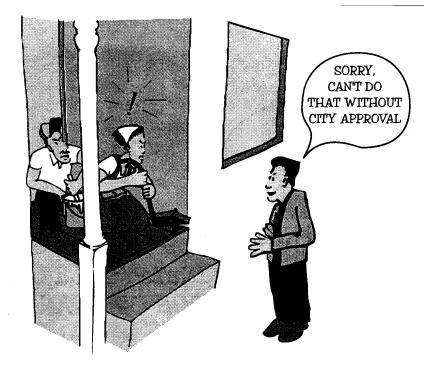
If you are interested in designation and protection for an individual property or the area in which you live, contact the Planning Department's preservation staff, 924-3883.

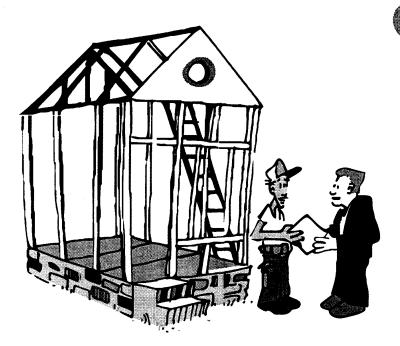
3)

HOW to COMPLY with the CITY'S LANDMARKS and URBAN CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

... You just bought a house in Albuquerque and are starting to fix up the porch when your neighbor stops by and tells you that you live in a special historic area and any changes you make must be approved by the City. Now what do you do?

Sop work and call the Landmarks
Commission staff planner, 924-3910.





y work that would change the exterior appearance of any building in a locally designated historic zone or of a City Landmark, and demolition or new construction in a Historic Zone, must receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the City before work can legally begin. Significant changes must be reviewed by the Landmarks Commission in a public hearing.

probably come out to talk with you and look at your property and discuss what you propose to do. They may give you an administrative approval for minor changes to a building's appearance.

You will need to prepare — or have prepared — plans and drawings of what you propose and submit them to Landmarks staff a month before the hearing. You must also notify the officially recognized neighborhood association in the area where your property is located. Staff writes a report on your project



Staff can approve some kinds of changes

HELP IS AVAILABLE





Staff can offer suggestions on the design if you request.

for the Landmarks Commission and will send you a copy and announcement of the hearing. Other interested parties can pick up staff reports and agendas at the Planning Department.

Staff has information on:

- history of your property
- how to prepare plans and drawings
- architectural styles
- catalogs of preservation products and services
- tax incentives you may be able to use

DEMOLITION

Landmark or historic building in an overlay zone can be demolished only if the owner proves to the Landmarks Commission that he or she cannot realize a reasonable economic return from the property as it is controlled and no way of preserving the building has been found. If the Landmarks

Commission has evidence that the building could provide a reasonable economic return or a way to save it is available, they usually deny a request for demolition. This action places a moratorium on demolition for one year. At the end of the year the City Council reviews the status of the building and efforts to save it. If the Council determines that



the property cannot produce a reasonable economic return as controlled and no means of saving it has been found, the Council shall approve demolition.

Why does the City do this? Buildings, parks, statues, archeological sites and neighborhoods tell the story of Albuquerque. When the City Council approves a Historic or an Urban Conservation Overlay Zone or a Landmark, it says the City wants to protect and conserve this resource because it is important not only to the owner or to the neighborhood but to the entire community. We have many such assets in Albuquerque to be proud of, to learn from, and to enjoy.

for communities to consider the creation of a local historic district is the economic advantage of well-preserved and revitalized historic districts. A locally regulated historic district can be a tool in fighting many of the negative economic trends that occur in the older sections of a community. In fact, studies have shown a clear connection between

historic districts and the effectiveness of community awareness programs, the creation of effective municipal rehabilitation programs, promotion of federal development incentives, and improved resident and investor confidence — all factors that can have a positive effect on property values.

Pratt Cassity, "Creating and Preserving Municipal Historic Districts" Issues & Opinions: Historic Preservation, National League of Cities, May 1995 4

EFFECTS of STATE and NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTRATION My house is on the state and national registers. Does that mean I can't change it? Is it protected from the effects of public projects? And, isn't there some financial help for renovating my historic home?

owner of a property listed on the state and national registers can change the building or even demolish it, as long as public funding is not involved AND/OR it is not in a City Historic Overlay Zone or a City Landmark. However, its historic value will be lost if the changes destroy its distinguishing features.





registered properties be open to the public or repaired or restored; however, registered properties which are also designated City Landmarks are subject to minimum maintenance requirements.

State and federal laws provide differing levels of protection to properties listed on the state and national registers when their historic qualities would be adversely affected by public works projects and other state or federal undertakings.

YES THERE IS FINANCIAL HELP IN SOME INSTANCES

New Mexico an owner of a property on the State Register may get a **state** income tax credit for a rehabilitation project that meets requirements set in state law.

The maximum credit allowed is five years of state tax indebtedness, \$25,000 or half the eligible costs of a rehabilitation project, whichever amount is least.

Owners of income-producing historic properties as well as owner-occupants of historic houses are eligible for the credit.



STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

- ✔ Property is listed individually on the NM Register of Cultural Properties or is classified as "contributing" in a state register historic district
- NM Cultural Properties Review Committee must approve the project before and after the work is done
- ✓ Project design meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

properties who complete substantial rehabilitation projects, a federal income tax credit may be available. The federal tax credit program allows up to 20% of the eligible costs in a rehabilitation project to be claimed against federal tax indebtedness.

State and federal laws also allow tax deductions for donations of properties and easements for preservation purposes.

Contact the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, 228 E. Palace Avenue, Room 320, Santa Fe NM 87501, or call 505-827-4057 for more information about tax credits.

FEDERAL TAX CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Building is a certified historic structure
 ✓ Income-producing properties only
 - Rehab costs more than "adjusted basis" of the building*, or \$5,000, during any 24-month period
- Project design meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation
- State and federal preservation agencies approve project
- ✓ Processing fee charged for federal review

*adjusted basis = cost of property plus previous capital improvements less the value of the land

also can advise you on preparation of a nomination for your property, and repair and rehabilitation methods. They can tell you how to buy a plaque for your registered property.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

call preservation planning staff in the City Planning Department (924-3883)

> or State Historic Preservation Division staff in Santa Fe (505-827-6320)



Put up a Register plaque - they're not free, but they tell the world how important your property is! 5)

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE PRESERVATION

You keep finding bones, pieces of old pottery, and other old objects on the ground or when you dig on your property. How do you find out if they are significant archeologically?

Historic Preservation Division in Santa Fe (1-505-827-6320). You may have discovered a site from which archeologists can learn a unique previously unknown piece of information about life in Albuquerque many centuries ago.

If you find bones, call the State Medical Investigator (277-3053) and the State Historic Preservation Division (505) 827-6320. You may have found the remains of a missing person or you may have found an ancient burial site.



New Mexico law protects unmarked human burials anywhere they are found.

maintains an inventory of all recorded archeological sites in the state. If you want to know if there might be an archeological site on your property call the State Historic Preservation Division or the Albuquerque Open Space Division (873-6620) which also has information on sites in this area.

State income tax credits are available for work done to stabilize or preserve an archeological site which is listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties (see pages 33 and 34).



owner of a significant archeological site can also protect the site by donating a **cultural properties preservation easement** to a qualified 501(c)3 organization. If the easement runs with the land in perpetuity and the site is on the National Register of Historic Places, the owner can receive federal income tax and estate benefits. Call the State Historic Preservation Division for more information.

New Mexico law provides penalties for people who excavate sites on state lands without authorization and who knowingly receive or sell artifacts taken from sites on state land.

Permits are required to excavate sites on state lands and for the use of mechanical equipment to excavate archeological sites on private lands by persons other than the owner.

All excavation permits are issued by the State Cultural Properties Review Committee.



HOW to LEARN MORE
ABOUT ALBUQUERQUE'S
HISTORY and HISTORIC PLACES

... You're a real estate agent and a family wants you to find them a place to live in a historic area, preferably in a turn-of-the-century house. Or, perhaps you've just moved to Albuquerque and want to know more about its history. Where is such information available?

a permanent exhibit and videos on the history of Albuquerque, and its staff can answer questions about the history of our city. The Museum's extensive archive of historic photographs of Albuquerque is open to the public only by appointment, so call first (243-7255).

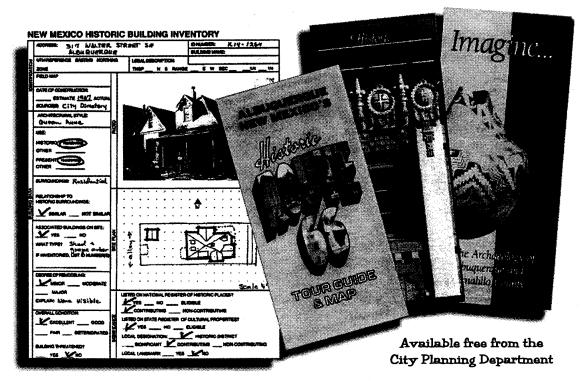




e City Planning Department has

historic building inventory forms for over 15,000 local buildings built before 1945, as well as detailed history of many areas of the City and County and more than 200 registered historic properties. Call 924-3883 for more information or to request maps and guides to local historic sites and archeology.

You may visit the Planning Department's historic preservation staff any weekday at 600 Second St., NW, 3rd floor.



the University of New Mexico, the Meem Collection at the

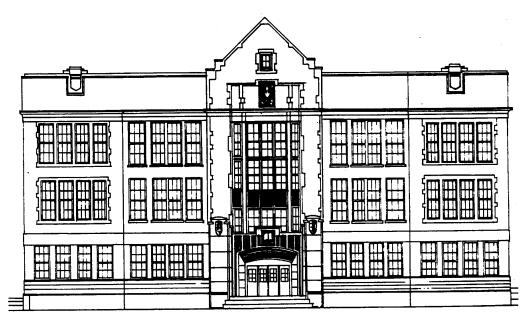
Center for Southwest Research in Zimmerman Library

has extensive information on buildings, including plans

of major structures.

The Center for Southwest Research also has a large collection of material on the history of Albuquerque and New Mexico. Call 277-6451 for more information.

The City's Special Collections Library (housed in the Old Main Library at Edith and Central NE) has genealogical information and a large collection of books on Albuquerque and the Southwest.



Original working drawings of Old Albuquerque High School buildings, and many others, can be seen at the Meem Collection, Center for Southwest Research, UNM.

BOOKS

Look for the following books on the history of this area in libraries, bookstores, the Albuquerque Museum or the City Planning Department.

- <u>Albuquerque</u>, Erna Fergusson. Merle Armitage Editions, 1947
- Albuquerque: A Narrative History, Marc Simmons.
 University of New Mexico Press, 1982
- <u>Albuquerque 100 Years in</u>
 <u>Pictures</u>, George Fitzpatrick and
 Harvey Caplin. Modern Press,
 1976
- An Archaeological Context for the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area, E. Tianna Crollet, Deni Seymour and Denise St. Germain, 1995 (at City Planning Department)
- Ernie Pyle in the American Southwest Richard Melzer: Sunstone Press, 1996

- Historic Albuquerque Today: An Overview Survey of Historic Buildings and Districts, Susan Dewitt. City of Albuquerque Historic Landmarks Survey, 1978
- Historical Background of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Alan J. Oppenheimer.
 City of Albuquerque Planning Department, 1962
- Huning Highland Neighborhood Walking Tour and Armchair Guide, Mary Davis and Mike Rock. City of Albuquerque Historic Landmarks Survey, 1979
- Making the Most of It: Public
 Works in Albuquerque during
 the Great Depression 1929-1942,
 Charles Biebel. Albuquerque
 Museum, 1986

- Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico: A Guide to Its History and Architecture, Byron Johnson. The Albuquerque Museum, 1980
- Shining River Precious Land: An Oral History of Albuquerque's North Valley, Kathryn Sargeant and Mary Davis. Albuquerque Museum, 1986
- Southeast Heights

 Neighborhoods of

 Albuquerque: History &

 Civic Guide, Patricia Freeman.

 Privately printed, 1993
- University Neighborhoods
 <u>Historic Handbook</u>, Christopher
 Wilson. University Heights
 Association and Silver Hill
 Neighborhood Association, 1986



Find the following videos for sale or viewing where indicated.

THE ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM

243-7255

- <u>Albuquerque 1706-1880</u> <u>1880-1940</u>
- Early Albuquerque: The Railroad Boom Years 1880-1912
- The Alvarado (Hotel)
- Riding the Great Iron Horse (about railroad heritage)

CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

924-3883

- Windows Into the Past -Our (Albuquerque) Archeological Heritage
- Old Albuquerque High School Grand Homecoming, 1996
- Inspecting an Old House Before You Buy
- Maintaining Your Old House

CITY ADMINISTRATION

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Jesse Garves, Graphics and Cover
Tracy Clark & Joe Lujan, Layout
Mary Davis, former Preservation Planner, wrote this booklet.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Lynne Sebastian, State Historic Preservation Officer, 505/827-4044

The City of Albuquerque Preservation Planning program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to:

Office of Equal Opportunity • National Park Service • P. O. Box 37127 • Washington, D.C. 20013-7127