

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are a set of common-sense historic preservation principles that guide work on historic buildings. They are meant to help preserve the historic character of a building while allowing for its continued, contemporary use.

Short Guide: Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

These standards provide a framework for responsibly maintaining, repairing, and adapting historic buildings. The core philosophy is "repair over replace" and "respect the historic character."

The 10 Key Standards:

1. **Respect Historic Character:** Don't remove or obscure features and materials that contribute to a property's historic character. All changes should preserve it.
 - Simply put: Keep what makes the building historic.
2. **Avoid False History:** Don't create a false historical appearance. This means avoiding the addition of features that never existed on the building, or treating one period of history as the only important one if there have been significant changes over time.
 - Simply put: Be honest about the building's past; don't make up history.
3. **Preserve Defining Features:** Identify, retain, and preserve features and materials (such as windows, doors, ornamentation, and significant interior elements) that are important to the building's historic character.
 - Simply put: Save the special details.
4. **Repair, Don't Replace (if possible):** Prioritize repairing historic materials and features over replacing them. If repair isn't feasible, replace with new materials that match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities.
 - Simply put: Fix it, don't trash it. If you must replace, match it exactly.
5. **Protect Distinctive Craftsmanship:** Preserve distinctive historic features and examples of skilled craftsmanship.
 - Simply put: Value the original builder's work.
6. **New Additions: Be Compatible but Distinguishable:** New additions or alterations should be designed to be compatible with the historic building in terms of size, scale, color, material, and character. However, they should also be clearly distinguishable from the historic fabric.
 - Simply put: New work should fit in, but not pretend to be old. It should ideally be reversible.
7. **Protect Historic Site & Environment:** Preserve the historic relationship of the building to its site and its surrounding environment. Don't significantly alter the landscape or setting unless it's for an identified historic purpose.
 - Simply put: Consider the building's surroundings and overall context.
8. **Safeguard Archeological Resources:** If ground disturbance is necessary, ensure that significant archaeological resources are protected and appropriately recovered.
 - Simply put: Dig carefully!
9. **New Work - Compatible Design:** New additions, exterior alterations, or new construction on the site should be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, and proportion of the historic property and its environment.
 - Simply put: Any new parts should blend with the old in look and feel.
10. **Reversible Alterations for New Uses:** Design alterations for a new use to be minimal and, where possible, reversible. This ensures that the historic integrity of the property is not compromised in a way that prevents future restoration.
 - Simply put: Make changes that can be undone later if needed.

***In a Nutshell:** The Standards encourage sensitive improvements that honor a building's past while allowing it to serve modern needs. They emphasize good design, quality materials, and careful craftsmanship to ensure that the historic character is retained for future generations.*

***Remember:** This is a condensed guide. For specific projects, it's always best to consult the full Standards document and seek advice from preservation professionals.*

Section 3: Project Budget & Funding

1. **Total Estimated Project Cost:** \$ _____
2. **Requested DIG Grant Amount:** \$ _____
3. **Source of Matching Funds (Please describe where your matching funds are coming from):**
 - [] Owner Investment/Cash
 - [] Bank Loan (*Please provide letter proving line of credit from financial institution*)
 - [] Other (*Please specify:* _____)
