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The Keeper shall notify the petitioner and the applicable State Historic Preservation Officer, Federal Preservation Officer, or person or local government where there is no approved State Historic Preservation Program, of his decision. The State Historic Preservation Officer or Federal Preservation Officer transmitting the petition shall notify the petitioner, the owner(s), and the chief elected local official in writing of the decision. The Keeper will provide such notice for petitions from persons or local governments where there is no approved State Historic Preservation Program. The general notice may be used for properties with more than 50 owners. If the general notice is used it shall be published in one or more newspapers with general circulation in the area of the nomination.

(k) The Keeper may remove a property from the National Register on his own motion on the grounds established in paragraph (a) of this section, except for those properties listed in the National Register prior to December 13, 1980, which may only be removed from the National Register on the grounds established in paragraph (a)(1) of this section. In such cases, the Keeper will notify the nominating authority, the affected owner(s) and the applicable chief elected local official and provide them an opportunity to comment. Upon removal, the Keeper will notify the nominating authority of the basis for the removal. The State Historic Preservation Officer, Federal Preservation Officer, or person or local government which nominated the property shall notify the owner(s) and the chief elected local official of the removal.

(l) No person shall be considered to have exhausted administrative remedies with respect to removal of a property from the National Register until the Keeper has denied a petition for removal pursuant to this section.

PART 61—PROCEDURES FOR STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 64 FR 11742, Mar. 9, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§61.1 Authorization.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*):

(a) Requires the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to promulgate regulations for:

(1) Approving and overseeing State historic preservation programs;

(2) Certifying local governments to carry out the purposes of the Act;

(3) Ensuring that applicable State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) allocate to certified local governments (CLGs) a share of grants that the SHPOs receive under the Act; and

(4) Assisting Indian tribes in preserving their particular ''historic properties'' (as defined by the Act);

(b) Directs the Secretary to administer a program of grants-in-aid to States and Indian tribes for historic preservation projects and programs that the Secretary has approved; and

(c) Requires the Secretary to make available information concerning professional standards, methods, and techniques for the preservation of ''historic properties'' (as defined by the Act) and the administration of historic preservation programs.

§61.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) All terms that the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, defines have the same meaning in the regulations in this part that the statute provides; see especially sections 101(a)(1)(A), 101(b), 101(c)(4), 108, and 301.

(b) *Act* means the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

(c) *Chief elected local official* means the elected head of a local government.

(d) *The Secretary's Standards* means only the ''Standards'' portions and not the ''Guidelines'' portions of ''the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.'' The Secretary's Standards provide broad national principles of archeological and historic preservation practices and methods. ''The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation'' also contains ''the Secretary's Guidelines'' which provide broad national guidance on how to apply ''the Secretary's Standards.''

(e) *State historic preservation program* or *State program* means a State government organization or program meeting the requirements that section 101(b) of the Act specifies.

§ 61.3 Implementation of this part.

(a) *National Park Service policy of management by exception.* The National Park Service (NPS) will administer the regulations in this part in such a way (and where feasible) as to:

(1) Limit the use of direct Federal management review procedures to high risk situations, to new programs, or to activities that are appropriate for the Federal Government to oversee;

(2) Presume that State, tribal, and local government historic preservation officials manage their programs in an accountable way unless situations indicate the contrary; and

(3) Rely to the maximum extent feasible on State, tribal, and local government systems of financial and program management that meet Federal standards. At the discretion of the Secretary, each State, tribal, and local government may substitute its own fiscal audit and management systems for the Secretary's comparable fiscal audit and management requirements, so long as the State, tribal, or local government system establishes and maintains accounting standards substantially similar to Federal standards and provides for independent peer review.

(b) *The Secretary's Standards.* NPS will use the Secretary's Standards as technical performance standards for matters covered by this part. NPS may also use as technical performance standards (for matters covered by this part) additional guidance that NPS identifies and provides from time to time after appropriate consultation and notice.

(c) Each State historic preservation program staff member, State Historic Preservation Review Board (Review Board) member, and certified local government (CLG) historic preservation review commission (Commission) member whom the Secretary has approved as meeting ''the Secretary's (Historic Preservation) Professional Qualifications Standards'' will retain that status, regardless of subsequent revisions to those Standards, until such time as that individual no longer works in that program, or serves on that Review Board, or serves on that Commission with which that individual was affiliated as of the date of that individual's approval.

(d) You may obtain publications and other information mentioned in this part by contacting: Heritage Preservation Services, National Center for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnership Programs, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW (NC Suite 200), Washington, D.C. 20240 or via the National Park Service Home Page for cultural programs at *http://www.cr.nps.gov*.

§ 61.4 State programs.

(a) For a State to participate in the program that this part describes, the Governor must appoint and designate a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to administer the State historic preservation program.

(b) It is the responsibility of the SHPO to carry out the duties and activities that section 101 (b)(3) of the Act describes. In performing those duties and activities:

(1) The SHPO must carry out a historic preservation planning process that includes the development and implementation of a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan that provides guidance for effective decision making about historic property preservation throughout the State.

(2) The SHPO, in addition to surveying and maintaining inventories of historic properties, may also obtain:

(i) Comparative data valuable in determining the National Register eligibility of properties;