

Mitigation for Adverse Effects: Examples

When federal projects, adversely affect historic properties, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that agencies consider ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts. If avoidance and minimization are not feasible, the federal agency, SHPO, and other consulting parties agree to preservation-minded mitigation that is captured in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). While mitigation cannot fully compensate for the loss of historic properties, it provides an opportunity to preserve and document the past for the public's education and appreciation.

Appropriate mitigation is project-specific, and takes into consideration project impacts and the needs of the local community. Mitigation may include documenting historic properties before they are demolished; creating websites, displays, and brochures; archaeological investigations; holding public education events; or any number of other activities. There is no formula for mitigation. Ultimately, it is what all parties agree is appropriate. Examples of mitigation products are below.

Documentation:

Documenting historic properties with reports, photos, maps, and drawings is the most common type of mitigation, and is frequently just one component of mitigation. Projects may complete [National Park Service documentation standards](#) or the Oregon SHPO documentation standards. Documentation should be shared with state and local libraries and historic repositories, and online whenever possible.

National Register Nominations:

In some cases, it may be appropriate to list a similar property in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination document records the history of the property, and the designation allows the owner to take advantage of state and federal grant and tax programs.

Brochures, Displays, Interpretive Panels, & Websites:

A key goal of mitigation is to educate the public about historic resources. Brochures, exhibits, interpretive panels, and websites are effective ways of achieving this goal.

Management Documents & More:

Mitigation can include creating management plans for the continued use and maintenance of a historic resource. These plans allow for continued changes to the resource, but establish guidelines for ensuring that the historic appearance is maintained. In many cases, these documents can be written to streamline future consultation. Mitigation can also include digitizing archival records, including newspapers and making them publicly available through the [University of Oregon's Historic Oregon Newspaper website](#). Projects can also establish funding for future preservation projects, or host a farewell event to the historic property where the community can share oral histories and historic photographs.