

## Frequently Asked Questions

Who should communities contact to mitigate damage to historic preservation and cultural resources?

- ◆ Your local emergency management agency
- ◆ Your local preservation planner

Who should communities contact for assistance if a disaster has damaged historic properties or cultural institutions in their community?

- ◆ Your local preservation organization
- ◆ Your State/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- ◆ The Heritage Emergency National Task Force
- ◆ FEMA\*



\*FEMA may only provide financial assistance if the President has declared a major disaster and the applicant and facility are eligible under one of FEMA's programs.

"Families Grieve the Loss of History"  
Winnipeg Free Press,  
May 10, 1997.  
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## Contacts and Resources

### Heritage Emergency National Task Force

Jane Long, Director  
Heritage Preservation  
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Washington, DC 20006  
E-mail: [jlong@heritagepreservation.org](mailto:jlong@heritagepreservation.org)  
National Task Force Webpage:  
<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/taskfer.htm>

### PUBLICATIONS

To order, contact the National Task Force.

- ◆ *Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel*  
(Toll free number: 1-888-979-2233)
- ◆ *Caring for Your Family Treasures* by Jane S. Long and Richard W. Long
- ◆ *Resources for Recovery: Post-Disaster Aid for Cultural Institutions*



### FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources  
Program Web Page:  
<http://www.fema.gov/hp>

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or economic status. Anyone who believes he/she has been discriminated against should contact the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-525-

## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# Historic Preservation & Cultural Resources

## Integrating historic preservation and cultural resource considerations into FEMA's mission and programs



# Purpose

The goal of FEMA's Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Program is to address the needs of communities in preventing, responding to and recovering from the devastating effects of disasters



Tornado Damage,  
Stoneville, NC, 1998.  
FEMA Photo

on historic properties and cultural resources. Our program works in concert with FEMA's

primary mission of reducing the loss of life

and property to all types of hazards.

While a considerable portion of our program focuses on satisfying FEMA's responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, the program also provides technical and educational assistance to communities in partnership with other federal agencies and private national heritage organizations.

## How do disasters affect historic properties and cultural resources?

Historic properties and cultural resources are integral parts of our nation's communities. Their loss in a disaster may have significant effects on the local economy and the overall historic identity of a community. In addition, historic properties actively function as schools, bridges, community buildings, museums and residences. Damage to these properties may eradicate some of the community's most vital infrastructure.

## What types of resources in my community might be historic?

- ◆ Buildings, such as residences, libraries, schools, courthouses, train stations
- ◆ Objects, such as monuments and sculptures
- ◆ Structures, such as bridges, canals and barns
- ◆ Local records, maps and artifacts



CSX Train Station,  
Franklin, VA, 1999.  
FEMA Photo.

- ◆ Groupings of similar buildings or districts that are residential, industrial, business, farming, academic or other related use
- ◆ Facilities along waterways or in areas where there is high potential for archeological sites
- ◆ Facilities in areas known to have religious or cultural significance to a specific group

## What can you do to encourage mitigation activities for historic and cultural resources in your community?

- ◆ Provide your local newspaper with press releases on protecting historic properties and cultural resources
- ◆ Encourage a local newspaper or other media to focus a story on resources previously lost to disaster
- ◆ Partner with local preservation organizations, museums and historical societies to develop ways to educate the public on mitigation techniques
- ◆ Ask a local official speak about the importance of disaster preparedness and mitigation in museums/cultural institutions

