

Susan L. Henry Renaud

# Preservation Planning

## Ensuring a Future for Our Past

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**I**n a nutshell, planning is the process of figuring out where you want to go, evaluating where you are now, and identifying how you can reach your destination—sort of like an American Automobile Association "Trip-Tik" into the future. This generally holds true, whether it's vacation planning, retirement planning, project planning, land-use planning, organizational planning, or any other kind of planning one could mention. There are as many kinds of plans and planning as there are plan-makers and planning situations.

This issue of *CRM* focuses on preservation planning—sometimes called historic preservation planning, cultural resource management planning, or heritage management planning. This is the planning that we do to help us identify, evaluate, protect, and manage historic and cultural resources, such as historic buildings and structures, historic districts, historic and cultural landscapes, prehistoric and historic archeological sites, and other physical places of historic and cultural importance. The articles in this issue represent just the tip of the iceberg of the variety of plan-makers and planning situations. These articles describe innovative preservation planning in local communities and at the state and federal levels, by coalitions of government agencies and citizens' groups.

The planning approaches discussed in almost all of these articles share a few common features—they offer different and unique responses to specific planning and preservation situations, they involved partnerships between citizens and government, and they produced effective tools for protecting valued historic and cultural resources. The planning locations in these articles range from the mid-Atlantic, upper-Midwest, Southwest, Northwest, and Pacific

regions of the United States. In addition, two articles offer more general discussions of preservation planning issues associated with the planning role of local preservation commissions and the role of historic contexts in preservation planning.

As a number of these articles show, local community planners are becoming increasingly knowledgeable about historic preservation. Strengthening ties between local planning and local preservation programs can greatly benefit both. To learn more about local community planning, visit the web site of the American Planning Association at <[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)>. Of importance to historic preservation planning at the local and state levels, APA has adopted a Policy Guide on Historic and Cultural Resources (available under the "Legislation and Policy" section on the web site). APA has also incorporated recommendations for preservation planning into its multi-year "Growing Smart<sup>SM</sup>" research project to modernize state planning laws (found under the "Planning Research" section).

This issue of *CRM* does not explain how to do preservation planning in your particular situation, but hopefully it will provide you with ideas that will not only make you think in new ways about planning, but also will be useful in your planning efforts. For more information, please visit the web site addresses mentioned in some of the articles, or you may be interested in visiting the preservation planning web site for Heritage Preservation Services, National Park Service at <[www2.cr.nps.gov/pad](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/pad)>.

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