



Fighting for your Historic Post Office: Guidance for APWU Locals

Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), if a property is deemed eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places, any federal agency seeking to take action that would affect the historic property is required to consult with parties interested in the effect of the agency's action.

The U.S. Postal Service is also subject to this obligation and therefore must consult with additional interested parties during the sale, disposition or other action affecting a historic post office.

To find out if your post office is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, visit www.nps.gov/nr/. Click on "Database/Research" tab in the left column to search the database to discover whether your post office has been listed. If your post office is not currently listed on the National Register it may be nominated to the National Register if it meets the National Park Service's criteria for eligibility. To view the evaluation criteria visit www.achp.gov/nrcriteria.html.

If your post office has been designated as a historic property and the USPS has slated your post office for sale, closure, relocation or discontinuance, you may initiate procedures that provide additional safeguards for the protection of historic properties.

Under Section 106 (of 36 CFR Part 800) the historic preservation review process requires the responsible Federal agency must:

- First - Determine whether its undertaking could affect a historic property.
- Second - Determine the scope of appropriate historical identification efforts.
- Third - Make an assessment of adverse effects on the identified historic property.
- Fourth – Consult with relevant parties (such as members of the public and local governments) to resolve the adverse effects. Consultation may result in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); however, the federal agency may terminate consultations if it is found to be unproductive.
- Fifth – Proceed with its undertaking under the terms of the MOA if one is executed.

If you wish to challenge the sale, disposition or other action affecting a postal facility listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contact your State Historic Preservation Officer for more information. Nonprofit and community organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation may be of additional assistance.

To view regulations on the protection of historic properties, see 36 CFR 800. For a summary of the process on protecting historic properties under Section 106, visit www.achp.gov/106summary.html.

To find your State Historic Preservation Office visit www.ncshpo.org/find/index.htm.

To view regulations regarding the discontinuous of post offices, see 39 CFR 241.3.

To view regulations regarding the expansion, relocation and construction of post offices, see 39 CFR 241.4.