5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

5 – 50 Points

Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2026. A version of this action from the prior program year is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow.

Objective

Proactively plan for and implement projects to project your community's historic resources for education and reuse.

Complementary Action:

- Assess Climate Vulnerability

What to Do

Best practices for historic places can be found within the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places. Technical assistance is available from Preservation Connecticut; see Sustainable CT's no-cost assistance page for more details.

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Identify multiple priority historic assets within your community and actions required to sustain their long-term viability. All assets should be listed regardless of public or private ownership. Actions are only required for assets that are municipally-owned; they should be specific to each asset listed. Please include a short description of each location and note if the location is privately or municipally owned. **(10 points)**

   Assets may include:

   - Historic buildings,
   - Parks,
   - Natural resources,
   - View-sheds,
   - Public spaces,
   - Stone walls,
   - Other

   Submit: The list of priority historic resources and the list of actions required to sustain their long-term viability. The State Historic Preservation Office can help pay for such services. If your list was created more than three years ago, also include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

2. For at least one historic asset in your municipality, perform a conditions assessment, feasibility study, or long-term maintenance plan that uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places. Include in the assessment the sustainability of each building present, possibility of energy retrofits, vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change, etc. You may assess the viability for up to three different assets. **(10 points per asset, up to 3 assets or 30 points)**

Submit: A completed worksheet and the conditions assessment, feasibility study, or long-term maintenance plan that uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places for each historic resource listed in your inventory. The State Historic Preservation Office can help pay for such services. If your assessment was completed more than three years ago, include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

3. Sponsor or host an educational workshop or program to educate owners of historic homes on how to manage their historic building(s) sustainably (for example, through energy audits or energy efficiency upgrades). Educational workshops must have taken place in the last three years; current, long-term educational programs that provide ongoing information are also eligible for points. Preservation Connecticut and the State Historic Preservation Office offer these workshops and may be able to assist your municipality. **(5 points)**

   Submit: A brief overview of outreach (suggested 5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any); date of event (if applicable); and at least one example of educational materials disseminated in the last three years, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletters, presentations, or digital communications. For websites, submit both a hyperlink and a screenshot of the relevant webpage(s).

4. Achieve "Certified Local Government" status. See the Certified Local Government Program on the CT Department of Economic and Community Development website for additional information on how to work towards your certification. Certified Local Government status may unlock grant opportunities and other support for preservation activities in your community. **(5 points)**

   Submit: Proof of recognition from the National Park Service regarding attainment of ***Certified Local Government*** status.

Engaging Partners

Sustainable CT encourages regional collaboration and other forms of partnership. For every action, please complete the "Partners" box in your submission, indicating the name(s) of any municipalities and/or organizations you partnered with (if any) and a brief description of your municipality's role. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. For additional information, please see the "Partners Guidance Document".

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the planning and zoning, parks and recreation, public works, and economic development departments could be helpful in implementing this action. Your historic preservation commission, planning and zoning commission, energy commission, local historic society, local art league, CT Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Culture and Tourism, and Preservation Connecticut could help implement this action.

Funding

If available, below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the Sustainable CT Grants Portal, which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the Support for Your Town page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- Urban Act Grant Program
- Sustainable CT Community Match Fund
- State Funding Readiness Project

Funding outlined below may be beneficial to creating the historic inventory and/or implementing action items listed in your inventory.

- Historic Restoration Fund Grant
- Survey and Planning Grants for Historic Inventories
- Planning and Pre-Development Grants
- Partners in Preservation Grant

Funding available to communities with Certified Local Government status:

- Historic Preservation Enhancement Grants (HPEG)
- Supplemental Certified Local Government Grants

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- CT Trust for Historic Preservation, "Inventory of Local Historic Districts and Local Historic Properties, Connecticut"
- Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Cultural Resources Information System
- Preservation Connecticut, Circuit Riders
- National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, "Sustainability"
- National Park Service, "NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline"
- National Preservation Institute, "What are 'Cultural Resources'?"
- GSA
- Certified Local Governments: CT Department of Economic and Community Development
- National Park Service - Certified Local Government Program
- National Park Service, "The Treatment of Historic Properties"
- Energize CT
- Sample Preservation Restriction/Easement
- National Trust for Historic Preservation, "Climate and Culture"
- National Park Service, "National Park Service Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy"
- New London Fire Department Headquarters Building, Conditions Assessment Report
- The First Church of Christ Congregational East Haddam, Connecticut Conditions Assessment Report

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- CT Trust For Historic Preservation
- CT Main Street
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, Office of Culture and Tourism
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, State Historic Preservation Office
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- American Alliance of Museums
- National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
- National Park Service
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- National Endowment for the Humanities

Why This Matters

Every community has a variety of historic resources that include buildings, landscapes, monuments, art installations, archaeological sites, stone walls, and public spaces. The reuse of buildings is ultimately recycling them for a new use and utilizing the embodied energy it contains. This embodied energy, which is the measurement of energy used in the process of building, from the extraction of raw materials like harvesting trees - to the final installation of the finished material, is saved when a building is reused. Protecting historic resources also retains the touchstones of communities; places that have existed for decades anchor a community and enhance the quality of life for its residents and visitors. Proactive planning for preservation allows a municipality to know what they have, why it's important to the people and environment, and welcome potential opportunities for new uses.

Benefits

Historic resources perform a vital function in a community by:

- Contributing to local community character,
- Instilling attachment to place,
- Attracting a talented workforce, and

- Encouraging tourism.

By protecting local historic resources from a host of threats, (for instance, climate change), you ensure that present and future generations can enjoy these sites.

CT Success Stories

- Cheshire - Oct 2022 Certification
- Darien - Oct 2022 Certification
- Wilton - Oct 2022 Certification
- Granby - Sep 2023 Certification
- Branford - Sep 2023 Certification
- Bristol - Sep 2023 Certification
- Haddam - May 2024 Certification
- Marlborough - May 2024 Certification
- Old Saybrook - May 2024 Certification
- Thomaston - May 2024 Certification
- Southbury - Oct 2024 Certification
- Suffield - Oct 2024 Certification
- Vernon - May 2025 Certification
- Mansfield - Oct 2025 Certification
- Southbury - Oct 2025 Certification