

2017 Disaster Planning for Historic Properties - Phase II

Bedford, Cameron, and Monroe Counties & the City of Philadelphia

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



CORE COMPETENCIES

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Consensus Building
- Inter-Departmental Cooperation
- Strategic Planning
- Transition Planning
- Workshop Facilitation

PROJECT SUMMARY

VPC was selected by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) to conduct a pilot risk assessment of the historic and cultural resources in four of Pennsylvania's jurisdictions: Bedford, Cameron, and Monroe Counties, and the City of Philadelphia. A flood hazard vulnerability and multi-hazard mitigation strategy was developed for each county's identified historic resources. The goal of the project is to enhance the capability of vulnerable historic and cultural resources to withstand the impact of natural hazards such as flooding extreme winds, and winter storms, while still maintaining their historic integrity. The project was funded by a grant from the National Park Service and administered by PHMC.

PROJECT DETAILS

VPC delivered a comprehensive look at the flood and hazard vulnerability of historic and cultural resources in four jurisdictions across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Over 150 properties were identified across the four study areas as high priority properties, based on GIS analysis, architectural review, and hazard assessment. Historic buildings in the 100-year floodplain that are at higher risk from flooding based on depth of flood estimates were especially highlighted for mitigation.

A comprehensive list of mitigation actions was developed to help reduce long-term vulnerability to flood and other hazard damage for each of the at-risk representative properties based on its age, style, building materials, architectural features, and risk. Actions for specific building types and styles were designed to be applicable to other buildings of the same type and circumstance, in any jurisdiction.

VPC focused on Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR 68) to avoid and minimize potential adverse effects to historic properties when proposing alterations or hazard mitigation recommendations of any kind.

VPC also, developed a historic preservation element to be incorporated into PEMA's All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Standard Operating Guide (SOG).

Finally, VPC conducted a Plan Integration exercise to identify gaps in specific county plans and ordinances and made recommendations for the inclusion of historic preservation considerations into the planning process. The final County report serves as a Cultural Resources Annex to the four county Hazard Mitigation Plans, and includes goals objectives, and preservation-based hazard mitigation actions.