

2017 Disaster Planning for Historic Properties Phase 2: Bedford, Cameron, and Monroe Counties & the City of Philadelphia

DISASTER MANAGEMENT



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: >\$150,000

TIMEFRAME: Twelve (12) Months

DELIVERABLES: The Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy for Pennsylvania's Historic and Cultural Resources Annex for the State All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, and a SOG for other counties in the Commonwealth to generate future assessments and actions.

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Plan Integration
- GIS Analysis
- Risk Assessment
- Hazard Mitigation Planning

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting
Indiana University of
Pennsylvania (IUP)
EHT Tracerics

CLIENT CONTACT

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

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, Monroe, and the City of Philadelphia. A flood hazard vulnerability and multi-hazard mitigation strategy was developed for each county's identified 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 SUMMARY

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 representative properties for each at-risk building, 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 of any kind.

VPC developed recommendations for a historic preservation element for PEMA's All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Standard Operating Guide (SOG).

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