

preservation plan.

In developing a historic preservation plan to guide statewide activities, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office began by assembling a planning committee of staff members representing a wide range of expertise. After researching and discussing various planning methods, the planning committee decided on two goals:

- To provide a strong, clear statement about promoting historic preservation.
- To generate input from all those interested in or affected by historic preservation activities.

Public Participation in the Ohio Historic Preservation Plan

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office recognizes that public input is invaluable in creating, implementing, and evaluating the state's preservation plan. The public can identify historic preservation needs and assess our role and that of historic preservation organizations throughout the state. They can offer insights into the major threats, problems, and challenges historic preservation faces now and in the future. Public participation also creates new advocates for historic preservation.

Our planning process brought together historic preservationists and related interest groups to identify not only key issues in Ohio but also the directions we should emphasize. To facilitate this process, we held an initial vision meeting and five regional public meetings.

The vision meeting set the tone for an ongo-


ing public participation process in developing the historic preservation plan. The participants represented a cross-section of state and local preservation organizations and government agencies, cultural resource management and land-use planning professionals, elected officials and Certified Local Government representatives. The participants represented the views of those who will implement the plan and those affected by its implementation. They had widely varying views on the value of historic resources, their place in the community and whether and how they should be preserved.

Five public meetings in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Perrysburg, and Marietta resulted in broad-based public and professional involvement. Participants generated ideas through brainstorming and discussion, resulting in nearly 1000 comments. By combining input from our in-house planning committee with public input, we developed the specific goals and objectives for the plan. Through a series of staff retreats, we gathered further input on historic preservation issues and the plan.

The in-house planning committee used comments from the meetings to develop objectives and suggested actions for six statewide preservation goals. The suggested actions describe activities that everyone can take to further historic preservation goals in their communities or at the state level. The goals, objectives, and recommended actions can be found in Chapter 6, A Call for Action.

Implementing the Plan

On-going partnerships continue to link the



Chapter 1

The Planning Process



Ohio Historic Preservation Office with various individuals and organizations that participated in the development of the plan. These partnerships serve a valuable role in outreach and implementation of the plan. We held a second vision meeting to discuss specific implementation strategies, including education, public awareness and networking. We continue to seek input from these individuals and groups to evaluate and monitor the plan.

We have also been implementing and evaluating the plan through our annual work plans. This ensures that we are meeting the needs of our constituents and helps us assess our office's level of productivity, while measuring the progress we are making toward achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Despite OHPO's commitment to achieving the goals of the plan, its success will be determined at the local level, in cities, villages and rural areas across the state. To be successful, historic preservation activities require cooperation and coordination with our preservation partners. As we have noted before preservation works best at the local level.

Preservation Planning in Your Community

Your community can plan for historic preservation by using the state plan as a guide. If your community does not have a plan that addresses historic preservation issues or you do not plan to revise your master plan in the near future, you can develop a separate interim or stand-alone preservation plan. The interim plan should include a statement of the communities' goals for its historic properties and the actions it will take to reach those goals.

As with the state plan for historic preserva-

tion, planning at the local level should include the following:

- *Document the prehistory and history reflected in the historic properties of the community.* Before planning for historic properties, a community must identify them. A thorough and up-to-date survey of historic properties is critical. A community's history is found not only in architectural landmarks but also in middle-and-working class neighborhoods, modest commercial groupings, industrial structures, farm buildings, bridges, landscapes, and in the often hidden archaeological value of seemingly vacant land. Developing a map and addressing a list of known historic properties from surveys, local historic districts and landmarks and the National Register of Historic Places is a starting point. Either before or after a plan is initiated, a community may conduct more detailed historic context studies of particular areas, themes or types of properties, to address special preservation problems or to nominate them to the National Register.
- *Assess the current situation in the community.* A community's plan should look at the factors that affect historic properties. These include economics, zoning, building codes, housing policies, road improvement plans, and potential and existing financial incentives for rehabilitation, capital spending patterns, local legislation, and the general track record for preservation in the community. The plan also should consider the various private entities that affect historic properties, either negatively or positively, and examine the possibilities of

shared interests and joint efforts.

- *Develop community goals for historic preservation.* A community must state why it wants to preserve its historic properties and what its priorities are. These goals should stem from direct public participation in open meetings and citizen advisory groups. A basis for these goals could be the six goals described in this plan. These goals, along with what is known about the historic properties and their current situation, become the foundation for developing objectives and strategies for historic preservation. They should include the approaches that seem most suitable, their use, and the implementers.

