

Historic preservation



Historic preservation (US), **heritage preservation** or **heritage conservation** (UK), is an endeavor that seeks to preserve, conserve and protect buildings, objects, landscapes or other artifacts of historical significance. It is a philosophical concept that became popular in the twentieth century, which maintains that cities as products of centuries' development should be obligated to protect their patrimonial legacy.^[1] The term refers specifically to the preservation of the built environment, and not to preservation of, for example, primeval forests or wilderness.^[2]

This article is about the preservation of cultural heritage. For cultural heritage as a concept, see [Cultural heritage](#). For vocation and practice of managing cultural heritage, see [Cultural heritage management](#).





Demolition of the former [Penn Station](#) concourse raised public awareness about preservation

History

England

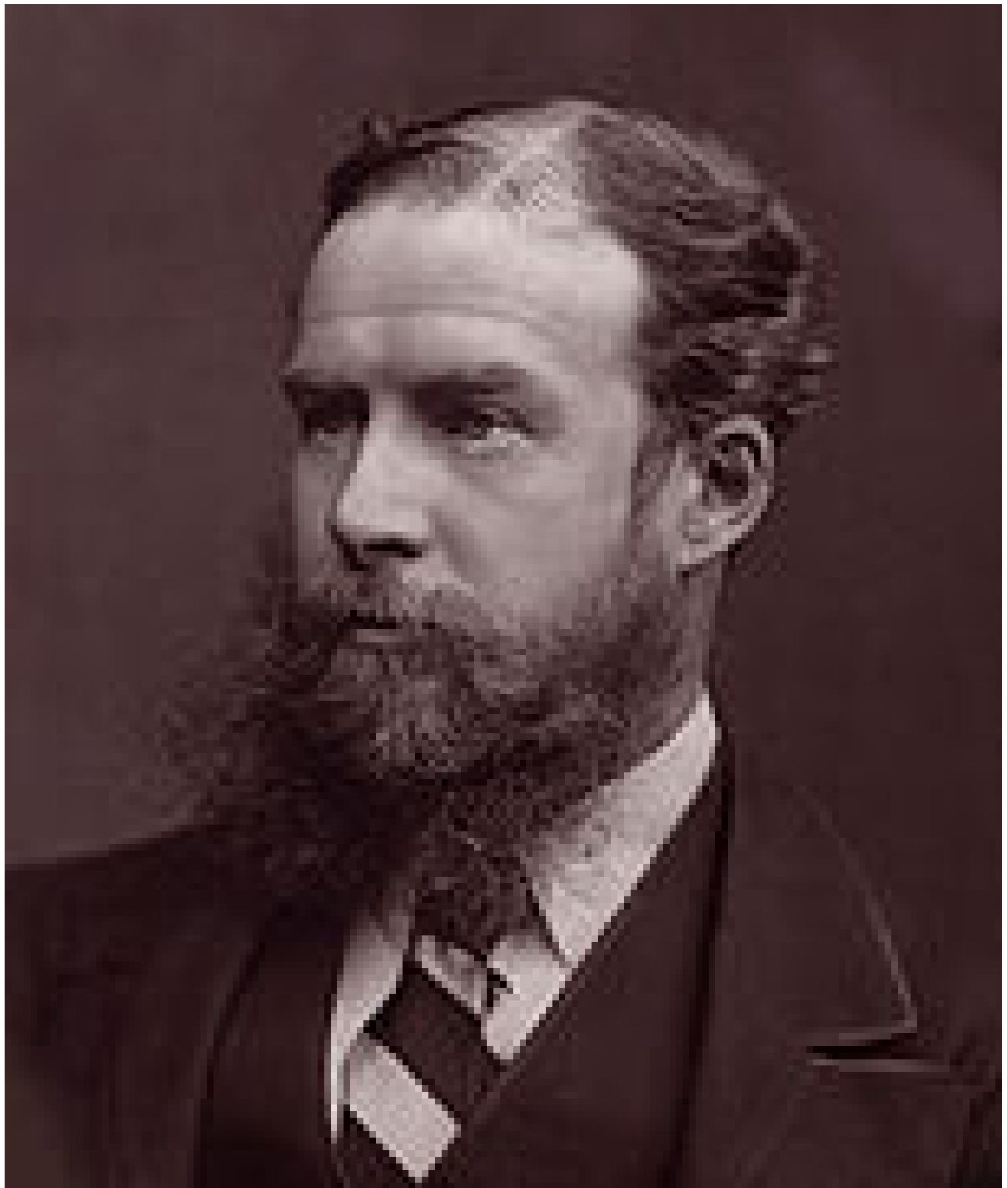
In [England](#), [antiquarian](#) interests were a familiar gentleman's pursuit since the mid 17th century, developing in tandem with the rise in scientific curiosity. Fellows of the [Royal Society](#) were often also Fellows of the [Society of Antiquaries](#)^{*[citation needed]*}.




The ruins of Berkhamsted castle (viewed from its Norman motte) and Berkhamsted Common were the location of two successful early preservation events in the nineteenth century. (Enlarged: A train passes Berkhamsted castle, on an embankment that was once part of the castle's outer defences.)

Many historic sites were damaged as the railways began to spread across the UK; including [Trinity Hospital](#) and its church in Edinburgh, [Furness Abbey](#), [Berwick](#) and [Northampton Castle](#), and the ancient walls of York, Chester and Newcastle. In 1833 [Berkhamsted Castle](#) became the first historic site in England officially protected by statute under the London and Birmingham Railway Acts of 1833–1837, though the new railway line in 1834 did demolish the castle's gatehouse and outer earthworks to the south.^{*[3]*}

Another early preservation event also occurred at [Berkhamsted](#). In 1866, Lord Brownlow who lived at [Ashridge](#), tried to enclose the adjoining Berkhamsted Common with 5-foot (2 m) steel fences in an attempt to claim it as part of his estate. In England from early Anglo-Saxon times, [Common land](#) was an area of land which the local community could use as a resource. Across England between 1660 and 1845, 7 million acres of Common land had been [enclosed](#) by private land owners by application to parliament. On the night of 6 March 1866, [Augustus Smith](#) MP led gangs of local folk and hired men from London's East End in [direct action](#) to break the enclosure fences and protect Berkhamsted Common for the people of Berkhamsted in what became known nationally as the Battle of Berkhamsted Common.^{[4][5][6]} In 1870, [Sir Robert Hunter](#) (later co-founder of the [National Trust](#) in 1895) and the [Commons Preservation Society](#) succeed in legal action that ensured protection of Berkhamsted Common and other open spaces threatened with enclosure. In 1926 the common was acquired by the National Trust.^{[7][8][9]}





[John Lubbock](#), MP was a moving force behind the implementation of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882.

By the mid 19th century, much of [Britain's](#) unprotected cultural heritage was being slowly destroyed. Even well-meaning archaeologists like [William Greenwell](#) excavated sites with virtually no attempt at their preservation, [Stonehenge](#) came under increasing threat by the 1870s. Tourists were chipping off parts of the stones or carving their initials into the rock. The private owners of the monument decided to sell the land to the [London and South-Western Railway](#) as the monument was "not the slightest use to anyone now"^{[[citation needed](#)]}. [John Lubbock](#), an MP and botanist emerged as the champion of the country's national heritage. In 1872 he personally bought private land that housed ancient monuments in [Avebury](#), [Silbury Hill](#) and elsewhere, from the owners who were threatening to have them cleared away to make room for housing. Soon, he began campaigning in Parliament for legislation to protect monuments from destruction. This finally led to the legislative milestone under the [Liberal](#) government of [William Gladstone](#) of the [Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882](#). The first government appointed inspector for this job was the archaeologist [Augustus Pitt-Rivers](#). This legislation was regarded by conservative political elements as a grave assault on the individual rights of property of the owner, and consequently, the inspector only had the power to identify endangered landmarks and offer to purchase them from the owner with his consent. The Act only covered ancient monuments and explicitly did not cover historic buildings or structures. In 1877 the [Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings](#) was founded by the [Arts and Crafts](#) designer [William Morris](#) to prevent the destruction of historic buildings, followed by the [National Trust](#) in 1895 that bought estates from their owners for preservation.^[10]

The [Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882](#) had only given legal protection to prehistoric sites, such as ancient [tumuli](#). The [Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1900](#) took this further by empowering the government's Commissioners of Work and local County Councils to protect a wider range of properties. Further updates were made in [1910](#).





Tattershall Castle, preserved at personal expense by [Lord Curzon](#) and a catalyst for [broader heritage protection laws](#) .

[Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire](#), a medieval [manor house](#) had been put up for sale in 1910 with its greatest treasures, the huge medieval fireplaces, still intact. However, when an American bought the house they were ripped out and packaged up for shipping. The former viceroy of [India](#), [George Curzon, 1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston](#), was outraged at this cultural destruction and stepped in to buy back the castle and reinstall the fireplaces. After a nationwide hunt for them they were finally found in London and returned.^[11] He restored the castle^[12] and left it to the [National Trust](#) on his death in 1925. His experience at Tattershall influenced Lord Curzon to push for tougher heritage protection laws in Britain, which saw passage as the [Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act 1913](#).

The new structure involved the creation of the Ancient Monuments Board to oversee the protection of such monuments. Powers were given for the board, with Parliamentary approval, to issue preservation orders to protect monuments, and extended the public right of access to these. The term "monument" was extended to include the lands around it, allowing the protection of the wider landscape.^[13]

THE NATIONAL TRUST



This section **relies largely or entirely upon a single source**. (October 2017)

The [National Trust](#) was founded in 1894 by [Octavia Hill](#), [Sir Robert Hunter](#), and [Hardwicke Canon Rawnsley](#) as the first organisation of its type in the world. Its formal purpose is:

The preservation for the benefit of the Nation of lands and [tenements](#) (including buildings) of beauty or historic interest and, as regards lands, for the preservation of their natural aspect, features and animal and plant life. Also the preservation of furniture, pictures and chattels of any description having national and historic or artistic interest.^[14]

In the early days, the Trust was concerned primarily with protecting open spaces and a variety of threatened buildings; its first property was [Alfriston Clergy House](#) and its first [nature reserve](#) was [Wicken Fen](#). Its first archaeological monument was [White Barrow](#). The focus on [country houses](#) and gardens, which now comprise the majority of its most visited properties, came about in the mid 20th century, when it was realised that the private owners of many of these properties were no longer able to afford to maintain them.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1944 and the [Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) took steps toward historic preservation

on an unprecedented scale.^[citation needed] Concern about the demolition of historic buildings arose in institutions such as the pressure group [the Society for the Preservation of Historic Buildings](#), which appealed against demolition and neglect on a case-by-case basis.^[15]

ENGLISH HERITAGE

[English Heritage](#) formed in 1983, is a registered charity that looks after the National Heritage Collection in England.^[16] This comprises over 400 of England's historic buildings, monuments and sites spanning more than 5,000 years of history. Within its portfolio are [Stonehenge](#), [Dover Castle](#), [Tintagel Castle](#) and the best preserved parts of [Hadrian's Wall](#).

Originally English Heritage was the operating name of an executive [non-departmental public body](#) of the [British Government](#), officially titled the [Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England](#), that ran the national system of heritage protection and managed a range of historic properties.^[17] It was created to combine the roles of existing bodies that had emerged from a long period of state involvement in heritage protection. In 1999 the organisation merged with the [Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England](#) and the National Monuments Record (England), bringing together resources for the identification and survey of England's historic environment. On 1 April 2015, English Heritage was divided into two parts: [Historic England](#), which inherited the statutory and protection functions of the old organisation, and the new [English Heritage Trust](#), a charity that would operate the historic properties, and which took on the English Heritage operating name and logo.^{[16][17][18]} The British government gave the new charity an £80 million grant to help establish it as an independent trust, although the historic properties remained in the ownership of the state.

United States

See also: [National Park Service](#) and [Antiquities Act](#)



[Mount Vernon plantation](#), near [Alexandria, Virginia](#)

In the United States one of the first historic preservation efforts was the [Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site](#), in

in the United States one of the first historic preservation efforts was the [Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site](#), in [Newburgh, New York](#). This property has the distinction of being the first-ever property designated and operated as a historic site by a U.S. state, having been so since 1850.

Another early historic preservation undertaking was that of [George Washington's Mount Vernon](#) in 1858.^[19] Founded in 1889, the Richmond, Virginia-based [Preservation Virginia](#) (formerly known as the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities) was the United States' first statewide historic preservation group.^{[20][21]} The [American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society](#) was formed in 1895 as the first American organization of its kind in the United States that did not limit its activities to a single historic place or object. The Society operated as a national organization to: protect the natural scenery and the preservation of historic landmarks; to preserve landmarks and records of the past or present; to erect memorials and promote appreciation of the scenic beauty of America.^[22]

[Charles E. Peterson](#) was an influential figure in the mid-20th century establishing the [Historic American Buildings Survey](#) (HABS), advising on the establishment of [Independence National Historical Park](#), helping with the first graduate degree program in historic preservation in the United States at [Columbia University](#), and author.

The architectural firm of [Simons & Lapham](#) (Albert Simons and [Samuel Lapham](#)) was an influential supporter of the nation's first historic preservation ordinance in [Charleston, South Carolina](#) in 1930, affording that city a regulatory means by which to prevent the destruction of its historic building stock. In 1925, efforts to preserve the historic buildings of the [French Quarter](#) in [New Orleans](#) led to the creation of the Vieux Carré Commission and later, to the adoption of a historic preservation ordinance.^{[23][24]}



The preservation of this historic building in Washington, D.C. resulted in an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation by the local government.^[25]

The US [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#), another privately funded [non-profit organization](#), began in 1949 with a handful of structures and has developed goals that provide "leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities" according to the Trust's mission statement. In 1951 the Trust assumed responsibility for its first museum property, [Woodlawn Plantation](#) in [northern Virginia](#). Twenty-eight sites in all have subsequently become part of the National Trust, representing the [cultural diversity](#) of American history. In New York City, the destruction of [Pennsylvania Station](#) in 1964 shocked many nationwide into supporting preservation. The 1960s proved advantageous with new laws and international agreements extending preservation "from ancient monuments to whole districts and buildings a few decades old."^[26] On an international level, the New York-based [World Monuments Fund](#) was founded in 1965 to preserve historic sites all over the world.

Under the direction of [James Marston Fitch](#), the first advanced-degree historic preservation program began at [Columbia University](#) in 1964.^[27] It became the model on which most other graduate historic preservation programs were created.^[28] Many other programs were to follow before 1980: M.A. in Preservation Planning from Cornell (1975); M.S. in Historic

Preservation from [the University of Vermont](#) (1975); M.S. in Historic Preservation Studies from [Boston University](#) (1976); M.S. in Historic Preservation from [Eastern Michigan University](#) (1979) and M.F.A. in Historic Preservation was one of the original programs at [Savannah College of Art & Design](#). James Marston Fitch also offered guidance and support towards the founding of the Master of Preservation Studies Degree within the Tulane School of Architecture^[29] in 1996.^[30] The M.Sc. in Building Conservation degree program is offered by the School of Architecture at [Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute](#) in Troy, New York. In 2005, Clemson University and the College of Charleston created an M.S. degree program based in Charleston, SC. The first undergraduate programs (B.A.) appeared in 1977 from [Goucher College](#) and [Roger Williams University](#) (then called Roger Williams College), followed by [Mary Washington College](#) in 1979.^[31] As of 2013 there were more than fifty historic preservation programs offering certificates, associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in the United States.^[32] Under the direction of [Jorge Otero-Pailos](#), the first PhD in Historic Preservation in the United States was founded at [Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation](#) in 2018.^[33]

Australia

Further information: [Australian Heritage Council](#)





Melbourne's [APA Building](#) was constructed in Queen Anne style in 1889 and demolished in 1981.

All of Australia's major cities have had historic or heritage preservation establishments and legislation in place since the mid to late 1970s, though destruction or outright demolition of historic buildings continues in most Australian cities to this day, subject to council or planning approval, particularly outside of the city centres in historic neighbourhoods.^{[34][35]} [Melbourne](#) was founded in 1835 and grew enormously in wealth and prosperity following the 1850s [gold rush](#), which resulted in a construction boom: large edifices were erected to serve as public buildings such as libraries, court houses, schools, churches, and offices. This led to a period where Melbourne became known as "[Marvellous Melbourne](#)", boasting the largest collection of Victorian architecture outside of England. However, in the years that followed, and as the thousands of Australian soldiers arrived back from the battlefields following the end of [World War I](#) there emerged a sense of renewed pride and a willingness to forget the dark days of war and distance Australia from its Victorian origins, considered "unfashionable" or "outdated" by some. The Council of the [City of Melbourne](#) was no doubt buoyed by this new nationalistic pride and put in place schemes to modernize the city which included increasing the building height limit and removing some of the Victorian era cast ironwork. In the years leading up to World War II the [Whelan the Wrecker](#) firm had already pulled down thousands of structures in both the city and surrounding suburbs, as Melbourne became particularly conscious of [International Modernism](#). James Paul Whelan's obituary of 1938 suggests that his company had the task of demolishing up to 98% of buildings marked for removal in the city alone.^[36] The rise of this [International Modernism](#) saw a new approach that valued replacing older, elaborate inefficient buildings with new ones. An early example of this was a [City of Melbourne](#) by-law in 1954 that mandated the demolition of all posted [cast-iron](#) verandas,^[37] thought to be dangerous as well as old fashioned, in order to 'clean up' the city before the [1956 Summer Olympics](#).

[Sydney](#) (Australia's oldest city) was also affected by the International Modernism period and also suffered an extensive loss of its Victorian architecture, something that subsisted well into the 1980s. From the 1950s onwards, many of Sydney's handsome [sandstone](#) and masonry buildings were wiped away by architects and developers who built "brown concrete monstrosities" in their place. The 1980s saw "uncomfortable pastiches of facades with no coherence and little artistic merit".^[38] [Green bans](#) in Australian cities such as Sydney and Melbourne came into effect in the 1970s and the [Australian Heritage Commission](#) (AHS), was established by the [Federal Government](#) in 1975 by the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* as the first body to manage natural and cultural heritage in Australia until its demise in 2004.^[39] It was responsible for the [Register of the National Estate](#). The [Australian National Heritage List](#) was established in 2003. Controversy arose in 2016 in Melbourne after the historic Corkman Irish Pub was illegally demolished overnight, resulting in the State Planning Minister pursuing an order (via the Victorian Administrative Appeals Tribunal) for the two-storey pub to be rebuilt.^[40] The site owners were fined [AUD\\$1.325 million](#) after pleading guilty to the process.

In the city of [Adelaide](#), large public protests erupted in the 1980s regarding the 1983 campaign to save the Aurora Hotel in [Hindmarsh Square](#), which had been recommended for listing on the city heritage register but refused because the site was to be redeveloped.^[41] The protest led to the emergence of Aurora Heritage Action, Inc. (AHA), which became the most vocal heritage lobby group in Adelaide during the decade, often working in cooperation with residents' associations and later the National Trust. While governments were urged to protect the traditional character of Adelaide, capital became more widely available for development. The large increase in property development from 1987 increased opposition to further demolition of Adelaide's historic buildings. Local councils and lobbyists alike aimed to expand the horizon of heritage to protect historic precincts across the city, even if buildings within those precincts did not warrant heritage listing. The [Bannon government](#) slowly responded to public demand and introduced historic (conservation) zones through a revision to the Planning Act (1982) in 1989. Not regulated by the Planning Act, the [City of Adelaide](#) endeavoured to create on a similar scheme, which became known as the townscape initiative, facilitating one of the most destructive political debates in the council's history.

Canada

Main article: [Heritage conservation in Canada](#)

In [Canada](#), the phrase "heritage preservation" is sometimes seen as a specific approach to the treatment of historic places and sites, rather than a general concept of conservation. "Conservation" is taken as the more general term, referring to all actions or processes that are aimed at safeguarding the character-defining elements of a cultural resource so as to retain its heritage value and extend its physical life.

Historic objects in Canada may be granted special designation by any of the three levels of government: the [central government](#), the [provincial governments](#), or a [municipal government](#). The [Heritage Canada Foundation](#) acts as Canada's lead advocacy organisation for heritage buildings and landscapes.

The Netherlands

[Victor de Stuers](#) is widely considered the man who started historic preservation in the Netherlands. In 1875 the first national department for conservation was established^[42] and de Stuers was appointed as the first legal secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs as chief of the brand new Department of Arts and Sciences. He was the driving force behind [Monumentenzorg](#) (Foundation for Historic Preservation), helped found the [Rijksmuseum](#) (National Museum) and the [Rijksarchief](#) (National Archives).^{[43][44]}

However, it was not until the 20th century that there was national legislation on historic preservation. In 1961 the [Monumentenwet](#) ("Monuments Act") was passed. It defined that any physical building or space that was at least fifty years old and "which are of general interest because of their beauty, their meaning to science or their social value" and must thus be preserved.^{[45][46]} In 1988 this Act was replaced by the [Monumentenwet 1988](#) ("Monuments Act 1988")^[47] and in 2015 by the [Erfgoedwet](#) ("Heritage Law").^[48]

In 1973, the NGO [Monumentenwacht](#) ("Monument Watch") was founded with the purpose of providing preventative measures of maintenance for historic buildings. As the majority of the historic preservation programs in the Netherlands, this program is decentralized, managed on the provincial level.^[49] Owners of heritage buildings can subscribe to the services of [Monumentenwacht](#) and receive regular visits for inspection. The costs are covered through a combination of national and provincial subsidies.^[50]

A special kind of preservation that takes place in the Netherlands is the preservation of maritime heritage. Maritime trade was the Dutch specialty which shaped much of their culture and as a country that is 50% under sea level the Dutch history is closely intertwined with water.^[51] There are maritime museums in both Amsterdam and Rotterdam that tell the story of the Dutch maritime heritage, but there is not much legal documentation on how to preserve it. For example, according to Sarah Dromgoole,^[52] shipwrecks from [The Dutch East India Company](#) are found all around the world, which are still property of the Netherlands, but the Dutch government rarely takes responsibility for this property that is found outside of their territory.^[53]

North Macedonia

In [North Macedonia](#), historic preservation falls under the overarching category of cultural heritage preservation according to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage (Закон за заштита на културното наследство). According to this law, which the Macedonian Parliament approved in March 2004, there are three types of cultural heritage: immovable, movable, and intangible. Historical preservation is represented by the protection of monuments and monumental entreties under immovable cultural heritage, and historical items under movable cultural heritage.^[54]

Although this Law was the first nation-wide establishment of regulations for historic preservation since North Macedonia gained independence from Yugoslavia on September 8, 1991, several organizations throughout the 20th century have encompassed efforts of historic preservation.

The "Central office for protection of cultural monuments and natural rarities of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia" has existed since 1949. In 1960, the Central Office was renamed to "National office for protection of cultural monuments", and granted the

status of an independent cultural institution, with authority to execute activities of historic preservation. After the establishment of the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage in 2004, the Ministry of Culture once again renamed the office to “National center for conservation” and narrowed down its responsibilities to dealing solely with preservation of immovable cultural heritage.^[55]

Other organizations which have contributed to the efforts of historic preservation are the Macedonian National Committee of ICOMOS and the NI Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture and Museum-Ohrid.

The [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\)](#) established their branch in North Macedonia in 1995 through the initiative of 43 conservationists from Macedonia. The guiding principles of the Macedonian National Committee of ICOMOS are raising the national consciousness about the importance of historic and cultural heritage, decentralization of the discourse about heritage, and effective monitoring of the status of cultural and historic heritage in the country.^[56]

The NI Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture and Museum - Ohrid is the second oldest institutions for historical preservation established in 1952. In 1956 the institute was granted authority to protect movable and immovable cultural and historic heritage in the Ohrid region. The institute has since executed numerous efforts for historic preservation, most notably aiding the recognition of the city of Ohrid as a UNESCO site of cultural heritage in 1979.^[57]

Today, the main authority for historic preservation is the Cultural Heritage Protection Office (Управа за заштита на културно наследство). The Office is an independent governmental organization under the Ministry of Culture, divided into three departments:

1. Identification, Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage
2. Prevention and Supervision
3. Documentation, International Cooperation and Administrative Affairs^[58]

Israel

In Israel, there are currently two laws concerning historic preservation, [Antiquities Law of the State of Israel](#) (1978)^[59] and [Planning and Building Law](#) (1965).^[60] Both laws were adapted from the British law that was implemented during the [British Mandate of Palestine](#).

However, these laws are not comprehensive and limited in scope: the Antiquities Law only applies itself to buildings or artifacts dated before 1700 BC. So while efforts discovering and protecting anything older than 1700 BC are well protected, anything from later historical periods is not under the protection of this law. The Planning and Building Law discusses the overall management and regulation of land use in Israel. It has been through several changes and amendments specifically regarding preservation,^[61] but over the years it hasn't been enforced and many historical sites were destroyed, as the state was prioritizing developmental and economic interests.

During the 1960s, the issue of preservation was gaining public awareness, and as a response to the destruction of [Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium](#) (one of the first educational institutions in Israel) in 1959, a wave of shock and anger led to extensive public debate.^[62]

In 1984, The Council for Conservation of Heritage Sites in Israel was established, at the recommendation of the Knesset and the Committee of Education. Its aims include locating remains of historic settlements, protect and conserve them as well as developing conservation principles that are specific to Israel's historic situations and are aligned with international standards.^[63] The council used to operate under the [Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel](#) but in 2008 registers as an independent non-profit. Today, it is the organization responsible for the most historical preservation endeavors as well as efforts to add amendments to existing laws to provide a comprehensive and effective framework for preservation in Israel.^[64]

A different, separate effort in preservation comes from the [Israeli Defense Force](#) (IDF). The IDF surveyed 94 military bases and found that about 80 of them include sites worth preserving, and for each of these bases there is a preservation plan.^[65] The IDF

is working towards maintaining these building as well as communicating their value to the soldiers in these bases. Buildings include [Knights Templar](#) sites, old military bases used by the British or German or buildings from the Ottoman period.

National Register of Historic Places

Main article: [National Register of Historic Places](#)



THIS PROPERTY
HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[National Register of Historic Places](#) plaque

National Historic Landmark

Main article: [National Historic Landmark](#)

Historic districts

Main article: [Historic district \(United States\)](#)

A historic district in the [United States](#) is a group of buildings, properties, or sites that have been designated by one of several entities on different levels as historically or architecturally significant. Buildings, structures, objects and sites within a historic district are normally divided into two categories, [contributing](#) and non-contributing. Districts greatly vary in size, some having hundreds of structures while others have just a few.

The [U.S. federal government](#) designates historic districts through the [U.S. Department of Interior](#), under the auspices of the [National Park Service](#). Federally designated historic districts are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.^[66] Historic districts allows rural areas to preserve their characters through historic preservation programs. These include "Main Street" programs that can be used to redevelop rural downtowns. Using historic preservation programs as an economic development

tool for local governments in rural areas has enabled some of those areas to take advantage of their history and develop a tourism market that in turn provides funds for maintaining an economic stability that these areas would not have seen otherwise.^{[67][68]}

A similar concept exists in the United Kingdom: a [Conservation area](#) is designated in accordance with the [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) Act 1990](#) in order to protect a zone in which there are buildings of architectural or [cultural heritage](#) interest.

National Parks

Main article: [National Park](#)

In 1835, the English poet [William Wordsworth](#) described the [Lake District](#) as a "sort of national property, in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy."^[69]

It was, however, the United States that led the world in the creation of [National Parks](#), areas of unspoiled natural wilderness, where the intrusion of civilization are intentionally minimal.^[citation needed]

The Department of the Interior designated several areas of [Morristown, New Jersey](#) as the first historic park in the United States national park system. It became designated as the [Morristown National Historical Park](#).^[70] The community had permanent settlements that date to 1715, is termed the military capital of the American Revolution, and contains many designations of sites and locations. The park includes three major sites in Morristown.

In the United Kingdom, [James Bryce](#) the [ambassador](#) to the US praised the system of National Parks and campaigned to have them introduced in Great Britain. Little came of it until mounting public pressure during the early 20th century from the [Ramblers' Association](#) and other groups led to the [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#).

UNESCO





The [Fortress of Suomenlinna](#) from 18th century in [Helsinki, Finland](#) is one of the most significant UNESCO's World Heritage sites since 1991. ^[71]

According to UNESCO's 1972 World Heritage Convention, landscapes and sites of outstanding universal value can be designated as [World Heritage Sites](#). The World Heritage Convention encompasses historic preservation under the category of "cultural heritage". According to Article 1 of the convention, monuments, groups of buildings, and sites "which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science" are to be designated cultural heritage.

A requirement of such designation is that the designating nation has appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures in place to identify, protect, conserve, present, and rehabilitate world heritage sites. However, according to Article 6 of the convention, while sovereignty of the State where the site is located is not to be compromised, the State acknowledges that protection of heritage sites is a duty of the entire international community. ^[72]

The World Heritage convention's counterpart, The World Heritage Committee, ^[73] is the body responsible for the practical implementation of the convention as well as managing and deciding how to use the World Heritage Fund. The committee also gets to have the final say when determining whether a property will be included in the World Heritage List.

The Committee meets once a year and includes representatives from 21 states that are part of the States Parties. Yearly reports are available to the public on the World Heritage website and include outlines of decisions made, outcomes, working documents and various reports. ^[74]

International partner of UNESCO is [Blue Shield International](#). From a national and international perspective, there are many cooperations with Blue Shield organizations and with [United Nations peacekeeping](#) to ensure the sustainable existence of cultural assets. ^{[75][76][77][78]}

Women and Historic Preservation

The historic experience of females has been overlooked for a majority of human history. Since the 1990s, more effort has been put forth to improve the presentation of women's history. "Guidebooks to women's landmarks have sometimes failed to distinguish between the presence of historic resources and subsequent construction on sites of significance in women's history, making an actual visit to the site a somewhat disappointing experience for visitors." ^[79]

Potential challenges

Although preservation efforts can have benefits for the owners of historical buildings, such as tax cuts and subsidies, there are also drawbacks.

One such drawback is that after a neighborhood has been designated to be historically preserved, there is less construction. On the long term this can affect the value of property and investment in housing, both in the neighborhood itself and the neighborhoods directly surrounding it. ^[80]

A second concern that has been raised is that buildings that need to be historically preserved are sometimes still inhabited. In some cases their inability to make changes to the building can lead to dangerous or unhealthy situations for residents. ^[81]

It is not true that nothing could be changed or renovated, but the owner of the building would need to ask permission at the

appropriate preservation society, slowing the process down severely. The exact policies are country dependent.^[82]

Influential people

- [Eugène Viollet-le-Duc](#) (1814-1879): French architect who restored Gothic buildings and believed that restoration could improve on the past.
- [Ann Pamela Cunningham](#) (1816–1875): influential in saving [Mount Vernon \(plantation\)](#) from demolition and founding the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, one of the first preservation organizations in the United States (est. 1854).^[83]
- [John Ruskin](#) (1819-1900): English art critic who established the basic theory of preservation (retention of status quo).
- [Augustus Pitt Rivers](#) (1827–1900): Britain's first Inspector of Ancient Monuments.
- [John Lubbock](#) (1834-1913): campaigned for legal protection for ancient monuments and saved [Avebury](#) from destruction at the hand of its private owners.
- [William Morris](#) (1834-1896): English designer and writer who founded the [Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings](#).
- [Camillo Boito](#) (1836-1914): Italian architect who tried to reconcile the conflicting views of Viollet-le-Duc and Ruskin, inspiring modern legislation on restoration in several countries
- [Victor de Stuers](#) (1843-1916): Dutch art historian, lawyer, civil servant and politician. First legal secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs as chief of the brand new Department of Arts and Sciences.
- [George Curzon](#) (1859-1925): British [Viceroy of India](#) who preserved [Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire](#) and was an influential sponsor of the [Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act 1913](#).
- [William Sumner Appleton](#) (1874-1947): Founder of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England) in 1910, and widely considered as the U.S.'s first professional preservationist.
- [Charles E. Peterson](#) (1906–2004): considered to be the "founding father" of historic preservation in the United States.
- [James Marston Fitch](#) (1909-2000): educator, author, critic and design practitioner made a major contribution to the philosophical basis of the modern preservation movement and trained and inspired generations of preservationists.
- William J. Murtagh: first Keeper of the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in the United States and significant contributor to the literature of the discipline.^[84]
- Lee H. Nelson: worked for Charles E. Peterson at the National Park Service's [Historic American Buildings Survey](#) and helped to formulate national policies on historic preservation.
- [Walter Muir Whitehill](#): Chairman of the Whitehill Report in the late 1960s, which established the first guidelines for higher education historic preservation programs.
- [Richard Nickel](#): American preservationist who saved architectural elements from [Louis Sullivan](#) buildings.
- [Harriet Tubman](#) (1822-1913): purchased 25 acres to erect a Home for the elderly, this site would eventually serve as a memorial to her legacy.^[85]
- [Mary McLeod Bethune](#) (1875-1955): involved in many efforts to preserve Afro-American historic sites, established an archive on Afro-American women's history, and provided funds to key organizations with similar goals.^[85]
- [Madam C.J. Walker](#) (1867-1919): gave the single largest contribution for the preservation of the Frederick Douglas Home.^[85]
- [Maggie Lena Walker](#) (1864-1934)

Careers

Although volunteers continue to play a large role in historic preservation activities, the field has seen an increased level of professionalization. Today, there are many career options in historic preservation in the public, non-profit and private sectors. Institutes of secondary education (universities, colleges, etc.) in the United States offer both certificate and degree ([A.A.S.](#), [B.A.](#), [B.F.A.](#), [B.S.](#), [M.A.](#), [M.F.A.](#), [M.D.S.](#), [M.H.P.](#), [M.S.](#), and [PhD](#)) programs in historic preservation. Some pupils—at schools with such programmes available—choose to enroll in "joint degree" programs, earning a degree in historic preservation along with one in another, related subject, often an [MArch](#), [MUP](#) or [JD](#) degree.

Possible career fields include:

Architectural conservator

Focus specifically on the physical conservation of building materials.

Architectural historian/historian

Primarily researches and writes statements expressing the historical significance of sites.

Historic preservation planner

Most are employed by local, county, state or federal government planning agencies to administer tax abatement programs, ensure compliance with local ordinances and state and Federal legislation, and conduct design reviews to ensure that proposed projects will not harm historic and archaeological resources. At the state level, they are known as a [State Historic Preservation Officer](#) while at other levels of government they may be known as a Federal or [Tribal Historic Preservation Officer](#). Some may also serve as consultants to local governments, conducting [Section 106](#) reviews in accordance with the [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#).

Preservation architect

Design and develop architectural conservation plans and work specifications in consultation with Engineers, Historians and Planners, ensuring compliance with local design guidelines to protect sensitive historic building fabric. Most are employed by private architecture firms though some find work with government agencies.

Preservation craftsman/traditional trades practitioner

Employs knowledge of traditional building techniques and contemporary conservation technologies to complete the conservation, repair or restoration of historic buildings.

Preservation engineer

Work with Architects to devise conservation solutions of a structural or material -specific nature. Most are employed by private architecture and/or engineering firms.

Public historian/resource interpreters

Most are employed by government agencies and private foundations to interpret the significance of historic resources for the general public.

Historic site administrator

Non-profit sector careers

Engage in a variety of activities concerned with historic preservation advocacy, easements, and private foundations at the local, regional, statewide, or national levels.

Professional organisations

- [American Institute for Conservation](#)
- [American Institute of Architects](#)
- [American Planning Association](#)
- [International Council on Monuments and Sites](#)
- [Preservation Trades Network](#)
- [State historic preservation office](#)
- [Society of Architectural Historians](#)
- [National Trust](#)
- [English Heritage](#)
- [Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings](#)
- [Landmark Trust](#)

See also

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- [Adaptive reuse](#)
 - [Architectural conservation](#)
 - [Athens Charter](#), doctrinal text
 - [Barcelona Charter](#). doctrinal text

- [Building restoration](#)
- [Cadw](#)
- [Cultural heritage management](#)
- [Cultural resources management](#)
- [Historic garden conservation](#)
- [Historic Scotland](#)
- [List of historic houses](#)
- [Principles of Intelligent Urbanism](#)
- [Ship of Theseus](#), a philosophical problem regarding identity of preservation and replacement
- [Space archaeology](#)
- [Sustainable Preservation](#)
- [Venice Charter](#), doctrinal text
- [Category:Demolished buildings and structures](#)
- [Category:Heritage organizations](#)
- [Category:Historic preservation organizations](#)

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