

National Trust for Historic Preservation Collections Management Policy

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The National Trust provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities.

INTRODUCTION

The National Trust. The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States (hereafter the National Trust), chartered by an Act of Congress, October 26, 1949, is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. The organization and its members fight to save historic buildings and the neighborhoods they anchor. Through education and advocacy, the National Trust works to revitalize communities across the country and challenges citizens to create sustainable plans for the future.

The National Trust Collections. By Act of Congress October 26, 1949 (63 Stat. 927), the National Trust is empowered to acquire "objects significant in American history and culture, to preserve and administer them for the public benefit." The National Trust collects historic objects significant in American history and cultural property comprising fine arts, decorative arts, archival materials, archaeological materials, and architectural artifacts, all hereinafter referred to as "objects", in accordance with this policy.

National Trust Historic Site Collections Policies. National Trust Historic Sites are stewards of National Trust collections. In addition to this general collections management policy, each National Trust Historic Site that maintains National Trust-owned collections must have in place its own collections management policy, approved by the John and Neville Bryan Director of Museum Collections (hereafter the Director of Museum Collections) and the site's Board or Council, in order to ensure proper care and preservation of the collection at the site.

The National Trust Historic Site Collections Policies are intended to complement and complete the National Trust Collections Management Policy by specifying a Historic Site's internal policies regarding such issues as secondary collections, acquisition, deaccessioning, loans, and access to collections. Sites' collections management policies must be in compliance with the current National Trust collections policy.

Requirements and recommendations for sites' collections management policies are to be found in the forthcoming National Trust's Best Practices for the Care of Collections at National Trust Historic Sites.

Review and Revision. This policy is to be reviewed by the Collections Committee every three years, and any amendments or revisions to this policy must be formally approved by the Board of Trustees.

