The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO) was created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Under the Act, the ASHPO has five major program areas as follows:

I. Review and Compliance  
II. Survey and Inventory  
III. National Register of Historic Places  
IV. Planning  
V. Technical Assistance

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office is responsible for advising and assisting Federal Agencies with their Section 106 responsibilities. A process referred to as the Section 106 process establishes guidelines for how Federal Agencies can meet their responsibilities under this Act. Briefly during this process the Federal Agency is responsible for:

1. Initiating the Section 106 process,

2. Identifying Historic Properties within an undertaking's area of potential effect,
3. Assessing Adverse Effects on Historic Properties within the area of potential effect and,

4. Resolving Adverse Effects on such properties through consultation and development of a Memorandum of Agreement.

During this process the Federal Agency consults with the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office on the best way for any given Federal project or undertaking. The Historic Preservation Office's responsibilities include,

1. Offering advice on the best ways to identify potential historic properties within an area of potential effect and,

2. Reviewing archaeological and historic property reports and plans which document identification, evaluation, and data recovery efforts sponsored by the Federal Agency,

3. Commenting on determinations made by Federal Agencies and,

4. Negotiating Memorandums of Agreement designed to mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.

Correspondence and reports produced during this process are stored at the Historic Preservation Office and are a public record. The regulations encourage Federal Agencies to involve the public in each step of the process.

For details on the Section 106 process and a copy of the 36 CFR Part 800 regulations we recommend that one visit the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Web site [http://www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)
The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office, in cooperation with Federal and State agencies, is conducting a comprehensive statewide survey of historic properties and maintaining an inventory of such properties.

Pursuant to this program area the ASHPO maintains a computerized database and hard copy site forms of known historic and archaeological sites. There are currently 586 known historic and archaeological sites in American Samoa.

In order to efficiently identify historic and archaeological sites in the entire Territory the historic preservation office has developed a Geographic Information System that focuses on high development and high archaeological sites.

In order to obtain a copy of the inventory of known historic and archaeological sites, contact the ASHPO via email at tishpeau@gmail.com.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office is responsible for nominating and assisting the public to nominate historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

There are currently 14 historic properties and 1 historic district in American Samoa listed on the National Register. Many of the properties listed on the National Register are associated with American Samoa's history, such as the American Samoa Government Office Building (the former residence of John H. Tualai, the first American Samoa Governor), and the site of the American Samoa National Park.

For a list of sites in American Samoa on the National Register click here. To reach the official National Register of Historic Places Web site click here.
The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office is responsible for writing a five year comprehensive plan. The plan is available upon request. An overview of the plan can be found at the National Park Service's web site at, http://www2.cr.nps.gov/pad/stateplans/samoa.htm. The public is invited to provide comments and suggestions for our next five year plan. All suggestions will be read and duly considered.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office is responsible for providing public information, education and technical assistance to individuals, groups, and/or Federal and State government agencies. ASHPO activities in this area include,

1. Providing individuals historic preservation information either locally or via the World Wide Web and electronic mail,

2. Giving talks about and tours of historic sites to local school children, and other interested groups,

3. Facilitating historic preservation training such as a recently completed workshop on the maintenance of historic sites with assistance from the Look of the National Park Service to the local Department of Public Works and other interested parties,
4. Providing Federal Agencies with technical advice concerning historic preservation law, historic resources and their treatment.

For National Park Service sponsored programs that offer various types of information and technical assistance concerning cultural and historic resources go to http://www.cr.nps.gov/whatwedo.htm.

For technical assistance on rehabilitating a historic building a good place to start is the National Park Service's "interactive Web Class on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation" at http://www2.cr.nps.gov/e-rehab/.

For National Park Service publications concerning various aspects of cultural and historic resources go to http://www.cr.nps.gov.