

Historic Properties and Climate Change

The future of historic properties is often overlooked in the complex process of planning for the effects of climate change, yet they are also subject to the effects of erosion, high water, intense storms, high winds and wildfire. Much like parks or schools or town buildings, a community's historic properties help create a unique sense of place. Community members, municipal officials, planners, preservationists, scientists and visionaries all need to be part of the discussion of how - and which - historic properties can be protected. The historic materials or settings of historic properties may require specialized planning that is sensitive to the historic significance of the property. Local values, demographics, culture and economics underlay the available and feasible options.

- The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) has established a webpage to assist entities throughout the state with planning for the effects of climate change on historic properties and cultural resources through the processes of identification, adaptation, resiliency and mitigation. The website includes toolkits, Maine-specific research, and links to resources from preservation partners, planners and governmental organizations.

<http://www.maine.gov/mhpc/programs/protection-and-community-resources/climate-change>

- To help with planning for National Register listed properties, the Commission has created an interactive GIS map showing the locations of properties in Maine that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places; are designated National Historic Landmarks; or are museums/archives. Layers depicting potential threats to these properties including flood, fire, sea-level rise, and storm surge are also included. The map also shows current NOAA hazards and watches.



[Weathering Maine: Mapping Threats to Maine's Historic and Cultural Resources](#)

<https://maine.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=abab8af1a87b4db3805e2346f7500dff>

MHPC has developed this web application so that as communities, regions, officials and citizens create plans to deal with changing climate, storms, erosion, or other physical threats, historic properties, museums or archives within the subject areas can be identified, evaluated, and their futures contemplated.