Appendix B: Historic Resources Glossary

**Character-Defining** - essential to the perception or understanding; a character-defining element is a feature that contributes to the special quality of a building or a site, without which the uniqueness is lost.

**Historic District** - an ensemble of historic resources possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically and aesthetically by physical development or theme.

**National Register of Historic Places** - an official list maintained and revised by the Secretary of the Interior of properties (buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects) that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

**Period of Significance** - a defined period of time during which a property established its historical association, cultural meaning, or value.

**Preservation** - the protection of historic properties from demolition or insensitive alterations. Within the Waterfront Design and Access Element, “preservation” is used as a general term, not as a specific “building treatment.”

**Programmatic Agreement** - A type of Memorandum of Agreement, stating measures an agency will take to avoid or reduce effects on historic properties. A programmatic agreement is typically developed for a large or complex project or a class of undertakings that would otherwise require numerous individual requests for comments from the State Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse** - the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations and additions, while preserving features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. “Rehabilitation” is further defined by *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation* (Secretary’s Standards). The Standards are to be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

**Reconstruction** - the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features and detailing of a nonsurviving site, landscape, building, structure or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

**Restoration** - the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.

**Retention and Reuse** - the act or process of reusing an historic property while maintaining it and protecting it from demolition. [This is a term defined specifically for use in the Waterfront Design and Access Element.]

**Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties** - sets of standards, issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, which provide guidance for the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of historic properties. In the Waterfront Design & Access Element, *Secretary’s Standards* refers specifically to *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.*
The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.

2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.

4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.

8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic material, that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Stabilization - the act or process of applying measures designed to re-establish a weather-resistant enclosure and the structural stability of unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining its essential form and character-defining features.

State Historic Preservation Officer - the official in each State or territory who administers the National Historic Preservation Program at the State level, reviews National Register nominations, maintains file data on historic properties, and consults with Federal agencies during reviews required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.