Adaptive reuse – The process of converting a building to a use other than that for which it was designed.

Rehabilitation of historic properties – The act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features which are significant to its historical, architectural and culture values.

Tax credits – A tax reduction designed to encourage private investment in historic preservation and rehabilitation projects.

Site analysis – The physical and research analysis of a site including topography, soil, drainage, environmental, utilities, visibility, access and zoning conditions. Such an examination requires a number of professional consultants and engineers.

Market analysis – A study that measures the need for a particular use or activity within a defined geographic area. The study determines how many people can be expected to patronize the facility and how many similar facilities are located in the market area.

Financial analysis – An assessment of the financial viability of a project taking into consideration the costs of the property acquisition and construction, rents and expenses, financing, cost of capital, profitability and return on the investment.

Design guidelines – Criteria developed by preservation commissions and architectural review boards to identify design concerns in an area and help property owners ensure that rehabilitation and new construction respect the character of designated buildings and districts.

Significance (local, state, national) – historical or architectural importance that can be ascribed to buildings, structures, sites, objects and spaces that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or historical association.

Cultural resource - historic sites or buildings that reflect human culture, or patterns of human behavior, practices and beliefs.

National Register of Historic Places – The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Historic preservation - the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.