

FAQ's

1. What is the importance of listing of monuments?

Although interrelated, the following three key attributes will determine whether a property is worthy of listing:

- **Historic Significance**
- **Historic Integrity**
- **Historic Context**

Through the ASI, the Central Government protects monuments more than 100 years old. Monuments of importance to States are protected by the respective SDAs. INTACH has undertaken an inventory of built heritage in India which includes notable buildings aged 50 years or more which are deemed to be of architectural, historical, archaeological or aesthetic importance.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

- It attempts to create a systematic, accessible and retrievable inventory of the built heritage of this country.
- It will serve as resource material for developing heritage conservation policies and regulations.

2. What does the term “assessing architectural character” detail? Explain.

Good Preservation embodies two important goals:

- 1. The preservation of historic materials and,**
- 2. The preservation of a building's distinguishing character.**

Every old building is unique, with its own identity and its own

distinctive character. Character refers to all those visual aspects and physical features that comprise the appearance of every historic building. Character-defining elements include the overall shape of the building, its materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, interior spaces and features, as well as the various aspects of its site and environment.

Three-Step Process to Identify the Visual Character

--a three-step approach that can be used by anyone to identify those materials, features and spaces that contribute to the visual character of a building. This approach involves first examining the building from afar to understand its overall setting and architectural context; then moving up very close to appreciate its materials and the craftsmanship and surface finishes evident in these materials; and then going into and through the building to perceive those spaces, rooms and details that comprise its interior visual character.

3. What is a historic structure report? Discuss its importance.

A Historic Structure Report (HSR) is a preservation and rehabilitation tool that thoroughly documents the history and material elements of a historic structure, typically a historic building, and its associated environment, evaluates its existing condition, and provides the general recommendations necessary to responsibly deal with existing issues and concerns about the structure in consideration of its current and potential adaptive use(s).

A Historic Structure Report may be commissioned as a stand-alone document or as part of a more comprehensive planning activity for a historic property. As a stand-alone document, a Historic Structure Report may be developed in order to understand in detail a historic property's physical character, evolutionary development, and the issues or challenges involved in maintaining it.

A Historic Structure Report should be as detailed and complete as possible recordation of a historic property's existing and historic setting, construction and use history, documentation of existing condition, analysis of repair, rehabilitation, and restoration issues, and compilation of recommendations to appropriately address those issues. Once completed, a Historic Structure Report should be the primary reference document consulted when capital projects are being planned or when scheduled work is being coordinated

4. Discuss the guidelines for adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

- Adaptive reuse is a process that changes a disused or ineffective item into a new item that can be used for a different purpose. Sometimes, nothing changes but the item's use.
- The adaptive reuse of a historic building should have minimal impact on the heritage significance of the building and its setting.
- Developers should gain an understanding of why the building has heritage status, and then pursue development that is sympathetic to the building to give it a new purpose.
- Adaptive reuse is self-defeating if it fails to protect the building's heritage values.

- The most successful built heritage adaptive reuse projects are those that best respect and retain the building's heritage significance and add a contemporary layer that provides value for the future.
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