

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Modernizing State Enabling Legislation for Locally Designated Historic Resources

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DEGREE: Master of Science

COLLEGE: Architecture and Planning

DATE: May 2016

PAGES: 126

As historic preservation professionals look forward to the future of the preservation movement, new challenges to established legislative precedents demand novel and innovative responses to continue protecting local historic resources. This thesis will focus specifically on developing thoughtful suggestions for revisions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's various enabling laws permitting municipal level preservation protections. The thesis analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of the Commonwealth's current legislation to determine the opportunities for improved provisions. Through case studies of the enabling legislation in New Jersey, New York, and Indiana, this thesis explores new strategies and opportunities to improve state level preservation legislation. The work concludes with suggestions for the implementation of a final set of recommendations specifically for Pennsylvania. While this thesis is largely intended to strengthen and improve the enabling laws that concern historic resources in Pennsylvania, the case studies, analysis, and recommendations may also be informative to other states considering making improvements to their own enabling acts.