



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ohio Revised Code Mandated Functions

Sections of the Ohio Revised Code specify the following public functions to be performed by the Ohio Historical Society:

- (1) Operating a **system of state memorials (historic sites and museums)**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (2) Protecting, or restoring structures, earthworks, and monuments; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (3) Serving as the **state archives**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30 and 149.31 - 149.43)
- (4) Administering a **state historical museum**, to be the headquarters of the society and its principal museum and **library**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (5) Establishing a marking system to identify **historic and archaeological sites**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (6) **Publishing books, pamphlets, periodicals**, and other publications about history, archaeology, and natural science and supplying one copy of each regular periodical issue to all public libraries; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (7) Engaging in **research in history, archaeology, and natural science** and providing historical information upon request to all state agencies; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (8) **Collecting, preserving, and making available** by all appropriate means and under approved safeguards manuscript, print, or near-print library collections and all historical objects, specimens, and artifacts; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (9) Encouraging and promoting the organization and development of **county and local historical societies**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (10) Providing Ohio schools with materials to **facilitate the instruction of Ohio history**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)

- (11) Providing **advisory and technical assistance to local societies** for the preservation and restoration of historic and archaeological sites; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (12) Devising **uniform criteria for the designation of historic and archaeological sites**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (13) **Taking inventory and maintaining an active registry of significant designated and undesignated state and local archaeological sites**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (14) Contracting with the owners or persons having an interest in designated historic or archaeological sites or property adjacent or contiguous to those sites, to **restore or preserve the historical or archaeological significance or educational value** of designated historic or archaeological sites; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (15) Maintaining a **state registry of archaeological landmarks** of significance; (Ohio Revised Code 149.51)
- (16) **Preserving archaeological and historic sites through survey and salvage work** relating to public improvements on state lands in cooperation with state agencies and political subdivisions; (Ohio Revised Code 149.53)
- (17) **Establishing a program to locate, identify and evaluate abandoned historical property and other resources in Lake Erie**, as well as approving certain rules and permits allowing for the recovery, alteration, salvage or destruction of abandoned historical property associated with submerged watercraft or aircraft; (Ohio Revised Code 1506.31 – 1506.33)
- (18) Preserving significant archaeological sites by accepting articles of dedication that **establish preserves**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.52)
- (19) Constructing a **monument honoring Governor James A. Rhodes**; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (20) Commissioning a **portrait of each departing governor**, which shall be displayed in the capitol building; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (21) Planning and **developing a center at the capitol building for the purpose of educating visitors about the history of Ohio**, including its political, economic, and social development and the design and erection of the capitol building and its grounds; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (22) Submitting an **annual report** of its activities, programs, and operations to the governor within two months after the close of each fiscal year of the state; (Ohio Revised Code 149.30)
- (23) Establish an **Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board** to assist the Society in site preservation and encourage designation of suitable sites on the National Register; (Ohio Revised Code 149.301)

- (24) Establish and operate the **National Museum of Afro-American History and Culture** in Wilberforce and create **Planning Council** to advise the Society in the performance of its duties at this site; (Ohio Revised Code 149.302 and 149.303)
- (25) Maintain inventory of **historic homesteads** consisting of properties in the possession of a family for one hundred years or more; (Ohio Revised Code 149.304)
- (26) House the **African-American Hall of Fame** at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus; (Ohio Revised Code 149.305)
- (27) Encourage and promote the celebration of "**Ohio Statehood Day**" annually on March 1; (Ohio Revised Code 5.22.4)
- (28) Facilitate and review **state historic rehabilitation tax credit projects**. (Sub. House Bill 149, signed into law on Jan. 2, 2007)

Note: Additionally, the Ohio Revised Code specifies that the Ohio Historical Society be represented on several state boards and commissions, including the Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board, the Governor's Residence Advisory Commission, the African-American Hall of Fame and the Muskingham River Advisory Council.