FIGURE 1-12 Historic buildings must comply with a fire protection plan approved by the fire code official

Historic buildings

In 1966, the U.S. Department of the Interior was assigned the responsibility of ensuring historic buildings were preserved under the National Historic Preservation Act. The legislation required each state to establish a historical building preservation office. As a result of this act, many communities also enacted their own local historic building preservation laws.

Historic buildings generally must be maintained in their original condition. Historic buildings may lack fire safety features normally required for new buildings having the same occupancy classification. (See Figure 1-12) These buildings also may not comply with means of egress requirements because they were constructed prior to the development of fire and life safety design regulations in model codes and standards.

Unless the building is a distinct hazard, the IFC requires that historic structures be provided with fire protection and life safety features based on an approved fire protection plan. The criteria for developing a fire protection plan is contained in NFPA Standard 914, *Code for Fire Protection in Historic Structures*. In some cases the fire protection plan may need to be prepared as a performance based design. In these instances, the design should be prepared based on the requirements in ICC *Performance Code® for Buildings and Facilities*. **[Ref. 102.6]**

Referenced codes and standards

The design, construction, testing, and maintenance of a variety of systems or components is required by the IFC to comply with various technical standards. The IFC adopts over 300 different standards by reference in Chapter 47. Standards are formal documents that establishes consistent and uniform technical or engineering criteria, methods, and practices. When designing an automatic sprinkler system for the protection of a building, the IFC requires that it be designed in accordance with one of the three NFPA standards that govern the design of these systems.

The IFC also requires the evaluation of certain materials or components to be performed using standard test methods, which are definitive procedures for evaluating a product or component. The classification of a liquid as being either flammable or combustible is required by the IFC to be tested in conformance with one of four American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard tests to measure its boiling point and closed cup flash point temperatures. Compliance with the adopted technical standards or test methods is a requirement of complying with the IFC. (See Figure 1-13) **[Ref. 102.7]**

Code Basics

The IFC contains certain requirements that are retroactive to certain buildings or hazards. Its requirements are also applicable when a building changes its use or occupancy or if the building is designated as a historical structure. ●

FIGURE 1-13 The design of these petroleum storage tanks was required by the fire code official to comply with one of the atmospheric storage tank design and construction standards developed by the American Petroleum Institute