



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]