The Historic Preservation Fund

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2004

Why Is The Historic Preservation Fund Important To America?

In 2004, America continued to face fiscal challenges and declining State budgets. Budget crises forced many States to reduce agency staffs and cut back on important activities. In these times of financial belt-tightening, it is important to recognize the role of historic preservation in economic revitalization.

Since 1970, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), administered by the National Park Service in partnership with State, Tribal, and local governments, has acted as the catalyst for America’s efforts to preserve its past for future generations.

- During 2004, the HPF supported State staff who assisted hundreds of private property owners with $3.9 billion of private investment in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties under the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program.
- HPF also supported the preparation, nomination, and addition of 1,516 listings in the National Register of Historic Places.
- HPF provided grants to local governments and American Indian Tribes to preserve community heritage.
- It facilitated State staffs in working with Federal agencies to ensure that Federal granting and licensing activities minimized negative impacts on historic properties, and carried out the Federal mandate to provide the public with educational and training programs to assist in preserving the past.
- HPF funds supported the restoration of nationally significant properties through the Save America’s Treasures program.

With HPF support, the Nation’s historic places are identified, recognized, and protected. Increased private sector investment is attracted to preserve historic places. All of the nation’s citizens benefit from revitalized and stronger communities. The accomplishments generated through HPF activities are vital to the continued strength of our Nation, for they remind all Americans of our heritage and provide us with a cultural foundation in the 21st Century.

The preservation of cultural heritage is the responsibility of great nations.

If we wish to have a future with greater meaning, we must... be concerned with the total heritage of the nation and all that is worth preserving from our past as a living part of the present.

– Findings, Special Committee on Historic Preservation, U.S. Conference of Mayors, as published in With Heritage so Rich
In 1966, the Special Committee on Historic Preservation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors developed far-reaching recommendations regarding the need for a national historic preservation program. Among the committee’s recommendations was the need for legislation “to authorize grants to State and local governments to carry out…inventory and survey programs in coordination with the National Park Service.” The National Historic Preservation Act accomplished this recommendation with the establishment of the HPF as a matching grant program, with funds derived from Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues; as well as the National Register of Historic Places, a mechanism for better Federal agency planning; and other programs directed at all levels of government and the private sector. Through subsequent amendments to the 1966 Act, the HPF benefited Tribal governments and other cultural groups as well.

Without the HPF, the speed and nature of the physical change sweeping over the American landscape would have destroyed much of the Nation’s precious heritage. As the members of the Special Committee on Historic Preservation noted in 1966—

The pace of urbanization is accelerating and the threat to our environmental heritage is mounting; it will take more than the sounding of periodic alarms to stem the tide. The United States is a nation and a people on the move. It is an era of mobility and change…The result is a feeling of rootlessness combined with a longing for those landmarks of the past which give us a sense of stability and belonging.

The Historic Preservation Fund In FY 2004

In fiscal year 2004, the U.S. Congress appropriated $73,582,119 from the HPF for grants. The HPF provides matching grants to encourage private and nonfederal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide, and assists State, local governments, and Indian Tribes with expanding and accelerating their historic preservation activities nationwide. HPF grants serve as catalysts and “seed money” for preserving and protecting our Nation’s irreplaceable heritage for this and future generations.

Included in the 2004 appropriation was $32.5 million from the HPF to finance the sixth year of the Save America’s Treasures grant program, aimed at the nation’s most significant historic sites and collections with the most urgent preservation needs. A total of 157 projects in 41 States and the District of Columbia were awarded grants in 2004. These grants reflect the diverse cultures and the many stories that comprise America’s heritage.

The Dammon Round Barn
Goodhue County, Minnesota

The Dammon Round Barn project in Goodhue County is a truly stellar example of sensitive and creative adaptive use. It is the pivotal structure in a restored farmstead open to the public as a bed and breakfast establishment. The barn itself is rented for weddings, receptions, and other large gatherings. This project is especially noteworthy as Minnesota has lost a great number of barns over recent years. The Dammon Round Barn has been recognized by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and Friends of Minnesota Barns as one of the most successful rehabilitation projects of the year.
Who Administers The Historic Preservation Fund?

The National Park Service administers the Historic Preservation Fund on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. An apportionment is made to the State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to assist in their efforts to protect and preserve properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In each State, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), appointed by the Governor, nominates properties to the National Register of Historic Places and selects properties for financial assistance. States carry out preservation activities directly as well as through subgrants and contracts with public and private agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and individuals. HPF grants also assist Indian Tribes in assuming SHPO responsibilities on Indian land and in undertaking cultural preservation projects.

What Are Eligible Activities For The Historic Preservation Fund?

Funding is used by States, Indian Tribes, and local governments to pay part of the costs of surveys, comprehensive historic preservation drawings, National Register nominations, educational materials, as well as the architectural plans, historic structure reports, and engineering studies necessary to repair historic properties. Bricks and mortar projects also are eligible within the limited funds available. All HPF-assisted activities must meet standards set by the Secretary of the Interior, and at least 10 percent of the State allocation must be subgranted to assist Certified Local Governments with participating in the national historic preservation program. Project selection decisions are made by the State, not the National Park Service.

The Montana Heritage Project

The Montana Heritage Project brought twenty-three seniors from Harlowton High School together with State archeologists to learn about trace leavings of ancient nomads. Called tipi rings, these archeological sites are distributed among area ranches and are not easily recognizable until entered into GIS software. The students also used GPS and GIS to create documentation of an early wickiup (dwelling) and a prehistoric buffalo jump. Later in the summer, State staff returned to provide in-service training for teachers from 29 schools who will continue to teach about these resources in their classrooms. HPF funds covered personnel, travel expenses, and some of the equipment used in the research.
Out of a 2004 appropriation of $34.6 million for HPF grants to the States, the average State allocation is about $640,000, which typically is matched by $427,000 in nonfederal matching share contributions. A 40 percent match is required for HPF grants to States.

**Distribution of HPF for FY 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Historic Preservation Offices</td>
<td>$34,568,834</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Historic Preservation Offices</td>
<td>2,963,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Save America’s Treasures</td>
<td>32,593,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic Black Colleges and Universities</td>
<td>2,963,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Trust Historic Sites Fund</td>
<td>493,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$73,582,119</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Fiscal Year 2004 at a Glance**

- 1,516 new listings to the National Register of Historic Places, bringing the cumulative total to 78,318 listings in the National Register
- 1,200 Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects approved
- 5,357 low and moderate income housing units created through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit program
- 47 new communities became Certified Local Governments, bringing the cumulative total to 1,448 Certified Local Governments throughout the Nation
- Approximately 9.5 million acres surveyed through the activities of State Historic Preservation Offices
- Approximately 159,000 properties were evaluated for their historical significance and added to State Historic Preservation Office inventories

**Grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities in FY 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama A&amp;M University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcorn State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas Baptist College</td>
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<td>Bennett College</td>
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<td>Fisk University</td>
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<td>South Carolina State University</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
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**Grants to Indian Tribes in FY 2004**

$2,346,287 to 46 American Indian Tribes to support their Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in carrying out our national historic preservation program responsibilities on Tribal lands

$616,747 to 17 American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations to preserve America’s native cultures

**Maryland Aviation History Centennial of Flight Project**

**The Maryland Historical Trust**

To mark the 100th anniversary of flight on December 17, 2003, the Maryland Historical Trust initiated a research and public outreach project known as the Maryland Aviation History Centennial of Flight Project. The two-part project involved compiling an inventory of historic aviation-related sites and a series of oral history interviews with individuals who were there on the ground (or in the air) making the history happen. The project came to fruition with the publication of the book *Maryland Aloft: A Celebration of Aviators, Airfields, and Aerospace*, which weaves together Maryland’s aviation history, historic sites inventory, and oral history interviews. The richly-illustrated book was released with great fanfare at a special event at the College Park Aviation Museum to mark the centennial.