

Historic Preservation Fund



National Trust for
Historic Preservation®

As the nation prepares to commemorate its 250th anniversary, preservationists across the country are calling for a \$250 million investment in the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to ensure our historic places endure for generations to come. Enhanced funding for the HPF in FY 2027 would work to ensure appropriate stewardship of the nation's invaluable historic and cultural resources. This increased funding would strengthen successful competitive grant programs to better protect more places and preserve stories associated with diverse communities, while allowing State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs and THPOs) to keep pace with growing demands and essential responsibilities. Within this total, \$25 million would be dedicated to addressing critical survey and digitization needs, helping modernize preservation data systems, improving access to historic resource information, and supporting more informed decision-making. A \$250 million allocation in this milestone year would reflect the needs expressed from the communities throughout the country and ensure that America's 250th is marked not only by celebration, but by lasting investments in the places that will tell our story of our country for the next 250 years.



The Durham Museum, housed in the historic Omaha Union Station in Omaha, Nebraska, received a Save America's Treasures grant in 2024. This railway station was key to Omaha's growth at the turn of the 20th century, and is a stunning example of Art Deco architecture that personified the era.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM MUSEUM

Background

Since 1976, the HPF has been authorized to receive \$150 million per year in deposits from revenues generated by Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leases, not general tax dollars. Congressional appropriators, however, may designate whatever annual funding level they deem necessary. The HPF needs ongoing support and long-term certainty to effectively protect our nation's historic resources for future generations.

FY 2027 Appropriations Request

Please support \$250 million for the Historic Preservation Fund in the FY 2027 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

Recent Funding History:

FY 2023 Enacted Funding: \$204.515 million

FY 2024 Enacted Funding: \$188.666 million

FY 2025 Enacted Funding: \$168.900 million

FY 2026 Enacted Funding: \$181.059 million

FY 2027 NTHP Recommendation: **\$250.000 million**

**For FY 2027, a one-time investment of \$25 million is requested to invest in the survey and digitization of historic site records and assets. These grants would be made available to SHPO and THPO offices.*

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the primary source of funding for the nation's historic preservation programs. Preserving America's rich heritage, cultures, and traditions requires coordinated efforts at the federal, state, local, and private levels. Administered by the National Park Service, the HPF provides matching grants to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and grants to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), which play a crucial role in supporting preservation efforts nationwide. The HPF also supports several competitive grant programs, which fund the preservation of sites associated with underrepresented groups to tell the full story of all Americans.

State Historic Preservation Officers

State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) administer federal historic preservation programs at the state and local level, as well as administer their own state programs. These programs help communities identify, evaluate, preserve, and revitalize their historic, archaeological, and cultural resources. The National Park Service (NPS) distributes Historic Preservation Fund grants to SHPOs by apportionment formula, with states and territories required to match 40% of the federal funding they receive.

SHPO responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- **Reviewing Federal Historic Tax Credit projects:** In FY 2024, the federal Historic Tax Credit program leveraged over \$6.15 billion in private investment in historic preservation and community revitalization projects.
- **Reviewing federal projects for their impact on historic resources (Section 106 review):** SHPOs reviewed over 101,200 federal undertakings in FY 2025.
- **Locating, surveying, and recording historic and cultural resources:** In 2025, SHPOs and historic preservation consultants surveyed approximately 3,513,492 acres and 488,800 sites.
- **Facilitating nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register):** In 2025, SHPOs processed and reviewed 73,800 nominations for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places
- **Supporting local historic preservation programs through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program:** In FY 2025, the NPS and SHPOs certified 19 new communities as CLGs.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) are designated by federally-recognized Native American Tribes and approved by the National Park Service (NPS) to administer Tribal historic preservation programs. The THPO assumes some or all of the functions and responsibilities of State Historic Preservation Officers on tribal lands. The NPS distributes Historic Preservation Fund grants to THPOs by apportionment formula.

Background

For many years, THPOs have received insufficient federal funding to fully implement their federally mandated responsibilities. There were only 12 federally recognized THPOs when the program began in 1996, with \$79,875 allocated to each. In FY 2025, 228 THPOs received an average of \$100,877, and in FY 2026, 235 THPOs will be eligible for HPF funding. In FY 2025, THPOs surveyed 661,101 acres and 7,272 sites were added to Tribal Inventories.

Collectively, Tribes with NPS-recognized THPOs exercise responsibilities over a land base that exceeds 50 million acres in 30 states. THPOs review federal undertakings—including projects using federal funding or requiring federal approval—for their impacts on tribal historic resources (Section 106 review). THPOs also survey and maintain inventories of tribal historic resources, prepare preservation plans, and provide technical assistance and funding for preservation activities. THPOs also facilitate nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and Tribal Registers. Along with federal, state, and local law enforcement, THPOs work to prosecute looters of Indian remains and sacred objects. They also provide oversight for repatriation per the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Competitive Grant Programs

The National Park Service (NPS) manages several grant programs to assist with a variety of historic preservation and community projects focused on heritage preservation.

The Save America's Treasures (SAT) competitive grant program protects nationally significant historic and cultural landmarks that tell the story of our nation. By supporting restoration projects across the country, SAT ensures that America's heritage is preserved and passed on to future generations.

The African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grant Program funds the preservation of the sites and stories associated with the African American struggle for equal rights.

The Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants marks the 250th anniversary of the United States by providing grants to restore and preserve sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation.

The History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant Program supports the preservation of nationally significant sites associated with the expansion of constitutional rights and equal protection under the law. These grants help safeguard places that reflect America's ongoing pursuit of liberty and justice for all.

The Underrepresented Community Grant Program supports research, documentation, and preservation projects that help the NPS more fully recognize and interpret significant historic places across the United States. Projects include surveys and inventories of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register, as well as the development of nominations to the National Register for specific sites.

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Grant Program supports historic preservation projects honoring and preserving the unique and important role HBCUs played in advancing the realization of a more free, equal, and just society.

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program invests in the historic buildings that anchor rural communities across America. By breathing new life into these buildings, the program strengthens local economies, supports small businesses, and preserves the character of the towns that shaped our nation as we commemorate our monumental 250th anniversary.