

The Historic Preservation Fund

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2003

Why Is The Historic Preservation Fund Important To America?

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

In 2003, 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 2003, the HPF supported State staff who assisted hundreds of private property owners with \$2.7 billion of private investment in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties under the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program.
- The HPF also supported the nomination and listing of 1,611 properties in the National Register of Historic Places.
- The HPF provided grants to local governments and American Indian Tribes to preserve community heritage.
- The HPF assisted 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.

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*

Origins Of The Historic Preservation Fund

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.



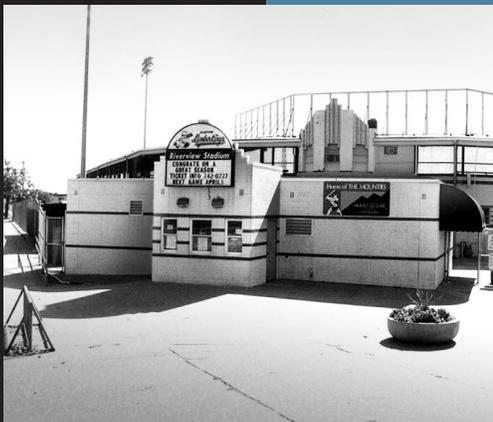
Texans have inherited a bountiful legacy from those who came before us. As we look to the future, it is our responsibility to preserve this proud legacy for the generations to come. The Texas Historical Commission's 18 commissioners and 108 staff members are committed to identifying, preserving, and interpreting Texas' historic resources for the benefit of all Texans. Today, with the help of grants from the Historic Preservation Fund, the Commission continues to help preserve what is unique about Texas' past. Historic preservation creates jobs, revitalizes downtown business districts, provides affordable quality housing and stimulates heritage tourism.

—Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

The Historic Preservation Fund In FY2003

In fiscal year 2003, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$68,551,000 from the HPF for grants. The HPF provides matching grants to encourage private and nonfederal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide, and assists State and 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 2003 appropriation was \$30 million from the HPF to finance the fifth 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 121 projects in 41 States and the District of Columbia were awarded grants in 2003. These grants reflect the diverse cultures and the many stories that comprise America's heritage.



Architectural and Historical Survey of Iowa Team Sports Facilities, State Historical Society of Iowa

The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office recently completed a statewide survey of significant historic properties associated with the development of team sports in Iowa from 1850 to 1960, focusing on baseball, basketball, football, swimming, track and field, and wrestling, with special attention on the roles of women and minorities in these sports. A total of sixty athletic facilities, sites, structures, and buildings were included in the survey, which included a report detailing the history and development of each of the various sports in Iowa. Of the sixty properties surveyed, fifty-two were evaluated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Photographed here is Riverview Stadium in Clinton, Iowa. This Art Deco/Moderne Baseball Park was completed in 1937 with WPA assistance. Currently it is the home of the Clinton Lumber Kings professional baseball team.

Who Administers The Historic Preservation Fund?



Annapolis is a town that cherishes its heritage and the stories that go with it. The Certified Local Government program

has made it possible to prepare in-depth historic site survey forms for over 400 buildings in the Historic District visited by millions every year.

This information has also allowed us to produce award-winning publications that assist property owners through the design review process. It also helps us inform visitors and residents alike of the rich cultural heritage in our living "museum without walls."

—Ellen O. Moyer
Mayor of Annapolis, Maryland

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 value of historic preservation in a local community is beyond price. It's about preserving something that can't be replicated today. It's about appreciating the planning and efforts of those who came before us. Historic preservation upholds what was important in the past, thereby maintaining a community's foundation: its past, present, and future.

—Mike Swoboda
Mayor of Kirkwood, Missouri



Atlantic City Convention Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Boasting the world's largest column-free room when it opened in 1929, the Atlantic City Convention Hall has hosted political conventions, the annual Miss America Pageant, sporting events, and concerts. Years of heavy use and piecemeal additions and renovations eventually left the auditorium in desperate need of preservation. In FY 2003 a 5-year, \$99 million rehabilitation was completed, using Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits, that has brought the glamour back to this cultural icon located on Atlantic City's Boardwalk. Preservation work included a rehabilitation of the 4-acre vaulted ceiling, restoration of original architectural details and decorative finishes, creation of a new stadium seating bowl, and restoration of light fixtures. In 2003, the Convention Hall received a National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in recognition of this important achievement in historic preservation.

Historic Preservation Fund Vital Statistics

Out of a 2003 appropriation of \$33.8 million for HPF grants to the States, the average State allocation is about \$645,000, which typically is matched by \$430,000 in nonfederal matching share contributions. A 40 percent match is required for HPF grants to States.

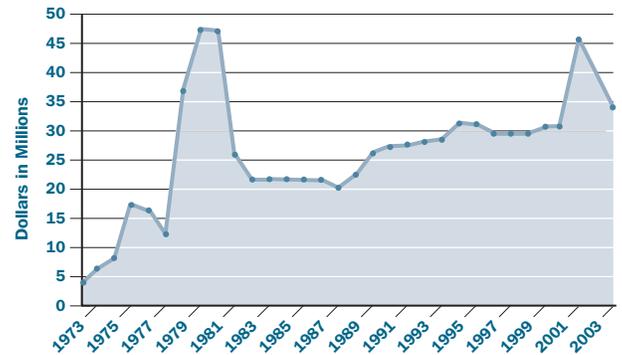
Distribution of HPF for FY 2003

State Historic Preservation Offices	\$33,779,000
Tribal Historic Preservation Offices	2,980,000
Save America's Treasures	29,805,000
National Trust Historic Sites Fund	1,987,000
Total: \$68,551,000	

Fiscal Year 2003 at a Glance

- **1,611** new listings to the National Register of Historic Places, bringing the cumulative total to 76,935 properties listed in the National Register
- **1,270** Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects approved
- **5,485** low and moderate income housing units created through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit program
- **59** new communities became Certified Local Governments, bringing the cumulative total to 1,420 Certified Local Governments throughout the Nation
- Approximately **14.1 million** acres surveyed by State Historic Preservation Offices
- Approximately **163,000** properties added to State Historic Preservation Office inventories

HPF Annual (Fiscal Year) Appropriations to State Historic Preservation Offices



Grants to Indian Tribes in FY 2003

\$2,304,000 to 37 American Indian Tribes to support their Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in carrying out national historic preservation program responsibilities on Tribal lands

\$676,000 to 16 American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations to preserve America's native cultures



U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Center for Cultural Resources, Heritage Preservation Services, Washington, DC, March 2002

NCSHPO National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers



Save America's Treasures Grant to preserve Orchard House, Concord, Massachusetts

In FY 2003, with the assistance of a \$400,000 grant from the Save America's Treasures program, work was completed on Phase 1 of the preservation of Orchard House. Orchard House was the home of Louisa May Alcott and her family, and served as the model for the setting of Alcott's autobiographical classic, *Little Women*. A second home to the Alcotts' close friends Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Nathaniel Hawthorne, Orchard House witnessed the development of the American philosophy of Transcendentalism. The 300-year-old home retains an exceptional amount of its original design integrity, thanks to Louisa's father, a Transcendentalist philosopher, educational reformer, and early preservationist, who rescued the house from destruction in 1857. Save America's Treasures grant funds were used to stabilize the building's foundation and exterior, weatherproof the building's exterior, and conserve historic interior finishes.