

40 Years

The Historic Preservation Fund Annual Report 2006

The National Historic Preservation Act: Celebrating 40 Years of Historic Preservation

In response to the destruction of older buildings and neighborhoods in the immediate post-World War II years, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) signaled America's commitment to preserving its heritage. 40 years later, the framework established by the act that focused local, state, and national efforts on a common goal – preserving the historic fabric of our nation – is still providing the backbone for historic preservation in America.

The NHPA authorized the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which has acted as the catalyst for America's efforts to preserve its past for future generations. Administered by the National Park Service in partnership with State, Tribal, and local governments, the HPF has helped protect thousands of historic properties and cultural resources across the country. With HPF support, the Nation's historic places are identified, recognized, preserved, and protected, all while increasing private sector investment. The result is revitalized and stronger communities throughout the nation that remind all Americans of our heritage and provide us with a strong cultural foundation.

"We are committed to helping rebuild homes, neighborhoods, and communities devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Thanks to a \$12.5 million Emergency Supplemental Appropriation through the Historic Preservation Fund [to Louisiana], we were able to offer hurricane recovery grants for historic Louisiana properties damaged by the storms. These funds are going a long way towards meeting a great need in the community and preserving Louisiana culture. We are deeply appreciative of these federal dollars."

Mitch Landrieu, Lt. Governor, Louisiana



Origins of the Historic Preservation Fund

In 1966, the Special Committee on Historic Preservation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors addressed the need to establish a national historic preservation program. The result was the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) which created the National Register of Historic Places, a mechanism for better Federal agency planning, as well as designating a State Historic Preservation Officer for each State. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) was then established as a matching grant program, funded by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues. Subsequent amendments to the 1966 Act served to benefit Tribal and local governments as well.

How Does the Historic Preservation Fund Work?

The National Park Service (NPS) administers the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior and uses the funds to provide matching grants to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to assist in their efforts to protect and preserve their historic resources. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), appointed by the Governor for each state, manages this annual appropriation to perform the preservation responsibilities required by the NHPA. Preservation activities may be carried out directly by States, or in the form of subgrants and contracts to public and private agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and individuals. HPF grants to Indian Tribes help them assume SHPO responsibilities on Indian land and undertake preservation activities.

Funding is used by States and Tribes to pay for HPF eligible preservation projects including: survey and inventory, National Register nominations, preservation education, architectural planning, historic structure reports, community preservation plans, and bricks and mortar repair to buildings. The HPF allows each State the flexibility to shape a program according to its needs, as long as they are meeting the overall responsibilities outlined by the NHPA. Ten percent of each SHPO's allocation must be subgranted to assist Certified Local Governments, local governments certified by NPS as having made a local commitment to historic preservation.

These funds can be spent locally on projects like those listed above, with selection decisions made by the State, not NPS. All HPF-assisted projects must meet the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation* and the *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

"The Wright-Dunbar Village in Dayton, Ohio, is where dreams take flight...the birthplace of aviation. In this neighborhood the Wright brothers invented the airplane and African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar began his literary career. A Preserve America grant, funded through the Historic Preservation Fund, will help connect this significant neighborhood and Dayton's other rich aviation heritage sites through a collaboration of over 15 organizations. The outcome will be a total visitor experience tracing our nation's aviation history as well as developing heritage tourism as an economic engine for the region. The Preserve America grant will help us to preserve and promote a significant national legacy while also strengthening community revitalization."

Idotha Bootsie Neal, President, Wright Dunbar, Inc., Dayton, Ohio



The Seville Hotel, in Downtown Springfield, Missouri, has been transformed from a long-vacant eyesore to a fully-occupied mixed-use facility with the help of State and Federal historic preservation tax credits. The building sat vacant for several years, was partially gutted as part of an earlier rehabilitation project, and had windows falling out. Pigeons were the only residents. Rehabilitation work began in the fall of 2003, and the ground floor now houses a café, ice cream shop, and art gallery, with 15 new loft apartments on the upper floors. Early wood storefronts have been restored, and historic photos guided the replication of an early metal awning over the main entrance. The Seville Hotel serves as a fine symbol of the extensive private investment spurred by the combined use of Federal and State tax credits in Missouri, who leads the nation in use of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax program.

"The Historic Preservation Fund is essential to the preservation of Missouri's rich heritage. It funds half the cost of our State Historic Preservation Office whose work on National Register listings and historic rehabilitation tax credits generates over \$531,000,000 annually in rehabilitation construction.

Preservation pays. The HPF is a critical tool for Missouri's efforts related to historic preservation."

—Matt Blunt, Governor, Missouri

The Historic Preservation Fund in 2006

In fiscal year 2006, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$72.2 million from the HPF for historic preservation grants. HPF matching grants serve as catalysts for preserving and protecting our Nation's irreplaceable heritage. HPF-funded programs also encourage private and nonfederal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide and assist State, Tribal, and local governments with expanding and accelerating their historic preservation activities.

Also in 2006, Congress appropriated an additional \$43 million from the HPF to assist the States of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi in their recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The funds are being used to rehabilitate historic homes, commercial properties, and communities ravaged by the hurricanes, as well as providing additional staff to facilitate required reviews associated with rebuilding the Gulf region.

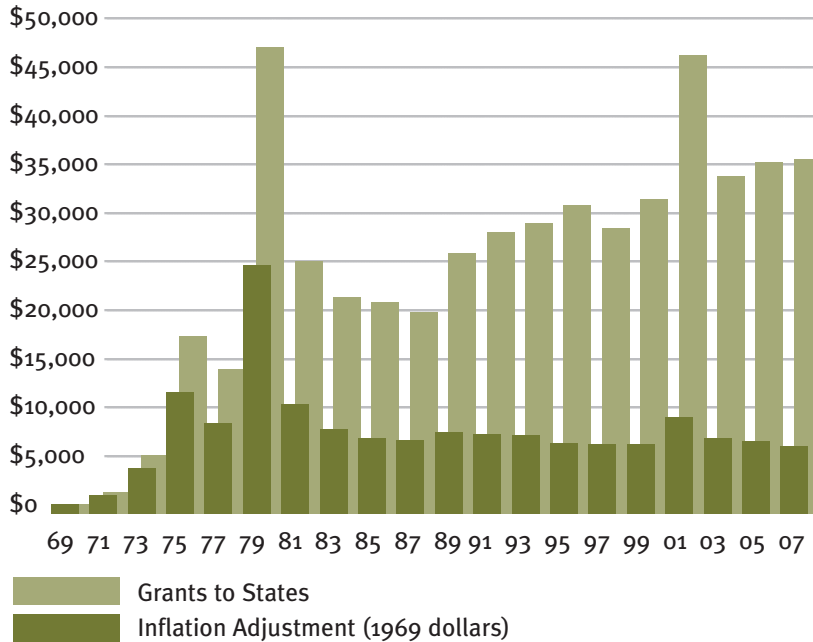
Fiscal Year 2006 at a Glance

- Provided \$43 million in emergency hurricane relief to Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.
- Over \$4 billion of private investment in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties under the Federal Historic Preservation Tax program.
- 5,622 low and moderate income housing units created through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax program.
- An estimated 61,397 jobs created by Federal Historic Preservation Tax program rehabilitation projects.
- Approximately 17.7 million acres surveyed for cultural resources, with over 119,164 properties evaluated for their historical significance and added to State inventories.
- 1,372 new listings to the National Register of Historic Places, including 303 historic districts, bringing the cumulative total to 81,155 listings on the National Register.
- 55 new communities became Certified Local Governments (CLG), bringing the cumulative total to 1,550 CLGs throughout the nation.
- The Save America's Treasures Program was funded for the eighth year at \$24.6 million to support the restoration of nationally significant properties and collections. A total of 133 projects in 38 States and the District of Columbia were awarded; over \$108 million was requested.
- Preserve America was funded for the first year at \$5 million to support planning for heritage tourism development and preservation in local communities. A total of 68 projects in 30 states were awarded; over \$13.9 million was requested.
- Historic Black Colleges and Universities were awarded \$4,539,630 to 12 schools for bricks and mortar preservation on their campuses. Over \$15.5 million was requested.
- American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations were awarded \$678,300 to 19 projects as part of the Tribal Projects Grants program; over \$1.9 million was requested.



Hurricane Katrina and its 35-foot storm surge roared through the first floor of the stately Schaeffer House, part of the Scenic Drive National Register historic district in Pass Christian, Mississippi. The house suffered massive damage from a combination of wind, water, and debris that shattered the front of the house, leaving the second-story porch and the roof hanging in mid-air. The storm surge stripped both furniture and architectural detail from the interior, scattering it in fields far from the house, and washed piers from under the foundation. The Schaeffers rejected the overtures of zealous demolition crews, instead choosing to rehab their beautiful and historic beach-front home, using a plan prepared by a volunteer preservation assessment team. Just as their retirement savings and volunteer support were exhausted, the Schaeffers received a grant of \$150,000 from Mississippi's portion of the HPF Hurricane Assistance grant. Their success story, coupled with grant assistance from the HPF, has encouraged many of their neighbors to begin repairing their own historic homes, lending hope that the once magnificent Scenic Drive Historic District can be partially restored to its former grandeur.

Grants to States adjusted for Inflation



Distribution of HPF for FY 2006

State Historic Preservation Offices	\$ 35,716,676
Tribal Historic Preservation Offices	\$ 3,242,450
Save America's Treasures	\$ 24,632,190
Preserve America	\$ 4,926,438
Historic Black Colleges & Universities	\$ 2,955,863
Tribal Project Grants	\$ 678,300
TOTAL	\$ 72,151,917
Supplemental Hurricane Assistance	\$ 43,000,000



U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service,
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202-354-2020
Preservation_Grants_Info@nps.gov

NCSHPO

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Colorado's southeastern plains, devastated by the loss of jobs and residents, are looking to heritage tourism for revitalization. A \$130,000 Preserve America grant, funded through the HPF, secured by Colorado Preservation, Inc. and the Colorado Historical Society (SHPO) sparked a partnership among several counties to develop a regional marketing program. The result has been an amazing synergy among the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, the Amache Japanese-American internment camp, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Boggsville Historic Site, and local historic and prehistoric sites, including numerous petroglyphs and the largest dinosaur tracksite in North America. In addition, the six participating counties – Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers – have been designated as a 'pilot project' for Colorado's newly created Heritage Tourism Initiative. The Preserve America funding, matched by Colorado's Department of Local Affairs, also leveraged additional financial contributions from Colorado foundations, the six counties, the Colorado Tourism Office, and the regional economic development district for a total of \$355,500 in support.