

State Historic Preservation Offices

Support the Foundation of Federal Preservation Policy

March 2008

STATUS

The FY2009 President's Budget proposes \$35.7 million for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), a 9% decrease from the FY2008 enacted amount of \$39.37 million, and a 24% decrease from 1980. The President's request would be a major setback for preservation programs and America's communities nationwide. The proposed cut would limit private investment and revitalization opportunities as well as decrease historic rehabilitation and heritage tourism prospects.

REQUEST

\$50 million for State Historic Preservation Offices

BACKGROUND

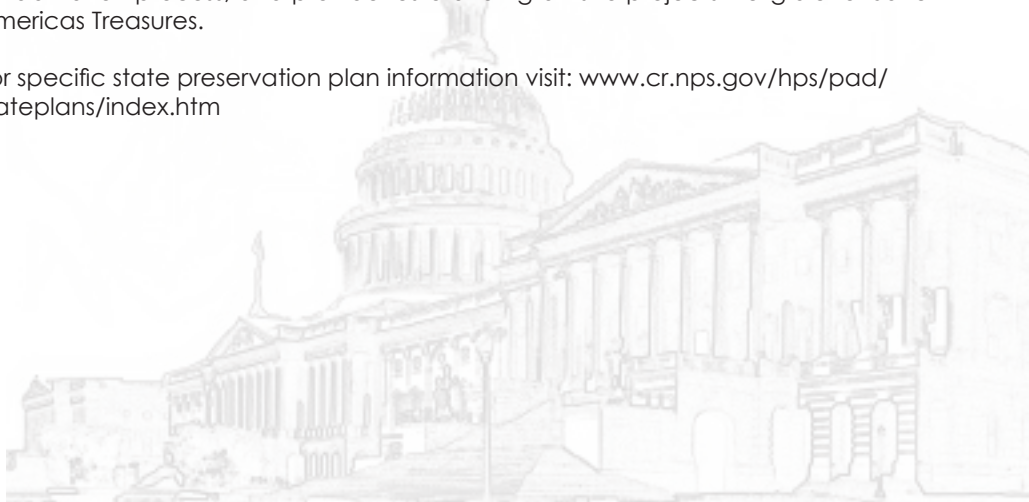
In 1966, Congress declared in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) that "the historical and cultural foundations of the nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life," and that "preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest." Through the NHPA, the federal-state historic preservation partnership program began with the creation of SHPOs.

SHPOs carry out the federal historic preservation programs and give citizens the tools and assistances they need to defend and rebuild the very places that give meaning to the American experience. SHPOs provide survey and inventory, planning, advice on proposed historic rehabilitations, partnerships with local governments, National Register nominations, consulting on federal projects that may affect historic properties, education, heritage tourism, etc.

Recently the National Academy of Public Administration stated "the National Historic Preservation Program (SHPOs) stands as a successful example of effective federal-state partnership." Their report concluded with saying "a stronger federal leadership role, greater resources, and enhanced management are needed to build upon the existing, successful framework to achieve the full potential of the NHPA on behalf of the American people."

Providing \$50 million to SHPOs would allow for increased support of local heritage tourism initiatives, additional resources to help individuals with National Register nominations, increased grants and support to Certified Local Governments, more efficient responses to federal agency requests, a greater assistance in guiding owners through the historic rehabilitation process, and provide restoration grants to projects ineligible for Save Americas Treasures.

For specific state preservation plan information visit: www.cr.nps.gov/hps/pad/stateplans/index.htm



FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

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www.ncshpo.org

Preservation Action

401 F Street NW STE 324

Washington, DC 20001

tel: 202-637-7873

www.preservationaction.org

National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20036

tel: 202-588-6000

www.nationaltrust.org

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

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