



HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND



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OUR LEGACY, OUR FUTURE

Finding and Documenting Our Historic Places

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is a fund established by Congress in 1976 to help support our national historic preservation program. Each year, a small fraction of Outer Continental Shelf lease revenues (\$150 million) is to be used for State and Tribal Historic preservation programs to cover the cost of survey and documentation of historic resources, reviews of federal projects, National Register nominations, and grants to local communities. Congress has never kept that promise - over the years sending over \$3.3 billion elsewhere.

Finding and documenting historic resources as well as considering the impact of federal projects on those resources are key responsibilities of State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs and THPOs). Doing this well requires adequate information. Without it, it is impossible to consider and evaluate what historic resources are important or what the impact of a federal project is going to have on the places that matter.

Only **55%** of surveyed historic resource records have been digitized.

As a result of HPF under-funding, states and tribes are struggling to adequately find, document, and digitize the records of America's historic resources (see box below). With increased pressure to "streamline" project

delivery times, road-builders, energy producers, developers and others rely on data and technology to help them make sound decisions. Too often, many states and tribes lack adequate and accessible data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) necessary to make informed and efficient decisions. Worse yet, enormous areas of our country have either never been surveyed or have not been surveyed in 30 years.

Good decisions require good information. It's time for the HPF to be used for its intended purpose - to find and save America's historic resources.

The Numbers:

- Only 55% of surveyed historic resources have been digitized
- 29.4% - Average percentage of each state surveyed for historic buildings
- 5.8% - Average percentage of each state surveyed for historic landscapes.
- 9.9% - Average percentage of each state surveyed for archaeological resources.
- 71% - of states have more than 10,000 resources in need of re-survey.
- 66% of states report it would take 3 or more years to complete survey & digitization efforts (see map).
- 76% of states report their survey and digitization programs are piecemeal, with some elements working better than others.
- 95% of states report lack of digital records hampers their ability to conduct project reviews.

