

Historic Preservation Under Threat

"...preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future"

~WILLIAM J. MURTAGH, 1st official "keeper" of the National Register of Historic Places

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)

The NHPA represents nearly 60 years of commitment by the federal government to invest in historic places across the nation.

The designation of State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), & Certified Local Governments (CLGs), ensures local expertise of historic resources.

CONGRESS MUST...

1

Facilitate the immediate approval of the FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) & subsequent swift review & approval of applications to ensure the work of SHPOs & THPOs continues to aid in the preservation of our nation's heritage.

2

Demonstrate continued, bipartisan commitment to our nation's history, ahead of the 2026 Semiquincentennial - by proposing FY26 appropriations necessary for SHPOs & THPOs to carry out the requirements of the NHPA, emphasizing their role as stewards of our nation's history; and by investing in preservation projects that recognize the past, with an eye toward the future.

IMMEDIATE THREAT



FY 2025 funds have not been released to SHPOs, THPOs, & competitive grant programs under the HPF, despite being appropriated by Congress in March 2025.

WITHOUT PROMPT FUNDING

- States and Tribes will be forced to eliminate the federally required staff who review federal projects, identify and protect historic properties, and provide support to communities - jeopardizing billions in investment
- Federal projects are more likely to have negative, irreversible impacts on historic landmarks and cultural & archeological sites
- Preservation projects will halt and properties will be lost

FY 2026 THREAT



The President's proposed FY26 budget seeks to eliminate the HPF almost in its entirety.

THIS PROPOSAL

- Will decimate the statutory work of states, Tribes, and other stakeholders & take away input into federal decision-making
- Would slow down or halt infrastructure and historic tax credit rehabilitation projects - discouraging private investment & hampering economic growth
- Inaccurately claims HPF funding is 'duplicative', and that funded projects 'are often of local, rather than of national significance'
- Fails to acknowledge the federal government has a trust & fiduciary responsibility to Tribes
- Puts our nation's historic properties at risk

Under the NHPA, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) serves as the cornerstone to providing technical & financial assistance to preserve historic places & America's heritage, identify and coordinate the listing of historic properties & archeological sites on the National Register of Historic Places, conducting the review of federally mandated Section 106 undertakings, & achieving economic prosperity through the revitalization of deteriorated properties through state review of Historic Tax Credit projects.





NCSHPO

National Conference of
State Historic Preservation Officers



National Trust *for*
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ACRA The Voice of Cultural
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