

Historic Preservation Under Threat

SHPOs

The fate of America's heritage is at stake!

In partnership with the federal government, 59 State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) work tirelessly to enhance, protect, and promote historic places - benefitting residents and communities across the nation.

A SHPO office exists in each of the 50 U.S. States & the District of Columbia, 5 U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands), and 3 freely associated states (Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau)

URGENT ACTION NEEDED...

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 continue 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 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.

NGSHPO

National Conference of
State Historic Preservation Officers

URGENT THREAT

FY 2025 funds have not been released to State Historic Preservation Offices to fulfill their federally delegated responsibilities as required under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), despite being appropriated by Congress via the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) in March 2025.

- SHPOs are in crisis - 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
- This takes away state and local input, signals to Americans that history does not matter, and creates an unfunded mandate
- Federal projects are more likely to have negative, irreversible impacts on historic landmarks and cultural & archeological sites
- Projects will be halted and properties will be lost

FY 2026 THREAT

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

- Decimating the statutory work of SHPOs, Tribes, and other stakeholders & take away input into federal decision-making, citing it as "duplicative"
- Slowing down/halting infrastructure and historic tax credit rehabilitation projects - discouraging private investment & hampering economic growth
- Putting our nation's historic places at risk as we celebrate our 250th Anniversary

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) represents a partnership between the Federal and State/Tribal Governments. Together, they identify & coordinate listing of historic properties on the National Register of Historic Places, review Section 106 federal undertakings (108,200 projects reviewed in FY 2024), provide technical & financial assistance to preserve historic places, and drive economic development through revitalization of deteriorated properties, as a result of state review of Historic Tax Credit projects.