

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

State Historic Preservation Officers

State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) administer federal historic preservation programs at the state and local level, as well as administer their own state programs. These programs help communities identify, evaluate, preserve, and revitalize their historic, archaeological, and cultural resources. The National Park Service (NPS) distributes Historic Preservation Fund grants to SHPOs by apportionment formula, with states and territories required to match 40% of the funding they receive.

SHPO responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing Federal Historic Tax Credit projects
In FY 2020, the federal Historic Tax Credit program leveraged \$6.5 billion in total rehabilitation expenses and created 120,000 jobs
- Reviewing federal projects for their impact on historic resources (Section 106 review)
SHPOs reviewed nearly 110,500 federal undertakings in 2020
- Locating, surveying, and recording historic and cultural resources
In 2020, SHPOs and consultants surveyed approximately 7 million acres for cultural resources
- Facilitating nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register)
In 2020, SHPOs processed and reviewed 82,600 nominations for inclusion in the National Register, of which 1,080 were added to the National Register of Historic Places
- Supporting local historic preservation programs through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program



A former department store, the Golden Rule building brings community space, retail, and affordable apartments to Belington, West Virginia. A combination of Historic Tax Credits and Low Income Housing Tax Credits financed the \$3.1 million rehabilitation project.

PHOTO COURTESY WEST VIRGINIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$65 million for State Historic Preservation Officers in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

ACTIVITY: Grants to States

Recent Funding History:

FY 2020 Enacted Funding: \$52.675 million

FY 2021 Enacted Funding: \$55.675 million

FY 2022 Enacted Funding: \$57.675 million

FY 2023 President Budget Request: \$57.675 million

FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation: \$65.000 million

JUSTIFICATION: SHPOs are essential for the implementation of the nation's historic preservation programs. For years, they have received relatively level funding while SHPO responsibilities and the number of cultural resource surveys have increased. With the passage of the 2021 infrastructure bill, states and Tribes may face an influx of Section 106 review projects impacting historic resources. Increased funding will allow SHPOs to maximize efficiencies in federal project reviews and better carry out their duties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Select Preservation Success Stories

One of the core duties of State Historic Preservation Officers is to work with federal agencies to review federal projects for their impact on historic resources, determine whether and how such resources may be affected, and mitigate adverse effects. Below are successful examples of a Section 106 project and also a Historic Tax Credit project.

Golden Rule Building, West Virginia

After being listed by the state advocacy organization as an endangered property several years ago, the Golden Rule building in downtown Belington, WV was purchased and rehabilitated by combining Historic Tax Credits, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and local and regional funds. The 1902 building was one of the first retail establishments in town as a grocery and department store. After the closure of the coal mines in the 1970s, the building was abandoned and left to decay. The Woodlands

Development Group worked in partnership with Vibrant Communities Development Corporation, the Belington Revitalization Committee, and The Barbour County Development Authority to bring the \$3.1 million project to fruition. Construction was completed in 2021, and the first floor now features commercial space with an artist market, a ticket booth for a scenic railroad in the town, a small museum, and a community space. The second and third floors have been turned into ten apartments offering affordable housing for members of the community.

The Wayne N. Aspinnall Federal Building and Courthouse, Colorado

The U.S. Post Office in Grand Junction, the largest city in western Colorado, was built in 1918 and served in this capacity until 1965. The General Services Administration (GSA) received \$15 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to rehabilitate the original spaces and the exterior of the Aspinnall Building. GSA was responsible for conducting the Section 106 process under the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires that federal agencies identify historic properties and assess the effects of the projects they carry out, fund, or permit on those properties.

The rehabilitated Aspinnall Building, completed in 2015, continues to play an important role in the vitality of downtown Grand Junction and houses many federal offices. The courtroom, postal lobby, and elevator lobbies were rehabilitated; hardwood floors refurbished; and a historic mural was restored and reinstalled. The historic building achieved LEED Platinum certification and unprecedented operational savings with green technology. GSA's enlightened stewardship, informed by the Section 106 consultative process, has ensured the long-term use and viability of this significant building, which serves as a model for adapting historic buildings to meet contemporary energy conservation needs.



The Wayne Aspinnall Federal Building and Courthouse in Grand Junction, CO, was the first permanent post office building in the city, and it maintains its place as the city's most important and architecturally refined civic structure today.

PHOTO COURTESY CAROL HIGHSMITH/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS