



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
1324 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
HEARING ON H.R. 87, H.R. 295, H.R. 1621 AND H.R. 2817**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

**TESTIMONY OF THOMAS J. CASSIDY, JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY**

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Chairman McClintock, Ranking Member Tsongas and members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to present the National Trust for Historic Preservation's recommendations on the four bills before you today. My name is Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr. and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and Policy.

The National Trust is a privately-funded nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949. We work to save America's historic places to enrich our future. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., nine field offices, 27 historic sites, more than 800,000 members and supporters and partner organizations in 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, the National Trust works to save America's historic places and advocates for historic preservation as a fundamental value in programs and policies at all levels of government.

We appreciate the Subcommittee scheduling this hearing on four important legislative proposals, each of which the National Trust enthusiastically supports.

**H.R. 2817, The National Historic Preservation Amendments Act of 2015**

The preservation community is grateful for the leadership of Congressman Mike Turner and Congressman Earl Blumenauer for introducing a truly bipartisan bill. As of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, there were 16 Republican co-sponsors and 15 Democratic co-sponsors, including 13 Members of the Natural Resources Committee.

Historic Preservation Fund Background

Created in 1976, The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the principal source of federal funding to implement the nation's preservation programs through partnerships with states, tribes, and non-profit entities to preserve, restore and preserve our cultural resources. Like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the HPF derives its funding from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leases rather than tax-payer dollars. The HPF achieves its preservation mission of documenting, preserving and utilizing America's legacy of historic sites by providing funding to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs and THPOs) and through, at times, competitive

grants to identify and rehabilitate historic resources. This essential support spurs job creating economic development and community revitalization, making it an excellent dollar-for-dollar investment to foster economic growth. In past years, the HPF has also funded the Save America's Treasures rehabilitation grant program, preservation projects at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and rehabilitation efforts after natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Sandy.

SHPOs and THPOs, the two principal recipients of HPF funding, provide the essential core of our nation's historic preservation program. SHPOs and THPOs are responsible for identifying and documenting America's historic places and National Register nominations; contributing technical expertise to thirty-day reviews of federal projects for their impact on historic resources; providing guidance and approval for Historic Tax Credit projects; providing preservation information, training, and technical assistance to communities and local, state, and Federal governments; preparing and implementing state preservation plans; and creating and working with Certified Local Governments. SHPOs provide a 40% match to the federal funding and are required to distribute at least 10% of a SHPO's HPF allocation to Certified Local Governments.

Historic preservation projects supported through the HPF help stimulate economic development and job creation and make our communities more vibrant and livable. Since its creation, the HPF has had an annual authorized level of \$150 million, however, funding has consistently fallen well short of the authorized level.

Inadequate HPF funding limits support for preservation activities such as the survey of historic sites that is essential to land use and infrastructure planning, nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, public education, project review required by the National Historic Preservation Act and for the review of projects utilizing the federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HTC).

The HTC is the largest federal investment in historic preservation. It has leveraged nearly \$117.6 billion in private investment, created 2.4 million jobs and adapted more than 40,300 historic buildings for new and productive uses since it was signed into law by President Reagan in 1981.

Examples of historic tax credit projects, each of which are reviewed by SHPOs and the NPS, include:

- Fresno, CA: The Californian. This project was completed in 2003. More than \$4.5 million in rehabilitation expenses were invested on a project with an end use of residential housing.
- Lowell, MA. Boot Cotton Mills, Phase 1 was completed in 2007. Approximately \$25 million in rehabilitation expenses were invested on a project with an end use of residential housing. Phase 2 of this project was completed in 2014. An additional \$29 million of rehabilitation expenses were invested in addition residential housing.

- Ogden, UT. Eccles Building/Browne Plaza Hotel. This project was completed in 2005. More than \$10 million in rehabilitation expenses were invested in this hotel.
- Tucson, AZ. Fox Tucson Theater. This project was completed in 2006. Approximately \$11.5 million in rehabilitation expenses were invested in this commercial property.

Historic preservation projects supported through the HPF help stimulate economic development and job creation and make our communities more vibrant and livable.

#### Underrepresented Communities Grant Program

The Administration's FY17 request for the Historic Preservation Fund would continue for a fourth year this \$500,000 competitive grants program for the survey and nomination of properties associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks. Recent studies have documented that less than 8% of such listings identify culturally diverse properties.

Examples of competitive grants that have gone to support the listing of places associated with underrepresented communities on the National Register include:

- **California:** Preserve 20th-Century Latino History -- \$30,079 to enable the State Historic Preservation Office to nominate seven to 20 Latino properties to the National Register.
- **Massachusetts:** Chinese Immigrants and Chinese Americans in Boston -- \$25,000 to develop a National Register Historic Context statement for the city's Chinese community in late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- **Utah:** Asian and Pacific Islander Survey and Nomination of Historical Resources -- \$42,050 for completion of nomination of Iosepa Polynesian Archeological District and archaeological survey of railroad sites associated with Chinese labor.
- **Virginia:** Virginia Indians National Register Project -- \$70,000 to increase representation of historic properties associated with Native American tribes since European contact.
- **Montana:** Butte, Montana Ethnic Atlas and National Register Nomination Project -- \$56,000 to inventory and map the ethnic heritage of the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark, recognizing important enclaves of African-American, Chinese, and Arabic-speaking (Lebanese) peoples and develop two new National Register nominations.
- **Alaska:** \$33,133 to support the preparation of two National Register listings in the small Alaska Native village of Kake, located on Kupreanof Island within Southeast Alaska's panhandle, has a population of about 557, 72% of which represent tribal enrollees.

#### FY17 Administration Request

The National Trust applauds the Administration's FY17 request of \$87.41 million for the HPF. Most of the increase over FY16 enacted is attributable to the \$25 million for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement and \$3 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In addition, the Administration requested an additional \$2 million over FY16 enacted for grants to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. There are presently 158 THPOs recognized by NPS – a dramatic increase from the 12 tribes who received funding in FY96, the first year of THPO funding. The National Trust enthusiastically endorses these well-deserved increases for preservation activities.

However, the National Trust is disappointed that the Administration did not request any funding increase to the SHPOs. We will work with the preservation community to urge the Appropriations Committee to provide much needed increases for SHPOs to ensure that they can provide essential preservation services to businesses and communities throughout the nation.

Reauthorization of the HPF is necessary to provide certainty and continuity to the thousands of communities across America that utilize the HPF to protect our national heritage. We greatly appreciate the Committee's consideration of H.R. 2817 and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

### **H.R. 295, The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Historic Preservation Program Reauthorization Act**

The National Trust strongly supports Congressman Clyburn's enduring leadership to support the preservation needs of the national network of 107 HBCU campuses.

Historic sites and properties on HBCU's campuses represent a unique aspect of African American history in the United States. These places are living testaments of the past and contribute to the growth of their communities. The enactment of H.R. 295 would be an important catalyst to restore and rehabilitate historic landmarks that preserves the architectural and historical legacy on HBCU campuses.

In 1998, the National Trust identified the network of HBCUs as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. That same year, the Government Accountability Office estimated the preservation needs of HBCUs at more than \$750 million. The HPF has been the source of more than \$60 million in grants for HBCU preservation projects, and other funds have also been invested in such projects, but a however, a significant preservation need remains. The National Trust continues its involvement in the preservation of historic resources on HBCU campuses, including current projects at Howard University's Founders Library and Morgan State University.

### **H.R. 1621, The Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act**

We appreciate Congressman Forbes' leadership on this legislation. This legislation would expand Petersburg National Battlefield to include 7,238 acres of hallowed ground at 12 battlefields associated with the Petersburg Campaign.

Among the battlefields that will benefit from this legislation are the Crater, Boydton Plank Road, Five Forks, Fort Stedman, Globe Tavern, Hatcher's Run, Peebles' Farm, Petersburg-Breakthrough, Reams' Station and White Oak Road.

These battlefields were recognized as nationally significant historic resources in the 1993 Congressional study on the status of the nation's Civil War battlefields conducted by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, which was updated by NPS in 2010.

H.R. 1621 would enable private groups like the Civil War Trust to work with the National Park

Service to preserve key battlefield properties critical to telling the story of the siege that decided the Civil War in Virginia.

**H.R. 87, The Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act**

The National appreciates Congresswoman Blackburn's leadership on this legislation.

H.R. 87 would include 2,284 crucial battlefield acres into Shiloh National Military Park and it would establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

The battle at Shiloh was one of the largest engagements of the Civil War, and led to more than 23,000 casualties. It also contributed to the eventual surrender of Vicksburg, dividing the Confederacy in two along the Mississippi River.

These battlefields were recognized as nationally significant historic resources in the 1993 Congressional study on the status of the nation's Civil War battlefields conducted by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, which was updated by NPS in 2010.

These bills would give the Department of the Interior the authority to acquire land for the park, including from private groups such as the Civil War Trust. The Civil War Trust has preserved hundreds of acres at these battlefields that would be included in the boundary expansion.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present the National Trust's perspectives on these four important preservation bills. We look forward to working with the Committee to ensure these bills are enacted into law this year.