



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

**Statement of the National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Shaw Sprague, Vice President of Government Relations  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Ranking Member Grijalva Roundtable: Historic and Cultural Preservation  
November 29, 2023**

Ranking Member Grijalva and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony from the National Trust for Historic Preservation alongside our colleagues and preservation partners for this roundtable discussion on historic and cultural preservation. My name is Shaw Sprague, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations. We appreciate the leadership of this committee on an extensive list of preservation issues under your jurisdiction and look forward to continuing our ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

**Interests of the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded charitable, educational, and nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949 to “facilitate public participation in historic preservation” and to further the purposes of federal historic preservation laws.<sup>1</sup> The intent of Congress was for the National Trust “to mobilize and coordinate public interest, participation, and resources in the preservation and interpretation of sites and buildings.” With headquarters in Washington, D.C., 28 historic sites, more than one million members and supporters, and a national network of partners in 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.

In the next year, the National Trust will celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and highlight the positive impact of preservation for our nation. Since our founding in 1949, we have worked closely with Congress—and particularly this Committee—to advocate on behalf of our nation’s irreplaceable historic and cultural resources. We deeply appreciate this collaboration that supports vital federal preservation funding through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), programs like the Great American Outdoors Act, preservation of historic sites and cultural resources on public lands, and federal designations of NPS and other federal agency sites. Our testimony highlights a selection of preservation issues for discussion today, as well as additional resources and background for future conversations.

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<sup>1</sup> 54 U.S.C. § § 320101, 312102

## **Expiration of Historic Preservation Fund Authorization**

Established in 1977, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the principal source of funding to implement the nation's historic preservation programs. Administered by the National Park Service, the HPF makes many federal and state preservation efforts possible. The resources provided through the HPF are essential in supporting preservation initiatives across the nation. HPF funding supports fundamental preservation activities such as surveying, nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, public education, and project reviews required for federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) projects. The competitive grant programs within the HPF are having a transformative impact in communities throughout the country and these investments are helping preserve a broader historic narrative while revitalizing communities and creating local jobs.

The HPF has been reauthorized six times since its establishment for periods between five and ten years and always at a fully authorized amount of \$150 million. Most recently, it was reauthorized in 2016 for a seven-year period through FY 2023 as part of the National Park Service Centennial Act. On September 30, 2023, the authorization expired without a renewal or extension. The longer the HPF remains unauthorized, the more uncertainty it causes for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), and competitive grant recipients that rely on this funding. It also undermines the longstanding commitment of Congress for the preservation of our historic resources.

Led by the bipartisan co-chairs of the Historic Preservation Caucus, Representatives Mike Turner (R-OH) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), the Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3350) would reauthorize the HPF for ten years and increase its authorization from \$150 to \$250 million, annually. Enacting this legislation will significantly enhance the protection of our nation's historic resources, ensuring they remain vibrant for communities throughout the country well into the future. The HPF has enjoyed bipartisan support on Capitol Hill since its inception, including in this current effort to see it reauthorized.

## **HPF: A Vital Source of Support for Our Communities**

Funding to preserve our nation's historic resources through the HPF comes from revenue generated by oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, not from taxpayer receipts. Since its establishment in 1977, HPF has been authorized at \$150 million annually, though it is subject to annual appropriations. The HPF did not see its full authorized amount appropriated until FY 2022 when the enacted amount totaled \$173.072 million, exceeding the authorized amount. The National Trust is enormously appreciative of the six successive historic funding levels provided to the HPF, including the FY 2023 enacted level of \$204.515 million, the highest appropriated amount in the program's history.<sup>2</sup> While increased investment in the HPF has facilitated innovative and impactful historic preservation work

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<sup>2</sup> See National Trust for Historic Preservation, "[The Preservation Budget, Select Preservation Priorities for FY 2024 Appropriations](#)" 2023.

across the country, additional appropriations are needed to ensure a more complete historic narrative is preserved for future generations and lesser-known places of historic and cultural significance may continue to enrich our communities.

Preserving America's diverse heritage, cultures, and traditions requires coordination of federal, state, local, and private efforts. The HPF provides matching grants by formula for SHPOs and THPOs, which are essential in supporting preservation initiatives across the nation. While funding for SHPOs and THPOs has increased in recent years, the significant growth in HPF funding has been for the competitive grant programs, which both advance equity and inclusion and support bricks and mortar job creation. Increased funding for the HPF would allow SHPOs and THPOs to keep pace with increasing demands and essential responsibilities. Enhanced funding for competitive grant programs will help to better protect more places and preserve stories associated with diverse communities. Strong support of the HPF by the Administration and Congress indicates a higher authorized funding level is needed for appropriate stewardship of our nation's historic and cultural resources.

The components of the HPF are as follows:

- **State Historic Preservation Officers** 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.
- **Tribal Historic Preservation Officers** are officially designated by federally-recognized Native American Tribes to direct preservation programs approved by the National Park Service (NPS). The THPO assumes some or all of the functions and responsibilities of State Historic Preservation Officers on tribal lands.
- The **Save America's Treasures (SAT)** competitive grant program preserves nationally significant historic and cultural resources. Through funded projects and community engagement, SAT grants enable a richer and more diverse American history to be told. After more than 20 years, this grant program has awarded more than 1,300 grants totaling more than \$300 million to projects across the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- The **African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grant Program** funds the preservation of the sites and stories associated with the African American struggle for equal rights.
- The **Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants** marks the 250th anniversary of the United States by providing grants to restore and preserve state owned sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation.
- The **History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant Program** protects the sites important in securing civil rights for all Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans. It was formerly called the Civil Rights for All Americans Grant Program.
- The **Underrepresented Community Grant Program** supports projects to enable the National Park Service (NPS) to better recognize, preserve, and

interpret the stories of historically disenfranchised and underrepresented groups.

- The **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Grant Program** supports historic preservation projects “honoring and preserving the unique and important role (HBCUs) played in advancing the realization of a more free, equal, and just society.”
- The **Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program** provides competitive grants to revive historic properties in rural communities across America. The program, formerly known as the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program, was renamed in honor of Paul Bruhn, the late executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

## **Maximizing the Impact of Federal Historic Tax Credits**

The Historic Tax Credit (HTC) is a well-established and successful incentive for revitalizing historic properties and supporting economic development. The HTC is a 20% income tax credit applied to qualified rehabilitation expenses for income-producing and certified historic structures, distributed over 5 years (4% per year). The credit generates new economic activity by supporting the creation of public-private partnerships to preserve historic community assets that support business development and local job creation.

The HTC has encouraged approximately \$191 billion in private investment since inception to revitalize often vacant and underutilized properties that have a financing gap between what banks will lend and what the project will cost. According to the National Park Service’s (NPS) HTC Impact Report (2022), the HTC has contributed to the rehabilitation of 48,000 historic buildings, created over 3 million jobs, and produced over 192,000 low- and moderate-income affordable housing units. The NPS 2021 study concluded the HTC returns more to the Treasury than it costs, generating \$42.9 billion in federal tax revenue from the \$37.6 billion in federal tax credits.

The National Trust strongly supports the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (HTC-GO: H.R. 1785, S.639) introduced by Representatives LaHood (R-IL), Blumenauer (D-OR), Kelly (R-PA), Sewell (D-AL), Turner (R-OH), and Higgins (D-NY) in the House and by Senators Cardin (D-MD), Cassidy (R-LA), Cantwell (D-WA), and Collins (R-ME) in the Senate. HTC-GO includes provisions that will add more value to the HTC, improve access to the credit, and enhance investment opportunities for smaller rehabilitation projects. HTC projects have encountered mounting challenges over the last 10 years. According to rehabilitation industry estimates, the value of the historic tax credit investment has decreased by 20-30%.<sup>3</sup> These issues, combined with rising interest rates and skyrocketing costs of materials and labor, have exacerbated financing challenges with these projects. The important changes sought for the Historic Tax Credit would encourage more building reuse and redevelopment nationwide and would be particularly impactful for small, midsize, and rural communities. HTC-GO provisions would make the credit easier to use, more historic properties eligible, and make it easier to create affordable housing.

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<sup>3</sup> Historic Tax Credit Coalition, [“Historic Preservation and the Federal Historic Tax Credit, Addressing Challenges of the 21st Century”](#) September, 2023.

The National Trust is fully committed to the idea that reuse of older and historic buildings supports housing objectives, promotes sustainable revitalization, and enhances the well-being of our communities. Historic tax credit incentives at the state and federal level have proven to be the most effective way to promote preservation and community revitalization through historic rehabilitation.

## **Preservation is Climate Action**

Climate change puts America's historic resources at significant risk, and the National Trust is committed to supporting adaptation strategies to ensure the survival of these irreplaceable historic resources. Recognizing that 27% of global carbon emissions come from the operation of buildings and 11% of emissions are derived from the building construction process, we are also working to aggressively reduce emissions from the building sector to help stave off the worst impacts of climate change.

### *Climate Adaptation: Saving America's Irreplaceable Historic Resources*

An acceleration in the frequency and intensity of flooding, wildfires, increasing temperatures, and extreme weather events endangers the survival of our historic and cultural resources. The National Trust is leading a myriad of efforts to help ensure the adaptation of our nation's treasured places, including helping communities adapt to climate change at the local level. With the support of the National Park Service, for example, our Main Street America program is developing disaster preparedness resources that help communities create plans to support short- and long-term recovery efforts. These plans help communities prepare to address the physical and economic aftereffects of disasters, enabling swifter recovery from disruptive climate-related events.

### *Climate Mitigation: Carbon Reductions through Reuse of Older and Historic Buildings*

As an early leader in research establishing the essential role that the adaptive reuse and retrofit of existing buildings plays in achieving carbon emission reduction targets, the National Trust is dedicated to decarbonizing the built environment, particularly buildings over 50 years of age. This includes a commitment to enhanced building performance through energy efficiency improvements, building electrification, and integrating renewable technologies.

Reuse and retrofitting of existing buildings can save between 50-70% of the carbon that would be expended by constructing a similar building because the construction process itself is carbon intensive, with significant carbon emitted by the manufacture, transport, and assembly of materials into new buildings.<sup>4</sup> Rehabilitating existing buildings requires far fewer materials than new builds, and thus the greenest buildings are the buildings that already exist. Rehabilitating buildings also presents an essential opportunity to significantly improve a structure's operational performance, especially by electrifying buildings and adding on-site renewables where possible.

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<sup>4</sup> Frey, Patrice Frey and Martinez, Vincent. "We Can't Build Our Way To Net Zero" <https://nextcity.org/urbanist-news/we-cant-build-our-way-to-net-zero> Op-Ed, Next City, January 10, 2023.

Yet each year, approximately 1 billion square feet of buildings (about the area of Manhattan, NY) are demolished, and four to six billion new square feet are constructed. According to the EPA, 600 million tons of construction and demolition (C&D) debris were generated in the United States in 2018, with demolition waste representing more than 90 percent of the total debris. Most of that waste is hauled using trucks producing air pollution to landfills that often occupy land formerly used for farming and forestry.<sup>5</sup> There are multiple opportunities for Congress to help encourage more adaptive reuse of historic buildings and contribute to a broader climate change strategy.

### *Congressional Action to Support Climate Adaptation and Mitigation for Historic Resources*

Pending bipartisan HTC and HPF legislation provide two opportunities for Congress to support preservation as climate action. Strengthening the HTC enables cost-effective investments in the adaptive reuse of our nation's building stock as an alternative to demolition. Robust funding of the HPF will support survey and digitization efforts of historic buildings that will significantly aid in efforts to address adaptation and planning for climate-related disasters while preserving irreplaceable historical and cultural resources.

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program, created under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, also offers a powerful pathway to support the retrofit and reuse of older and historic buildings. We are grateful to Congress for developing this innovative new program which will provide capital to decarbonize the built environment, including supporting the retrofit and reuse of existing buildings. We urge Congress' sustained support of this program, which specifically prioritizes investments in low-income and disadvantaged communities to help ensure climate mitigation dollars are accessible in places most in need.

We look forward to continued dialogue with this committee on addressing climate change and its impact on historic sites stewarded by federal agencies and local communities.

### **Federal Permitting Reform and Viability of the Section 106 Process**

In recent months, Congress has explored legislative proposals addressing federal permitting reform and related regulatory processes and the National Trust and our partners have shared with federal lawmakers our concerns that any permitting reform efforts must not come at the expense of our nation's heritage.

We are fortunate to have laws that support balancing historic and cultural protections with effective implementation. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) emphasizes the importance of protecting cultural and historic resources so that future generations have an opportunity to appreciate our rich heritage. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) similarly adheres to the continuing responsibility of the federal government to use all practicable means to preserve important historic, cultural, and natural resources. These laws play a critical role in giving our communities, including those that have been

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Sustainable Management of Construction and Demolition Materials." March 8, 2016.

historically underrepresented, a voice to help shape and refine federally permitted projects and to assist in avoiding and minimizing their adverse impacts.

The NHPA and NEPA were enacted within four years of one another and are foundational aspects of federal oversight of our nation's historic and cultural resources. The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) regulations for implementing NEPA encourage integration of the NEPA process with other planning and environmental reviews, such as Section 106 of NHPA, which requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country.<sup>6</sup>

The regulations that implement Section 106 (36 C.F.R. Part 800) provide a versatile array of streamlining tools, including providing for the development of program alternatives like nationwide programmatic agreements and program comments, and even exemptions, all of which can help tailor Section 106 compliance to agency program needs. Such program alternatives are preferable to legislative exemptions from the NHPA because they ensure consideration of project impacts on historic properties while still streamlining consultation requirements. This is a win-win scenario that can address concerns motivating legislative provisions for streamlining. Anything short of the full reach of our bedrock preservation laws risks repeating the mistakes of our past and the irretrievable loss of our cultural heritage.

We have previously shared with this committee our grave concerns regarding proposed legislative provisions that undermine the core principles of NEPA and NHPA and would eliminate vital protections for historic and cultural resources if the proposed changes were enacted. For example, the exemption of certain types of projects from compliance with NEPA and the NHPA (such as telecommunications infrastructure or oil and gas drilling), arbitrary page limits and time limits for completing reviews, and mandating additional projects irrespective of their viability, would overwhelm an already underfunded and understaffed workforce and compromise the very protections which these critical laws were intended to provide. While changes and limitations to supporting documentation for federal reviews may appear on its face to create permitting efficiencies, such an approach risks longer-term unintended consequences by limiting public disclosure and evaluation of adverse impacts. The result would put our nation's communities, and their cultural and historic and environmental resources, at risk. Without the benefit of careful review and consideration of these unprecedented changes by Congress, we are concerned that the proposed federal permitting provisions will erode government accountability and unreasonably limit public participation.

The National Trust strongly opposes *any* legislative exemptions to compliance with the NHPA and/or NEPA. In our view, the federal permitting process could be dramatically improved and streamlined through greater federal investments in staffing and in modernizing the way historic and cultural resources are documented and made available to the public. State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs and THPOs) are charged with completing required project reviews but are inadequately funded and staffed to do so. Providing them the necessary resources is the appropriate solution to improve and expedite reviews, not changing the rules to circumvent or eliminate the requirements. Support for

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<sup>6</sup> NEPA and NHPA, A Handbook for Integrating NEPA and Section 106, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. (2013) (available at [https://www.achp.gov/integrating\\_nepa\\_106](https://www.achp.gov/integrating_nepa_106)).



nationwide survey and digitization of historic resources through the HPF would improve public access to information and allow for earlier and more efficient review of federal undertakings under the NHPA.

## **Federal Designations to Preserve Historic Places**

For decades, the National Trust has supported a wide variety of federal designations that preserve and protect historic places on our public lands, and we thank you for your leadership on this committee to advance legislation to enable these designations. Many of these have or would establish new units of the National Park System—one of our nation's best ideas consisting of a network of 425 parks and sites that protect spectacular historic, cultural, and natural resources and tell the stories of remarkable people and events in our country's history.

During the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, we urge the committee's continued support of these pending pieces of legislation:

### Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act (H.R. 4338)

Historic Route 66 stretches approximately 2,400 miles from Chicago, IL to Santa Monica, CA, passing through eight states and more than 300 rural and urban communities. This vital transportation corridor between the Midwest and southern California has endured as an internationally recognized symbol of freedom and mobility while epitomizing a new optimism that pervaded the nation's economic recovery following World War II. Numerous buildings along Route 66 are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and it was designated a National Scenic Byway in four states. As a Dustbowl migration route, a World War II strategic military route, and a vacation travel route, it has been celebrated in music, literature, television, movies, and popular lore.

H.R. 4338 would designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail to be managed by the National Park Service, and we thank Representatives Darin LaHood (R-IL) and Grace Napolitano (D-CA) for their years of leadership advocating for this legislation. Designating Route 66 as a National Historic Trail will have a significant economic impact in the eight states along the iconic route, spur critical preservation efforts, and appropriately recognize the historic roadway ahead of its upcoming centennial celebration in 2026. The National Trust enthusiastically endorses this legislation and we urge Congress to ensure its passage ahead of the 2026 Centennial.

### Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument Act (H.R. 2415, S. 384)

The National Trust has long supported the permanent preservation and protection of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site, and we have a strong interest in seeing the full history of this significant place preserved. We appreciate the leadership of Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) on their bicameral legislation that supports the designation of the Springfield site as a National Monument.



The area near Madison Street and the 10th Street Rail Corridor in Springfield, Illinois includes structural remains of black-owned homes burned during the 1908 race riots. Over the course of two days during these riots, the community experienced the shooting deaths and lynching of African Americans, as well as significant destruction of property. The riots were also a catalyst for civil rights activists to launch meetings that led to the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This location represents the rare survival of burned structural remains from race riots during this time period and with few examples of sites associated with racial terror listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is even more important to secure permanent protection for this historic place.

We appreciate the extensive work of the NPS to evaluate this site as part of the congressionally-authorized special resource study, including outreach efforts of recent public comment periods. The National Trust supports the designation of this site as a National Monument in order to protect the Springfield site, acknowledge its historic and national significance as a site of racial violence, and tell the story of the efforts of Black leadership to overcome that terrible tragedy.

#### Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act (H.R. 3062, S. 1404)

Chaco Canyon and its surrounding landscape in northwest New Mexico hold remarkable examples of ancestral Pueblo ceremonial buildings, distinctive great houses, and an elaborate network of engineered roads. The Greater Chaco Landscape is a region of great cultural, spiritual, and historical significance to many Pueblos and Native American groups. Yet this incredible landscape—designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 and included on the National Trust’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list in 2011—is threatened by encroaching oil, gas, and mineral development.

On May 3, 2023, U.S. Representatives Teresa Leger Fernández (D-N.M.), Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.), and Gabe Vasquez (D-N.M.) and U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) reintroduced the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act (H.R. 3062, S. 1404) to protect Chaco Canyon and the greater sacred landscape surrounding the Chaco Culture National Historical Park. This legislation aims to prevent future oil and gas development, as well as coal and uranium mining, on federal public lands within a roughly 10-mile radius of Chaco Culture National Historical Park. In 2022, the Biden administration moved forward with exploring a twenty-year moratorium on development of the 10-mile buffer zone. This legislation would provide permanent protections by banning oil, gas, and mineral development on federal lands in the Greater Chaco Region. A previous iteration of the legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2019. This bill would codify a longstanding practice of avoiding new leasing on federal lands in these sensitive areas.

Crucial to the successful stewardship of historic and cultural resources within the National Park System is an increased investment for NPS staffing and related resources. We urge Congress to prioritize investments in NPS cultural resources staff and personnel across over four hundred park units to secure the necessary expertise and capacity to successfully steward our nation’s historic assets and implement preservation programs.

In addition to our support for congressional designations, the National Trust has long engaged in work to support the Antiquities Act of 1906—our nation’s oldest law protecting historic, prehistoric, and scientific features on public lands that has enabled 18 presidents from both political parties to swiftly protect historic sites and culturally important lands. By establishing new national monuments or enlarging existing ones, our leaders have preserved precious places for future generations to experience and enjoy.

We thank Ranking Member Grijalva and members of the committee for their leadership to advocate for recent national monument designations, such as the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument and The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument. Similarly, we will continue to support your efforts in this committee to oppose provisions that would weaken the positive impact and viability of the Antiquities Act.

## **Supporting Preservation in Our Communities**

The National Trust leads a wide-ranging list of preservation projects throughout the nation that are included in many of our signature initiatives, and we hope to continue to be a resource to this committee as we collectively preserve and protect significant historic places. We would be pleased to provide additional background and examples of the positive impact of our programs in your states and districts, including the following initiatives:

### African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund (AACHAF)

A program of the National Trust, the AACHAF works to make an important and lasting contribution to our cultural landscape by elevating the stories and places of African American resilience, activism, and achievement. With more than \$80 million in funding, the AACHAF is the largest resource dedicated to the preservation of African American historic places through grantmaking and programs to preserve black churches, HBCUs, Black modernism architecture and design, as well as a fellowship program. In six years, the AACHAF has awarded more than \$20 million in grant funding, supported 13 historic preservation fellows, and funded jobs at historic sites totaling over \$2 million.

### Grantmaking

The National Trust is a leading nonprofit funder in the preservation field, awarding \$85 million in grant funding since 1969 for preservation planning efforts, education efforts, capital grants, and emergency intervention funding to save historic properties in cases such as natural disasters or threats of demolition. In addition to grant funding opportunities provided by the AACHAF, grant making opportunities also include preservation assistance for additional needs to build stronger communities and invest in preservation’s future.

Together with American Express, the National Trust Backing Historic Small Restaurants grants for three years have granted \$3 million to 75 small or independently-owned historic restaurants that contribute to their neighborhood’s unique history and identity. The National Trust joined Partners for Sacred Places

and the Lilly Endowment to establish the National Fund for Sacred Places to provide technical assistance, capacity-building support, and capital grants to help congregations restore and preserve historic places of worship. Now in its eighth year, the National Fund has awarded or pledged over \$21.5 million to 113 community-serving congregations representing different faith traditions or denominations in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, resulting in more than \$3 leveraged for every grant dollar invested in participating congregations.

### Nationwide Programs

Since 1988, the National Trust has used its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places to raise awareness about the threats facing some of the nation's greatest treasures. Over the course of 36 years, the annual list has identified more than 350 sites and has proven so successful in galvanizing preservation efforts that only a handful of sites have been lost.

Our HOPE Crew program, which stands for Hands-On Preservation Experience has completed 175 projects and trained more than 802 young people—including veterans—and engaged over 3,750 volunteers in historic preservation trades since 2014. The training and a focus on rebuilding historic trades through research also provides avenues for the use of digital tools to document and preserve historic places.

As a result of each of these initiatives, we continue to observe the inspiring work of preservationists across the nation making positive contributions to communities by preserving and protecting historic places—and have documented the substantial needs in communities for additional support. For example, our AACHAF national grant program has received 5,638 proposals with requests for \$655 million dollars in preservation assistance, demonstrating the continued and extensive needs. We urge Congress to expeditiously reauthorize the HPF and support pending legislation to increase its authorization to sustain vital competitive grant programs.

The National Trust will continue its deep engagement with our partners and communities to preserve and tell the full American story and look forward to our continued collaboration with this committee on these and other policy issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "S. J. ...", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vice President of Government Relations  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

## Appendix A – HPF Competitive Grant Programs

HPF Competitive Grant Program	Brief Description	Eligibility Requirements
Save America’s Treasures (SAT)	Preserves nationally significant historic and cultural resources. Through funded projects and community engagement, SAT grants enable a richer and more diverse American history to be told.	Individual projects are only eligible for one SAT grant. Individual structures or collections that have received a SAT grant in the past are not eligible for additional funding. Organizations with multiple eligible structures or collections may apply for funding for any eligible structure or collection which has not received past SAT funding.
African American Civil Rights Grants (AACR)	Funds the preservation of the sites and stories associated with the African American struggle for equal rights.	This competitive grant program provides grants to states, tribes, local governments (including Certified Local Governments), and nonprofits. Non-federal matching shares are not required.
History of Equal Rights Grants	Protects the sites important in securing civil rights for all Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans. It was formerly called the Civil Rights for All Americans Grant Program.	<p>This program funds physical preservation work and pre-preservation planning activities for sites that are listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as a National Historic Landmark. Should a site not be listed, or not listed for its association with equal rights, then a new nomination or amendment must be created as part of the grant project.</p> <p>Grants under this program are awarded through a competitive process and do not require non-Federal match.</p>
Underrepresented Communities Grants	Supports projects to enables the National Park Service (NPS) to better recognize, preserve, and interpret the stories of historically disenfranchised and underrepresented groups.	<p>Eligible applicants are limited to State Historic Preservation Offices; Tribal Historic Preservation Offices; Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages/Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations; and Certified Local Governments.</p> <p>Starting in FY2023, nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.</p> <p>Grants are awarded through a competitive process and do not require non-Federal match.</p>
Historically Black Colleges and	Supports historic preservation projects “honoring and	Accredited HBCUs are eligible to apply for this grant program, and eligible projects

<p>Universities (HBCUs) Grants</p>	<p>preserving the unique and important role (HBCUs) played in advancing the realization of a more free, equal, and just society.”</p>	<p>include physical preservation of sites listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Historically significant buildings no longer have to be listed in the National Register to qualify for funding. If you would like to apply to our grant program for an unlisted building, then you must complete a National Register nomination to get the building listed as part of your grant project.</p>
<p>Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants</p>	<p>Provides competitive grants to revive historic properties in rural communities across America. The program, formerly known as the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program, was renamed in honor of Paul Bruhn, the late executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont.</p>	<p>Eligible subgrant properties must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or determined eligible for listing at the National, State, or local level of significance and located within rural (non-urban) communities with populations less than 50,000. State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Certified Local Governments, and non-profits can apply for funding that will in turn be subgranted to specific projects in rural communities in their jurisdictions. Eligible costs for this program include architectural/engineering services (not to exceed 20% of the subgrant) and physical preservation projects.</p>
<p>Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants</p>	<p>Marks the 250th anniversary of the United States by providing grants to restore and preserve state owned sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation.</p>	<p>Eligible applicants may include local governments, non-profit organizations, public and non-profit institutions of higher education, and tribes. Notably, the FY2023 Semiquincentennial grant program does not require resources to be owned by a State government. All resources must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places (including National Historic Landmarks) individually or as contributing to a listed district at the time of application to be eligible for this program. Buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects considered significant for their association with or commemoration of people, places, or events between the earliest known resources and December 31, 1800 may be considered as associated with the "founding of the nation."</p>