



Preserve America Summit Implementation **One-Year Progress Report**

Create a comprehensive inventory of historic properties through a multi-year plan that expands current inventories and makes them more compatible and accessible.

Lead Agency/Agencies: National Park Service and the ACHP (with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and other partners)

Summit Recommendation Progress: The National Park Service (NPS), in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), responded to the Preserve America Summit's call for the creation of comprehensive and accessible inventory of historic properties by establishing the National Historic Property Inventory Initiative (NHPII). The core, strategic goals of NHPII include:

- Achieve excellence and efficiency in the collection, management, and distribution of new and old data;
- Correct qualitative and quantitative data deficiencies;
- Ensure appropriate and effective security protocols for restricted data;
- Improve dramatically the cost-effectiveness of National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance reviews;
- Continue the present practice of oversight and maintenance of historic property inventory data sets by individual State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), and Federal agencies (FPOs); and
- Provide new, supplemental grant funding to SHPOs and THPOs on an annual basis through the Historic Preservation Fund targeted at improving state and tribal government historic property inventories on a qualitative and quantitative basis.

To facilitate the implementation of the first (planning) phase of NHPII, in November 2007, the NPS organized ongoing monthly meetings of a Working Group that currently includes representation from a broad spectrum of SHPOs and THPOs, as well as the ACHP, NCSHPO, Federal agencies, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Association of Tribal Preservation Officers, the National Barn Alliance, and other national preservation organizations. The NHPII Working Group collaborated with the NPS to successfully develop and complete (as of July 31, 2008) a comprehensive, nationwide web-based survey of cultural-resource data management practices currently utilized by SHPOs, THPOs, and FPOs. During this same period, the Working Group also assisted the NPS with the formulation of the Request for Proposals used for NCSHPO's hiring a professional cultural-resource management consulting firm to provide a more detailed review and assessment of such systems and practices. Based on a nationwide, competitive bidding process, in mid-July 2008, this NCSHPO consulting contract was awarded to SWCA Environmental Consultants of Boulder, Colorado. Work on the project, which is being managed by NPS, was formally initiated by SWCA on August 4, 2008. The firm is scheduled to complete a draft report on its comprehensive national analysis of Federal, state, and tribal

cultural resource data management systems (including a summary of best practices) on a by mid-February 2009, with a final project report to available by mid-March 2009.

Next Actions: SWCA will complete NHPII contract work under the direction of the NPS and in monthly consultation with the NHPII Working Group. NPS will utilize analysis provided by SWCA to create a new, supplemental HPF grants program targeted at qualitative and quantitative improvement of SHPO and THPO historic property inventories.

Comments or Questions? Please send comments or questions to preserveamerica@achp.gov.

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