



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

Promote cultural diversity in the identification of historic properties by evaluating the National Register of Historic Places for its inclusiveness and encouraging local, state, and tribal governments to evaluate their own inventories.

Lead Agency/Agencies: National Park Service (NPS)

Summit Recommendation Progress: Partnering with the Organization of American Historians and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the NPS completed its analysis of African American National Historic Landmark (NHL) properties and how well they represent the full range of African American history. This project resulted in dozens of suggestions made by State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), NPS regional offices, and other entities regarding significant African American properties, many of which were yet to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or designated as NHLs. The NHL Program also earmarked funds remaining from the African American NHL Assessment Study to prepare an NHL nomination for a previously undesignated site associated with African American history.

In early April 2008, the NPS created and electronically distributed the web-based Diversifying the National Register survey to NPS cultural resources programs, NPS Regional Offices, SHPOs, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, tribal governments, Federal Preservation Officers, Certified Local Governments, private organizations, and local preservation professionals to learn more about their efforts to increase recognition of diverse cultural properties. NPS sent an official letter via electronic mail to solicit their participation in the survey. By the June 2, 2008, deadline, 99 organizations had submitted survey responses to the Diversifying the National Register survey. National Register Program staff generated a summary report of the survey results and began identifying patterns in the identification and nomination of diverse cultural properties. Based on survey recommendations, the NPS created a contact database of individuals who might be invited to a meeting of diverse preservationists, academic leaders, and government officials to develop strategies to increase diversity in the National Register. NPS staff members have begun efforts to involve these individuals in the project, including implementing plans to conduct educational sessions at regional historic preservation conferences during FY2009.

The Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program, administered in conjunction with the Student Conservation Association, continued its 10th year with 16 internships at NPS offices, parks, and partnership organizations. Several of the intern projects involved the documentation of historic properties associated with diverse groups. The interns will travel to Washington, DC for a 3-day career workshop, August 6-8, 2008. Workshop sessions will describe current initiatives to diversify America's historic property inventories and encourage the interns to become active participants in these efforts.

Next Actions: NPS staff will distribute a limited printing of the African American NHL Assessment Study to our partners in the preservation community. NPS staff will continue to inform our partners of the Diversifying the National Register survey, distribute the preliminary survey results, and solicit comments through participation in regional conferences and meetings. NPS staff will continue to identify previously

unknown patterns in the identification and nomination of diverse cultural properties. In addition, NPS will continue to identify individuals who might be invited to a meeting of diverse preservationists, academic leaders, and government officials. The NHL Program will choose a property for a new NHL nomination, using funds remaining from the African American NHL Assessment Study.

Important Links:

Organization of American Historians www.oah.org

Museum of African American History and Culture <http://nmaahc.si.edu/>

African American NHL Assessment Study

www.nps.gov/history/nhl/themes/Special%20Studies/AA%20NHL%20Assessment%20Study.pdf

Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program www.nps.gov/history/crdi/internships/intrn.htm

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

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