



## **Preserve America Summit Implementation** **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.

In August 2009, in cooperation with the NPS, NCSHPO executed a contract with SWCA Environmental Consultants of Broomfield, Colorado, to: 1) analyze information gathered from SHPOs, THPOs, and FPOs related to current cultural resource data collection and management; 2) conduct detailed post-electronic survey, onsite follow-up interviews with targeted, individual SHPO, THPO, and FPOs; and 3) produce a final project report describing their findings and identifying a series of current best practices utilized by SHPOs, THPOs, and FPOs for cultural resource data collection management on a nationwide basis. As of the beginning of January 2009, SWCA has completed more than 55 project-related onsite interviews. The NHPII Working Group, comprised of representatives from the NPS, ACHP, NCSHPO, NATHPO, several FPOs, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and representatives of other national nonprofits, continues to be provided an opportunity to review and provide input on the progress of the project on a regular basis. Completion of work on the project remains on time and under budget.

**Next Actions:** SWCA will complete a draft final project report for review and comment by the NPS, ACHP, NCSHPO, and all other members of the NHPII Working Group by early February 2009. The final project report

will be submitted by SWCA by mid-March 2009, and made widely available via NPS, ACHP, and NCSHPO websites as well as in print copies by the end of March 2009. Using the information provided in the draft report, NPS will complete the development of a Historic Preservation Fund-based grant-in-aid framework designed to offer additional federal funding assistance to SHPOs and THPOs for the specific purpose of improving cultural resource data collection and management systems.

**Comments or Questions?** Please send comments or questions to [preserveamerica@achp.gov](mailto:preserveamerica@achp.gov).

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