



THE PRESERVE AMERICA SUMMIT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Front cover photo: The French Quarter of New Orleans was the setting for the national Preserve America Summit in October 2006, held to mark the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act to consider past successes and future improvements to the nation's preservation infrastructure. This image shows the historic Pontalba Apartments facing Jackson Square.

Back cover photo: New Orleans doorways open on a wealth of history in a unique city that has lived under the flags of several nations.



THE PRESERVE AMERICA SUMMIT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHARTING A FUTURE COURSE FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

August 2007



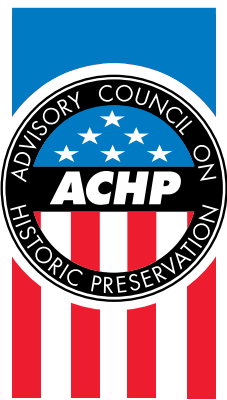
Preserving America's Heritage

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Preserving America's Heritage

An independent federal agency, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic properties. In addition, the ACHP has a key role in carrying out the administration's Preserve America initiative.

John L. Nau, III, of Houston, Texas, is chairman of the 20-member council, which is served by a professional staff in Washington, D.C.

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ABOUT THIS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This executive summary outlines the recommendations of a report on the Preserve America Summit that is available both on an enclosed CD and at www.achp.gov. In addition to providing more in-depth discussion of the recommendations, the full Preserve America Summit report includes additional information on the national preservation program and the Summit, as well as other ideas for future consideration.



THE WHITE HOUSE

May 31, 2007

Dear Friends,

The Preserve America Summit was convened on October 18, 2006 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. As we marked this important milestone, we also considered actions the federal government can take to ensure that the nation's historic and natural treasures are preserved, used and enjoyed for many years to come.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has identified the key ideas that emerged from the Summit which it believes should receive priority attention. The unique and innovative proposals, included in this report, will help guide the federal government and its many public and private partners as we work together toward even greater historic preservation achievements in the 21st century.

President Bush joins me in sending appreciation to everyone involved with Preserve America for their commitment to protecting the rich history and culture of the United States of America.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Bush".



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The 40th anniversary of the nation's principal preservation law is cause for celebration. The National Historic Preservation Act, which established the guiding principles, policy, and infrastructure of America's national preservation program, reached this milestone in October 2006. To commemorate the event and to take stock of where the preservation program should go from here, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and numerous public and private partners convened the Preserve America Summit.

The Preserve America Summit brought together federal agencies, organizations, and individuals to examine the national preservation program's successes and challenges. Led by First Lady Laura Bush, the honorary chair of the administration's Preserve America initiative, participants celebrated past achievements and explored new ideas for improving preservation efforts in the years to come.

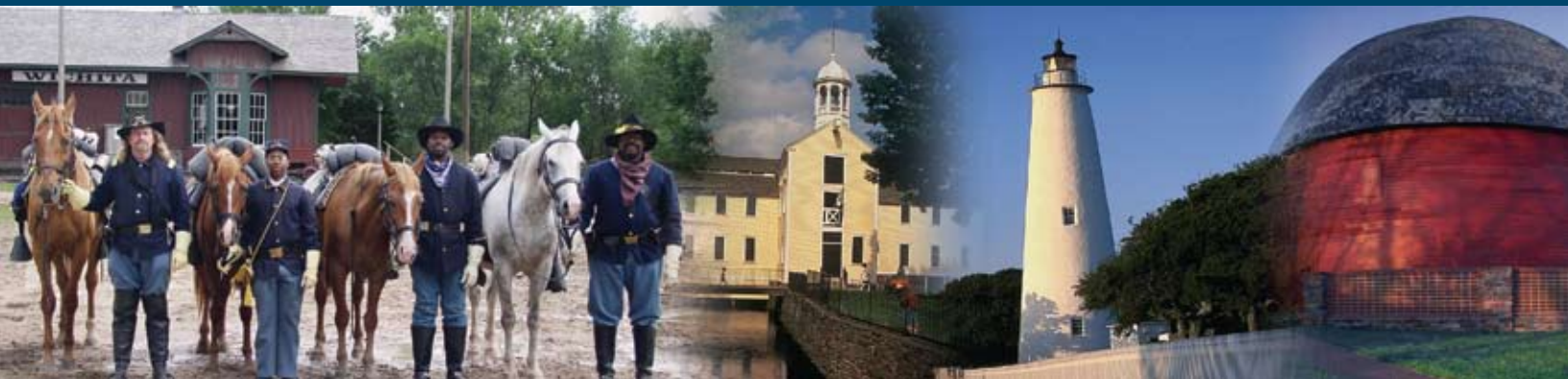
First through a series of expert panels that met throughout the summer of 2006, and then as refined during the national gathering in New Orleans, the Preserve America Summit resulted in the identification of 70 key ideas aimed at charting the future of the national preservation program. These ideas address how historic properties are identified and managed, the role they play in sustaining our communities and informing our citizens, and the leadership needed to help ensure their preservation.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has reviewed the ideas generated by the Preserve America Summit and believes those highlighted in the following pages merit priority attention. The federal government, with help from its non-federal partners, can implement these ideas in the short term, resulting in tangible products that will help the federal preservation program continue to evolve and grow.

Passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 set America on a new journey to preserve our collective heritage and inspire future generations to honor and build on the past. Today we are beginning to recognize the full value and benefits of historic preservation for improving daily life and the economy through public education, community revitalization, and heritage tourism. The ideas generated by the Preserve America Summit will help us to embark on the next leg of that journey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John L. Nau, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "N" and "III" at the end.

John L. Nau, III
Chairman, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation



THE NATIONAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION ACT –
40 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT – 40 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

NHPA
CELEBRATING



Y E A R S
★ ★ ★ O F ★ ★ ★
P R E S E R V A T I O N

With passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in 1966, the federal government embarked on a new era of leadership in the preservation of our nation’s historic properties. In 2006, hundreds of preservationists, government officials, and other stakeholders gathered at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s (ACHP) Preserve America Summit to celebrate 40 years of preservation achievements and to consider how the national preservation program should continue to evolve.

The NHPA established a partnership between the federal government and state, tribal, and local governments that is supported by federal funding for preservation activities. The National Park Service provides matching grants-in-aid from the Historic Preservation Fund to State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and local



The Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita, Kansas, reminds today's visitors that the West was won by diverse cultures coming together—and sometimes fighting one another—to write the nation's history.

Built in 1793, the Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, held the first successful water-driven cotton spinning machinery. The mill survives to instruct current generations about how Pawtucket became “the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution,” and was an instrumental baby step in taking a collection of 13 new colonies on the fringes of world civilization to the center of global innovation and power in the mid-20th century.



governments certified as having qualified preservation programs. The NHPA also created the ACHP, the first and only federal agency created solely to address historic preservation issues.

The NHPA established a framework to foster a new ethic through all levels and agencies of the federal government. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on historic properties and provide the ACHP with an opportunity to comment on projects before implementation. For the first time, agencies had to assume responsibility for the consequences of their actions on historic properties and be publicly accountable for their decisions.



The Arcadia Round Barn in Oklahoma is located on historic Route 66 and once served not only as a shelter for farm animals but was also the favored venue for community dances. Like so many other places important to America's story, it was saved from ruin and renovated through the determination and devotion of private citizens unwilling to let an important piece of history vanish.



The Ocracoke Lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark dating to 1823, is the oldest operational lighthouse in North Carolina. Since its construction, it has used whale oil, kerosene, and electricity to alert mariners to the dangers of a historic waterway where an English ship came to grief in 1585. In 1988, the National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office cooperated in major preservation work to ensure the historic treasure would continue to serve the present while preserving the nation's heritage.

Section 110 calls on all federal agencies to establish preservation programs and designate Federal Preservation Officers to coordinate their historic preservation activities.

Building upon this foundation, the federal government has developed additional policies, legislation, and programs that promote preservation. Most recently, in 2003, President Bush signed Executive Order 13287, "Preserve America" which reaffirmed the importance of federal stewardship and the need to partner with non-federal parties to promote productive use of historic properties. The Executive Order was signed in conjunction with First Lady Laura Bush's launch of the administration's broader Preserve America initiative. Preserve America, administered by the ACHP and partner federal agencies, encourages and supports efforts to preserve heritage assets while using them to revitalize communities.



THE PRESERVE AMERICA SUMMIT

THE PRESERVE AMERICA SUMMIT

To celebrate 40 years of the NHPA and look forward to its milestone 50th anniversary in 2016, the ACHP convened the Preserve America Summit in October 2006. The Summit brought together a wide range of individuals, organizations, and agencies that are committed to promoting historic preservation and its benefits.

The Summit provided a venue for examining emerging preservation challenges, such as addressing security threats, planning for disasters, and broadening public appreciation for history and historic properties. The ideas generated by the Summit offer critical guidance on how the federal government can continue to encourage the preservation, reuse, and enjoyment of historic properties as America enters the 21st century.

In May 2006 at the Preserve America Presidential Awards ceremony, the First Lady publicly announced that the ACHP would host the Preserve America Summit in the fall. She explained the overarching goal of the Summit:

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Through this Summit, we hope to take stock of the strides we've made over the past four decades and determine how best to protect our rich national heritage into the 21st century and for centuries thereafter.

Later in May, Mrs. Bush spoke further about the Summit at the conference “Rebirth: People, Places, and Culture in New Orleans” that was sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Tulane University. That conference brought together government leaders, artists, educators, chefs, writers, and other cultural ambassadors to address practical aspects of Gulf Coast recovery in the context of the arts, culture, and historic heritage. In her remarks, the First Lady noted how the dialogue begun there would continue throughout the summer in a series of expert panel meetings leading up to the Preserve America Summit.

To ensure that discussions at the Summit would be focused and productive, the ACHP assembled panels of experts to develop ideas for Summit participants to consider. Each panel had at least one federal and one non-federal co-chair who were tasked with coordinating the panel’s work.

The following 11 issue area panels addressed a broad range of preservation topics:

- Building a Preservation Ethic and Public Appreciation for History
- Coordinating the Stewardship and Use of Our Cultural Patrimony
- Determining What's Important
- Protecting Places That Matter
- Improving the Preservation Program Infrastructure
- Dealing With the Unexpected
- Addressing Security
- Using Historic Properties as Economic Assets
- Involving All Cultures
- Fostering Innovation
- Participating in the Global Preservation Community

Each panel was asked to identify approximately five key ideas that need to be addressed if preservation is to thrive in the coming decades. These ideas were presented in panel reports that were provided to all Summit participants, and they formed the foundation for discussions at the Preserve America Summit. (The reports of the issue area panels are available at www.achp.gov).

The Preserve America Summit was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 18-20, 2006. With First Lady Laura Bush as the keynote speaker, more than 450 invited participants gathered to consider preservation's past and future.



Mrs. Laura Bush speaks at the Summit plenary session October 19, 2006, in the historic Marble Hall of the U.S. Customs House.



Parts of the U.S. Customs House on Canal Street in New Orleans, the Summit's venue, were constructed before the mid-19th century. Built as a symbol of the growing prosperity of the United States in one of its most important ports and centers of international trade, the cavernous and decorative Marble Hall was termed by one historic source "the finest business room in the world" at the beginning of the 20th century.



If you ain't got that swing, you ain't in New Orleans: Dr. Michael White's Original Liberty Brass Band closes the Summit in proper New Orleans style.



Save Our History Youth Summit participants Jerry Reese and Kaitlin Guerin report on the findings of the Youth Summit during the closing plenary session of the Preserve America Summit. The Youth Summit convened 30 students from across the country who shared their views on preservation with the First Lady and a team of educators.

In her remarks, the First Lady stressed the importance of historic preservation, particularly to the vitality of local communities. In an example, she cited the achievements of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and issued a stirring call to action to the Summit participants:

Gloucester people are keeping their city's soul alive. They're preserving priceless icons of their history—and America's—because, as Mayor [John] Bell explains, they 'have no other choice. We love Gloucester—and this history is part of who we are.' Ladies and gentlemen, we have no other choice.

The opening plenary was followed by issue area sessions, where panel co-chairs, panelists, and other participants met to discuss the ideas embodied in the 11 issue area panel reports.

Meeting concurrently was the Preserve America Youth Summit, which was sponsored by Save Our History, an

initiative of the History Channel to support history education, historic preservation, and heritage tourism. Thirty students from across the country who had actively engaged in Save Our History community preservation projects were invited to discuss their views on history and preservation with a team of educators as well as the First Lady, who participated in some of their discussions.

The work of the issue area panels, Summit attendees, and Youth Summit participants resulted in the identification of 70 key ideas aimed at charting the future of the national preservation program. The ACHP has evaluated those ideas and, after soliciting public comment and consulting with federal and non-federal partners, offers the following recommendations on actions the federal government should take to enhance the effectiveness of the national historic preservation program as it moves toward its 50th anniversary.



RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations address about half of the key ideas that emerged from the Preserve America Summit. Many reflect a high level of interest in the preservation community. Others represent initial steps that must be taken before other ideas can be implemented. All are ideas that should yield tangible products and that the federal government reasonably can be expected to implement in the near term.



Promote cultural diversity: Reenactors at historic sites interpret the many diverse peoples that built America and help bring history to life. Here the Gullah-Geechee culture, called Africa's last link to the Americas, is presented to a new generation in a new National Heritage Area.

For each recommendation, the ACHP suggests one or more federal agencies take the lead in implementation. Potential federal and non-federal partners are identified in the full Preserve America Summit report, which is available both on the enclosed CD and at www.achp.gov.

Other ideas generated by the Summit that are not included in these recommendations certainly do not lack merit. They contain excellent suggestions that can form part of a longer-range agenda for consideration and possible implementation. These ideas are also discussed in the full Preserve America Summit report.

Identify Historic Properties

Since passage of the NHPA, considerable progress has been made in identifying our nation's historic resources. However, the process is not a finite one, by its very nature. With the passage of time, more properties will be viewed as historic, and property types that previously were considered unimportant will be acknowledged as significant. Also, new technologies may change how we capture information on historic properties and use the resulting inventories for planning purposes. The process of identifying America's historic properties must continue to evolve.

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

Created by the NHPA and maintained by the National Park Service, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of historic resources significant in American history and culture. It currently includes more than 1.4 million resources, but there are many other historic properties listed in inventories maintained by federal agencies, and state, tribal, and local governments. These inventories remain incomplete and without linkages, and, as noted by three of the issue area panels, this fragmentation causes problems. A comprehensive, searchable, and accessible inventory would provide a strong planning tool, especially in the case of disasters and emergencies. While requiring an investment of resources, a comprehensive inventory would be cost-effective in the long-term because of its inherent efficiencies.

Suggested lead agencies: National Park Service and the ACHP (with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and other partners)

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.

Both the Determining What's Important and Involving All Cultures panels concluded that efforts are needed to enhance the cultural diversity of the historic properties listed on the



Create a comprehensive inventory: Nine Mile Canyon, Utah, is perhaps the greatest concentration of rock art sites in the United States. Archaeological sites such as this are scattered across the American Southwest, yet most are not included in any inventory.





Respond to disasters: Biloxi, Mississippi's Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum took a direct hit in Hurricane Katrina, striking testimony to the need for improved disaster-related preparation and response for heritage resources affected by natural or manmade calamities.

National Register. To begin to address this issue, the Involving All Cultures panel suggested evaluating the National Register to determine what cultural groups are underrepresented. Based on such a study, a plan could be developed to consult with representatives of those groups and the academic community on appropriate ways to expand National Register listings. Such a study also would form a basis for outreach and guidance development to enhance multi-cultural participation and recognition at all levels of government.

Suggested lead agency: National Park Service

Enhance Stewardship

Once properties are identified as historic, their management takes on new dimensions. Stewardship of a historic property must balance preservation of its historical integrity with its continued use, interpretation, or reverence, as appropriate. As never before, this must happen with cognizance of the potential impact of disasters and security threats. Hurricane Katrina, arguably the nation's greatest cultural disaster, has highlighted the critical need for emergency planning. In addition to damaging and destroying historic resources in New York City and Washington, D.C., the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks upturned assumptions that security can be an afterthought at any historic property. These and other challenges mean that the preservation of our historic resources—including our cultural collections—requires innovative and proactive approaches during the coming decades.

Respond to disasters by forming a technical advisory committee to develop guidance, a plan for dissemination and training, and emergency and mitigation strategies consistent with the Department of Homeland Security's National Response Plan.

Convening the Preserve America Summit in New Orleans vividly reminded participants of the challenges that disasters pose to the stewardship of historic properties and cultural collections. The Dealing With the Unexpected panel and Coordinating the Stewardship and Use of Our Cultural Patrimony panel addressed the need to include preservation in emergency management/mitigation strategies and plans at all levels of government and among cultural institutions. Outreach and guidance is needed to help local communities effectively consider protection of their historic resources both in planning for and responding to disasters. The Department of Homeland Security's National Response Plan provides the context within which to promote such outreach and guidance. Under that plan, the Department of the Interior is the primary agency addressing protection of natural and cultural resources, while the Department of Homeland Security is the primary agency addressing long-term community recovery and mitigation.

Suggested lead agencies: Department of the Interior and Department of Homeland Security



Address security needs: Washington, D.C. faces one of the greatest challenges in the nation in regard to providing both public access and security in the post September 11, 2001, environment. Retractable bollards and guard kiosks were part of the designed response to increase security at the U.S. Treasury building on Pennsylvania Avenue adjacent to the White House. However, terrorism is only one of multiple risks historic structures face.

Address security needs by developing guidance, including guidance on all-hazards risk assessment.

Security is an ever more pressing concern in the stewardship of historic resources, but the issue can be difficult to address without careful planning and consideration. Part of the solution is sharing successful experiences and case studies, including information on cost factors and successful design solutions that provide adequate security while also protecting historic values. Among the Addressing Security panel’s findings was the need to disseminate guidelines and technical information to encourage continued use of historic and archaeological properties and assist property owners and local governments to implement effective, non-intrusive security measures. The Department of the Interior is uniquely suited to address these issues given the capabilities of its Office of Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Management coupled with the historic resource expertise of the National Park Service and other departmental bureaus.

Suggested lead agencies: Department of the Interior, with the General Services Administration and Department of Homeland Security



Conserve cultural collections: Care of cultural collections, such as those preserved and seen here at the Sam Houston Homestead Memorial Museum, needs to be more fully included in collaborations between the historic preservation and the broader cultural heritage communities.

Conserve cultural collections by pursuing cost-effective collaboration between the historic preservation community and the broader cultural heritage community, including support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ “Connecting to Collections” initiative.

Preservation and interpretation of historic properties is inextricably intertwined with the preservation of cultural and historic objects, documents, artifacts, artistic works, and other cultural expressions. The soul of a community or region, as well as its economy when that economy is highly dependent on tourism and the arts, is closely tied to its tangible and intangible cultural heritage. But many of America’s cultural collections are at risk, based on the recent findings of the Heritage Health Index, the first comprehensive survey to assess the condition and preservation needs of collections. The panel addressing the preservation of cultural patrimony stressed the need to make the conservation of cultural collections central to the mission of every public and private cultural institution and noted the need to build closer relations among the participants in the broad range of cultural heritage activities. There also is a pressing need to address the adequate curation of archaeological artifacts.

Suggested lead agencies: Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the ACHP



Promote innovation: This “after the fire” view of the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota, incorporating the ruins of the National Historic Landmark Washburn A Mill with a contemporary structure serving multiple purposes, is an analogy in steel, glass, and stone of how the best of the present can both improve and build upon while incorporating important remnants of the past. The old mill itself was considered the technological cutting edge of the flour-milling industry when it was built in the 19th century.

Promote innovation by creating a clearinghouse through the National Park Service National Center for Preservation Technology and Training to disseminate information on innovative technologies and encourage their use.

The Fostering Innovation panel focused in part on the importance of using innovative technologies to enhance historic property stewardship. A key element for fostering innovation is the exchange of information, but there are currently few channels for cross-pollination of ideas. To fill that void, the panel suggested creating a national clearinghouse for information exchange to highlight model technologies and applications. The panel recommended establishing the clearinghouse at the existing National Park Service National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. Created by amendment of the NHPA in 1992, the Center’s mission is to develop and distribute skills and technologies that enhance the preservation, conservation, and interpretation of historic resources.

Suggested lead agency: National Park Service

Sustain Communities

Stewardship of historic resources does not occur in a vacuum, but rather is an integral part of the growth and vitality of our communities. Preservation stimulates community revitalization, heritage tourism, job creation, improved quality of life, greater shared knowledge about our past, and strengthened regional identity and local pride. The federal government can help promote preservation in local communities by generating data on preservation’s benefits, increasing technical assistance, and improving its financial incentive programs.

Measure and share preservation’s benefits by developing consistent ways to measure direct and indirect impacts (particularly economic) and by pursuing and promoting necessary research.

Two panels stressed the importance of evaluating and quantifying the costs and benefits of preservation, which are well known but not always well documented. Summit participants particularly

noted the need for uniform ways to measure the economic benefits of preservation and heritage tourism, since an economic argument is often the most persuasive when promoting preservation. Because most recent studies have been done on a state, local, or single institutional level, analysis on a broader and more consistent basis is needed. Existing state and local studies take varying approaches to measuring preservation's costs and benefits; more standardized measures should be developed and promoted by the federal government.

Suggested lead agency: Department of Commerce

Provide more technical assistance to local communities to promote historic preservation and heritage tourism, and explore the concept of a Preserve America Community agent or similar mechanism to work more actively with local communities.

All preservation is ultimately local, but lack of local resources or knowledge can hinder preservation efforts. The Protecting Places That Matter panel suggested the federal government expand the impact of the Preserve America initiative through creation of a system of "Preserve America Community Agents." The Preserve America Community designation program, administered by the ACHP, recognizes communities that demonstrate their commitment to the preservation of their heritage assets. A Preserve America Community Agent, designated by each State and Tribal Historic Preservation Office, would provide technical assistance to Preserve America Communities and would encourage additional communities to apply for designation. Exploration of this concept would need to consider options for enhancing existing federal avenues for providing technical assistance, such as the National Park Service's Certified Local Government program and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's technical assistance program.

Suggested lead agencies: the ACHP, National Park Service, Department of Housing and Urban Development



Measure and share preservation's benefits: Heritage tourism, as illustrated here by the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in the Four Corners area of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona, is just one of the many benefits of historic preservation. Others include energy savings, urban revitalization, increased tax revenues, entrepreneurial opportunities, education, local and national pride and understanding of heritage, and enhanced quality of life.



Provide more technical assistance: Red Lodge, Montana, a Preserve America Community, is a historic mining and ranching community located near the Beartooth Mountains. Enhanced technical assistance would help support heritage tourism development and preservation planning for historic communities.

Increase synergy between the development community and public sector partners by implementing the recommendations of the National Park System Advisory Board Committee on the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit and by seeking ways to expand use of federal financial assistance programs for historic preservation.

The Using Historic Properties as Economic Assets panel stressed the importance of enhancing the federal government's role in encouraging rehabilitation of historic properties. One of the most effective existing programs is the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit. In 2006, a committee of the National



Increase development synergy: The Paul Brown Building in downtown St. Louis was one of four structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that was in danger of being lost until local developers, using federal and state historic preservation tax credits, purchased and renovated it. The success of the initial four projects led to widespread revitalization of a historic urban area that had, by early 2007, 91 structures that utilized the tax credits.



Engage youth in historic preservation: Students from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, take part in an archaeological dig as part of their Save Our History project on the grounds of a former Underground Railroad stop at what is now the historic Johnson House site.

Park System Advisory Board issued a report that outlines how use of the credit could be further increased through outreach efforts and by streamlining its administration. The panel endorsed the recommendations of the report and also noted that other federal financial incentive programs could be used more widely to support preservation, provided any impediments to such use are identified and resolved. The 2006 amendments to the NHPA give the ACHP new authority to work with federal agencies toward this end. The newly enacted Section 216 of the NHPA authorizes the ACHP to review the operation of federal grant or assistance programs and make recommendations to further the consistency of the programs with the purposes of the NHPA.

Suggested lead agencies: National Park Service and the ACHP

Educate Citizens

The long-term vitality of the national preservation program will depend on helping citizens understand the importance of their history and their historic resources. Young and old alike need to recognize that history is all around them, has shaped them and their environment, and that they have a role to play in helping to preserve and understand it. Heritage education in schools at all levels is critical, as is giving young people opportunities to be active participants in preserving our nation's past.

Enhance heritage education by developing a communication strategy for providing information to the educational community about Web sites, curriculum guides, and other outreach products that promote heritage education.

Two expert panels, Building a Preservation Ethic and Public Appreciation for History and Fostering Innovation, and the Youth Summit participants focused on boosting the effectiveness of the teaching of history and the use of historic properties as interactive teaching tools. A greater public appreciation for history's value provides a firmer foundation for youth as well as adults to understand and use the lessons of the past in order to improve the future.

Optimize U.S. participation in international preservation: The origins of Castillo de San Felipe del Morro date to 1539, when it was authorized by King Carlos V of Spain to protect the harbor of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The largest and perhaps most intact Spanish fortress in the western hemisphere, it was designated a World Heritage Site in 1983. The U.S. played a major leadership role in the World Heritage Convention in 1972.



Using historic properties as a focus for learning can both enliven history and promote an appreciation for preservation. More efforts are needed to help foster partnerships between historians, preservationists, and the education community. This includes outreach to educators to promote products that facilitate heritage education, including Web sites and curriculum guides. One such example is the National Park Service’s Teaching With Historic Places Web site.

Suggested lead agency: Department of Education

Engage youth in historic preservation by promoting programs that involve them in hands-on preservation activities and through the possible establishment of an ongoing youth summit as part of the Preserve America initiative.

The Youth Summit participants stressed that, in addition to learning more about history and historic preservation in school, America’s youth should be encouraged to be active participants in history-related and preservation-related activities in their communities. The History Channel’s Save Our History program, sponsor of the Youth Summit, is a successful model of

giving young people hands-on experience in preserving historic properties. The Save Our History Educator’s Manual includes lesson plans designed to involve students in local history and preservation projects. The Preserve America initiative provides a vehicle for the federal government to identify programs like Save Our History and promote them, and to continue to reach out to our nation’s youth—America’s future preservationists.

Suggested lead agency: the ACHP

Provide Leadership

Central to the importance of the NHPA is its assumption that the federal government should be a leader in historic preservation. That inherent promise has been realized to a considerable degree over the past 40 years, but federal leadership needs to continue to develop. For instance, America’s relative lack of focus on international preservation should be reevaluated. More broadly, the overall structure of the federal preservation program may need to evolve to meet the new challenges and opportunities of the coming decades.



Panel members discuss their issue area at a Summit breakout session. From left, they are John Whittington Franklin, program manager, National Museum of African American History and Culture; Milford Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer, California Department of Parks & Recreation; Arden Kucate, Tribal Councilman, Zuni Pueblo.

Optimize U.S. participation in the international preservation arena by improving information exchange and facilitating U.S. participation in international preservation activities.

Study of foreign preservation programs was integral to the development of the NHPA, and the early years of the national preservation program saw considerable engagement on global preservation issues. However, active American involvement in international preservation has tended to wane in recent decades. The Participating in the Global Preservation Community panel focused on the importance of reversing this trend. The panel called for greater national leadership to promote U.S. participation in the global preservation community. It also noted the current lack of a centralized clearinghouse for sharing international preservation experience between the public and private sectors and for providing information on international preservation practices. Facilitating international discourse in historic preservation can foster evolution, innovation, and collaboration; keep American preservation professionals connected to their colleagues around the world; and promote better cooperation and understanding.

Suggested lead agencies: the ACHP and National Park Service

Explore improvements to the program structure of the federal preservation program through creation of an independent review panel.

The Preserve America Summit sparked discussion about the structure of the existing federal preservation program and how it might be enhanced. Two panels considered the issue and advanced various scenarios. The Fostering Innovation panel focused on raising preservation's profile in the federal government, suggesting possible changes such as creating a cabinet-level post for historical and cultural heritage, a national endowment for heritage, or a national historian laureate. The Improving the Preservation Program Infrastructure panel stressed the need to enhance the federal preservation program's effectiveness. That panel discussed the advantages and disadvantages of various organizational models, such as a more centralized versus a more decentralized system, and concluded that further evaluation of the federal preservation program is needed.

While the ACHP does not believe a total reconstruction of the federal preservation program is necessarily warranted, it agrees that further study of the program's organization would be constructive. The ACHP recommends that the major preservation partners jointly convene a time-limited, independent review panel (including representatives from federal, state, tribal, and local governments, the business community, the non-profit sector, and academia), to evaluate the current federal historic preservation program and make recommendations.

Suggested lead agencies: Department of the Interior and the ACHP



NEXT STEPS- THE NHPA AT 50

NEXT STEPS- THE NHPA AT 50

The NHPA will mark its 50th anniversary in 2016. Implementing the Summit's recommendations in time for this milestone is eminently achievable, and the ACHP is committed to working with the administration, federal agencies, and our non-federal partners toward that goal.



The covered bridges of Madison County, Iowa, once numbered 19 but today only six remain; all of them are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hogback Covered Bridge dates to 1884. The bridges came into the national cultural consciousness when a 1980s novel named for them soared to best-seller status, tangible proof of how heritage resources help define and frame the national fabric.

As federal agency involvement in the Preserve America Summit attests, historic preservation has been integrated into many federal agency missions, as envisioned 40 years ago by the architects of the NHPA. As the national preservation program continues to grow and evolve, action by a broad range of federal agencies is important. The ACHP will move forward with those initiatives where it has indicated it will have a principal role. For action items where the ACHP has suggested other agencies for lead or partnership roles, we encourage those agencies to embrace the challenge.

Partnering with non-federal parties will also be critical. The NHPA is grounded in a partnership among government at all levels and the private sector, and collaboration is essential to preservation's continuing success. Many of the non-federal organizations involved in the Preserve America Summit already have committed to participating in the implementation of the

Illuminated stained glass windows—emblazoned with a bald eagle bearing the national motto and an early variation of the pelican images and motto echoed on the contemporary state seal and flag of Louisiana—provide an elegant sense of place to the grand staircase within the historic U.S. Customs House on Canal Street in New Orleans, the central venue of the Preserve America Summit.



ACHP's recommendations. We hope all of the potential non-federal partners we have identified will take this opportunity to work with the federal government to enhance the national historic preservation program.

The ideas generated at the Preserve America Summit reflect the best thinking of a broad range of government officials, preservationists, and other stakeholders in the preservation of our nation's historic properties. The ACHP's recommendations provide a blueprint for the federal government's support of those ideas. The ultimate goal? That anyone looking back from the vantage point of 2016 will see continued growth and improvement in the federal preservation program and enhanced use and appreciation of America's invaluable heritage assets.

PRESERVE AMERICA SUMMIT PARTNERS

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Department of Commerce
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Department of Defense

Department of Education

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Department of Transportation

Council on Environmental Quality

Environmental Protection Agency

General Services Administration

Institute of Museum and Library Services

National Endowment for the Arts

National Endowment for the Humanities

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